

**CITY OF FOLSOM  
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
TUESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2025, 6:30 PM  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

1. **CALL TO ORDER:** The Parks & Recreation Meeting was called to Order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL:** Commission Members: Matt Hedges, Brian Wallace, Sandy Econome, Jim Ortega, Dustin Silva, Alayna Wagner, Dean Williams

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE:** The Pledge of Allegiance was recited

4. **BUSINESS FROM THE FLOOR:**  
*No Business From the Floor*

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**  
A. September 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes

*Motion by Commissioner Ortega, seconded by Commissioner Williams, to approve the September 2, 2025, Meeting Minutes.*

**AYES:** Commission Members: Hedges, Wallace, Econome, Ortega, Silva, Wagner, Williams

**NOES:** Commission Members: None

**ABSENT:** Commission Members: None

**ABSTAIN:** Commission Members: None

6. **ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Renaming of Kids Play Park to Folsom Castle Park, Brad Nelson, Parks & Trails Planning Manager

*Brad Nelson, Parks Planning Manager, introduced Hannah Perez, Park Planner II. Hannah provided a history of the park and plans for building the new park, including a new name. Community forums were conducted, and the feedback was overwhelmingly in favor of renaming the park to Folsom Castle Park.*

*Community member, Joanne Brausch wrote in a request to have the name be “Castle Park” rather than “Folsom Castle Park.”*

*Motion by Commissioner Wagner, to amend staff recommendation of the name “Folsom Castle Park” to “Castle Park,” striking Folsom from the name. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Ortega.*

**AYES:** Commission Members: Hedges, Wallace, Econome, Ortega, Silva, Wagner, Williams

**NOES:** Commission Members: None

**ABSENT:** Commission Members: None

**ABSTAIN:** Commission Members: None

7. **SCHEDULED PRESENTATIONS:**

A. Aquatics Summer Season Review, Tom Hellmann, Recreation & Community Services Manager

*Tom Hellman, Recreation & Community Services Manager, introduced Chad Gunter, Aquatics Center Supervisor, and Matt Trefry, Sr. Recreation Coordinator. Matt introduced all the full-time staff. He then reviewed the various programs offered by the Aquatics Center, including swimming lessons, lifeguard training, and several special events. Additionally, he discussed the number of people who use the aquatics center over an annual period.*

*Marsha Bearing, a Folsom resident, spoke. She uses the aquatics at least two times a week and loves that the classes keep her moving, and would be sad to see the aquatics center close during the winter.*

*Katie Pearce, a resident of Folsom, spoke. Talked about the aquatics center being one of the largest employers for teens, being their first job, and how important that was. This is where they learn customer service and understand the importance of that skill. Her mother uses the pool regularly and credits it for keeping her young. Wants to ensure the pool remains open all year round.*

B. Youth and Teen Summer Camp Recap, Tom Hellmann, Recreation & Community Services Manager

*Tom Hellmann, Recreation & Community Services Manager, introduced Nadia Khokhar Roberts, Recreation Coordinator II, and Whitney Kahn, Recreation Coordinator II. Nadia and Whitney talked about the staff training and the kids' camps that were held over the summer.*

C. Zoo Sanctuary Economic Impact Study, Jocelyn Smeltzer, Zoo Sanctuary Manager

*Jocelyn Smeltzer, Zoo Sanctuary Manager, introduced Peggy Platt, President of Friends of Folsom Zoo. Peggy discussed the group's goals and how they plan to help the sanctuary.*

D. 2024/2025 Annual Report, Jamison Larson, Sr. Management Analyst

*Jamison Larson, Sr. Management Analyst went over the 2024/2025 Annual Report, which includes final numbers for the year for volunteers and costs for the different departments.*

*Vice Chair Wallace felt that the annual report was exactly what our department needed and was great to see all the partnerships, volunteer hours, and other information laid out so nicely.*

*Commissioner Williams expressed the need to promote ourselves. People need to understand what P&R is doing to make Folsom as great as it is. The annual report really does this.*

