

MINUTES OF CITY COUNCIL MEETING
OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK
HELD APRIL 14, 2026

Vol. 55 Pg. 163

1. GENERAL

The City Council met in a regular session on Tuesday, April 14, 2026, at 5:00 p.m. in the City Council Chamber of the Civic Center, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, California, Mayor Traut presiding.

1A. CALL TO ORDER

1B. ROLL CALL

PRESENT: Ahn, Franco, Sonne, Hoque, Traut

ABSENT: None

Also present were: Aaron France, City Manager; Chris Cardinale, City Attorney; and Adria M. Vicuña, MMC, Director of Government and Community Relations/City Clerk.

1C. INVOCATION

The Invocation was led by Eddie Fenton, Assistant City Manager/Director of Human Resources.

1D. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Pledge of Allegiance was led by Camila Davalos, Beatty Middle School and Alicia De La Luz, Cultural Engagement Commission Member.

1E. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager France reported on the following:

- Office Aide/Passport Agent Yam provided information regarding the 2026 Passport Walk-ins, which started on April 7 and will continue through August 27, 2026. Passport walk-ins are available every Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, 8:30 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. at Buena Park City Hall. For passport-related questions, please visit the Passport page on the City's website or contact the Passport Services Division at (714) 562-3758.
- Sustainability Manager Thai informed the community about upcoming Building Optimization and Long-Term Transition (BOLT) webinars to help homeowners and businesses make smart energy upgrades during planned improvements. The first webinar will be held on April 23, 2026, 4:00 p.m. – 5:00 p.m. for existing non-residential buildings (offices, retail, grocery, financial institutions) and 5:30 p.m. – 6:30 p.m. for existing single-family residential (homeowners and residents). Interested individuals may register online at www.buenapark.com/BOLT.
- Bulky Item Drop Off, April 18, 2026, 8:00 a.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the City's Entertainment Corridor Parking Lot between Western Ave. and Beach Blvd. Items must be separated into three categories: household items, appliances and metal items, and green waste.
- E-Waste Recycling and Paper Shredding, April 25, 2026, 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. at the City's Entertainment Corridor Parking Lot between Western Ave. and Beach Blvd. Free compost and mulch will also be available while supplies last.
- Arts and Culture Master Plan meeting, April 22, 2026, 6:00 p.m. – 7:30 p.m. at the Buena Park Community Center, and April 23, 2026, 12:30 p.m. – 2:00 p.m. at the Ehlers Event Center.
- Love Buena Park, April 25, 2026, 7:30 a.m. check in and 8:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. volunteer at projects. Event begins at Buena Park City Hall.

2. PRESENTATIONS

2A. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 19-25, 2026, AS NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK

Vice Mayor Hoque presented the Proclamation recognizing April 19-25, 2026, as National Library Week to Buena Park Library District Director Helen Medina, Library Board of Trustees President Brenda Estrada, and Librarian Helen Koo.

Legislative representatives from Senator Umberg's Office and Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva's Office presented certificates recognizing April 19-25, 2026, as National Library Week.

2B. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS DONATE LIFE MONTH

Mayor Traut presented the Proclamation recognizing April 2026 as Donate Life Month to *OneLegacy* Ambassador Mona Castro.

Legislative representatives from Senator Umberg's Office and Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva's Office presented certificates recognizing April 2026 as DMV Donate Life Month

2C. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH

Council Member Sonne presented the Proclamation recognizing April 2026 as Autism Acceptance Month to the Korean American Special Education Center.

Legislative representatives from Senator Umberg's Office and Assemblywoman Quirk-Silva's Office presented certificates recognizing April 2026 as Autism Acceptance Month to the Korean American Special Education Center.

2D. RECOGNITION OF THE BUENA PARK SISTER CITY FOUNDATION AND PRESENTATION BY THE BUENA PARK HIGH SCHOOL SISTER CITY STUDENT EXCHANGE DELEGATION

Council Member Franco presented a certificate of recognition to the members of the Buena Park Sister City Foundation for their planning and coordination of student exchange programs.

