

**Community & Library Services
Commission
Wednesday, September 10, 2025
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 call the meeting to order at 6:00 pm, at which time a quorum was met.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE – Led by Commissioner Barnes

ROLL CALL

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

Staff: Wysocki, Cole, Gomez, Martinez, Getman, Barraza, Thol, Melgar, Rodriguez, Zubkov, Faltz, Katayama, Ruiz, Vergara

PRESENTATION

Scout Project - Cole introduced Scout Brenden Bauer, who provided information on his Eagle project to raise the veterans' plaque at Pier Plaza from ground level with the installation of a pedestal base and remounting of the plaque to enhance visibility. Commissioner Barnes asked about the approval process and how Brenden obtained the supplies. Scout Bauer was grateful for the guidance provided by his father and grandfather. When asked about his favorite badge, he replied, it was metal work, which has since become a hobby.

Summer Recap – Martinez provided a high-level view of programs and services provided. She thanked supervisors, full and part-time staff, instructors, and volunteers for all the hard work. Martinez reported there was over 19,700 overall summer program participants. Recreation events included the Pier Swim, Overnight Family Campout, Movies in the Park, Senior Center Concerts in the Park, Grandparents' Day, HBCOA Disc Golf Tournament, and upcoming events such as HB City Surf Contest and the Active Living Expo.

Martinez introduced Kaci Thol, Supervisor of Edison Community Center and Alex Melgar, Recreation Coordinator. Thol thanked the volunteers and Melgar presented information and statistics on Youth Sports including sports camps, HB Youth Summer Basketball League and congratulated the division winners.

Melgar introduced Amber Ruiz, Supervisor at City Gym & Pool, who provided information on aquatics programs, including participants in swim lessons, recreation swim, the certification of six lifeguards, and the certification of seven staff members as water safety instructors. She also reported on the Jasper Ray Swim Scholarship.

Ruiz introduced Aaron Katayama, Supervisor of Murdy Community Center, who introduced Ruby Vergara, Recreation Coordinator. Vergara provided information on Camp HB, reporting 1,307 participants (ages 6-12 years old). Camp HB included two excursions per week, taking kids offsite and providing experiences outside of Orange County, utilizing 26 part-time staff members. The Teen Leadership Training Program for youth 13-17 years of age had 206 enrollments.

Ruiz introduced Eric Barraza, Supervisor, Marketing & Technology, who provided information on Adventure Playground, saying two new Eagle Scout projects assisted with getting the program ready for summer. Adventure Playground provides adventurous play in a natural setting providing climbing, a mudslide experience, water activities, games, rafting, traversing a rope bridge, and building with giant Legos. Over 4,141 children visited the site over the eight-week program, which was recognized by Parenting OC Magazine.

Barraza introduced Scott Getman and Michelle Yerke, Supervisors at the Senior Center in Central Park. Getman reported that the Senior Center received over 1,000 visitors per day, and held three concerts, the Grandparents' Day event, along with the HBCOA Disc Golf Tournament fundraiser. Active Living expo will end the summer with a fundraising event. The Hoag Health and Wellness Pavilion Fitness Center averages about 1,800 members consistently. Yerke, reported on social services, providing the following information on Care Management for July-August: 431 residents served with 1,049 meaningful points of contact to provide support and services. Nutrition statistics for July-August showed 12,000 meals delivered to 105 qualified seniors through Home Delivered Meals. The Senior Café is available 5 days per week and serves 2,700 in-person meals to 535 individuals. She provided information on Surf City Seniors on the Go! Transportation for July-August, which assisted 3,800 donation-based rides; the service logged over 22,000 miles and provided 1,900 hours of service. Meals are grant funded and delivered by volunteers. There were 538 volunteers, who provided over 7,000 hours of service valued at over \$270,000.

