

Minutes
City of Yuma Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission Meeting
One City Plaza, Conference Room #141, Yuma, Arizona
Thursday, September 18, 2025
4:00 pm

Call to order: The City of Yuma's Parks, Arts, and Recreation Commission (PARC) meeting was called to order at 4:02 p.m.

PARC Members present: Brannick Harris, Judy Phillips, Jaime McGalliard, Nora Morris, Sara Bowerman, Priscilla Ibarra (arrived at 4:05 pm), and Keith "Kwadwo" Stevenson (arrived at 4:05 pm).

PARC Members Absent: None.

Staff Present: Ana Padilla, Jasmin Rodriguez, Selena Reyes, Ann-Jeanette Mosqueda, Christopher Hardy, Ron Ramirez, and Eric Urfer.

Call to the Public: Frances Armstrong is the Treasurer of the Growing Forward Garden Project (GFGP) and Ana Zolorzano also serves as a board member on this committee. Frances Armstrong requested to be placed on a future agenda to present to the commission information about the organization. Growing Forward Garden Project is looking to potentially start a community garden placed at East Mesa Community Park.

Approval of minutes:

- a. Judy Phillips, seconded by Jaimie McGalliard, made a motion to approve August 21, 2025, meeting minutes as presented. The motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 7 Brannick Harris, Judy Phillips, Jaime McGalliard, Nora Morris, Sara Bowerman, Priscilla Ibarra and Keith "Kwadwo" Stevenson.

Nay: None.

Schedule Items:

- a. **Director's Update**

- i. **Storm Damage Update**

- Eric Urfer informed the Commission that the Department was maintaining account of damages from the storm. The initial estimate is approximately \$100,000 costs in damages. City is keeping a running total of the cost for the repairs in efforts to later submit for reimbursement from the Department of Emergency and Military Affairs (DEMA).
- Brannick Harris asked what the long-term effect to build metal structures over playgrounds as opposed to tarp shades. Eric Urfer and Ron Ramirez answered that considering the tarp lasted 8 years, it is the most cost-effective as it does not need to be continuously maintained like wood or metal.
- Eric Urfer continued by informing the Commission that the Department is still working on clean-up efforts such as cleaning up debris and weeds.
 - Brannick Harris asked if volunteers could be useful in assisting in the clean-up. Eric Urfer stated that most of the clean-up is a lot of landscaping and use of heavy equipment. However, if volunteers want to clean-up trash and pull weeds that would be helpful. Brannick Harris stated he is willing to put a group of volunteers together if provided locations of affected areas.

- Eric Urfer added that many trees were lost in the storm. Some were mature trees and we are looking into getting some of the trees replaced with Native species, however, it will be expensive to do so.
 - Keith “Kwadwo” Stevenson asked what the process is in selecting the trees and why can’t less costly trees be purchased and planted. Eric Urfer explained that many of the trees that got uprooted were non-native trees and therefore were not deep rooted in the soil. The Department wants to select trees that will last and will withstand future storms, so that they are not constantly being replaced. We are evaluating the costs of the trees by the circumference of the tree, the type of tree, and age of the tree.
 - Keith “Kwadwo” Stevenson asked if there are grants available to fund the replacement of lost trees. Eric Urfer responded that besides a grant offered by APS Grant, there are virtually no others. The APS Grants may only cover the cost of perhaps one or two trees.
 - Judy Phillips asked what trees are planned for the landscaping at East Mesa Community Park. Eric Urfer responded that Espy Matlock, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor and Arborist, has made changes to landscaping plans that would be more appropriate at this location.

ii. Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) Update

Eric Urfer provided the Commission the CIP projects scheduled for Fiscal Year 2026.

