



AGENDA

**Parks Advisory Committee
January 13, 2025 – 6:00 PM**

**Cosumnes CSD Multi-Purpose Room
8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624**

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Daniella Zehnder	Cosumnes CSD Board Liaison
Reina Tarango	Cosumnes CSD Board Liaison
Ashleigh Adams	Benefit Zone 1
Liz Irons	Benefit Zone 1
Naman Sharma	Benefit Zone 3
Ron Weissmann	Benefit Zone 3
Hollis Erb	Benefit Zone 4
Bret Bartholomew (Chair)	Benefit Zone 4
DeAna Melilli	Benefit Zone 5
Ashley Bergen	Benefit Zone 6
Dulce Medina	Benefit Zone 6
Alicia Rios	Benefit Zone 6
Kenny Alvarado	Benefit Zone 8
David Pepsny	Benefit Zone 8
Jencie Ferraro	Benefit Zone 11
Viraj Shah	Benefit Zone 11
John Moua	Benefit Zone 12
John Ebner	Cosumnes CSD Personnel Liaison
Madi Lee-Rosen	Cosumnes CSD Volunteer Coordinator
Elizabeth Rhoan	Ex-Officio/CE&P Supervisor
Traci Farris	Ex-Officio
Mike Dopson	Ex-Officio

A. CALL TO ORDER (10 minutes)

1. Roll Call
2. Chairperson Welcome

B. CONSENT CALENDAR (5 minutes)

The following Consent Calendar items are expected to be routine and non-controversial. They may be acted upon by the Committee at one time without discussion. Any item may be removed by a Committee Member for discussion or clarification. Members of the public wishing to comment on any Consent Calendar item may do so before Board action.

3. Review and approve Minutes from the December 9, 2025, Regular Committee Meeting.

C. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS (50 minutes)

4. **Subject:** Benefit Zone Overlays Update

Report/Recommendation:

Staff will give an update to the PAC on underfunded Benefit Zone overlay efforts.

5. **Subject:** 2026 Workplan

Report/Recommendation:

Staff will present the PAC Annual Workplan assignments and plans for completing those assignments in 2026.

6. **Subject:** Cosumnes CSD Parks & Recreation 2025 Recap/2026 Initiatives

Report/Recommendation:

Staff will provide an update to the PAC on the successes of Parks & Recreation in 2025 and initiatives planned for 2026.

D. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (5 minutes)

This is the time and place for the public to address the Parks Advisory Committee. State law prohibits the Committee from addressing any items not previously included on the agenda. The Parks Advisory Committee may receive testimony and set the matter for a subsequent meeting. Comments are to be limited to three minutes per individual at the discretion of the Chairperson. Individuals representing a group, or an organization, shall be permitted five minutes. Comments relating to similar issues should be brief, concise,

and non-repetitious. Speakers should state their home or business address when commenting to the Parks Advisory Committee.

Note: Under the provisions of the California Government Code, the Committee is prohibited from discussing or taking immediate on any non-agendized item unless it can be demonstrated to be of an emergency nature or the need to take immediate action arose after the posting of the agenda.

E. REGULAR BUSINESS (15 minutes)

7. Benefit Zone/Landscape Maintenance Discussion – Committee members discuss benefit zone/landscape maintenance-related information for each of their respective benefit zones.
8. Capital Project Update – Committee members will receive the bi-monthly capital projects report.
9. District Calendar – Committee members receive the district calendar over the next two months.

02/06/26 – Butterfly Ball – Laguna Town Hall (6 PM – 9 PM)

02/07/26 – Butterfly Ball – Laguna Town Hall (5 PM – 8 PM)

03/07/26 – Shamrockin Saturday Night – WCAC (6 PM – 9 PM)

03/10/26 – PAC Meeting – CSD Board Room (6 PM – 8 PM)/

04/11/26 – Community Clean Up – Elk Grove Park (TBD)

F. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS (5 minutes)

This is the time for the Committee to identify the items they wish to discuss at future meetings. These items will not be discussed at this meeting, only identified for a future meeting.

