

**Community & Library Services
Commission
Wednesday, May 14, 2025
6:00 PM – Regular Meeting
MINUTES**



**City of Huntington Beach
2000 Main Street
Huntington Beach, CA 92648
Room B-7 and B-8**

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

Vice Chair McHardy called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm, at which a quorum was present.

OATH OF OFFICE

Vice Chair McHardy announced that with the reassignment of Commissioner Edsell to the Finance Commission, Council Woman, Gracey Van Der Mark would perform the Oath of Office for her new appointee, Lauren Gruel. Council Woman Van Der Mark conducted the Oath of Office.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Led by Commissioner Barnes

ROLL CALL

Commissioners present: Baker, Barnes, Gruel, McHardy, Nim-Husaini, Paris, Thienes
Staff present: Wysocki, Cole, Gomez, Martinez, Barraza, Garcia

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Vice Chair McHardy announced that a formal letter of resignation had been received from Commissioner Edsell as he transitioned to the Finance Commission, which left the position of Chair vacant on the Community & Library Services Commission. Vice Chair McHardy called for nominations from the floor and presided over the election of the open Chair position.

MOTION: Commissioner Paris nominated Commissioner McHardy to serve as Commission Chair with Commissioner Barnes seconding the motion. With no further nominations, the motion passed 7-0.

Next, Chair McHardy called for nominations from the floor to fill her vacated Vice-Chair position.

MOTION: Commissioner Nim-Husaini nominated Commissioner Baker to service as Commission Vice-Chair. Commissioner Paris seconded the motion. With no further nominations, the motion passed 7-0.

PRESENTATION

Community & Library Services Part-Time Employee of the Month Presentation

Events & Rentals Coordinator Michael Gonzales recognized Department Assistant Sylvia Garcia as the Part-Time Employee of the Month for her outstanding performance and service to the Community & Library Services Department. Gonzales commended Garcia for her exceptional front-facing role, often serving as the first point of contact for customers—whether by phone or in person—and praised her professionalism and effectiveness in representing both the Department and the City. He also highlighted her versatility and willingness to support staff across all divisions with projects of varying scope and complexity.

Wysocki provided context for the recognition program, noting that while the City has a Mayor’s Recognition program for full-time employees, the majority of the Community & Library Services Department is made up of part-time personnel. This program was established to ensure that these valuable team members receive the recognition they deserve.

Mobile Pump Track

Wysocki shared her experience with a temporary, portable pump track at a local park in Mission Viejo and, in collaboration with other Orange County Parks and Recreation Directors, developed a plan to bring the track to neighboring communities. Wysocki introduced Programs & Services Manager Martinez, who announced that the pump track would be temporarily located at Edison Park from June 17–29, positioned near the field closest to Hamilton Street and Magnolia Avenue.

Martinez described the pump track as a modular, skill-inclusive attraction for bikes, skateboards, scooters, skaters, roller blades, and wheelchairs, designed to allow continuous movement without pedaling or pushing. It is not intended for electric bikes (e-bikes).

A community grand opening is scheduled for Tuesday, June 17, from 3:30–5:30 p.m., featuring bike safety education and vendor booths, bounce houses, and other family-friendly activities to kick off the summer season.

Discussion followed on allowable equipment, safety rules, operating hours, and liability. Wysocki noted that the track will be a “use at your own risk” activity, with proper signage in place. She also reported that Public Works staff will assist the American Ramp Company with setup and equipment monitoring, and that there was a nominal cost of approximately \$10,000. Barraza reported on marketing efforts, a grant and sponsorship funding.

SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS

Gomez announced the addition of the Pump Track Power Point handout with the Commission’s agenda packets.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Shammy Dingus addressed the Commission with concerns regarding the Library's compliance with AB1825 – the California Freedom to Read Act. Based on her interpretation of the law, Ms. Dingus believes there may be a conflict between the provisions of AB1825 and the role of the Guardian Review Board, potentially putting the Library at risk of losing state funding.