Buena Park High School Assistant Principal Abell and the Buena Park High School Sister City Student Exchange Delegation thanked the City Council for their support in the program.

3A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS

Mayor Traut announced the public may at this time address the members of the City Council on any matters within the jurisdiction of the City Council.

A member of the public spoke regarding a righteous man in Buena Park and this man's many years of service to the community.

There being no additional requests to speak, Mayor Traut closed oral communications.

4. CONSENT CALENDAR (4A – 4I)

Mayor Traut announced that Consent Calendar Item Nos. 4A through 4I would be acted upon by one motion affirming the actions as recommended on the agenda and agenda bills submitted and inquired if anyone present desired to have any item removed for separate consideration. There being no requests for separate consideration, the following action was taken on Item Nos. 4A – 4I:

MOTION: Traut
SECOND: Hoque
AYES: Traut, Hoque, Ahn, Franco, Sonne
NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED that all actions recommended on Consent Calendar Item Nos. 4A – 4I be approved.

Minutes**4A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Recommended Action: Approve the Minutes of the Special and Regular City Council Meetings of March 24, 2026.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Finance 75**4B. RESOLUTIONS APPROVING CLAIMS AND DEMANDS**

Recommended Action: 1) Adopt Resolutions approving the Claims and Demands.

ADOPTED the following titled resolutions:

RESOLUTION NO. 15094

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, ALLOWING CERTAIN CLAIMS AND DEMANDS IN THE SUM OF \$5,813,523.96 DEMAND NOS. 435110 THROUGH 435308 CANCELLED NO. 424425

RESOLUTION NO. 15095

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, ALLOWING CERTAIN CLAIMS AND DEMANDS IN THE SUM OF \$1,182,375.40 COVERING REGULAR PAYROLL ENDING MARCH 13, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 15096

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, ALLOWING CERTAIN CLAIMS AND DEMANDS IN THE SUM OF \$18,923.37 COVERING RETIREE PAYROLL ENDING MARCH 31, 2026

RESOLUTION NO. 15097

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, ALLOWING CERTAIN CLAIMS AND DEMANDS IN THE SUM OF \$1,174,603.66 COVERING REGULAR PAYROLL ENDING MARCH 27, 2026

Proclamations 119**4C. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 19-25, 2026, AS NATIONAL LIBRARY WEEK**

Recommended Action: Approve proclamation.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Proclamations 119**4D. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS DONATE LIFE MONTH**

Recommended Action: Approve proclamation.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Proclamations 119**4E. PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING APRIL 2026 AS AUTISM ACCEPTANCE MONTH**

Recommended Action: Approve proclamation.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Contracts 70 C-2980**4F. AGREEMENT WITH KNOTT'S BERRY FARM TO PERFORM POLICE DETAIL SERVICES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2025-2026 AND 2026-2027**

Recommended Action: 1) Approve an agreement with Knott's Berry Farm to provide supplemental police detail services for Fiscal Years 2025-2026 & 2026-2027; 2) Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to make any necessary, non-monetary changes to the agreement; and, 3) Authorize the City Manager, City Clerk, and City Attorney to execute the agreement.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Budgets 47 Energy Conservation 180.1**4G. BUDGET ALLOCATION TO REPLACE TWO PUBLICLY ACCESSIBLE LEVEL-3 ELECTRIC VEHICLE (EV) CHARGERS**

Recommended Action: 1) Approve a budget allocation in the amount of \$47,925 from the undesignated AB2766/AQMD Fund balance for the replacement of two level-3 electric vehicle (EV) chargers.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Budgets 47 Celebrations 50**4H. BUDGET ALLOCATION FOR THE CITY OF BUENA PARK CELEBRATION OF AMERICA'S 250TH ANNIVERSARY**

Recommended Action: 1) Approve a budget allocation in the amount of \$15,000 from the undesignated General Fund balance for this purpose.

APPROVED the recommended action.

Budgets 47 Parks & Recreation 110**4I. BUDGET AMENDMENT FOR THE LITERACY WALK INSTALLATION AT HEROES PARK**

Recommended Action: 1) Approve a budget amendment of \$30,000 from the undesignated General Fund balance for the purchase and installation of signage for the Literacy Walk at Heroes Park.