Current working list:

- Pollinator Gardens
- District Signage (Updates & QR Codes)
- Accessible Playgrounds
- Off-Leash Pets in the Parks
- Feeding Animals in the Parks
- District Recycling Program
- District Youth Sports

G. ADJOURNMENT

DISABLED ACCOMMODATIONS

The Cosumnes Community Services District will make reasonable accommodations for people having special needs due to disabilities. Please contact John Ebner, Program Manager, at 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624, phone (916) 405-5331, at least 48 hours prior to the meeting, to allow time to provide special accommodations.

REVIEW AND COPIES OF AGENDA, AGENDA REPORTS, AND MATERIAL

Before each Meeting, copies of the Agenda, Agenda Reports, and other materials, as well as any public record relating to an open session agenda item that is distributed within 72 hours prior to the meeting, are available for public review at the Cosumnes Community Services District's Administrative Building during normal working hours. In addition, a limited supply will be available on a first-come, first-served basis at the meeting.

CERTIFICATE OF POSTING AGENDA

I hereby declare that the foregoing Agenda for the January 13, 2026, meeting of the Cosumnes Community Services District Parks Advisory Committee was posted on January 8th, 2025, at 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, California, 95624, and was available for public review at that location.

Signed this 8th day of January 2026.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'John Ebner', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

John Ebner, Program Manager
Parks & Recreation Department



MINUTES

**Parks Advisory Committee
December 9, 2025 – 6:00 PM**

**Cosumnes CSD Multi-Purpose Room
8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624**

MEETING ATTENDANCE

Committee members present included Liz Irons, Naman Sharma, Ron Weissmann, Hollis Erb, Bret Bartholomew, DeAna Melilli, Dulce Medina, Alicia Rios, David Pepsny, and John Moua.

Also in attendance: Cosumnes CSD Board Member Daniella Zehnder, Director of Parks & Neighborhood Services Mike Dopson, Cosumnes CSD Personnel Liaison John Ebner, Community Engagement & Partnerships Supervisor Elizabeth Rhoan, and Volunteer Coordinator Madison Lee-Rosen.

A. CALL TO ORDER (10 minutes)

1. Vice-Chairperson Hollis Erb called the meeting to order at 6:03 PM.
2. Vice-Chairperson Hollis Erb introduced new member Ron Weissman as well as attending Cosumnes CSD staff Madi Lee-Rosen and Elizabeth Rhoan. Other committee members briefly introduced themselves and their areas of interest, which included supporting underfunded parks, family, walking, and sports.

B. CONSENT CALENDAR (5 minutes)

3. Hollis Erb requested a motion to approve the September 9, 2025, PAC minutes. DeAna Melilli motioned, and Liz Irons seconded. Bret Bartholomew abstained because he was not present at the meeting. Minutes approved unanimously.

C. REPORTS/PRESENTATIONS (50 minutes)

4. Subject: 2026 Officer Elections

Report/Recommendation:

The Committee conducted elections for the 2026 Chairperson and Vice Chairperson positions. Members were reminded that individuals in these roles may be re-elected once, for a maximum of two consecutive years, after which a one-year break in service is required. The Chairperson is responsible for presiding over meetings, while the Vice Chairperson serves in the Chairperson's absence. Both positions also include additional communication with Cosumnes CSD staff liaisons to review agendas and plan meeting content. The Committee noted that the previous Chairperson is not automatically nominated and that members who are not in attendance may also be nominated.

Election Results

Hollis Erb nominated current Chairperson Kenny Alvarado for re-election; the nomination was seconded by Liz Irons. David Pepsny nominated Bret Bartholomew for Chairperson; the nomination was seconded by Naman Sharma. Seven members voted to elect Bret Bartholomew as Chairperson, and the motion passed. Hollis Erb nominated Kenny Alvarado for Vice Chairperson, and Bret Bartholomew seconded. The Committee voted unanimously to elect Kenny Alvarado as Vice Chairperson.

2026 PAC Chairperson – Bret Bartholomew
2026 PAC Vice-Chairperson – Kenny Alvarado

5. Subject: 2026 Workplan

Report/Recommendation:

The Committee reviewed the proposed 2026 Workplan and identified members to participate in each of the Workplan categories. Additional comments made are listed below.

