

**Community & Library Services
Commission
Wednesday, June 11, 2025
6:00 PM – Regular Meeting
MINUTES**



**City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
B7 & B8**

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 met.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner Barnes.

ROLL CALL

Baker, Barnes, Gruel (excused), McHardy, Nim-Husaini, Paris, Thienes

PRESENTATION

Community & Library Services Part Time Employee of the Month

Wysocki introduced Social Services Supervisor, Michelle Yerke, who recognized Assistant Volunteer Coordinator, Kathy Pace, for her great team spirit, passion, and dedication for serving the senior community.

New Staff Member Introduction

Wysocki introduced Marisa Rodriguez, the new Community & Library Services Manager overseeing the Library Services Division. Rodriguez shared her background, noting she began her career with the Huntington Beach Public Library last November as a Senior Librarian before moving into her current role. She also gained previous library experience through positions in Virginia and Nevada.

Commissioner Barnes inquired about full-time library staffing and vacancies. Rodriguez responded that part-time staff are currently filling most gaps and discussed the responsibilities of the acting Teen Librarian. While service levels remain adequate, the role adds pressure to current staff, and efforts are underway to fill vacancies.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Gomez announced supplemental event flyers were included in the Commissioners' agenda packets at the dais.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Norm Westwell spoke on behalf of the community group, Save Greer Park, addressing issues at Greer Park South that are a matter of interest to the group.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Request approval of the meeting minutes of May 14, 2025.

MOTION: Commissioner Paris moved to approve the May 14, 2025, meeting minutes as written. Vice-Chair Baker seconded. The motion passed with all in favor (6-0-1).

AYES: Baker, Barnes, McHardy, Nim-Husaini, Paris, Thienes

NOES: None

ABSENT: Gruel

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

NONE

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Review & Project Updates for Playgrounds, Parks & Facilities:

a. **Fiscal Year 2024/2025:**

Current CIP Projects – Cole introduced Capital Projects Administrator, Frank Drevdahl, who reported on the following projects:

- **All-Inclusive Playground Rehabilitation Project** – Nearly complete, pending delayed parts due to supply issues.
- **Main Street Branch Library** – Electric and HVAC upgrades scheduled; groundbreaking expected next year due to supply delays.
- **Central Library Fountain** – Phase one underway; basin lining and new pump system for water circulation. Tree root issues have been addressed.
- **Projects in the Bid Process include:**
 - **Park Bench Café** - Roofing and siding bid closes June 16; going to City Council in July.
 - **Schroeder Park** – Bid period June 12 - July 14 for solar lighting, picnic tables, rubberized surfacing, and other improvements; City Council approval of the contractor's service agreement is anticipated in August.
- **Design projects include:**
 - **Main Street Promenade** – Design underway; includes staircase, doors, railing and fire improvements. Expected to go to bid in fall.
 - **Library Facilities Master Plan** – In discovery phase, pending facility assessment report and community outreach.
 - **Carr Park Redevelopment** – Pending bid submissions from on-call

design firm.

- **Marina Park Redevelopment** - Currently at 30% design completion.
- **Edison Park Redevelopment** – Awaiting CEQA report.

b. Fiscal Year 2025/2026 - City Council Approved Projects

Cole reported on the following:

- **City Gym & Pool** – Installation of new non-slip surface.
- **Art Center** - Replacement of outdated lighting with energy efficient system.
- **Helen Murphy Branch Library** – Foundation study approved due to ground settlement. Commissioner Barnes asked if Helen Murphy Branch Library was built on a landfill as well. Cole responded that it was not built on landfill, from personal knowledge, settlement has been encountered within this section of the City.
- **Main Street Promenade Parking Structure** – Elevator replacement and nonslip flooring installation.
- **South Beach Attendance Booth** – Roof and structural repairs scheduled post-summer
- **Huntington Beach Sports Complex** – Parking lot issues due to landfill settlement to be addressed.
- **Arealos Park** – Full playground replacement approved.
- **Drew Park Playground** – New play equipment and rubberized surfacing approved.

Library Updates – Presented by Rodriguez:

- **Summer Reading Program** – Over 500 participants this summer (300 youth and 200 adults).
- **Level Up Summer Reading Log** – Incentive-based program with prizes from local donors. Key events include the kick-off carnival with activities, story tellers, and magicians.
- **Symphony on the Go** – Free concert in Central Park (July 16), grant-funded through library partners.

Programs & Services Update – Presented by Wysocki

- **HB SANDS Scholarship** – Concept brought to staff's attention by Commissioner Baker. Swim lessons grant for 15 youth through Jasper Ray Foundation. Vice-Chair Baker suggested future recognition by Commission. Commissioner Barnes proposed the Mayor's Spotlight Award.

Calendar of Events for Mid-June to Mid-August

- Pier Swim postponed due to environmental water concerns; rescheduling planned for August.

- Reminder that Modular Pump Track to open on June 21.
- Additional events June 21: Summer Reading Program Summer Kick-Off Carnival, Adventure Playground opening, HBCOA Charity Disc Golf Tournament, and Art Center exhibition opening as summer kicks into high gear.

STAFF ITEMS – None

COMMITTEE REPORTS – None

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Update Project

Chair McHardy reported the Committee met on May 28. Wysocki noted that the Master Plan will be distributed for review and discussion as a Study Session item at the July meeting, with Commission action anticipated in August.

Special Interest Committee – Adopt-A-Park Project

Committee Chair Barnes provided an update. The group met three times, and explored support (e.g., sponsors such as Home Depot), and potential marketing efforts. Six pilot parks have been selected, with three being toured by the Committee and staff. Next steps include program development, marketing, and setting a launch date.

COMMENTS – Not Agendized

Chair McHardy and Vice-Chair Baker attended an exhibition at the Art Center, praising both the show curated by artists with special needs and the high school student's exhibition.

Commissioner Barnes announced his role as announcer for the Independence Day Parade, joined this year by former Deputy City Manager, Jennifer Carey.

Commissioner Paris also commended the youth art exhibit. Wysocki explained it was part of a new school district program introduced by Dan Faltz, Senior Supervisor at the Huntington Beach Art Center, to teach youth how to curate exhibitions.

Commissioner Barnes thanked staff for arranging the park tours for the Adopt-A-Park Committee.

Wysocki report reported a follow-up on a diseased tree limb incident relayed by Commissioner Baker.

ADJOURNMENT - With no further business, Chair McHardy called for a motion to adjourn. Vice-Chair Baker moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:40 pm. Commission Paris seconded.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Huntington Beach Community & Library Services Commission is Wednesday, July 9, 2025, at 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.