APPROVED the recommended action.

END OF CONSENT CALENDAR

5. NEW BUSINESS (5A – 5E)**Transportation 148****5A. RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE BUENA PARK SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL (SRTS) PLAN**

Presented by Norm Wray, Senior Engineering Technician

Recommended Action: Adopt a resolution implementing the Safe Routes to School (SRTS) Plan.

Senior Engineering Technician Wray provided a brief overview of the purpose of the Safe Route to School (SRTS) Plan, and its intent to identify clear and implementable programs and active transportation projects to make it safer and more comfortable for students to walk, bike, scoot, and roll to school. The project team used various methods of community outreach and feedback which were key components of the SRTS plan development. Moreover, the SRTS Plan has a variety of implementable programs and improvements for all 14 schools in Buena Park, which fall into two categories: infrastructure and non-infrastructure. Infrastructure improvements involve physical engineering projects near schools, such as traffic calming measures, raised crosswalks, bike lanes, curb ramps, curb extensions, and intersection controls, while non-infrastructure improvements focus on programs like safety outreach, educational workshops, and student-led transportation initiatives. A major recommendation under non-infrastructure improvements is for the City to create a part-time "Active Transportation Coordinator" position to serve as a liaison among the City, schools, and partner agencies such as OCTA, SCAG, and Caltrans, and to support implementation of the goals outlined in both the Active Transportation Plan and the SRTS Plan. Senior Engineering Technician Wray noted that after the conclusion of the Plan, the Hope Special Education School has been relocated outside of the City of Buena Park and that the facility will no longer be operated as a school campus. Moreover, a "school profile" was created for each of the remaining 13 schools in the City, wherein the profiles include specific infrastructure and non-infrastructure recommendations for each school based on best engineering practices, as well as specific concerns identified through the project's outreach and engagement efforts. Lastly, the SRTS Plan included the formation of an Advisory Committee (AC), comprised of members from Caltrans, OCTA, the City of Buena Park, Buena Park Police Department, school districts, and individual schools, that reviewed the plan through its various stages and provided feedback on plan development. It will serve as a valuable resource for future Capital Improvement Projects and position the City to be more competitive in securing grants to implement these enhancements.

Vice Mayor Hoque asked about pursuing a grant to fund a part-time Active Transportation Coordinator position.

Senior Engineering Technician Wray indicated staff applied for a grant to support the part-time Active Transportation Coordinator position.

MOTION: Franco
SECOND: Hoque
AYES: Franco, Hoque, Ahn, Sonne, Traut
NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED to approve the recommended action and ADOPTED the following titled resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 15098

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, ADOPTING THE BUENA PARK SAFE ROUTES TO SCHOOL PLAN

Contracts 70 C-3670 Public Works Proj. 125 PW-995

5B. RESOLUTION ADOPTING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS, AND AWARD A CONTRACT TO SELECT ELECTRIC, INC. FOR THE CITYWIDE TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADES & SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS PROJECT (HSIPSL5310(044))
Presented by Nader Alqam, Principal Engineer

Recommended Action: 1) Adopt a resolution approving the plans and specifications for the Citywide Traffic Signal Upgrades & Safety Enhancements Project (HSIPSL-5310 (044)); 2) Award a contract to Select Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$939,500; 3) Authorize contingency funds in the amount of \$100,000 in the same purchase order; 4) Authorize construction engineering funds in the amount of \$50,000; 5) Authorize a purchase order for the Solis Group in the amount of \$6,725 for administration of the Community Workforce Agreement (CWA); 6) Authorize contingency funds in the amount of \$1,345 for CWA administration; 7) Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to make any necessary, nonmonetary changes to the contract; and, 8) Authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the contract.