Wysocki introduced Marissa Rodriguez, Manager of Library & Cultural Services, who oversees all branch libraries and the Huntington Beach Art Center. Rodriguez reported 800 hours of volunteer service by teens, 4,000 new library card sign-ups, with support groups and businesses helping the library to provide programs and services. She thanked staff and volunteers for their efforts.

Rodriguez introduced Lina Zubkov, Acting Senior Children's Librarian, who provided information on the Summer Reading Program, which is for all ages. It ran June 21 – August 2 and is the largest annual library program with 3,612 reading challenge participants with 1,937 books read by adults and 267,083 minutes read by youth; The program consists of three components: a reading challenge, regular library programs, and special system-wide events with 18,683 total events and program participants. The Library partnered with local business to provide incentives for program participants. The summer reading program prevents the Summer Slide, which is where young people experience learning losses over the summer when not engaged in educational activities. Special events & programs included

222 events and programs, such as Comedy Magic Show, Mr. Electric Science Show, Wild Wonders Animal Show and the summer wrapped up with Around the World in 30 Games (a family game night).

Zubkov introduced Dan Faltz, Senior Supervisor at the Huntington Beach Art Center (HBAC), who announced the renovation of a gallery space to provide continuous, ongoing art exhibited at the Art Center. The Art Center is celebrating its 30th anniversary with an exhibit featuring artists with disabilities; 150 guests attended The Power of Paint, showcasing Laguna based Women Painters West; 90 attended the Homeboy Art Academy art exhibit opening; and Art Camp continued with 53 students, ages 6-12.

Wysocki introduced Molly Uemura, Manager of Events & Rentals. Uemura spoke about events, saying that although summer is busy, this time of year was the busiest of all with numerous events leading up to the Pacific Air Show. The overview included the HB Independence Day Celebration, with over 400,000 visitors to the beach/downtown area over the weekend and included the festival, 5k run, fireworks presented by the Mayer Family Foundation, community bike parade, and the Main Street Block Party; The US Open of Surfing with major sponsors Lexus and Pacifco, included a vendor market, retail store, food trucks, and VIP activations held over the 9-day period, with over 300,000 visitors; Other notable events were the Kowabunga Van show to kick off the summer, NSSA National Championship, PGF Tournament at the Sports Complex, OC Yogafest, HB Concert Band Summer Series; Life Rolls On Adaptive Surfing Event for disabled surfers, Taste of HB, and the Civil War Days close the summer season with a reenactment in Central Park, presented by the Huntington Beach Historical Society.

Summer Rentals included 199 clubhouse rentals, May 24 – August 31, with a total summer rental revenue of \$104,269. The beach bonfire reservation pilot program allows for bonfire reservations up to 3-months in advance with a cost of \$200 per day. The program went live July 19th with 54 firepit reservations and \$10,800 in revenue to-date.

Uemura introduced Cole, Manager of Facilities & Development. Cole reported that Beach Parking and Camping oversees all the downtown metered parking, with 14 new spaces added by angling spaces located on Walnut between 2nd Street and Main Street. The mobile app payment was expanded to more business and recreation zones. Improvements were made at the Beach Boulevard beach parking entrance. Cole praised Beach Parking & Camping staff who serve as ambassadors with excellent customer service. New digital permits for residential guests and residential parking were introduced, eliminating the need of hang passes, due to the addition of license plate reader technology, which adds to quality control. The Beach Parking and Camping division established their own enforcement team for citation issuance. The Parking & Camp team took over parking citations from the Police Department (PD), who contemplated outsourcing beach lot citations. Beach Parking & Camping staff has ramped up the citations by 122.3% YOY. This June-August, staff brought in \$1.94 million in citation revenue versus \$487,611 the previous year as reported by PD. The Facilities & Development division also oversees approximately 16 leases, including

beach concessions. An RFP was released for a beachfront concession with 29 companies attending the walk-through and 9 proposals received. CIP projects include the Central Library fountains, Main Street Library improvements, the All-Inclusive Playground replacement, Park Bench Café improvements, Art Center lighting upgrades, Main Promenade parking structure elevators/stairwells improvements, Schroeder Park improvements, Arevalos Park playground, the Library Master Plan, along with conceptual plans in the background for Carr Park, Marina Park, and Edison Park.

