



Sonoma County Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission Meeting

Wednesday, October 1, 2025 - 5:30pm

Nathan Junge, Chair
5th District

Luis Gonzalez, Vice Chair
4th District

John Roney
1st District

Carol Eber
2nd District

Beth Steffy
3rd District

Vacant
Youth Commissioner

Tomas Mercado
Youth Commissioner

This meeting will be held in-person at Regional Parks main offices located at 400 Aviation Blvd, Suite 100, Santa Rosa, CA 95403.

Public Comment: Members of the public may address the Commission. Designated time for open public comment is allotted during the meeting (See Item 3 below). Public comment is also held for action items, prior to the Commissioners vote. Time limitations are at the discretion of the Chair the Director of Regional Parks and may be adjusted to accommodate all speakers.

In addition to oral public comment at the meetings, the community can also submit commentary via email. Members of the public who would like to make statements that may exceed the time limits for public comment, suggest topics to be placed on future agendas, or suggest questions to be raised and discussed by Commission members or staff, may send an email addressing these matters to parkspublicmeetings@sonoma-county.org.

Agendas: The agenda for each Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission meeting will be posted 72 hours in advance of the meeting on Regional Parks' website at <https://parks.sonomacounty.ca.gov/learn/about-us/regional-parks-boards-and-commissions/parks-and-recreation-advisory-commission>. The agenda is also available at the Regional Parks office, located at 400 Aviation Blvd., Suite 100, Santa Rosa.

Accommodation Request: Please contact Sonoma County Regional Parks at (707) 565-3351 or parkspublicmeetings@sonoma-county.org with as much advance notice as possible to request arrangements for an accommodation.

Language Interpretation: Interpretation services will be provided as an accommodation if requested in advance. Please contact Regional Parks at (707) 565-3351 or by email at parkspublicmeetings@sonoma-county.org at least one week prior to the meeting. We will make every effort to provide interpretation.

Agenda

1. Welcome & Land Acknowledgement – Bert Whitaker, Director of Sonoma County Regional Parks

I want us to remember that we are on the ancestral land of the Miwok, Pomo, and Wappo peoples. These resilient communities are still here today, and we want to honor them as it was and is their land that we have had the opportunity to recreate on. Let us consider how we can continue to protect these beautiful places for our future generations.

2. Call to Order & Duties of the Commission – Chair Nathan Junge

Call to Order

Commissioners present:

Commissioners absent:

Duties of the Commission include:

- Acting in an advisory capacity to the Board of Supervisors in promoting, aiding and encouraging public recreation, including the development of recreation, park and open space facilities.
- Acting in an advisory capacity to Regional Parks Director in the maintenance, development and operation of recreation areas and facilities serving the residents of the county.
- Establishing general procedures to carry out the purpose of the advisory commission.

3. Comments from the Public – Lead Chair Nathan Junge

During this time, members of the public may address the Commission on matters that are not on the agenda. However, The Ralph M. Brown Act (the State local agency open meeting law) prohibits the Commission from acting on any matter that is not on the agenda. Members of the public wishing to suggest an item for a future Commission agenda item may do so. Speakers are limited to three minutes each; the Commission Chair or Director of Regional Parks may adjust the time limit in accordance with the number of anticipated speakers.

4. Approval of the Minutes (Action Item) –Chair Nathan Junge

Approval of the minutes for the June 11, 2025, Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission meeting.

Motion to approve:

Second:

VOTE

In-favor:

Opposed:

Abstain:

Absent:

5. Commissioner Reports – Lead by Chair Nathan Junge

Individual brief verbal reports regarding parks-related activities, observations, acknowledgements, concerns, questions, and/or suggestions.

Beth Steffy- working with Nubia on accessibility. Wheelchair at Doran is appreciated.

Measure M funds could potentially be used to keep city public pool open

6. Director's Report – Bert Whitaker, Director, Sonoma County Regional Parks

An informational verbal report on Regional Park's updates and current events followed by an opportunity for attendees to ask questions.

7. Cool and Comfortable Park Initiative – Corbin Johnson, Project Specialist, Sonoma County Regional Parks

Parks is evaluating shade structure designs and seeks feedback.

8. Youth Exploring Sonoma (YES) Parks Presentation – Alexis Cortez Holmes, Engagement Coordinator, Sonoma County Regional Parks

YES! Parks, building community through outdoor exploration.

9. Special Presentation by the Safety and Belonging Student Cohort

The Safety and Belonging Cohort, a group of High School Students from within the Santa Rosa City School District, including one student from Windsor HS, are organizing to keep their schools, communities and nature spaces safe while fostering the idea of "belonging." They identify as immigrants and children of immigrants who feel compelled to answer the calling of this moment by using their voices and experiential perspectives to keep their communities safe and welcome. They would like to offer their vision for Sonoma County nature spaces.

10. Adjournment – Commission Chair