



CITY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

MINUTES FROM October 27, 2025
Huntington Beach City Hall

Call to Order at 5:30 PM

Roll Call

- Committee Members: *(Present) Ellen Kuhnert, Patricia Pappas, Yolanda Campos, Julian Douglas, Valentina Bankhead*
- Council: *Butch Twining*
- Staff Liaison: *Julie Toledo*
- Other Staff: *None*
- Public: *Amory Hanson, Paula Jean, Dave Rynerson, Charlie Jackson, Carol Daus*

Public Comments (3 minutes per speaker)

- *Amory Hanson wanted his name corrected on the minutes from last month*
- *Charlie Jackson inquired about the upcoming drone show at the Sports Complex and commented on the Patriot Academy at Central Library and that he felt it was non-partisan when a comment was made about No on Prop 50.*
- *Carol Daus also commented on the Patriot Academy and believes it has political bias.*
- *Dave Rynerson asked who adheres to the laws when it comes to a city-sponsored event like the Patriot Academy.*

Approve minutes from September 30, 2025 meeting (*Julian Douglas, 2nd by Yolanda Campos*)

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

1. 2025 Celebration Calendar Themes

- a. January – “Founder’s Legacy – Celebrating Huntington Beach’s Origins”
- b. February – “Shop & Dine Locally”
- c. March – “Honoring Huntington Beach – Celebrating Community Service & Volunteerism”
- d. April – “Appreciating Huntington Beach’s Ecological Legacy”
- e. May – “Exploring Public Art”
- f. June – “History of Independence Day & What it Means”
- g. July – “Surf City Showcase – Highlighting our Lifeguard Legacy”
- h. August – “Huntington Beach Pier – A Long History”
- i. September – “Celebrating Aviation”
- j. October – “Horses, Cows & Dogs, Oh My!”
- k. November – “History of our Military – Honoring Important Military Dates”
- l. December – “California History”

2. Proposed Events for 2025

a. October – “Horses, Cows & Dogs”

- Julie thanked everyone for participating in the successful tour of the Equestrian Center in which more than 30 people participated.
- Julie announced the pet donation drive is taking place this week and will coordinate with everyone deliver to the OC Humaine Society Wetlands & Wildlife Care Center the following week.



CITY CELEBRATION COMMITTEE

- d. **November – “History of our Military – Honoring Important Military Dates”**
 - No events planned as we did two events in October
- e. **December – “California History”**
 - Chris Epting will host another event on Dec. 10 from 6pm to 8pm at the Central Library Theater with the focus on California History/HB History.

3. Review Draft 2026/Semiquincentennial Calendar

- a. Julie presented full calendar of events that incorporated both 250th birthday events along with ideas from previous meeting with Kathie Schey, City Archivist. She also shared a list of acknowledgements for each month for 2026.
- b. Patti expressed that she would like to see US flags all over the City.
- c. Julian emphasized this is the one time in history that we can celebrate America's 250th.
 - a. Celebrate Civil War heroes buried here, two parks that are named after veterans, two war heroes from Iwo Jima, next year is the 25th anniversary of 9/11.
- d. Patti talked about the signing of the Declaration of Independence and Constitution Day. Also suggested a walking tour with the Civil War event, and books on display at the library.
- e. Councilman Twining suggested a bus tour with Chris Epting and a possible tour of the Newland House.
- f. Julian discussed a potential event to have a demo on the beach with the Navy.
- g. Yolanda suggested volunteer opportunities and would look into the Bolas Chica Center on Bolsa/PCH.
- h. Valentina suggested a painting event with the 250th theme. Patti suggested the Art Center getting involved. Butch recommend places to display the art at City Hall or the Art Center. Yolanda commented on a similar program that Newport Beach puts on with children as to what America means to them and the work is displayed outside in a park.
- i. It was suggested that the committee elect a Chair and a Co-Chair and Julie will put on the agenda for the next meeting.

Adjournment – 6:40 PM

The next scheduled meeting is scheduled for December 1, 2025 at 5:30 PM.