Principal Engineer Alqam discussed the Cycle 11 Highway Safety Improvement Project (HSIP) which includes traffic signal upgrades and safety enhancements at thirteen intersections within the City. The project was first advertised for competitive bids on February 26, 2026, and four (4) bids were received and publicly opened on March 23, 2026. The lowest, responsible bid was submitted by Select Electric, Inc. of Anaheim, California in the amount of \$939,500. Select Electric, Inc. holds the required contractor's license to complete the project and has successfully delivered similar work for other cities as well as successfully completed projects for the City of Buena Park. It was recommended that the City Council award a contract to Select Electric, Inc. in the amount of \$939,500; approve contingency funds in the amount of \$100,000; construction engineering funds in the amount of \$50,000, CWA services in the amount of \$6,725 and \$1,345 in contingency, for a total project amount of \$1,097,570. Construction is anticipated to begin in May 2026 and be completed by August 2026.

Director of Government and Community Relations/City Clerk Vicuña acknowledged an email correspondence from Buena Park resident Dominic Bendinelli regarding a request for the City Engineer and Select Electric, Inc. to consider implementing leading pedestrian intervals at the time of the signal updates.

Principal Engineer Alqam confirmed that the project includes Lead Pedestrian Intervals (LPIs) implementation at numerous intersections.

MOTION: Traut
SECOND: Ahn
AYES: Traut, Ahn, Franco, Hoque, Sonne
NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED to approve the recommended action and ADOPTED the following titled resolution:

RESOLUTION NO. 15099

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF BUENA PARK, CALIFORNIA, APPROVING PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE CITYWIDE TRAFFIC SIGNAL UPGRADES & SAFETY ENHANCEMENTS PROJECT HSIPSL-5310 (044) IN SAID CITY

Contracts 70 C-3671 Garbage & Refuse 83

5C. WASTE INFRASTRUCTURE SYSTEM ENTERPRISE (WISE) AGREEMENT WITH THE COUNTY OF ORANGE FOR MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE DISPOSAL RATES AND SERVICES

Presented by Joe Hunt, Public Works Manager

Recommended Action: 1) Approve the WISE Agreement with the County of Orange ("County") for municipal solid waste disposal rates and services; 2) Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to make any necessary, non-monetary changes to the agreement; and, 3) Authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the agreement.

Public Works Manager Hunt discussed the proposed Waste Infrastructure System Enterprise (WISE) agreement which would replace the current Waste Disposal Agreement (WDA). The WDA caps annual rate increases at the CPI and does not account for escalating operational, regulatory, and environmental compliance costs. The Orange County Waste & Recycling (OCWR) suggested additional capital is needed to fund closure of the Brea Olinda landfill and to significantly expand the capacity of the landfill in San Juan Capistrano over the course of the 10-year term of the agreement. Public Works Manager Hunt explained that through negotiations OCCMA has agreed to a phased rate structure for the first three years of the agreement, and would include an increase in the CPI rates starting with FY 2029-30. The key provisions for inclusion in the WISE agreement was also discussed. Furthermore, cities were advised to adopt the WISE agreement by April 30, 2026, to reduce disposal rates by as much as 10%. The "Participation Threshold" for the WISE Agreement to take effect requires approval from cities accounting for at least 50% of the waste disposed at County landfills. The agreement has a 10-year term, running through June 30, 2036, with an option to extend for an additional 10 years.

Council Member Franco asked about the new waste disposal landfill location for Buena Park.

Public Works Manager Hunt explained that the waste will be directed to the County landfill located in Irvine.

MOTION: Franco
SECOND: Ahn
AYES: Franco, Ahn, Hoque, Sonne, Traut
NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED to approve the recommended action.

