PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA

Thursday, July 9, 2026 at 7:00 p.m.

SOUTH GATE COUNCIL CHAMBERS
8650 CALIFORNIA AVE
SOUTH GATE CA 90280

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS MEETING, YOU CAN PARTICIPATE VIA THE FOLLOWING OPTIONS:
1. VIEW THE MEETING LIVE ONLINE VIA YOUTUBE: HTTPS://YOUTUBE.COM/@SOUTHGATECA90280 PLEASE ALLOW UP TO 24 HOURS AFTER THE MEETING FOR THE ARCHIVE TO BE AVAILABLE.
2. LISTEN TO THE MEETING ONLINE VIA ZOOM: HTTPS://US06WEB.ZOOM.US/J/87041384316 OR DIAL-IN NUMBER 1 (213) 338-8477 MEETING ID: 870 4138 4316 TO ADDRESS THE CITY COUNCIL PRESS *9 TO RAISE YOUR HAND AND *6 TO UNMUTE YOURSELF WHEN INSTRUCTED.
3. PARTICIPATE BEFORE THE MEETING BY EMAILING THE PARKS DIRECTOR AT TDELAROSA@SOGATE.ORG NO LATER THAN 4:00 P.M. ON THE DAY OF THE MEETING. PLEASE WRITE "PUBLIC COMMENT" IN THE SUBJECT LINE.
4. ATTEND THE MEETING IN PERSON
***THE DISRUPTION IN SERVICE OF ANY ALTERNATIVE METHOD DOES NOT PRECLUDE THE CITY COUNCIL OR OTHER LEGISLATIVE BODY FROM TAKING FURTHER ACTION AND MOVING FORWARD ON THE AGENDA.**

Officials

Chair: Alan Flores
Vice Chair: Lizette Ruiz
Secretary: Cynthia Esquivel
Commissioner: Edgar Pelayo
Commissioner: Eric Trujillo
Parks & Recreation Director: Tina De La Rosa

Call to Order

Flag Salute

Roll Call

Brown Act

Agendas are drafted to accurately state what the legislative body is being asked to consider. The legislative body can take action on "all items" listed on the agenda and be in compliance with the open meeting laws. Under the Brown Act, no action may be taken on a matter unless it is listed on the agenda, or unless certain emergency or special circumstances exist. The governing body may direct staff to investigate and/or schedule certain matters for consideration at a future meeting.

Report on Posting

I, Noemi Aguilera, Secretary for the Parks & Recreation Department, certify that a true and correct copy of the foregoing Meeting Agenda was properly posted on July 2, 2026 at 5:30 p.m., as required by law.

Approval of Meeting Minutes

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Recommended Motion: To approve the minutes of December 11, 2025, February 12, 2026, and April 9, 2026 as presented.

Documents:

12-11-25 Minutes.pdf
02-12-26 Minutes.pdf
04-09-26 Minutes.pdf

Public Communications

Public Comments on agenda items are limited to three (3) minutes. All comments are to be addressed directly to the Agency Members not to the members of the public.

Emails for public comment received prior to 4:00 pm on the day of the Parks & Recreation Commissions Meeting will be summarized by the Parks Director, not read in its entirety. A copy of the email will be provided to the Commissioners and will also be available at the City

Clerk's Office for public review. A copy of each email will be recorded for public record and noted on the official minutes of tonight's meeting.

Presentation

Open Session Items

1. REVIEW OF HSA ANNUAL REPORT
Recommended Motion: To receive and file

Documents:

07-09-26 ITEM 1 STAFF REPORT.pdf

2. ANNUAL REVIEW OF PARKS & REC MASTER PLAN - ORAL REPORT
Recommended Motion: To receive and file.

Documents:

07-09-26 ITEM 2 STAFF REPORT.pdf

Director's Report/Calendar of Events

Parks & Recreation Commissioner's Reports

Request for Items on Future Agendas

Adjournment

Materials related to an item on the Agenda submitted to the Parks & Recreation Commission after distribution of the agenda packet, are available for public inspection in the City Clerk's Office, 8650 California Avenue, South Gate, California 90280. Telephone: 323.563.951 0, Fax: 323.563.5411, City website, www .cityofsouthgate.org

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in the Parks & Recreation Commission Meetings, please contact the Parks Administration office, 323.357.9645. Notification 48 hours prior to the Meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to assure accessibility.

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Flores called the meeting to order at 7:05 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE - by Commissioner Trujillo

ROLL CALL - by Ana Medina, Executive Assistant
Present: Chair Flores, Vice Chair Ruiz, Secretary Cynthia Esquivel and Commissioners Edgar Pelayo and Eric Trujillo.
Staff: Acting Director Tina De La Rosa, Parks Superintendent Glenn Massey, Recreation Manager James Markel.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES
Regular Meeting Minutes of August 14, 2025, September 11, 2025, and November 13, 2025.
Recommended Motion: Motion to approve the minutes as presented.
M/S/C: Vice Chair Ruiz/Secretary Esquivel

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Recognized: Mr. Cortez thanked staff for their work.
Email from: Mario Dominguez SG resident, he has a problem with the Utility User Tax; he doesn't trust the Council Members with the money.
Email from: Mario Dominguez SG resident, is not happy with the results of the survey, that only 472 people responded out of 95,000 residents.
Email from: Mario Dominguez SG resident, has a concern with the Street Soccer USA development in Hollydale Regional Park; doesn't want to lose park features/amenities because of the development.
Email from: Mario Dominguez SG resident, was not happy outgoing Mayor Davila received a plaque in recognition for serving as mayor; feels she doesn't deserve it.

