

**Community & Library Services
Commission
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
6:00 PM – Regular Meeting
MINUTES**



**City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
City Council Chambers**

STAFF:

ASHLEY WYSOCKI, Director

Community & Library Services

CHRIS COLE, Manager, Facilities & Dev.

Community & Library Services

CHARLENE GOMEZ, Sr. Admin. Assistant

Community & Library Services

LOLLY MCHARDY, Chair
CEASON BAKER, Vice Chair
STEVE BARNES, Commissioner
LAUREN GRUEL, Commissioner
JEANNE PARIS, Commissioner
TRICIA THIENES, Commissioner
TEISHA NIM-HUSAINI, Commissioner

CALL TO ORDER

Chair McHardy called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, at which time a quorum was present.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner Barnes

ROLL CALL

Baker, Barnes, Gruel, McHardy, Nim-Husaini, Paris, Thienes

Staff Present: Wysocki, Cole, Gomez, Candelario

PRESENTATION

Beach Parking Update – Wysocki introduced Monica Candelario, Operations Supervisor, Beach Parking & Camping Division. Candelario provided information on the organizational aspect of the Division, and the responsibilities, which include various parking lots, the Main Promenade parking structure, and the RV campground. Permit administration includes residential metered zone parking permits and annual beach parking permits. Candelario hopes to take the permits virtual. Additionally, the Division is responsible for meter operations (approx. 500 parking meters; 40 pay stations) and consists of a three-employee team. Candelario is exploring cashless payment options for the near future and hopes to bring cashless options to the downtown and beach parking meters to streamline the operation. Candelario explained the use of coins is not cost effective as it consumes man-hours for processing and causes wear and tear on the machines, requiring continuous maintenance and repairs. Although the goal is to streamline with mobile pay options, there would be an opportunity for customers to pay with a card as well. Candelario provided further details on the advantages of the new pay system, saying it would bring the City in line with other local municipalities.

Candelario reported the beach enforcement program was created to help the Police Department with parking enforcement. In the last year, the program issued nearly \$3M in citations, of which \$2M was received. The enforcement crew currently consists of five part-time employees, however, she hopes to have nine by summer.

Commissioners commented on the types and condition of the current meters and discussed those in neighboring cities. Candelario explained the difference in the old meter style compared to the new recommended meters.

Vice Chair Baker applauded staff for recommending the change in technology for convenience.

Commissioner Barnes asked if the parking enforcement team was trained by PD. Candelario said that originally, she and a previous supervisor initiated the program, however, now the Police Department trains for standardization. Commissioner Barnes asked about an option to prepay for a daily parking pass in an attended lot by phone, which Candelario replied, not currently but she has been looking for other options.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Chris Rini spoke regarding the library system, the Freedom to Read Act, the library's website, and the Friends of the Library. Mr. Rini voiced his concern over the bid rejection and need for air conditioning at the Main Street Library Branch in order to protect the collection and bringing in International Surf Museum to share space.

Norm Westwell, resident near Greer Park, provided a handout on the dais to Commissioners with information on how they can request items for the agenda. Mr. Westwell voiced his frustration with the condition of the lake at Greer Park south, and his appreciation for the upcoming study session item on Greer Park south.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The January 14, 2026, meeting minutes were accepted as written. All in favor (7-0).

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Code of Ethics Review – Wysocki conducted the annual review of Resolution No. 2016-73, City of Huntington Beach Code of Ethics, which was included in the Commissioners' agenda packets, and instructed Gomez to record the action in the official minutes.

Approve the Standardization of a Flag and Flagpole Policy for City Parks and Community & Library Services Facilities – Wysocki noted that this item had been tabled at the Commission's January 14, 2026, meeting to allow for review and analysis of additional information.