Contracts 70 C-3672 Energy Conservation 180.1

5D. GUARANTEED MAXIMUM PRICE (GMP) CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT WITH NORESKO FOR ENERGY CONSERVATION AND EFFICIENCY PROJECT UNDER AN ENERGY SERVICES COMPANY (ESCO) AGREEMENT

Presented by Mina Mikhael, Director of Public Works/City Engineer

Recommended Action: 1) Approve the Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP) Construction Contract with NORESKO, LLC in the amount of \$6,875,016 for implementation of the Energy Conservation and Efficiency Project; 2) Authorize a purchase order for the Solis Group in the amount of \$36,800 for administration of the Community Workforce Agreement (CWA); 3) Authorize the City Manager and City Attorney to make any necessary, non-monetary changes to the contract; 4) Authorize the City Manager and City Clerk to execute the contract; and, 5) Authorize a budget allocation in the amount of \$6,911,816 from the undesignated Measure R Fund balance for full project implementation.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Mikhael discussed the Energy Conservation and Efficiency Project overview; and, reported staff finalized the Investment Grade Audit, negotiated a Guaranteed Maximum Price (GMP), and completed contract documents. As approved, the energy conservation measures include interior and exterior LED lighting upgrades, window film installation, Electric Vehicle (EV) charging infrastructure, and Solar Photovoltaic (PV) + Battery Energy Storage System (BESS). The total project cost identified in the Investment Grade Audit (IGA) is \$6,875,016. This reflects the total contract cost based on the 100% Investment Grade Audit and does not include a contingency for unforeseen field conditions or incidental expenses. Director Mikhael also explained the full cost of implementing all four Energy Conservation Measures, inclusive of equipment, labor, design, commissioning, and construction, as well as possible incentives and federal investment tax credit. Project construction is anticipated to begin on July 2026 and completed by March 1, 2027. Furthermore, NORESKO reported a 20-year guaranteed savings commitment of \$7,738,256. The guarantee increases annually and incorporates both utility cost savings and operations and maintenance savings. If the verified savings in any given year fall short of the guaranteed amount, NORESKO is contractually required to reimburse the City for the difference. Lastly, it was noted that the ESCO project supports multiple actions identified in the City's Climate Action and Adaptation Plan (CAAP) with six key areas of alignment, mainly related to municipal energy efficiency, electrification, and renewable energy deployment.

The City Council commented on the benefits of the project in achieving climate action goals; timeliness of proceeding with the project given the anticipated increase in supply costs every year; approval of change orders will not be permitted; no perceived justification for use of Measure R funds for this project; concerns regarding significant upfront cost of the implementation of the Energy Conservation Measures; and, consideration of different funding options to proceed with the project.

Mayor Traut asked about the use of Measure R funds for implementing energy conservation measures, and the consideration of completing portions of the project in-house instead of outsourcing the work to contractors.

Vice Mayor Hoque recommended the implementation of the Energy Conservation Measures be executed on a phased approach.

Director Mikhael explained that the installation of the Solar Photovoltaic (PV) and Battery Energy Storage System and Window Film are examples of work that requires a professional and would have to be contracted out. The remaining energy conservation measures could be fulfilled in-house and will be completed in a strategic manner. Additionally, the project is intended to reduce the City's reliance on tax dollars by generating annual savings, which may qualify to be allocated toward improvements under Measure R.

Derek James, NORESKO, spoke regarding the guaranteed utility cost savings and operation and maintenance savings over a 20-year period.

Director of Finance Hyun indicated that the City has funds reserved for economic uncertainties, which the City Council has the option to allocate to this project.

MOTION TO AMEND the recommended action and include the allocation of the realized annual savings from the project to the Measure R fund account.

MOTION: Sonne
SECOND: Ahn
AYES: Sonne, Ahn, Franco, Traut
NOES: Hoque

MOTION TO AMEND CARRIED to approve the recommended action and include the allocation of the realized annual savings from the project to the Measure R fund account.

City Council 55 Policies 186

5E. ADOPTION OF A CITY COUNCIL POLICY ADDRESSING INTERRUPTIONS TO TWO-WAY AUDIOVISUAL MEETING SERVICES IN COMPLIANCE WITH SB 707
Presented by Adria M. Vicuña, Director of Government and Community Relations/City Clerk

Recommended Action: Adopt City Council Policy No. 54 establishing procedures to address interruptions to two-way audiovisual and telephonic public access during City Council meetings, in compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 707.