Ms. Dingus cited specific aspects of the law, noting that it applies to all California cities, including charter cities, and did not allow prohibiting books based on sexual content or religious viewpoints—with “sexual content” defined as “obscene” by U.S. Supreme Court standards.

She emphasized that in order to maintain eligibility for state funding, the Library must submit a written Library Collection Development Policy to the California State Library by January 1st. Ms. Dingus inquired whether a committee was currently working on the 2025 policy update, noting she was only able to locate the 2024 version online, and stressed that the people are entitled to the information, as 2026 is quickly approaching.

She further expressed that this matter is, in her view, a third significant issue for the Library, following Measures A and B. Ms. Dingus requested an answer to her questions with an update from the Commission regarding the status of the policy development.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Request approval of minutes from the April 9, 2025, meeting.

Commissioner Paris moved to accept the minutes as written with Commissioner Barnes seconding the motion.

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

NOES: None

ABSTAIN: Gruel

ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Liaison Group – Wysocki reported that due to the resignation of Commissioner Edsell, a vacancy had opened on the Parks & Recreation Master Plan Liaison Group. Vice Chair Baker volunteered to fill the position. The Commission approved the appointment in favor of Vice Chair Baker serving as the new liaison. (Approved, 7-0).

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

CIP Project Update:

All-inclusive Playground – Cole reported that the All-Inclusive Playground, originally installed in 2017, has experienced accelerated wear and tear due to its beachside

location, with exposure to wind and seawater causing significant deterioration. While a full replacement would typically be recommended, the City's current lease with the State is nearing expiration, prompting staff to proceed with repairs rather than a full replacement at this time.

Funding was secured for the necessary repairs, which include the replacement of approximately 1,025 parts. Construction began on April 22, with the final parts scheduled for delivery May 19, and project completion anticipated by May 21.

Beach Concession RFP – The agreement for the beach concession known as Jacks Beach Concession expired on December 31, 2024. Following City Council direction, staff issued a Request for Proposals (RFP) on April 10, with a proposal deadline of May 22. A mandatory site inspection was held, with twenty-three firms in attendance. Cole outlined the internal review, rating, and interview process that will be used to evaluate submissions. Staff anticipates bringing a new concession agreement to City Council for approval in August.

Calendar of Events – Wysocki noted that the May and June calendar of events was provided in the Commission's agenda packet for their review.

STAFF ITEMS

Wysocki said that she and Cole, along with Public Works staff, had met with Norm Westwell regarding Greer Park South and he seemed pleased with the information received.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Parks & Recreation Master Plan Liaison Update – (Commissioners McHardy, Thienes) Chair McHardy reported that the meeting had to be cancelled and would be rescheduled soon.

Special Interest Committee Adopt-A-Park Project – (Commissioners Baker, Barnes, Paris) Commissioner Barnes provided an update on the development of Adopt-A-Park program, reporting that the Committee had met twice to date and, in collaboration with staff, had begun to create a tiered volunteer program. Six pilot parks had been identified for the initial trial phase. If the pilot proves successful, the program would be expanded to additional parks.

Commissioner Barnes explained that the program would be designed to encourage local residents to take a vested interest in their neighborhood parks by monitoring for maintenance issues, performing light upkeep, assisting with litter removal, and reporting concerns that may require law enforcement attention. He emphasized that the program was in the early stages of planning and development, with details on implementation to be finalized in the coming months.

MEMBER & STAFF COMMENTS – Not Agendized

Commissioner Barnes announced he attended Creative Visions at the Art Center. He was impressed with the youth artists and their work, providing examples. He felt it was a successful event and well attended.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair McHardy called for a motion to adjourn. Commissioner Paris moved to adjourn with Vice Chair Baker seconding the motion. With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:31 pm.

NEXT MEETING

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Huntington Beach Community & Library Services Commission is Wednesday, June 11, 2025, at 6:00 PM in meeting rooms B7 & B8 at City Hall, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.