- Adding bollard to Downtown Main Street
- Replacing the fountain on Main Street
- East Mesa Community Park
- Continued Revitalization of Joe Henry Memorial Park
- Installation of a fence along Caballero Fields and Avenue A
- Adding shade structures to the Archery range at the Pacific Avenue Athletic Complex

Projects that are being placed on hold are:

- Ray Kroc electrical panel replacement
- Replacement of Smucker Park fitness equipment
- Replacement of playground at Kennedy Memorial Park
- Replacement of restrooms at Keegan Athletic Field

iii. Art Projects Update

1. Downtown Art Fence

Ana Padilla reported:

- A call to artist application is available online. The request is for an artist to design an art piece that will wrapped around the poles of the wrought iron fence.
- The fence is being installed at the end of September.
- Downtown Art Fence will be unveiled at the Yuma AG Festival, to take place on January 24, 2026.

2. Mascot Project

Ana Padilla reported that the process has been initiated to get bids for the mold and mock-ups of the first Mascot to be unveiled at America’s 250th celebration.

iv. Park Inspection Assignments

Eric Urfer reminded the Commission of the park inspections they will be assisting the Department complete.

v. Dogs on Leash Signage

Ron Ramirez informed the Commission that we will be designing our own signs and will be placed on the same posts for dog bags.

b. Staff Update

i. Project Updates

Chris Harding reported the following:

Desert Hills Golf Course

- The bunkers were redone
- New sand and drainage were placed
- Irrigation continues on schedule and 9 holes have been open for continued play.
- Overseeding will begin in October. The Golf Course will be closed for the month of October. It will re-open in November.
- PAR 3 will be unveiled in December and will be re-established as "Arroyo Dunes PAR 3 of Desert Hills".

Ron Ramirez reported:

- Parks maintenance continues to work on cleaning up after the storm.
- These next two weeks, team will be removing trees.
- Sand bags have been set-up for distribution at the Yuma Civic Center.
- Yuma Catholic baseball fields have been re-sodded. 800 square feet of new sod has been laid.
- Parks maintenance has been busy with graffiti abatement. Continue to inform the public to use the graffiti hotline, number is 928-329-2828.

Ann-Jeanette reported:

- Joe Henry Optimist Center Gym has scheduled Open Gym programming that has been very popular and is busy.
- Yuma Boys Baseball League (YBBL) and Yuma Fastpitch and T-Ball League (YFTL) are mid-season and expected to complete their seasons in late-October or early-November.
- Yuma Youth Hockey League has started
- Yuma Youth Soccer Association (YYSA) registration ends this week
- Instructional, Father/Daughter dance filled up one month before event
- Circle of Friends will be hosting their annual Talent Show at the Yuma Historic Theater on October 15, 2025.
- Aquatics is busy with all three pools. All pools heated, it is Carver's first-time year-round use.
- Valley Aquatic Center will have the plaster redone in November. 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.
- Nominations for tribute will be available online.
- Art in the Park will be taking place on January 10-11, 2026 at Gateway Park.
- Crossroads Mission will be hosting their annual Christmas Ball on December 6, 2025 at the Yuma Civic Center.
- North End Co-Op Artists' Exhibits are up in the gallery.

ii. Program and Events Updates - None

Action Item:

- a. Discuss proposal for placing a community garden at East Mesa Park. Jamie McGalliard, second by Judy Phillips, made a motion to add the proposal to the next meeting agenda. The Motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 7 Brannick Harris, Judy Phillips, Jaime McGalliard, Nora Morris, Sara Bowerman, Priscilla Ibarra and Keith "Kwadwo" Stevenson.

Nay: None.

Summary of Current Events:

Commission Forum for Advocacy, Feedback, or Questions:

Judy Phillips complimented the palm trees downtown on Main Street.

Agenda Items for Next Meeting: Community Garden. Discuss proposal of establishing community Garden at East Mesa Park or alternative location.

Adjournment

Jaime McGalliard, seconded by Sarah Bowerman, made a motion to adjourn the meeting at 5:04 pm. The Motion carried by the following votes:

Aye: 7 Brannick Harris, Judy Phillips, Jaime McGalliard, Nora Morris, Sara Bowerman, Priscilla Ibarra and Keith "Kwadwo" Stevenson.

Nay: None.

Minutes approved this 16 day of October, 2025.



Brannick Harris, Chairperson