

**Community & Library Services  
Commission  
Wednesday, January 14, 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

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**CALL TO ORDER**

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL** - Baker, Barnes, Gruel (absent), McHardy, Nim-Husaini, Paris, Thienes  
Staff Present: Wysocki, Cole, Drevdahl, Gomez

**PRESENTATION** - None

**SUPPLEMENTAL COMMUNICATIONS** - None

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

James Fiorillo – owner of property near TK Burger, spoke regarding a change to the residential parking permit process, that does not allow residents with vehicles not registered to the property address to purchase a residential or guest parking passes. Mr. Fiorillo cited the Municipal Code description for a resident as someone who owns property in Huntington Beach. Mr. Fiorillo explained that he does not live at the property full-time, as it is a second home, and that other family members visit and use the home as well. As the property owner, he is requesting a variance to allow for purchase of residential parking passes. He also recommended the Director meet with residents to discuss the issue.

Blu Beacham spoke on behalf of the Huntington Valley Little League regarding the administrative item on flagpoles. Mr. Beachman provided background on how he believed the item came about. He expressed the League's desire to replace the current 25' flagpole with at least 55' so that those attending games could see the flag beyond 75'h x 25'w trees from all fields when reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. Mr. Beacham did not feel the 30' flagpole recommended through the Administrative Item was visually sufficient. Mr. Beacham stated that \$26,000 had been raised for a taller flagpole and the League had community support in replacing the original pole. Additionally, he reported the League plans to install two additional plaques alongside a plaque currently installed on site that would recite the Little League Pledge of Allegiance and a plaque listing the name of donors. Mr. Beacham voiced his disappointment with the Administrative Item and asked Commission to allow the League a variance in order to install the larger flagpole so they can see the flag around the trees.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Request approval of October 8, 2025, meeting minutes.

**Motion:** Commissioner McHardy moved to accept the minutes as written with Commission Paris seconding the motion. (Approved, 6-0-1, Gruel absent)

**ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR** – Wysocki called for nominations for Chair from the floor.

**Motion:** Commissioner Baker nominated Commissioner McHardy to remain as Commission Chair. Commissioner Barnes moved to elect with Commissioner Paris seconding the motion. Motion carried 6-0-1 (Gruel absent).

Chair McHardy resumed presiding over the meeting and called for nominations for Vice Chair from the floor.

**Motion:** Chair McHardy nominated Commissioner Baker as Vice Chair. Commissioner Barnes moved to elect with Commissioner Paris seconding the motion. Motion carried 6-0-1 (Gruel Absent)

### **STUDY SESSION**

**Grow HB Outdoor Volunteer Program** - Wysocki introduced Commissioner Barnes, Chair of the Commission's Special Interest Committee, and reminded the Commission that the liaison group was formed to collaborate on the Grow HB Outdoor Volunteer Program. The item was presented as a study session to solicit Commission feedback and suggestions, and at a subsequent meeting return with a formalized program for Commissioner's consideration.

Commissioner Barnes thanked City staff and the members of the Special Interest Committee, emphasizing the importance of collaboration between the City and community volunteers as stewards of shared public spaces. Commissioner Barnes then introduced Cole to present the Grow HB Outdoor Volunteer Program.

Cole also thanked the Committee for their time and efforts and explained that the program is intended to consolidate all outdoor volunteer activities under a single, cohesive framework. Cole outlined the program's multi-tiered structure, which includes volunteer opportunities ranging from Adopt-A-Park projects, beach and community cleanups, and one-time projects, to ongoing efforts with "Friends of" groups, school and business groups, and more robust projects undertaken through formal agreements with the City.

Cole further explained that the program will provide oversight and include an approval and liability process through the creation of a Project Review Committee. The committee's composition and function will be modeled after the City's Specific Events Committee, serving as a "one-stop shop" for the review and coordination of proposed volunteer projects and park improvements.

Additionally, Cole noted that the program envisions future volunteer recognition opportunities and the ability to “grow into the future” through expanded components, including potential funding partners, professional-level volunteers to mentor and support others, sponsorships, and the possible development of a Grow HB Ranger Program within the park system.

Vice Chair Baker thanked staff and the committee. She enjoyed the experience and said she was proud of the program outcome. Although she is not “married” to the logo, she felt everything else was beautiful and she appreciated everyone’s efforts. Cole said the logo was conceptual and there was still time for adjustments.

Commissioner Paris echoed the sentiments of enjoying the process and in thanking staff.