PRESENTATIONS:
Chair Flores moved up the Street Soccer Presentation

2. STREET SOCCER
The Commission will consider providing feedback to staff
Acting Dir. De La Rosa introduced Luca from Street Soccer USA; he gave more details on the presentation, and they would be partnering with AYSO for their use during their sports season then they will offer free to low-cost programs for the community. Commissioner Trujillo aske what are the rights of Visa as a partner; will not have any governing rights. Will AYSO have use of the digital media. VC Ruiz thanked them; asked if AYSO will have any issues with artificial turf. Mr. Cortez said they do not but the size of the fields is not adequate for their games but could be used for practices.

1. CITY'S BUDGET AND FISCAL FUTURE
Commission will consider receiving and filing a presentation on the City's Budget and Fiscal Future. Rob Houston, City Manager and Luis Frausto, Administrative Services Director reviewed this item. They took turns explaining the City's budget and fiscal situation. A discussion ensued.
Recognized: South Gate resident, City needs to inform the residents, has spoken with neighbors regarding the Utility Users Tax and they are reluctant to agree to vote for this tax. Need to build trust and have transparency.

Secretary Esquivel left during this portion of the meeting

3. RESULTS OF PARKS SURVEY
The Commission will consider receiving and filing a presentation on the Results of the Park Survey.
Acting Director De La Rosa reviewed this item. A discussion ensued.

Recognized: Maria Cortez, South Gate resident

OPEN SESSION ITEMS
1. ORAL REPORT ON PARKS SAFETY BY POLICE DEPARTMENT
Recommended Motion: Motion to receive and file.
M/S/C: Vice Chair Ruiz/Commissioner Pelayo
Acting Dir. De La Rosa introduced Lt. Bolar from SG Police Department; a discussion ensued.

2. GOALS AND STANDARDS FOR FY 2026/27
Recommended Motion: Motion to receive and file.
M/S/C: Secretary Esquivel/Vice Chair Ruiz
Deputy Director De La Rosa reviewed this report; a discussion ensued.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT / CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Deputy Dir. De La Rosa: Winter Wonderland, Tree Lighting, and Picking Day events were well attended and enjoyed by everyone. Upcoming events are Santa's Breakfast, Surfing with Santa, and the Christmas Parade.

Parks Supt. Massey: Currently renovation ball fields at South Gate Park. Irrigation maintenance and repairs are ongoing. Aerating is being done at South Gate Parks to improve grass growth. Fruit picking event at Urban Orchard park went very well, there were approximately 36 participants. Will be planning future events.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS
Vice Chair Ruiz: None

Commissioner Pelayo: None

Chair Flores: None

Commissioner Trujillo: None

REQUEST FOR ITEMS ON FUTURE AGENDAS - none

ADJOURNMENT - At 10:30 p.m. Chair Flores asked for a motion to adjourn.
M/S/C: Commissioner Pelayo/Vice Chair Ruiz

Respectfully submitted:

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Cynthia Esquivel, Secretary
Parks & Recreation Commission

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Flores called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE - by Vice Chair Ruiz

ROLL CALL - by Ana Medina, Executive Assistant
Present: Chair Flores, Vice Chair Ruiz, Secretary Cynthia Esquivel and Commissioners Edgar Pelayo and Eric Trujillo.
Staff: Interim Director of Parks & Recreation Tina De La Rosa, Parks Superintendent Glenn Massey, Recreation Manager Donna Salazar.

APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES - None

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Email from:
Maria Arreola and Maria Patino expressed support for keeping Rec. Coordinator Wendy Pineda at the Senior Center. They feel that the Senior Center needs bilingual staff.

OPEN SESSION ITEMS

1. REORGANIZATION
Recommended Motion: The Commission is to nominate and approve a Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary
M/S/C: Secretary Esquivel/Vice Chair Ruiz
Interim Dir. De La Rosa reviewed this item. Chair Flores motioned to keep the current slate.

2. REVIEW OF RECREATION PROGRAMS REPORT – 2ND QUARTER FY 2025/26
Recommended Motion: Motion to receive and file.
M/S/C: Vice Chair Ruiz/Secretary Esquivel
Recreation Manager Donna Salazar reviewed this report; a discussion ensued. Commissioner Trujillo noted that Council Member Hurtado mentioned adding internet to the Teen Center; Interim Dir. De La Rosa agreed that it would be a good amenity to have there.

