

Minutes
City of Yuma Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission Meeting
One City Plaza, Conference Room #142, Yuma, Arizona
Thursday, October 16, 2025
4:00 pm

Call to order: The City of Yuma's Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission (PARC) meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.

PARC Members present: Brannick Harris, Judy Phillips, Jaime McGalliard, Sara Bowerman, Priscilla Ibarra and Keith "Kwadwo" Stevenson.

PARC Members Absent: Nora Morris.

Staff Present: Ana Padilla, Kristin Trujillo, Cassandra Contreras, Jasmin Rodriguez, Selena Reyes, Ann-Jeanette Mosqueda, Ron Ramirez, and Eric Urfer.

Call to the Public: None

Approval of minutes:

- a. Jaimie McGalliard, seconded by Keith "Kwadwo" Stevenson, made a motion to approve September 18, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 6 Brannick Harris, Judy Phillips, Jaime McGalliard, Sara Bowerman, Priscilla Ibarra and Keith "Kwadwo" Stevenson.

Nay: None.

Schedule Items:

a. Director's Update

i. East Mesa Community Park - Updates

- Add Alternative to complete Phase 1 will be added to the project at an estimated cost of \$3 million with the new revenue bond initiative.
- GCE Construction and Civil Engineering, PC, the contractors for East Mesa Park, will need to change the completion date. The Commission will be updated on grand opening date.

ii. Fiscal Year 2027 Budget Discussion

- Fiscal 2027 Budget reviews have been moved up one month. We will begin budget planning and reviewing in the next couple weeks, although it will not be effective until July 2026.
- Personnel and equipment are the first round of budget preparation. Keith "Kwadwo" Stevenson asked if the Yuma Civic Center Manager position will be included in the budget. Eric Urfer responded that Ana Padilla is working at getting both the Civic Center and Art Center event coordinating processes to be consistent and cohesive.

b. Staff Update

i. Project Updates

Michelle Britton informed the Commission on the following project:

The founders of Growing Forward, a local non-profit, are dedicated to fostering environmental education and community wellness.

- Mission is to build a community garden for all ages to enjoy, gather and learn sustainability.

- Utilize programming that highlights the native foods and plants that naturally thrive in our local area
Eric recommended developing a succession and maintenance plan to ensure the longevity of the program.
Developing an agreement of operation will also be necessary before moving forward. The next step would be for Growing Forward to meet with the Parks and Recreation Department and have on-site park visits to discuss and determine a well-suited location. The commission recommended for Growing Forward Project to explore different locations such as a neighborhood park, Carver Park, or West Wetlands Park.
- Dedicated land, water access, comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), and public access will be needed.
- Growing Forward will be responsible for building garden beds for both education and open community use. They will install a storage shed to securely house tools and supplies. They will host regularly scheduled workshops, student field trips, and seasonal events. The project will be managed and maintained by Growing Forward, along with community partners and volunteers.
- The goal is to work with Parks and Recreation Commission to find ideal space in East Mesa Park and ensure final design meets all City of Yuma codes and standards for structure, maintenance, accessibility, and programming.
- Other partners include: Gowan, Arizona Western College, OnVida Health, and University of Arizona are prospective sponsors for this project.

Ron Ramirez reported:

- Overseeding has been completed at Ray Kroc Fields, Caballero Fields, Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex (PAAC), Sanguinetti Athletic Fields, Cibola Athletic Fields, and Elena Orendain Curtis Athletic Complex (i.e. Yuma Catholic) have completed overseeding.
- 43 cases of graffiti have been abated
Keith "Kwadwo" Stevenson raised the question, "Has the graffiti been reported around a certain area or city-wide?"
Ron stated that the graffiti has been city-wide and not in a specific area. If patterns or consistent areas of tagging are made apparent, then Yuma Police Department is notified.
- The Parks Construction Crew is working on the installation of Ramada #01 at Joe Henry Memorial Park.
- Washouts at the PAAC have been leveled out in preparation for Fastpitch Border Madness Tournament that will be taking place in November. As well as the Gowan International and Caballeros of Yuma Balloon Glow Festival events.
- Parks crew has been planting and replacing greenery on medians downtown.

ii. Eric Urfer Reported:

- We are pending price quotes to replace damaged shades from the Storm that occurred early last month, and we are also working on getting the letters for the PAAC entrance sign to be replaced.
Sarah Bowerman asked, "How many shade structures were damaged?"
Jasmin Rodriguez reported that 47 shades downtown were damaged, along with 3 at the PAAC, and 3 others at other locations.
- Desert Hills Golf Course construction project to install new irrigation is complete. 5 miles of pipeline installed with computer system. The Golf

Course will open November 1st, with a tournament that is opening weekend.
Grand opening of PAR 3 will potentially be second week of December.

iii. Program and Events Updates

Ann-Jeanette reported:

- Yuma Boys Baseball League (YBBL) will finish their season at the end of October.
- Yuma Fastpitch and T-Ball League (YFTL) will finish the season before Thanksgiving.
- Yuma Youth Soccer Association (YYSA) will begin practices in mid-December and start games in January.
- American Youth Football (AYD) will be over in 4 weeks.
- Circle of Friends Annual talent show had over 200 attendees.
- Reminder of the Valley Aquatic Center closing for plastering project November 24 through mid-February. Accommodating the swimming teams at Marcus and Carver Pools.

Ana Padilla reported:

- Rocky Horror Show will be taking place on October 25, 2025, at the Yuma Historical Theater. There will only be one showing this year.
- Yuma Con is scheduled for November 1-2, 2025, at the Yuma Civic Center.
- November 14 will be the Tribute of the Muses.
- Art Center has almost all weekends booked until the end of the year.

Action Item:

- a. Downtown Art Fence Design Selection
 1. Votes for Art Fence Design have been collected.
- b. Tribute of the Muses Art Award Design Selection
 1. Votes for Tribute of the Muses Art Award Design have been collected.
- c. Tribute of the Muses Award Recipient Selection
 1. Tribute of the Muses Award
 - Votes have been collected
 2. Helios Award
 - Votes have been collected
 3. Apollo Award
 - Votes have been collected
 4. Odyssey Award
 - Votes have been collected
- d. A motion was made by Jamie McGalliard, seconded by Keith “Kwadwo” Stevenson to endorse concept of the Growing Forward Garden Project. The motion carried by the following vote:

Aye: 6 Brannick Harris, Priscilla Ibarra, Judy Phillips, Jaime McGalliard, Sara Bowerman and Keith “Kwadwo” Stevenson

Nay: None.

Summary of Current Events: None.

Commission Forum for Advocacy, Feedback, or Questions: None.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: None.

Adjournment

Jaime McGalliard, seconded by Kieth "Kwadwo" Stevenson, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at

4:58 pm. The Motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 6 Brannick Harris, Judy Phillips, Jaime McGalliard, Sara Bowerman, Priscilla Ibarra and Keith "Kwadwo" Stevenson.

Nay: None.

Minutes approved this 20 day of November, 2025.



Brannick Harris, Chairperson