Volunteer Newsletter

The newsletter will feature articles written by PAC members and selected content from the district newsletter.

Interested members: Ron Weissman, Hollis Erb

Social Media Volunteer & PAC Recruitment

Social media outreach has significantly increased PAC membership from the original 6–7 members to 16, with vacancies remaining in several benefit zones.

Interested members: Bret Bartholomew, Alicia Rios, Ashleigh Adams

Benefit Zone Overlays

Interested members: Ron Weissman, Naman Sharma, Dulce Medina, Hollis Erb, Liz Irons

Giant Pumpkin Festival Team

Interested members: Hollis Erb, Bret Bartholomew, Alicia Rios

Elk Grove Park Master Plan

The District is developing a 30-year Park Master Plan. PAC members will conduct community outreach to gather input on desired park features and report findings at PAC meetings.

Interested members: John Moua, Liz Irons, DeAnna Melilli, Naman Sharma, David Pepsny, Viraj Shah

Additional Notes

- Bret suggested appointing a chairperson for each Workplan group; Hollis recommended bringing this proposal formally to the next meeting.
- Bret reported meeting with the City of Elk Grove regarding their upcoming presentation to the City Council on January 14, 2026, concerning the planned interchange at Whitelock Parkway and State Route 99 (SR-99).

6. Subject: 2026 PAC Meeting Schedule (Attachment A**)**

Report/Recommendation:

The Committee discussed a proposal from John Ebner to shift PAC meetings to a bi-monthly schedule, beginning in January, with two-hour meetings replacing the current 1.5-hour monthly format. John noted ongoing challenges with attendance and maintaining a quorum, as well as the considerable amount of staff time required to prepare for monthly meetings. Members discussed seasonal operational demands and staff capacity, particularly during reporting months like January and events such as The Giant Pumpkin Festival in October. Naman Sharma questioned whether a bi-monthly schedule would improve attendance and suggested continuing monthly meetings with cancellations as needed, while Bret Bartholomew deferred to CSD staff recommendation. Mike Dopson clarified that although January is a budget and reporting-heavy month, it may not need to be canceled, but he and Parks Administrator Traci Farris may not be able to attend. Following the discussion, Bret Bartholomew moved to adopt the bi-monthly schedule with December added, and Hollis Erb seconded the motion. The motion passed with all members in favor except Naman, and the Committee approved meeting every other month beginning in January, including a December meeting. Hollis requested that the updated schedule and two-hour meeting format be clearly communicated to PAC members and posted separately on the District website.

7. **Subject:** 2025 Giant Pumpkin Festival Review

Report/Recommendation:

John Ebner presented results from the 2025 Giant Pumpkin Festival, and the committee discussed, noting several successes as well as areas for improvement. Attendance was around 60,000 people, a record-breaking pumpkin weighing 2,147 pounds was showcased, and 122 vendors participated. The event involved 479 volunteers contributing work valued at \$37,000, and \$33,000 in prize winnings were distributed. Positive press was received, with a Channel 3 primetime story, a viral video with 46 million views, and an article in *The Washington Post*. A Wi-Fi outage was successfully addressed with assistance from the Fire Department. Committee members highlighted successes, including the larger map, high-quality food, and a strong level of interest, with around 20 people filling out the volunteer interest sign-up sheet. John Moua recommended that next year, there be a better briefing process on booth operations and better signage. Alicia Rios stressed the importance of timely follow-up with the people who signed the interest form. Additional committee recommendations for improvement included using QR codes or iPads for registration, developing standardized follow-up emails, zone-specific maps, creating a booth kit with key materials, adding PAC cards to swag giveaways, and repositioning the PAC booth closer to vendor activity. Hollis Erb praised staff for their hard work on the festival, and overall, staff and committee members agreed on the success of the event.

D. COMMUNICATIONS FROM THE PUBLIC (5 minutes)

Chris Houlemard introduced himself as a member of the public who lives in BZ 1. He works for CalTrans as a branch chief and expressed gratitude to Cosumnes CSD, noting his past collaboration with the District on tree-planting efforts. He previously served as board president for his neighborhood HOA in the 1990s.