3. REVIEW OF GROUNDS AND FACILITY MAINTENANCE – 2ND QUARTER FY 2025/26
Recommended Motion: Motion to receive and file.
M/S/C: Commissioner Pelayo/Commissioner Trujillo
Park Superintendent Glenn Massey reviewed this report; a discussion ensued. The Commissioners expressed their well wishes and were glad he was back. Commissioner Trujillo asked if the CSW program can be expanded to more than 15 people, Super. Massey explained this should stay at 15 due to needed supervision of the CSW's he also explained how the program works.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT / CALENDAR OF EVENTS
Interim Director De La Rosa: Street Soccer USA Project was approved and started to move forward. Open House on January 10 had less attendance but was well received. The Vision Board event was at capacity and everyone was enjoying themselves. January 29 was the Pickle Ball event which was very successful. The first ECO Garden event was held at the Urban Orchard on February 7, was well attended. Will be in communication with PW regarding clearing algae in the pond at Urban Orchard Park as wildlife is leaving

area due to this. The privacy pony walls were installed at Hollydale Regional Park restrooms. Auditorium roofing project moved to February 23 due to rain. Gardendale Tot Lot project needs to be re-bid as previous bids were too high. Offered clarification that No Smoking signs are within 20 feet of park facilities.

Recreation Manager Salazar: Explained that the box lunch offered at last golf tournament was well received; the winter golf tourney is taking registrations. Easter Fest to be held March 28, tickets now on sale. Adult egg hunt will also be available. Glow In The Dark Boot Camp to be held March 25, Spring Sports Camp March 30 – April 03, $50 per participant which will include a sack pack, camp shirt, and daily snack.

Parks Supt. Massey: Explained that grounds crew is working on moving dirt at Hollydale Regional Park in preparation for Street Soccer. Senior Grounds Worker Jerry Hernandez, has made many improvements at Hollydale Regional Park in leveling the grounds and with gopher abatement. He also started an Azalea nursery because Nuccio's Nursery will be going out of business and they were cultivator of the South Gate Azalea, so we are preparing for the future when they're gone. The roses at the Auditorium have been pruned and mulched. Routine ball field maintenance was completed.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice Chair Ruiz: Expressed her support of Parks staff.

Commissioner Pelayo: What kind of prep is being done for Street Soccer and are we doing it or them; Interim Director De La Rosa explained what was being done. What's the status on the Gardendale Tot Lot and the shade structures; Interim Director De La Rosa went over the RFP for both projects.

Chair Flores: Are there any plans if the UUT doesn't get put on the ballot; Interim Director De La Rosa explained that staff makes suggestions, but Council makes the final decision.

Secretary Esquivel: Mentioned that at last year's Easter event younger kids weren't allowed in the baby play area because they didn't have wrist band; Rec. Manager Salazar explained how staff has corrected that issue. Also, at the Winter Wonderland event there weren't jumpers for children under three; Rec. Manager Salazar has spoken with staff on correcting this issue.

REQUEST FOR ITEMS ON FUTURE AGENDAS

Commissioner Trujillo would like to know more about the Partner Organizations.
Vice Chair Ruiz wants to know the impact on the Park if the UUT doesn't pass and what has already been cut.
Commissioner Pelayo requested feedback on patrons comments/complaints.

ADJOURNMENT - At 8:45 p.m. Chair Flores asked for a motion to adjourn.
M/S/C: Commissioner Pelayo/Secretary Esquivel

Respectfully submitted:

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Cynthia Esquivel, Secretary
Parks & Recreation Commission

CALL TO ORDER - Chair Flores called the meeting to order at 7:04 p.m.

FLAG SALUTE - by Commissioner Pelayo

ROLL CALL - by Ana Medina, Executive Assistant
Present: Chair Flores, Vice Chair Ruiz, Secretary Cynthia Esquivel and Commissioner Edgar Pelayo; Commissioner Trujillo had an excused absence.
Staff: Acting Director of Parks & Recreation Tina De La Rosa, Parks Superintendent Glenn Massey, and Recreation Manager James Markel.

PUBLIC COMMENTS
Recognized: Cyndi Anderson SG resident, there is a lot of misinformation regarding removal of Coach Sifuentes from JAA. The decision had nothing to do with politics, as he was removed a week before attending the City Council meeting. He claims he did not know how to get on the board however she has repeatedly sent information over to him and explained the process as well. She explained the way the board of review works and stated that Coach Sifuentes should be used to being removed as it has happened at other cities. Voiced her displeasure with the lies and him using youth programs as a pawn.

Recognized: An email from Mario Dominguez SG resident - Due to the possible renaming of Cesar Chavez Park, he would like the Commission to reconsider renaming Hollydale Community Park to avoid confusion with similarly named parks. Suggested approaches include selecting a unique name such as "Wonderland Park" or inviting community input through a public naming process and vote.

Recognized: An email from Celina Zepeda SG resident – Is requesting the Commission's support in opposing the six-month pool closure, as it would significantly impact the SG Aqua Coalition swim club and the broader swimming community. The closure would reduce training opportunities, affect athletes' ability to qualify for competitive events, and create challenges in maintaining affordable program access for local families.