Director of Government and Community Relations/City Clerk Vicuña reported on the proposed City Council Policy No. 54 which establishes procedures to address interruptions to two-way audiovisual and telephonic public access during City Council meetings, in compliance with Senate Bill (SB) 707. SB 707 significantly amends the Ralph M. Brown Act governing public meetings of local legislative bodies in California, with the intention to improve transparency, accessibility, and public participation by strengthening requirements for remote public access, expanding language access, and establishing procedures to address technological disruptions during meetings. The Buena Park City Council qualifies as an "eligible legislative body" under SB 707 and is subject to the enhanced transparency requirement, such as the provision of two-way remote public access for meetings beginning July 1, 2026 through January 1, 2030, unless such technology is unavailable at the meeting location or the meeting qualifies for a statutory exemption. Additionally, Director Vicuña explained agencies must adopt a formal policy, no later than July 1, 2026, to address how the legislative body will respond to disruptions in remote access services. Adoption of the proposed draft City Council Policy No. 54 ensures compliance with State law prior to the July 1, 2026, deadline and provides a clear and consistent framework for maintaining public access and participation during technical disruptions.

MOTION: Sonne
SECOND: Traut
AYES: Sonne, Traut, Ahn, Franco, Hoque
NOES: None

MOTION CARRIED to approve the recommended action.

6. PUBLIC HEARING

No Public Hearing items.

7. COUNCIL MEMBER ANNOUNCEMENTS, CONFERENCE REPORTS AND CALENDAR REQUESTS

7A. REPORT

Council Member Ahn reported the following:

- March 25 OC Sanitation District Trustee Board Meeting
- March 31 The Equity Tool Training: Practical Applications
- March 31 Meeting with Friendly Center CEO
- March 31 BPSD Music and Arts Festival at The Source
- April 1 OC Sanitation District Operations Board Meeting
- April 2 SeeSaw Communities' Autism Awareness Event
- April 2 KASEC Autism Acceptance Month Art Show Reception
- April 8 ACC-OC Webinar – Sports, Places, and Entertainment-Enhancing the Orange County Economy
- April 13 Myrna Holmquist Scholarship Discussion

Council Member Sonne reported the following:

- April 2 KASEC Autism Acceptance Month Art Show Reception
- April 4 Spring Eggstravaganza and Sustainability Fair
- April 13 OCPA Board Meeting

Council Member Sonne reported attending the April 13, 2026 OCPA Board meeting wherein the Board approved the Strategic Plan for the upcoming year with a focus on affordability. Additionally, Council Member Sonne thanked City staff for planning and coordinating another successful Spring Eggstravaganza and Sustainability Fair.

Council Member Franco reported the following:

- March 29 Buena Park National Little League Opening Day
- April 2 SeeSaw Communities' Autism Awareness Event
- April 4 Spring Eggstravaganza and Sustainability Fair
- April 10 All City/Schools Track and Field Meet

Vice Mayor Hoque reported the following:

- March 30 Centralia Elementary School District Alumni Event
- April 2 KASEC Autism Acceptance Month Art Show Reception
- April 4 Spring Eggstravaganza and Sustainability Fair
- April 10 All City/Schools Track and Field Meet

Mayor Traut reported the following:

- March 26 OCFA Board Meeting
- March 29 Buena Park National Little League Opening Day
- April 4 Spring Eggstravaganza and Sustainability Fair
- April 6 Entertainment Corridor Case Study Meeting with Elected Officials
- April 7 Program Meeting with North OC Chamber Representatives
- April 8 OCFA Budget and Finance Committee Meeting
- April 10 All City/Schools Track and Field Meet

Mayor Traut indicated that at its March 26, 2026 OCFA Board meeting, the Board approved to transfer administration of the Orange County Professional Firefighters Association participants' Health Reimbursement Arrangement Funds. Also, Mayor Traut greeted April birthday celebrants Vice Mayor Hoque, City Manager France, City Attorney Cardinale, and his son Calum Traut a Happy Birthday.

8. RECESS/RECONVENE

Mayor Traut recessed the meeting at 7:06 p.m. and announced the meeting would be reconvened in the City Council Chamber. The meeting was reconvened at 7:29 p.m.