Commissioner Barnes inquired about the benefits including fiscal benefits for the City. Cole said the benefits from volunteer efforts across the City in park beautification and community engagement is unmeasurable – the estimated 2026 value in California for a volunteer hour is \$40.14, multiplied by the thousands of hours dedicated to outdoor volunteer projects across the city, and it equates to a large sum of savings.

Commissioner Barnes shared that during the park tours, when the Committee was still looking at the program as a simple Adopt-A-Park program, he spoke with neighbors in the parks. A question was asked about experience. He asked if volunteers need experience or could it be the average neighbor participating at their local park. Cole said it would depend on the scope of the project, but everything from litter pick up and reporting graffiti, to light landscaping in our neighborhood parks and mentorship, the program would fit all levels.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

**Flagpole Criteria Standardization for Community & Library Services Parks and Facilities** – Cole reported that lately there had been interest in several flagpoles within various parks. The City of Huntington Beach and its citizens are very patriotic and proud to fly the American flag. Cole provided samples of flagpoles, including a 30’ flagpole at Baca Park for visual reference. Cole stated there was a need to standardize a policy governing flagpole height and corresponding flag size for consistency within parks and facilities under the purview of the Community & Library Services Department. Establishing a consistent standard is necessary to ensure uniformity, visual compatibility, and appropriate scale across the park system. The recommendation was for the establishment of a maximum flag size of 5’ x 8’ and a flagpole height of 30’.

**Recommended Action:** Review and approve the standardization of flagpole criteria for parks and facilities under the purview of the Community & Library Services Department.

Discussion ensued with questions asked about the effect on Huntington Valley Little League’s request for a taller flagpole, and if a variance could take place. Commissioners

questioned whether there would be the ability for exceptions to the standardization, and the effects of a 60'-70' flagpole with corresponding flag within a neighborhood park. After much discussion, Vice-Chair Baker asked that the item be tabled.

**Motion:** Vice-Chair Baker motioned to table the item with Commissioner Barnes seconding the motion. Motion carried (6-0-1, Gruel absent).

**America 250 Celebration Committee** – Wysocki reported Commissioner Paris had shown interest in the Commission supporting America 250 projects during 2026. Wysocki proposed creating three (3) liaison groups of 3, 2, and 2 Commissioners, who would conduct research on which events and/or programs they wished to support 2026.

Commissioner Paris said that she and Chair McHardy had met with City staff overseeing the America 250 celebrations and were given plenty of ideas. Some discussion ensued on whether the events would be associated with the Celebration Committee or through the Commission. Wysocki said it depended on the event the Commission groups were interested in supporting.

The America 250 Liaison Groups will consist of the following Commissioners:

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

**Recommended Action:** Establish three (3) Committees consisting of 3, 2, and 2 Commissioners to act as a working liaison group for each of the events selected for the City's "America 250 Celebration."

**Motion:** Vice-Chair Baker moved to establish the liaison committees with Chair McHardy seconding the motion. The motion carried (6-0-1, Gruel absent).

## **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS**

**CIP Review & Project Updates** – Drevdahl reported on the following projects:

- a. Patriot Point Project & Ribbon Cutting – The project was supported by Tee It Up For the Troops The improvements included installation of two new benches and four existing benches that were refurbished, representing each branch of the military, along with a new flagpole and uplighting. The ribbon cutting took place on January 10, 2026.
- b. Park Bench Café – Roofing and siding were installed. The project began in October and was completed December 15, 2025.
- c. Schroeder Park – We are nearing completion of a two-phase project. The second phase included additional pathways to access the existing playground, the exercise area, and the new picnic area. Rubberized surfacing to replace the sand in the exercise area was installed, in addition to new trees, picnic tables, trash receptacle, bike rack, and monument sign. The project also included an upgrade to the irrigation system and solar lighting around the play and exercise areas, and along the

pathways. Anticipated completion is by March 2, 2026, if not sooner.

**Calendar of Events** – The calendar was missing from the agenda packet. Gomez will send to the Commissioners.

**STAFF ITEMS - None**

**COMMITTEE REPORTS – None**

**Library Master Plan Liaison Group** – Chair McHardy reported Johnson Favro completed briefings with the Commissioners in groups, and the final meeting was the previous day. The next step will be to bring the plan to Commission for approval.

**MEMBER OR STAFF COMMENTS – Not Agendized**

Commissioner Barnes reported that he attended the Patriot Point ribbon cutting.

**ADJOURNMENT**

With no further business, Chair McHardy closed the meeting at 7:02 PM.

The next regularly scheduled meeting of the Huntington Beach Community & Library Services Commission is Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 6:00 PM in City Council Chambers at City Hall, 2000 Main Street, Huntington Beach, CA 92648.