OPEN SESSION ITEMS

1. POLICE DEPARTMENT ORAL SAFETY REPORT
Recommended Motion: Motion to receive and file.
M/S/C: Secretary Esquivel/Vice Chair Ruiz
Acting Director De La Rosa introduced Lieutenant Gonzalez, who reviewed this item; a discussion ensued. Vice Chair Ruiz asked if any PD can be dispatched to Urban Orchard Park to deter theft. Lt. Gonzalez thinks that it's a good idea, however, due to budget cuts, might not be possible. Commissioner Pelayo suggested posting on social media or bike patrol as another option. Chair Flores asked if there will be issues due to budget cuts; Lt. Gonzalez stated that there will be less patrol and slower response times.

Recognized: Jimmy Ozaeta SG resident, wants cannabis smoking to be addressed at SG Park as well as illegal gambling with mobile bars out of vehicles.

2. PARK FACILITY MAINTENANCE DIVISION ANNUAL REPORT
Recommended Motion: Motion to receive and file.
M/S/C: Vice Chair Ruiz/Secretary Esquivel
Parks Superintendent Massey reviewed this item; a discussion ensued.

Recognized: Jimmy Ozaeta SG resident, glad to see Glenn back. Suggests that CDBG funds be used for maintenance of the parks considering budget cuts.

Recognized: Cyndi Anderson SG resident, CDBG have been used in the past for park issues, mentioned an incident in the past with leaking roof at Sports Center. Questioned if park received funds, a discussion ensued. Understood that the money wasn't lost.

Recognized: An email from Mario Dominguez SG resident – In light of the City's current financial challenges, he is requesting information on the costs associated with key community events including Winter Wonderland, the Christmas parade, Breakfast with Santa, and the Rotary Thanksgiving Dinner. Additionally, please provide the funding sources for each event, including whether they are supported by the general fund.

3. PROPOSED PROGRAM FEES FOR FY 2026/27
Recommended Motion: Approve the Proposed Fee Schedule for May 11, 2026, to May 11, 2027
M/S/C: Secretary Esquivel/Vice Chair Ruiz
Acting Director De La Rosa reviewed this item; a discussion ensued. Commissioners questioned fees, specifically for the pool. Recreation Manager Markel went into detail addressing the commissioners.

Recognized: Nadia SG resident, discussed concerns regarding potential pool closure. Stated that there are other programs that can be removed rather than closing the pool.

Recognized: Caroline Magana, SG resident, concerned about pool closure. Expressed displeasure at long lines for signups. Not against raising fees to continue pool operation as there is a counterbalance in increasing fees.

Recognized: Trinidad Maravilla, SG resident, does not agree on increasing fees as there are lower income families with multiple children in sports who would not be able to afford them. This will result in community members going to other cities.

4. REVIEW OF CONCESSION AGREEMENTS
Recommended Motion: Motion to receive and file.
M/S/C: Vice Chair Ruiz/Secretary Esquivel
Acting Director De La Rosa reviewed this item and notified commission that there are no agreements up for renewal.
Commissioner Pelayo requested copy of current concessions agreements on list be provided to the Commission.

Recognized: An email from Mario Dominguez SG resident, stated he would like the Commission to explore allowing street vendors, specifically those selling churros, to operate within South Gate Park. Clarification is also requested on current policies that restrict this activity and whether adjustments can be made to better accommodate community interest.
Acting Director De La Rosa, this comment does not pertain to the item.

5. PROPOSED RENAMING OF CESAR CHAVEZ PARK

Recommended Motion: Motion to suggest new names for Cesar Chavez Park and submit to Council for their review.

M/S/C: Secretary Esquivel/Vice Chair Ruiz

Acting Director De La Rosa reviewed this item, the following 5 names were suggested by the Commissioners: Southern Street Park, Unity Park, Farmworker Unity Park, Linear Park, and South Gate Gardens.

Recognized: An email from Mario Dominguez SG resident, stated he would like to propose considering the renaming of Cesar Chavez Park, with one suggestion being Dolores Huerta Park to recognize her contributions. Alternatively, the City may consider a community driven name process, allowing residents to submit and vote on potential names.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT / CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Acting Director De La Rosa: Will present budget report to Council on 04/14. The Spring Carnival brought in $21,000 in revenue which will be used towards 4th of July fireworks show. Easter Fest sold out with 325 tickets being sold although capacity was 300. In Youth Programming, dance recitals sold out. Sports Camp had a lower attendance this year. Teen Programs have been great, steady numbers. Teens really enjoyed their first trip to Knott's Berry Farm; there are a few trips scheduled for this summer. At the Senior Center the HSA lunch program continues to be successful. The Eco Garden event on April 4th sold out at Urban Orchard Park again. New classes began; 7 people attended the Below Mindset Class. At Circle Park, futsal went well, there were 5 participants. No participants for basketball or pickleball, staff is being flexible to fill in. Upcoming events: Earth Day, Alma Querida Dear Soul art exhibit and Miss South Gate Pageant on April 18th. Grand opening of Soccer USA fields on 04/16. Auditorium roofing project completed, Office A staff back in the office.