9. STUDY SESSION (9A – 9C)

9A. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION REGARDING THE FRIENDSHIP PARK IMPROVEMENTS PROJECT

Presented by Hysun Lee, Associate Engineer

Associate Engineer Lee provided a report on the Friendship Park Improvements Project as well as an update on RJM Design Group, Inc.'s submission of 65% Plans, Specifications, and Estimate (PS&E) package, incorporating comments received from the Community Services Commission. City staff completed the review of the 65% PS&E package and returned comments to RJM. Additionally, as directed by the City Council, staff presented the project to the Climate Action Commission (CAC) and solicited their input. Associate Engineer Lee discussed CAC's and the Office of Sustainability's recommendations for City Council consideration. Staff presented cost estimates for some of the recommended items, which totaled to approximately \$8,000,000, excluding the additional sustainability and amenity enhancements recommended by the CAC; and, sought City Council direction on the project design and budget, including the incorporation of CAC recommendations in order to proceed with finalizing the PS&E documents. It was noted that the approved Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for FY 26-27 does not include a construction budget; and, a request to amend the CIP for FY 26-27 to include a \$7,000,000 allocation from the undesignated Measure R Fund balance for this purpose has been submitted.

Eric Curran, RJM Design Group, Inc. Landscape Architect, presented the updated Friendship Park construction plan, and potential improvements overview.

Brandon Schooner, Buena Park resident and Climate Action Commission Member, thanked the City Council for allowing the Climate Action Commission to provide recommendations for improvements to Friendship Park.

The City Council discussed prioritizing CAC-recommended items if within budget; considering the installation of the EV conduit and concrete pads now to avoid high future costs; reducing parking by 25–50%; narrowing concrete pathways where feasible to accommodate emergency vehicles; evaluating and potentially reducing court lighting to lower improvements costs; retaining the handball court as a cultural and community asset; cost-saving for removing the handball court; importance of maintaining project quality over cost-cutting; using Measure R funds as intended for community improvements; adding big belly receptacles and its intended purpose; and involving the Police Department in addressing safety concerns at the park.

Sustainability Manager Thai explained the relevance of implementing the improvements in achieving CAAP goals. It was recommended that the City Council consider the installation of the EV charging infrastructure to avoid future costly work increase.

Director of Public Works/City Engineer Mikhael confirmed opportunities to reduce parking due to nearby street availability and to allow for more usable space for the park; and, suggested targeted widening of concrete pathways only where necessary for maintenance access. Director Mikhael also noted flexibility in adjusting court lighting to reduce costs. Another improvement staff will be implementing as a pilot program is the placement of big belly receptacles at bus stops for increase waste capacity and to reduce collection trips.

Council Member Franco expressed disapproval of removal of the handball courts.

Police Captain Nguyen indicated that no issues or illegal activities have been reported regarding the handball court at Friendship Park.

Director of Community Services Box confirmed that community members have expressed interest in the removal of the handball court at Friendship Park. Therefore, the handball court was removed from the plan. Director Box also noted the availability of handball courts at other City parks.

Associate Engineer Lee explained that the handball court was scheduled to be removed due to safety concerns expressed by residents in the neighborhood. Staff could evaluate adding lighting and relocating the placement of the security camera to focus on the handball court area.

City Manager France indicated staff's recommendation to install the EV conduit to allow for the future addition of EV chargers.

Following the discussion, the City Council directed staff to reduce the parking lot size by half; proceed with the installation of EV conduits at the parking lot; evaluate possible reduction of pedestrian lighting throughout the park; and, retain the handball court.

Mayor Traut recessed the meeting at 9:03 p.m. and announced the meeting would be reconvened in the City Council Chamber. The meeting was reconvened at 9:16 p.m.