Chris agreed with PAC members' suggestion to use an electronic iPad sign-up for volunteer interest at GPF. He also presented an idea to plant a one-mile row of up to 400 cherry trees within his benefit zone to generate interest and potential funding, possibly culminating in a future festival. He referenced the builder Tiegan Ranch, which recently planted a row of 200 cherry trees in Elk Grove.

Chris expressed interest in becoming involved with the PAC. He clarified that the proposed cherry tree project would not be a strict monoculture and stated that he is willing to assist with the planting.

E. REGULAR BUSINESS (15 minutes)

8. Benefit Zone/Landscape Maintenance Discussion – Committee members discuss benefit zone/landscape maintenance-related information for each of their respective benefit zones.

BZ 5 - DeAna brought up the removal of crepe myrtle trees at Toby Johnson Park and questioned if they would be replanted. She also mentioned that the tennis courts at the park are being used as a dog park. She recommended that Parks and Recreation staff take a more active role in making contact to mitigate the issue.

BZ 8 - David noted that Cosumnes CSD staff is currently redoing the infield at Bartholomew Sports Park (BSP). He questioned whether the outfields might also be re-done, citing near-injuries to players due to uneven terrain.

BZ 1 – Liz brought up observing graffiti from a tagger named CONE. She has reported it. She also noted that she continues to observe feral cats and says the colony feeders leave cans out that attract other vermin. John responded that the District is in the process of updating Ordinance 15, which will be brought to this group and will address the feeding of animals.

Mike Dopson reminds the PAC that the best way to take action is to contact the 24/7 park maintenance hotline.

9. Capital Project Update – Committee members received the bi-monthly capital projects report.
10. District Calendar – Committee members receive the district calendar over the next two months.

01/13/26 – PAC Meeting – CSD Board Room (6 PM – 8 PM)

2/14 & 2/15/26 – Lunar New Year – Elk Grove Park (11 AM- 8 PM)

F. IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS FOR FUTURE MEETINGS (5 minutes)

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G. ADJOURNMENT

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:32 PM.

Approved: _____
Bret Bartholomew, Chairperson

Attest:  _____
John Ebner, Program Manager

Attachment A



2026 PAC Annual Meeting Schedule

This schedule outlines the Parks Advisory Committee meetings for 2026. All meetings are held in the Cosumnes CSD Board Room, located at 8820 Elk Grove Blvd., Elk Grove, CA 95624, from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM.

Meeting #1 – January 13, 2026

Meeting #2 – March 10, 2026

Meeting #3 – May 12, 2026

Meeting #4 – July 14, 2026

Meeting #5 – September 8, 2026

Meeting #6 – November 10, 2026

Meeting #7 – December 8, 2026



Parks Advisory Committee

Bi-Monthly Capital Projects Update – January 2026

Beeman Park – Construction fencing is scheduled to be installed starting early January, and demolition will start. Signage will be installed to alert pedestrians of a detour around the park. We anticipate the park reopening in summer 2026.

Unity Park – The project is currently under construction, with a completion date in early 2026. The grand opening of the park is anticipated to take place in the spring of 2026.

Fales Park – The play structure has been redesigned and is anticipated to be purchased and installed in early 2026, following its destruction by arsonists.

Veterans Memorial in Elk Grove Park – The wall project is complete and was featured at the end of the annual Elk Grove Veterans' Day Parade. Staff are working on the concept design for a welcome sign to be constructed in 2026.

Mendes Ranch & Coyotes Oaks Parks – Both projects are in the construction document phase. No date for commencement of construction has been determined.

Elk Grove Park Master Plan – An internal stakeholders meeting was held on December 12, 2025, with early concept plans presented outlining possible overall design concepts.

Future Park Projects – Substantial work is being done to plan for future parks in the Southwest Planning Area and in the southern areas of the district that are not yet annexed into the City of Elk Grove. The status of these projects can be viewed in the district's 2025 Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) on the district website.