Recreation Manager Markel: Contract for Swim Stadium electronic scoreboard project awarded and is in procurement. Items will be delivered by end of May or early June, with installation scheduled for mid-June and completion by June 30th. Swim Stadium project is 100% paid for by CDBG funding. Shade structure project takes longer to procure. Initially thought it would take 3-6 months to complete however will likely take 8-12 months as customized structures are needed. Funding not lost on this project.

Parks Supt. Massey: Resurfacing of Tot Lot at Hollydale Regional Park to begin next week and will take about a month to complete. Funded by CDBG funding.

PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS

Vice Chair Ruiz: Thankful for the renovation of the Tot Lot. Asked if they can commit to the Carnival for future revenue and if they can pay for security as well.

Commissioner Pelayo: Asked about the Carnival cost structure and whether it was profitable. Encouraged acting Dir. De La Rosa and Sup. Massey to attend the advisory committee to potentially get additional CDBG funds.

REQUEST FOR ITEMS ON FUTURE AGENDAS - Commissioner Pelayo asked for current concessions contracts. He also requested that the Commissioners be copied in when responding to Mr. Dominguez' email. Vice Chair Ruiz requested how the park is providing better safety for runners.

ADJOURNMENT - At 9:35 p.m. Vice Chair Ruiz asked for a motion to adjourn.
M/S/C: Secretary Esquivel/Chair Flores

Respectfully submitted:

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Cynthia Esquivel, Secretary
Parks & Recreation Commission

City of South Gate

Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
July 9, 2026

STAFF REPORT ITEM No. 1

To: **Honorable Parks & Recreation Commission**
From: **Tina De La Rosa, Director of Parks & Recreation**
Date: **June 25, 2026**

Subject: **HSA Annual Report for 2025**

Recommended Motion: Motion to Receive and File

Report Summary: Since 2006, the Human Services Association (HSA) has operated the City's two Community Resource Center buildings; the Westside Center on State Street and the Hollydale Center on Industrial Avenue. As part of their operating agreements, HSA is required to submit a report to the Commission annually indicating their activities and accomplishments over the past year. The report for 2025 is attached for the Commission's review.

The purpose of these agreements is to take facilities that the City may not be able to afford to operate and make them useful to the Community while supporting a local non-profit organization. As is demonstrated, HSA provides a wide variety of Social and Community Services from these facilities, primarily to South Gate residents. By utilizing these facilities in this way and creating partnerships, the City is able to provide a wider variety of service and therefore meet many community needs that might not otherwise be met.

In addition to the programs that HSA would normally run, our agreement requires them to offer afterschool tutoring during the school year. HSA is also required by the terms of the agreement to have a Neighborhood Advisory Committee to recommend additional programs that would benefit the surrounding community.

Along with City staff, a representative from HSA will be present to answer any questions.

Attachment: 1

Introduction:

Human Services Association (HSA) is a private, nonprofit, multipurpose community-based agency that provides a broad range of social and early childhood educational services to families in Southeast Los Angeles County and surrounding communities. The primary mission of HSA is to provide families with compassionate, comprehensive care that promotes wellness and strengthens communities. The organization is committed to helping residents identify and address individual, family, and community challenges that may hinder personal growth. HSA's motto is "*Where Caring Becomes Doing*." The agency strives to provide the individualized interaction, personalized care, learning, exploration, and play that are essential components of a high-quality early childhood experience.

HSA is comprised of three primary departments: the Pasitos Early Childhood Education Department (Pasitos), the Family Services Department, and the Senior Services Department.

The educational philosophy of the Pasitos Department is grounded in the belief that children learn most effectively when they are exposed to all areas of growth and development through varied instructional strategies and developmentally appropriate materials. Children develop a range of approaches to learning, social-emotional skills, language and communication abilities, as well as cognitive and physical development, while participating in a physically safe environment. Through active learning, teachers support these goals by planning engaging, hands-on experiences and actively participating in children's play. Pasitos utilizes the High/Scope Curriculum across its centers. This curriculum is designed to provide children from diverse cultural and economic backgrounds with the interactions, opportunities, and experiences necessary to help them reach their full potential across all developmental domains, including physical, cognitive, language, emotional, and social development.

All funded programs and activities operated by Pasitos are made available to all qualified individuals without regard to sex, sexual orientation, gender, ethnic group identification, race, ancestry, national origin, religion, color, or mental or physical disability. Pasitos promotes anti-bias environments and services that teach respect for and welcome all children and their families. Staff provide a diverse learning environment that supports each child's culture and respects the welfare and values of every family. Because each child's circumstances are unique, all students are served on an individual basis.

2025-26 Program Year Accomplishments:



The Westside Resource Center operated year-round during the 2025-26 program year, with closures observed on weekends and designated holidays. In-person services continued to be fully restored, while established health and safety protocols remained in place as a program policy.

