PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
TEMPLE CITY, CALIFORNIA

REGULAR MEETING

MARCH 18, 2026 – 7:00 P.M.
COUNCIL CHAMBERS - 5938 KAUFFMAN AVENUE

1. **CALL TO ORDER** – Chair Rosso

2. **ROLL CALL**

PRESENT: Commissioner - Baroldi, Burroughs, Tarin, Rosso

ABSENT: Commissioner – Haddad

ALSO PRESENT: Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto, Parks and Recreation Secretary Venters, Michelle Gamez, Southland Transit Inc., Ryan McKay, SWA

Chair Rosso made a motion to excuse Commissioner Haddad for due cause. Seconded by Commissioner Baroldi and carried by the following roll call vote.

AYES: Commissioner – Baroldi, Burroughs, Tarin, Rosso
NOES: Commissioner – None
ABSENT: Commissioner – Haddad
ABSTAIN: Commissioner – None

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto asked permission to reorder the agenda.

Chair Rosso made a motion to move agenda item 7 to be presented after agenda item 8. Seconded by Vice Chair Tarin and carried by the following roll call vote.

AYES: Commissioner – Baroldi, Burroughs, Tarin, Rosso
NOES: Commissioner – None
ABSENT: Commissioner – Haddad
ABSTAIN: Commissioner – None

3. **PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE** – Chair Rosso led those present in the Pledge of Allegiance.

4. **PRESENTATIONS**

A. Introduction of new Parks and Recreation Coordinators Alexandra Alvarenga and Nathaniel Ruiz.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto introduced Ms. Alvarenga and Mr. Ruiz to the Commission. He stated that Parks and Recreation Coordinator Alvarenga formerly worked for the City of Bell and an after-school program, is a Dodger fan and graduated from University of California, San Diego. He stated that she will oversee the City's after-school programs and a portion of events.

Parks and Recreation Alvarenga introduced herself to the Commission and stated that she is excited to do her part in giving back to the City.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated the Parks and Recreation Coordinator Ruiz grew up in Temple City, participated in the City's youth sprots programs and is also a Dodger fan. He stated that he will oversee youth sports programs.

Parks and Recreation Coordinator Ruiz stated that he is excited to be home and to give back to the community.

B. Recognition of Parks and Recreation Coordinator Rubi Ramos-Ruiz

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto recognized Parks and Recreation Coordinator Ramos-Ruiz. He stated that she was able to operate all youth programs and events uninterrupted while two Parks and Recreation Coordinator positions were vacant over an extended timeframe. He stated that Ms. Ramos-Ruiz stepped up beyond expectations to take on additional responsibility. He stated that it is his pleasure to honor Ms. Ramos-Ruiz for going above and beyond for the Temple City community.

Chair Rosso commended Parks and Recreation Coordinator Ramos-Ruiz for her hard work.

Commissioner Burroughs expressed appreciation for the efforts made by Parks and Recreation Coordinator Ramos-Ruiz.

5. PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA - None

6. CONSENT CALENDAR

Commissioner Burroughs moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Commissioner Baroldi and carried by the following roll call vote:

AYES: Commissioner – Baroldi, Burroughs, Tarin, Rosso
NOES: Commissioner – None
ABSENT: Commissioner – Haddad
ABSTAIN: Commissioner – None

A. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
Action: Approved.

B. MONTHLY ATTENDANCE/ACTIVITY REPORTS
Action: Approved.

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS (Presented after Agenda Item 8)

A. BLUE STAR BANNER PROGRAM

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto provided a presentation of the staff report showing the amended Blue Star Banner application per Commission recommendation and three options for the design of the Blue Star Banner. He concluded his presentation and asked the Commission for input.

Chair Rosso asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto if military personnel have access to cellphones overseas.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the City would rather collect as much information as possible.

Commissioner Burroughs stated that she prefers option one for the Blue Star Banner.

Commissioner Baroldi stated that he also prefers option one for the Blue Star Banner.

Vice Chair Tarin stated that he prefers option one for the Blue Star Banner as well.

Chair Rosso stated that she concurs with her fellow Commissioners and prefers option one for the Blue Star Banner.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that he will finalize option one for the Blue Star Banner.

8. NEW BUSINESS

A. SERENO OPEN SPACE PROJECT CONCEPT DESIGN REVIEW

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto provided a verbal presentation of the staff report and introduced Ryan McKay of SWA to present the concept design for the Sereno Open Space project.