9B. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION REGARDING A 3-DAY KOREAN FOOD FESTIVAL IN APRIL 2027 IN PARTNERSHIP WITH HUGH ENTERTAINMENT
Presented by Connie Hurtado, Community Services Supervisor

Community Services Supervisor Hurtado presented a proposed 3-day Korean Food Festival in April 2027 at either Boisseranc Park or Peak Park, in partnership with Hugh Entertainment. Hugh Entertainment is an event production company with experience in organizing large-scale cultural events. The proposed Korean Food Festival aims to celebrate Korean culture through cuisine, entertainment, and commerce, while fostering community engagement and regional tourism. The key components of the festival include culinary experience, global marketplace, and live entertainment. Community Services Supervisor Hurtado also differentiated the City's responsibilities and Hugh Entertainment's responsibilities in preparation for the festival. Given staff's lack of prior experience with this type of event, Silverado Days is the closest comparable in terms of staffing requirements and presented a breakdown of estimated staff costs for the 3-day festival. Moreover, staff sought City Council direction on the proposed 3-day Korean Food Festival at Boisseranc Park or Peak Park in April 2027.

The City Council discussed the cultural and economic potential of holding a Korean Festival in Buena Park; differentiation of the proposed 3-day Korean Food Festival to Silverado Days with regards to key responsibilities; possibility to integrate the festival into existing cultural events in the City; significant concerns about feasibility, cost, logistics, and neighborhood impacts; and, agreement that more detailed planning and analysis is needed before proceeding. Moreover, the City Council asked about Hugh Entertainment's outreach and promotion strategy for the event; and, whether Buena Park has the capacity and infrastructure for a large-scale festival.

Paul Hugh, Hugh Entertainment, showed a video highlight of the 2025 Los Angeles Korean Festival. Mr. Hugh also indicated no sponsorships have been secured at this time; however, Hugh Entertainment will coordinate when details for the festival have been established. Mr. Hugh also outlined their marketing and promotion strategy, which will involve connecting with people from their database, Korean American media, social media influencers, and Buena Park staff. As for concerns on the number of attendees and parking constraints, Mr. Hugh indicated that, as a first-year event, attendance is expected to be around 50,000 people, which is smaller in scale compared to the annual Los Angeles Korean Festival.

Community Services Supervisor Hurtado explained the distinction between the proposed 3-day Korean Food Festival to Silverado Days. Silverado Days is managed by the Buena Park Noon Lions Club, and City only provides support in terms of space, security and coordination. On the other hand, the proposed Festival is requiring the City's assistance with obtaining local sponsorships, permits, staffing, and coordination with local and international stakeholders. Moreover, Community Services Supervisor Hurtado identified parking as a major constraint at Boisseranc Park, and suggested transportation or shuttle options to ease parking issues.

Director of Community Services Box stated the feasibility of incorporating elements of the proposed Festival to BP Culture Fest, and this could be referred to the Cultural Engagement Commission for recommendations.

Following the discussion, the City Council directed staff return with information on cost, logistics, and neighborhood impacts of the proposed 3-day Korean Food Festival at a subsequent City Council meeting.

Vice Mayor Hoque left the meeting at 10:24 p.m.

- 9C. DISCUSS AND PROVIDE DIRECTION REGARDING A FEASIBILITY ANALYSIS FOR THE CONVERSION OF SAN ANTONIO PARK FROM A SINGLE-USE FACILITY TO A MULTI-USE PARK
Presented by Alex Alarcon, Community Services Coordinator

Mayor Traut announced the item be moved to the April 28, 2026 Regular City Council meeting.

10. CITY MANAGER REPORT

City Manager France reported on the following:

- 2026 Buena Park Police Department Appreciation Brunch, April 23, 2026, 9:30 a.m. at Heritage Hall.
- Volunteer Recognition: Viva Las Volunteers, April 17, 2026, 1:00 p.m. – 4:00 p.m. at Ehlers Event Center – Legacy Hall.

11. COMMISSION & COMMITTEE UPDATES

Director of Government and Community Relations/City Clerk Vicuña had nothing to report.

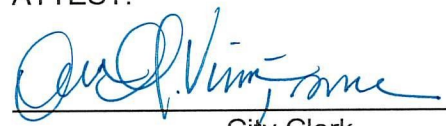
12. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, Mayor Traut adjourned the meeting at 10:26 p.m.



Mayor

ATTEST:



City Clerk