Pasitos provided comprehensive services to residents of the City of South Gate (90280) and extended support to families in neighboring communities, including Huntington Park, Bell, Bell Gardens, Cudahy, and Lynwood.

Throughout the 2025-26 program year, the Westside Resource Center and Hollydale Center served as central hubs for family and community services. The Hollydale Center operated Monday through Friday from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m., while the Westside Center maintained hours from 6:15 a.m. to 5:30 p.m., with additional evening hours offered as needed for special events and activities.

The program provided families in need with essential resources and supplies, including cleaning materials, clothing, and diapers, many of which were donated by community organizations. Families expressed sincere appreciation for these contributions.

Services provided to the community at the Westside Resource Center:

Monthly parent meetings at the Westside Resource Center were held on the second Tuesday of each month beginning in July 2025, with average attendance of 20 to 25 parents. Throughout the academic year, families with enrolled children participated in training sessions on child development, health, nutrition, and mental well-being, offered both in person and virtually through Zoom. In addition, the 10-week parent education program, *Abriendo Puertas/Opening Doors*, continued to be available to interested participants.

Westside Center: Home-Based Program Socialization Activities:



Twice each month, the Westside Center hosts children enrolled in the Early Head Start Home-Based program for socialization activities. Each session lasts a minimum of two hours and serves as an important component of the program by promoting social interaction and developmental learning.

Parents play an essential role in these experiences by contributing to the planning and evaluation of socialization activities during home visits and at the events themselves. This collaborative approach integrates learning and play while strengthening relationships and foundational skills.

These activities also provide parents with resources and information to support their child's growth and development at home. This approach helps ensure that each interaction is meaningful, enriching, and aligned with long-term developmental goals.

Parent meetings were offered once each month following socialization activities. Approximately 10 parents attended these meetings monthly.

Westside Center: California State Preschool Program Full Day:



Throughout the 2025-26 academic year, in-person preschool services were provided to children ages 2 to 5 in a developmentally appropriate educational setting. Operational hours ranged from 6.5 to 11 hours per day, five days per week, year-round, and classrooms adhered to established capacity limits to support effective instruction and social interaction.

To support children with special needs or behavioral challenges, additional staff were assigned as needed to promote successful inclusion and engagement in the classroom. The program also provided comprehensive support services for children and families, with ongoing communication maintained through Learning Genie, phone calls, and email to ensure access to educational updates and developmental resources.

Monthly meetings involving teachers, Family Advocates, and parents supported strong home-school collaboration and each child's progress. Children also received educational materials for use at home. In response to family needs, the program connected families with resources such as food pantries, rental assistance, and mental health support, including services for parents upon request.

In addition to monthly parent meetings, the program offered special activities in which parents and other family members were invited to participate. During this school year, these activities included Back to School Night, Grateful for My Family Breakfast, Winter Festival, and Grandparents' Day. These events provided parents with the opportunity to observe and engage in some of the activities children experience while enrolled in the program.

The preschool program reflects a comprehensive, family-centered approach to early childhood education that emphasizes individualized support, active family engagement, and strong community partnerships.

Westside Center: California State Preschool Program Part Day:



In-person preschool services were provided to 15 children per session, ages 3 to 5, for three hours daily, five days per week, over a 10-month period. The program offered a structured classroom experience supported by comprehensive services for children and families.

Children with special needs or behavioral challenges received individualized support through the assignment of additional staff to promote successful inclusion and positive peer interactions. Disabilities and Inclusion staff provided further classroom assistance, while Mental Health Specialists collaborated with staff and parents to offer targeted support as needed.

Families remained engaged through ongoing communication via Learning Genie, phone, and email. Monthly meetings with teachers and Family Advocates supported regular communication and collaboration.

In addition to educational support, families were connected with essential community resources, including food pantries, rental assistance, and mental health services. Mental health support for parents was also available upon request.

To support teachers in continuing to provide high-quality educational services to children and families, staff received training on a variety of topics, including curriculum implementation, lesson

planning, transitions, the Classroom Assessment Scoring System (CLASS), mental health, and effective practices for working with children with disabilities.

Services provided to the Hollydale Center:



Parent gatherings at the Hollydale Center were held monthly on the first Thursday of each month beginning in July 2025, with an average attendance of five parents. Throughout the academic year, parents of enrolled children received training on child development, health, nutrition, and mental well-being.

Pasitos operates eight preschool centers within the City of South Gate. At the end of the school year, in May or June 2025, a School Readiness/Transition activity was held as a culminating event for participating children. Teachers prepared activities that allowed parents and children to work together on tasks and projects. Approximately 130 preschool children completed the Pasitos preschool programs this year and were prepared to enter kindergarten in South Gate and surrounding elementary schools. In addition, approximately 103 children are eligible to return for a second year in the program.