Ryan McKay, SWA, briefed the Commission on the process leading up to the design of the Sereno Open Space project primarily led by community input. He stated that the Sereno Open Space project site was previously a residential lot in the southwest portion of the city. He stated that SWA's goal is to create a multigenerational open space, reflecting the community's feedback. He stated that surveys, open house events and workshops were conducted targeting the adjacent community. He stated that input from the public included a nature walk, fenced area, stopping points while on the walk, and outdoor fitness equipment. He stated that concerns from the public included traffic calming measures, privacy and noise due to trains and homelessness. He stated that the City's ad hoc committee received the input provided by the public and worked with SWA to create concept options. He stated that the City invited the community to vote on two concepts that were developed from the first workshop, the "Mesa Play" and "Oak Woodland" concepts. The community chose the Mesa Play concept design, receiving 74% of the vote. He stated that traffic concerns are met by including protection barriers, crosswalks and stop signs. He stated that the concept plan includes boulders, a low point to capture storm water and a rubberized cork surface creating a transition from the street into a nature environment. He concluded the presentation and invited the Commission for input.

Chair Rosso asked Mr. McKay where lighting would be placed, where storm water would go and for the hours of park operation.

Ryan McKay, SWA, stated that lighting would be placed throughout the park.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the park could mimic the hours of Primrose Park, and that the stormwater is designed to percolate. He added that there would not be dedicated parking or a restroom on the premises as the intention of the space is to be a neighborhood park.

Commissioner Burroughs stated that she is in favor of the design, however, expressed concern regarding future maintenance of wood structures. She noted that the renderings show sidewalks but there are no sidewalks in the neighborhood. She expressed concern that children may jump off the slide and fall into the boulders.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the City is looking at connecting the sidewalks along Sereno on the north side of the property. He stated that the play structures would be under warranty and that the City will work with SWA to ensure all safety standards are met with the design of the park and play elements.

Vice Chair Tarin asked for the amount of benches and seats onsite, what type of tree would be placed around the bench, if pets would be allowed, the placement of a drinking fountain, if someone could hide between the boulders and the fence and if the rear corner of the park would be lit.

Ryan McKay, SWA stated that the conversation bench could fit up to eight people and the boulders will be used as additional seating elements. He stated that the tree species has not been finalized. He confirmed that the top of the embankment slide is three feet higher than the bottom of the fence along the property lines on the northwest corner of the site.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that he does not expect the back fence area to be used as a hiding spot and the park itself will be locked at night. He stated that the City intends for the Sereno Open Space project to mirror Primrose Park hours.

Chair Rosso asked if natural shade would exist. She also expressed concern regarding the slide and children either falling off or misusing the play feature.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the trees will provide natural shade that will increase in time. He stated that all equipment and design meet the playground safety guidelines. He stated that he will consolidate the input provided by the Commission to present to the City Council for consideration.

B. REVIEW OF DIAL-A-RIDE TRANSPORTATION SERVICES

Parks and Recreation Secretary Venters provided a verbal presentation of staff report detailing the results of the Dial-A-Ride Survey with a PowerPoint presentation. She stated that Dial-A-Ride participants seem to be overall satisfied with availability, services provided and cleanliness of vans. She noted that this year Dial-A-Ride participants were provided surveys as they boarded the van, additionally surveys were available on the City's website, during the senior lunch program and in person at the Community Center. She stated that the City is not recommending changes to the program. She concluded the report and stated that Ms. Gamez, Project Manager of Southland Transit, herself and Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto are available for questions.

Commissioner Burroughs stated that she would like to see input from those who do not use Dial-A-Ride as well as those who do.

Chair Rosso asked if the City anticipates additional members due to the price of gas.

Parks and Recreation Secretary Venters stated that staff expect the amount of members to increase as the amount of membership has been consistently trending higher the past couple of years.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that typically if there were major issues with the service, it would be reflected in the participant surveys. He stated that the intent of the survey is to provide a snapshot of the City's Dial-A-Ride program as viewed by active members. He stated that the ridership numbers are robust with some months exceeding over 900 rides a month.

Commissioner Baroldi asked how many members use Dial-A-Ride.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the City currently has 214 active members based off of information provided by Southland Transit.

Commissioner Burroughs asked Director of Parks and Recreation how Prop A funds have been used and if there is enough funding available for excursions.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated there is enough Prop A funding for the program. He stated that Prop A funding is also used for field trip transportation for seasonal camps, LEAD and Youth Committee participants, and adult excursions.

The Commission had no further comments or questions therefore received and filed the report.