Barnes inquired if the overall participants of over 90,000 reported by Martinez included all program participants. Martinez said it does not include some Senior Center programs. He also asked about 2024 compared to 2025, for which Martinez responded that program participation was up over 3,000 from the previous year.

Paris said she learned a lot about what the City offers. She asked about the location of Adventure Playground, which Barraza provided directions.

Part Time Employee of the Month – Wysocki provided information on the program and announced the recognition of part-time Department Assistant, Lori Jepsen. Barraza provided information on Lori, saying she had been involved in many areas, including youth sports, she worked with him at City Hall for a while, and has worked at Edison Community Center. Barraza praised Lori on her photography skills, whose photos have been used in the HB SANDS recreation guide for marketing purposes. Thol relayed a story of how she coached Lori as a kid and now Lori is coaching today's youth at Edison Community Center. The Community & Library Services Department thanks Lori for her utilitarian efforts and filling in where she is needed.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS – Gomez announced that supplemental information had been added to the Commission's agenda packet at the dais with information pertaining to the Meadowlark Charity Golf Tournament.

PUBLIC COMMENTS - None

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Request approval of August 13, 2025, meeting minutes.

Commissioner Barnes moved to accept the minutes as written with Commissioner Paris seconding the motion. All in favor to adopt the August 13, 2025, meeting minutes. The motion passed 7-0.

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Library Facilities Master Plan Liaison group – Wysocki said that after the last meeting staff reviewed the group composition and realized Commissioner Paris was on two working groups, and, therefore, she would be stepping back to allow Commissioner Thienes to participate as a group liaison participant for the Library Facilities Master Plan.

MOTION: Commissioner Paris move to update the Library Facilities Master Plan Project Liaison assignments by reassigning her role to Commissioner Thienes. Commissioner Barnes seconded the motion. All in favor of the liaison replacement. The motion passed 7-0.

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

2026 Meadowlark Charity Golf Tournament Opportunity Drawing – Cole provided information and criteria for the upcoming Meadowlark Charity Golf Tournament opportunity drawing. The application period would be open September 15 – October 6 at 4:00 PM. A random drawing will be held at the Commission's next meeting on Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 6:00 pm to select the winning non-profit. Wysocki asked Commissioners to spread the word to non-profits.

CIP Review & Project Updates:

- a. All inclusive Playground – Cole announced the playground is fully operational and reopened to the public.

Calendar of Events – Wysocki encouraged Commissioners to attend the current exhibition at the Art Center.

STAFF ITEMS

Wysocki reported that a request had come in from a PhD candidate conducting research for his dissertation on Parks and Recreation advisory boards. The research will be conducted in the form of a survey of Commissioners. If Commissioners approve, Wysocki would notify the candidate, and Gomez would act as the liaison. The Commissioners provided consensus to move forward.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

Library Facilities Master Plan Liaison Group – Chair McHardy reported that the first meeting went well.

Special Interest Committee – Grow HB Program – Commissioner Barnes said the most recent meeting was held on September 3. The program development is moving along well. The committee reviewed a long and short overview presentation prepared by staff and branding samples. Staff will make some edits and then provide to department management and Public Works staff for review and approval or edits.

COMMENTS – Not Agendized

Commissioner Paris attended the exhibition opening at the Art Center.

Baker said she visited the all-inclusive playground and a Native American pow-wow in Hawaiian Gardens.

Paris also attended the exhibition opening at Art Center.

ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, Chair McHardy called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Barns moved with Commissioner Paris seconding the motion to adjourn at 7:16 pm.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Huntington Beach Community & Library Services Commission is Wednesday, October 8, 2025, at 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.