Current Preschool Services at Westside and Hollydale Centers:

Site/ Class	Program Funding	Number of Children Enrolled
Westside 1	State/Head Start	24
Westside 2	State/ Head Start	24
Westside 3	State	15
Westside 4 AM/ PM	State	60
Hollydale 1	Early Head Start	8
Hollydale 2	Early Head Start	8

Onsite at the Westside Resource Center



Family Advocates are available to respond to questions and provide necessary referrals for children and families. Community partners also distribute flyers to help ensure that information remains readily available to families throughout the South Gate community.

Each week, approximately five individuals visit in person and an additional 20 inquire by phone about programs available at the Westside Resource Center, the Hollydale Center, and throughout the City of South Gate. The busiest period for walk-in inquiries occurred between May and August. Family Advocates continued to engage families on a biweekly basis through phone calls, emails, and text messages, providing services responsive to family needs. Staff also utilized resources such as the South Gate website and the VISTA South Gate City Newsletter and Parks & Recreation Guide to support referrals. Common front desk inquiries included Medi-Cal, GED classes, employment opportunities, English classes, CPR classes, WIC information, youth programs, summer park

programs, and Pasitos enrollment. Families value the individualized assistance provided, which extends beyond preschool services to a broader range of community-based opportunities.

The South Gate Police Department and Fire Department visited the sites to teach children about safety. During these visits, children had the opportunity to sit in a police vehicle and observe fire trucks up close.

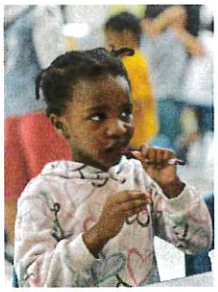
Employees participated in community events such as Fall into Health, Father Involvement activities, Movies and Concerts at the Park, and the Back-to-School Backpack Giveaway to promote HSA programs and services.

Parent Support Services



Parents from the Pasitos program, as well as parents from the broader community who were not enrolled in the program, participated in weekly nutrition and mental well-being sessions. These sessions addressed topics related to the home environment, food habits, parenting, child rearing, and family life. Approximately 10 parents participated during this school year. Individual counseling was also provided at the Westside Resource Center for families requiring more intensive services, and childcare was available during each meeting.

State Preschool at the Westside Resource Center



The school session began on July 1, 2025, and will continue through June 30, 2026. Breakfast, lunch, and/or snacks were provided to enrolled children in accordance with USDA meal guidelines.

A primary goal of the early childhood curriculum is to help children become enthusiastic learners by encouraging them to be active, creative explorers who are confident in testing their ideas and thinking independently. The program supports children in becoming independent, self-confident, and inquisitive learners by emphasizing how to learn, not only during preschool but throughout life. Children are encouraged to learn at their own pace and in ways that are most effective for them, while developing habits and attitudes—particularly a positive sense of self—that can have a lasting impact.

The curriculum identifies goals across all areas of development:

- ***Social:*** To help children feel comfortable in school, trust their new environment, make friends, and feel they are a part of the group.
- ***Emotional***: To help children experience pride and self-confidence, develops independence and self-control, and have a positive attitude toward life.
- ***Cognitive***: To help children become confident learners by letting them try out their own ideas and experience success, and by helping them acquire learning skills such as the ability to solve problems, ask questions, and use words to describe their ideas, observations, and

feelings.

- ***Physical***: To help children increase their large and small muscle skills and feel confident about what their bodies can do.

The activities planned for children, the organization of the environment, the selection of toys and materials, the structure of the daily schedule, and staff interactions are all designed to support curriculum goals and provide each child with a successful start in school.

The HSA Pasitos Early Childhood Education Department utilizes the **High/Scope Curriculum**. The selected curriculum ensures alignment with the California Preschool Learning Foundations, the California Preschool Curriculum Framework, school readiness goals, ongoing assessment practices (DRDP 2015), and the integration of service areas into the curriculum.

The High/Scope Curriculum emphasizes active participatory learning and is designed to support children's development across all domains.

High/Scope focuses on the following fundamental principles:

- ✓ To learn through active involvement with people, materials, events and ideas.
- ✓ To become independent, responsible and confident – ready for school and ready for life.
- ✓ To learn to plan many of their own activities, carry them out and talk with others about what they have done and what they have planned.

In the classroom, teachers follow a predictable sequence of events known as the daily routine. This structure supports children in making choices, following their interests, and strengthening skills across each content area.



The **outdoor environment** reflects the classroom setting. Within this structure, teachers organize both child-initiated and teacher-directed learning experiences that address key developmental areas. Through interactions with materials, engagement with peers, and scaffolded instruction from adults, children build skills across all developmental domains. The overall goal is to help children become independent, self-confident, inquisitive, and enthusiastic learners who are prepared for future school success.

Family Advocates support parents as they prepare for the transition to kindergarten by hosting monthly meetings and providing essential resources. As the school year concluded, children participated in activities such as a petting zoo and reptile zoo that encouraged curiosity and exploration of scientific concepts. On June 30, 2026, a culmination activity will celebrate parents and children, with teachers preparing interactive tables to promote positive parent-child interaction and support successful transitions. Children will also receive transitional backpacks to assist with preparation for the next school year, whether in the program or in kindergarten.