C. FEBRUARY PROGRAMMING REPORT

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto updated the Commission regarding Parks and Recreation Department activity. He stated that Stars Club currently has 104 students enrolled, LEAD participants will be volunteering at the Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast event, 57 students are enrolled in Spring Camp, Session 1 of Summer Camp filled within an hour, and youth basketball will be concluding in March. He stated that staff received 26 tree service requests, trimmed trees along Las Tunas

Dr., removed debris caused by the wind event, removed a fallen tree and assisted with the preparation of the Camellia Festival. He stated that Parks Maintenance installed sod for the pickleball turf project, checked the irrigation after the new booster pump was installed, completed a restroom repair at Primrose Park and assisted with the Camellia Festival. He concluded the report and asked the Commission for questions or comments.

Vice Chair Tarin asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto if the booster pump functions well.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that that due to the booster pump working properly other leaks have been discovered.

The Commission had no further comment or questions therefore received and filed the report.

9. ADDITIONAL PUBLIC COMMENTS ON ITEMS NOT LISTED ON THE AGENDA

- None

10. UPDATE FROM PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR

A. PARKS & RECREATION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto briefed Commission regarding project, department and personnel updates. He stated that the monument sign installation at Live Oak Park continues to be delayed due to required adjustments. He stated that the City received a $335,000 award from the Los Angeles County Regional Parks and Open Space District for design services for the Sultana Park project. He stated that YWCA of San Gabriel Valley, the City's Senior Lunch Program provider has to lower lunches provided to 78 persons per day beginning March 1, 2026. He stated that the City held its second annual Pickleball Tournament on March 1, 2026. He stated that tournament participants use the pickleball courts on a regular basis. He stated that the TCALL mural has been completed. He stated that the City is currently recruiting for a Parks and Trees Supervisor, with the round of interviews targeted at the end of March. He stated that the Urban Forestry team met with West Coast Arborists (WCA) to discuss the grid prune cycle. He stated that the City's contract with WCA expires at the end of the Fiscal Year, however the City plans to extend the contract. He stated that Parks Maintenance is exploring options to replace the swamp cooler and is working with a vendor to replace the lighting at Veterans Memorial at Temple City Park. He concluded the report and asked the Commission for questions or comments.

Chair Rosso asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto if there is an age requirement to participate in the Senior Lunch program.

Vice Chair Tarin asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto if the City would not be able to accommodate the amount of seniors who are requesting meals.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the age requirement for the Senior Lunch program is 60 years of age. He stated that there may be a period adjustment where a nominal amount of seniors may not be provided a meal. He stated that the City is bound by Los Angeles County guidelines however he could bring it to the Commissions attention if there is an exceedingly higher demand for meals than are available.

Vice Chair Tarin asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto if an assessment for repairs at the Community Center has been done.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that although there is a need, the City would need to budget for a comprehensive plan for repairs and renovations at the Community Center.

The Commission had no further comments or questions therefore received and filed the report.

11. COMMISSION ITEMS SEPARATE FROM THE REGULAR AGENDA

A. COMMISSIONER BAROLDI – Welcomed Parks and Recreation Coordinators Alvarenga and Ruiz and thanked Parks and Recreation Coordinator Ramos-Ruiz for her work.

B. COMMISSIONER BURROUGHS – Welcomed Parks and Recreation Coordinators Alvarenga and Ruiz and thanked Parks and Recreation Coordinator Ramos-Ruiz for her work. She asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto if there are requests for private pickleball lessons.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the City provides pickleball classes but have not had requests for private lessons.

C. COMMISSIONER HADDAD – Absent.

D. VICE CHAIRPERSON TARIN – Welcomed Parks and Recreation Coordinators Alvarenga and Ruiz, thanked Parks and Recreation Coordinator Ramos-Ruiz for her work and thanked staff who worked during

the Camellia Festival. He asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto for the date of the Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast event.

Chair Rosso asked Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto if an alternative payment option is available for those who do not wish to pay for food in cash.

Director of Parks and Recreation Matsumoto stated that the Easter Egg Hunt and Pancake Breakfast event will take place on April 4. He stated that the City opted to keep the payment system as is.

E. CHAIRPERSON ROSSO – Welcomed Parks and Recreation Coordinators Alvarenga and Ruiz and thanked Parks and Recreation Coordinator Ramos-Ruiz for her work.

12. ADJOURNMENT

The Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m. to the Parks and Recreation Commission Regular Meeting Wednesday, April 15, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

Joanne Rosso, Chair

ATTEST:

Jennifer Venters, Secretary