*Chair Hedges suggested giving this type of presentation to City Council during a slower time of the year besides just budget.*

*Commissioner Econome also thought the annual report was great and suggested doing a day in the life for Folsom citizens.*

8. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

- A. Budget/Finance (Ortega, Silva, and Wagner)
- B. Planning, Development & Renovations (Silva, Wagner, and Williams)
- C. Operations (Econome, Williams, and Ortega)
- D. Zoo Sanctuary Ad Hoc Committee (Econome, Hedges, and Wallace)

*The Zoo Committee met with Friends of Folsom Zoo. Lots of ideas for fundraisers were discussed, including Christmas trees for Wild Nights and Holiday Light and Red Bus Brewing.*

9. **INFORMATIONAL ITEMS:**

- A. Monthly Report – Kelly Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation Director
- B. Parks & Recreation Director Report – Kelly Gonzalez, Parks & Recreation Director

*Director Gonzalez highlighted key items in the Monthly and Director's Report.*

10. **COMMISSIONER COMMENTS:**

*Commissioner Williams is excited about what he heard tonight regarding the budget but there is still a lot of work ahead. Need to think of who we can reach out to in the community for help. We need to continue raising awareness about the importance of Parks & Recreation to the community.*

*Vice Chair Wallace thought the presentations were excellent. Has a new appreciation for how we provide first-time jobs for our youth.*

*Commissioner Wagner asked for a quick update on Kemp turf replacement. At this time the City does not have the funds for this project. Would like to suggest having outreach to the community for NP1 a little earlier. Requested more information about the scholarship fund.*

*Commissioner Silva felt the upbeat of all our presentations and information, even during the budget, was very refreshing and appreciated it from all staff.*

*Commissioner Ortega, the staff should be commended on the annual report. This is what the Council needs to see: the value of our department and what we do is the reason people move, live, and stay here. There is always something for them and their kids to do, which many communities lack.*

*Chair Hedges, girls' flag football, is very popular, and we should find a way to capitalize on that. Gave kudos to Cynthia Mandel for making coaches' lives easier.*

*Commissioner Econome, messaging is key. We need to make sure community members understand all the things Parks & Recreation has to do in their lives whether they recognize it in the moment or not.*

11. **ADJOURNMENT:**

*There being no further business before the Parks & Recreation Commission, the meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.*

**RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED:**

  
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Matt Hedges, Chairperson

**Notice:** *Members of the Public are entitled to directly address the Commission concerning any item that is described in the notice of this meeting, before or during consideration of that item. If you wish to address the Commission on an issue which is on this agenda, please complete a speaker request card, and deliver it to a staff member at the table on the left side of the Council Chambers prior to discussion of the item. When your name is called, stand to be recognized by the Chairperson and then proceed to the podium. If you wish to address the Commission on any other item of interest to the public, when the Chairperson asks if there is any "**Business from the Floor**," follow the same procedure as described above. Please limit your comments to three minutes or less.*

*As presiding officer, the Chairperson has the authority to preserve order at all Parks & Recreation Commission meetings, to remove or cause the removal of any person from any such meeting for disorderly conduct, or for making personal, impertinent, or slanderous remarks, using profanity, or becoming boisterous, threatening or personally abusive while addressing said Commission, and to enforce the rules of the Commission.*

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you are a disabled person and need a disability-related modification or accommodation to participate in this meeting, please contact the Parks & Recreation Department at (916) 461-6606, (916) 351-5931 (fax) or [estrawn@folsom.ca.us](mailto:estrawn@folsom.ca.us). Requests must be made as early as possible and at least two full business days before the start of the meeting.*

*The City of Folsom provides archived webcasts of Parks & Recreation Commission meetings. The webcasts can be found on the Online Services page of the City's website [www.folsom.ca.us](http://www.folsom.ca.us). Any documents produced by the City and distributed to the Parks & Recreation Commission regarding any item on this agenda will be made available at the Parks & Recreation Department at 50 Natoma Street, Folsom, California during normal business hours.*