Early Head Start at the Hollydale Center



The Hollydale Center provides educational services to children between 18 months and 3 years of age. The program offers experiences designed to support each child's development and reflects a strong commitment to the surrounding community. This community involvement has contributed to the development of many of the social service programs offered through HSA.

The High/Scope Curriculum emphasizes active participatory learning and supports children's development across all areas. In the classroom, teachers follow a predictable daily routine that helps children make choices, follow their interests, and develop skills across content areas.

During the 2025–26 academic year, the program entered its fourth year of implementing the **Conscious Discipline curriculum**, which supports teachers in addressing behavioral concerns in the classroom. *Conscious Discipline* is an evidence-based, trauma-informed approach recognized by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration's National Registry of Evidence-based Programs and Practices. It also received high ratings in 8 of 10 categories in a Harvard analysis of the nation's top 25 social-emotional learning programs. The study's authors noted that "*Conscious Discipline provides an array of behavior management strategies and classroom structures that teachers can use to turn everyday situations into learning opportunities.*"

The core methodology is based on four essential components designed to support practical and effective implementation:

- ✓ **Brain State Model:** The Conscious Discipline Brain State Model recognizes three basic brain / body / mind states likely to produce certain behaviors. Intentional, state- specific responses enable access to advanced skills.
- ✓ **Seven Powers for Conscious Adults:** The seven powers create a shift in the way adults see conflict so we can maintain composure and consciously respond to difficult situations. Adults' ability to self-regulate is the precursor to teaching children social-emotional skills.
- ✓ **Creating the School Family:** The School Family increases connections between adults and children at all levels, ensuring optimal development for all. A School Family culture is built through consistent modeling of routines, rituals and structures.
- ✓ **Seven Skills of Discipline:** These seven skills transform everyday discipline issues into teachable moments, equipping children with the social-emotional and communication skills needed to manage themselves resolve conflict and develop healthy behavior.

Conscious Discipline Curriculum is a comprehensive classroom management and social-emotional learning program grounded in research on brain development, child development, and developmentally appropriate practice. The curriculum was developed by Dr. Becky Bailey.

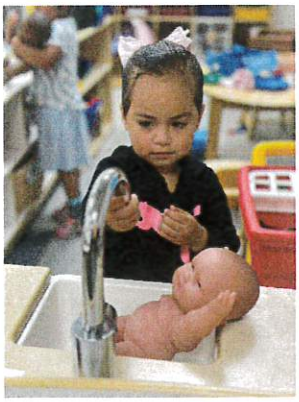
- The program supports first teaching ourselves about self-control and self-regulation and then teaching children.
- It helps us see how we respond to upset and understand our emotions, and how to regulate ourselves when we are triggered.
- In short, it teaches us how to be conscious as adults of what we are saying to children, and

what behaviors we are modeling.

- What is really wonderful is that it is an inside-out program.
- It teaches adults to manage their own emotions when upset, sad, happy, or when angry. Then it teaches us how we can teach children the same thing.
- Children too can manage their own emotions when upset and understand their own feeling,

Corporal punishment or any form of discipline involving emotional or physical abuse or humiliation is strictly prohibited in the program. Children remain under the direct visual supervision of teaching staff at all times.

Community Impact:



Throughout the academic year, the program prioritized mental health support for staff, children, and families. To address growing needs in this area, additional staff were hired to provide mental health services and special education support. This expansion was prompted by an increase in children exhibiting areas of concern in these domains, as well as a rise in the number of children with special needs.

Demand for enrollment at the Hollydale Center remains high, resulting in a waiting list for children seeking admission. This shortage is especially pronounced for programs serving children under the age of three.

Goals and Objectives for 2026-27 SY

Based on the Community Needs Assessment (CNA) conducted by Human Services Association in 2025, the following areas continue to represent program priorities for services at the Westside Resource Center and the Hollydale Center:

- Early education and preschool services for children ages 0-5
- Full-day services for children
- Support services for homeless children and families
- Support services for foster children and families in kinship care
- Support services for families receiving public assistance (SSI, TANF, SNAP)
- Inclusion for children with disabilities
- Support services for children and parents with mental health concerns
- Parent engagement in the program, including male involvement
- Support for high-risk families experiencing stress, trauma, or domestic violence
- Single parent families, including teen parents
- Children with active cases involving the Los Angeles County Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS)

Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting
July 9, 2026

STAFF REPORT ITEM No. 2

To: **Honorable Parks & Recreation Commission**
From: **Tina De La Rosa, Director of Parks & Recreation**
Date: **June 25, 2026**

Subject: **Oral Report on Update of the Parks & Recreation Master Plan**

Recommended Motion: Motion to Receive and File

Report Summary: A Parks & Recreation Master Plan for South Gate was approved by the Parks & Recreation Commission and adopted by the City Council in November 2008. As part of the implementation process for the Parks Master Plan, annual updates are to be given to the Parks & Recreation Commission.