Cole reported that Commissioners and staff toured several park sites in small groups to review various flagpole heights and corresponding flag sizes within park settings. The tours

began at Wardlow Park's Little League area due to public comments received at the January 14, 2026, meeting. Commissioners viewed the location of the current flagpole and flag, as well as a potential relocation site. Additional sites visited included the City Hall Memorial, Baca Park, Patriot Point, and Memorial Hall at 17th Street Park. A drive-by of the large Gustafson Brothers flag on Gothard Street was also conducted for visual comparison.

Cole stated that establishing a consistent standard for flagpole heights and flag sizes would provide uniform visual compatibility and appropriate scale across the park system. Standardization would also allow staff to purchase uniform sizes and maintain inventory for all parks and facilities under the Community & Library Services Department's purview. Cole concluded by requesting Commission action.

Recommended Action:

Approve a standardized flag and flagpole policy for City parks and Community & Library Services facilities establishing a maximum flag size of 5 feet by 8 feet and a maximum flagpole height of 30 feet.

Vice Chair Baker commented on the tour she attended with Commissioners Barnes and McHardy. Based on the informational sheet provided regarding flagpole heights and flag sizes, she noted that a 5-foot by 8-foot flag is appropriate for both 30-foot and 35-foot flagpoles. She expressed support for allowing 35-foot flagpoles in parks with Little League usage or sports fields.

Vice Chair Baker made a recommendation to allow parks with dedicated Little League fields or to install flagpoles up to 35 feet in height, while standardizing flagpoles at 30 feet in other neighborhood parks.

Commissioners Paris and Barnes concurred that a 35-foot flagpole would be appropriate in parks with sports fields to ensure visibility from all fields when centrally located.

Commissioner Paris inquired about the Sports Complex due to its size. Wysocki responded that the Sports Complex has more than one flag onsite. She added that under certain circumstances, a request for a larger flag or flagpole could be considered.

The Commission discussed whether the proposed language would allow for exceptions. Wysocki clarified that the action would not amend the Municipal Code but would establish a Community & Library Services Department policy, thereby allowing for exceptions if warranted.

Clarification was provided that the motion would permit parks with dedicated Little League fields to have flagpoles up to 35 feet in height, while other neighborhood parks would be limited to 30-foot flagpoles.

MOTION: Commissioner Barnes moved to approve Vice Chair Baker’s alternative recommendation to allow parks with dedicated Little League fields to install flagpoles up to 35 feet in height with a standardized 5-foot by 8-foot flag, and to standardize flagpoles at 30 feet in height with a 5-foot by 8-foot flag in neighborhood parks without sports fields. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Paris. Motion carried unanimously (7–0).

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Wysocki noted that a Calendar of Events for February and March was included in the Commissioners’ agenda packets.

STAFF ITEMS - None

COMMITTEE REPORTS

America 250 Liaison Groups Update – Wysocki reported that she distributed a survey to Commissioners to assess their interest in participating in the various America 250 events as liaison subgroups, with the goal of aligning assignments with individual interests. She also provided an overview of the internal coordination process and highlighted events currently in development.

Vice Chair Baker inquired about the anticipated time commitment. Wysocki responded that the survey did not specify a defined time requirement in order to provide Commissioners the flexibility to contribute based on their availability.

Commissioner Paris stated that her original intent was for the Commission to collaborate collectively on a single event they would represent, or alternatively, to work in partnership with the Celebration Committee.

Discussion followed regarding Brown Act considerations, specifically the distinction between a majority of the Commission participating in a single effort versus smaller groups. Wysocki explained that establishing minority subcommittees of three or fewer Commissioners helps avoid any potential Brown Act violations.

MEMBER OR STAFF COMMENTS – Not Agendized

Commissioner Barnes reported that he attended the Center on the Center exhibition opening at the Art Center. Wysocki encouraged Commissioners to see the exhibition if they haven’t already.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair McHardy called for a motion to adjourn at 6:33 pm with a second by Commissioner Paris.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Huntington Beach Community & Library Services Commission is Monday, March 9, 2026, at 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.

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