

Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 6:00 PM  
COUNCIL CHAMBER  
6650 Beach Boulevard  
Buena Park, CA 90621

CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING AGENDA  
**Tuesday, September 2, 2025 - 6:00 p.m.**

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## **1. GENERAL**

- 1.A. CALL TO ORDER
- 1.B. ROLL CALL  
Schooner, Singhal, James, Figueroa, Bendinelli
- 1.C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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## **2. COMMUNICATIONS**

- 2.A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS
  - This is the portion of the meeting set aside to invite public comments regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the Climate Action Commission. Public comments are limited to no more than three minutes each. If comments relate to a specific agenda item, those comments will be taken following the staff report for that item and prior to the Commission vote. Those wishing to speak are asked to complete a speaker identification form located at the Council Chamber entrance and place it in the box near the speaker's lectern.

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## **3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- 3.A. Approval of Meeting Minutes - August 5, 2025

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## **4. OLD BUSINESS**

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## **5. NEW BUSINESS**

- 5.A. Sustainability Learning Session: Gross National Happiness
- 5.B. Discuss Involvement at Future Community Events

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## **6. CITY/STAFF UPDATES, INFORMATION ITEMS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS**

- 6.A. CITY/STAFF UPDATES, INFORMATION ITEMS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

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## **7. ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned to the next regular meeting on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

- 7.A. Adjournment

This agenda contains a brief general description of each item to be considered. Supporting documents are available for review and copying at City Hall or at [www.buenapark.com](http://www.buenapark.com). Supplementary materials distributed to the Commission less than 72 hours before the meeting are posted to the City's website at [www.buenapark.com](http://www.buenapark.com) and copies are available for public inspection beginning the next regular business day. This governing body is prohibited from discussing or taking action on any item which is not included in this agenda; however, may ask clarifying questions, ask staff to follow-up, or provide other direction. The order of business as it appears on this agenda may be modified by the governing body.

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need accommodations to participate in this meeting, contact Public Works at (714) 562-3655 or the California Relay Service at 711. Notification at least 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make arrangements to assure accessibility.

If you would like to participate in any matter of business on the agenda and would like translation in Chinese, Korean, Spanish, Tagalog, or Vietnamese, please **contact Public Works at (714) 562-3655 48-hours prior to the meeting**. Residents requiring translation during Oral Communications are encouraged to bring interpreters.

시의회 목록에 있는 정식 안건에 대해 의견을 발표하고 싶으신 경우, 중국어, 한국어, 스페인어, 타갈로에 대한 통역사가 필요하시면 시미팅 48시간전 시서기 오피스로 (714-562-3655) 연락하시면 됩니다. 정식안건이 아닌 주민 발언시간에 발표하실 경우, 본인의 통역사를 직접 모시고 오시면 감사하겠습니다.

Si le gustaría participar en audiencia pública o cualquier asunto de negocios programado en la agenda y necesita traducción en chino, coreano, español, tagalo o vietnamita, comuníquese con la Oficina del Secretario de la Ciudad, 48 horas antes de la reunión al (714) 562-3655. Para participar en los comentarios públicos sobre cualquier otro asunto dentro de la jurisdicción del ayuntamiento, se les recomienda que traiga un intérprete.

I, Elizabeth Genera, City of Buena Park, do hereby certify, under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California that a full and correct copy of this agenda was posted pursuant to Government Code Section 54950 et. seq., at Buena Park City Hall, 6650 Beach Blvd., and uploaded to the City of Buena Park website [www.buenapark.com](http://www.buenapark.com).

Elizabeth Genera  
City of Buena Park  
Public Works

*Date Posted: August 27, 2025*



**A. Approval of Meeting Minutes - August 5, 2025**

| Meeting                                           | Agenda Group                                         |
|---------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 6:00 PM               | APPROVAL OF MINUTES Item: 3A.                        |
| Prepared By                                       | Department Head Approval                             |
| Elizabeth Genera, Senior Administrative Assistant | Mina Mikhael, Director of Public Works/City Engineer |
| Presented By                                      |                                                      |
| Elizabeth Genera, Senior Administrative Assistant |                                                      |

**Attachments**

[ca minutes 8-5-25.pdf](#)



## City of Buena Park

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### MINUTES CLIMATE ACTION COMMISSION AUGUST 5, 2025

#### 1A. CALL TO ORDER

The Climate Action Commission met on August 5, 2025, at 6:00 p.m. in the City Council Chambers at City Hall, 6650 Beach Boulevard, Buena Park, CA.

- 1B. ROLL CALL**      **PRESENT:** Schooner, Singhal, James, Figueroa, Bendinelli  
                             **STAFF:** Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager  
                                 Joe Hunt, Public Works Manager  
                                 Jeff Porter, Street Services Superintendent  
                                 Elizabeth Genera, Recording Secretary

#### 1C. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

#### 2. COMMUNICATIONS

This is a portion of the meeting set aside to invite public comments regarding any matter within the jurisdiction of the Climate Action Commission. Public comments are limited to no more than 3 minutes for each speaker.

#### 2A. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None

#### 3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

**\*\*\*M/S/P – Singhal/Figueroa** – Approval of meeting minutes June 16, 2025

#### 4. OLD BUSINESS – No items.

#### 5. NEW BUSINESS

##### **5A. Discuss Tree Policy and Urban Forest Management Plan – Presented by Joe Hunt, Public Works Manager**

The City maintains an urban forest comprised of publicly-owned trees planted in parkways and medians and at parks and facilities. The urban forest consists of approximately 10,700 trees, a number which has remained fairly consistent over the last several years. The city has earned the designation of Tree City USA from the Arbor Day Foundation six times, most recently in 2023.

Last year, the City Council approved the Buena Park Public Tree Policy with the objective to fully realize the benefits of trees in public spaces. The policy clarifies tree selection, maintenance, and conditions for removal. Although the City makes its best efforts to increase the number of public trees, there are still significant number of vacant spots on parkways that could potentially support a tree. Reasons for a spot to be vacant may include, but are not limited to: utility and/or hardscape conflicts, maintaining line of sight, inadequate irrigation or landscape maintenance, disease, or lack of desire for a tree from the adjacent property owner.

Parkway trees are trimmed by the City every few years but watering, cleaning up leaves droppings, and other routine maintenance is the responsibility of the adjacent property owner.

The City Council has asked the Climate Action Commission to review the City's Tree Policy, Urban Forest Management Plan, *Tree Care Guide* door hanger, and the *Benefits of Trees* brochure. All of these documents can be found at [buenapark.com/trees](http://buenapark.com/trees).

Public Works Manager Joe Hunt reported that in the last 7 months, Public Works has planted over 400 parkway trees, this surpasses our average of planting 250 trees/year. City Council has approved funds for 2 part-time employees to help water trees, which if sufficiently watered, tree roots will grow down minimizing the damage to sidewalks.

Joe Hunt reported the City is working on a partnership with Buena Park High School to provide saplings for the Student Agriculture Program, creating an orchard to supply parkway trees to the City. In addition, Public Works is working with West Coast Arborists on a proposal to add a *Tree Dashboard* and GIS layer to the City Website to enable residents to access information on tree inventory, canopy cover %, carbon sequestration, pollution removal, avoided runoff, urban heat map, etc.

The Commission discussed the overall direction and theme(s) for Urban Forest Management Plan last update in 2010. The discussion included questions: Are the goals in line with today's goals? Should the City to focus on more specific types of trees to plant on parkway? Are there any updates to the current maintenance practices and standards section? Commissioners offered several suggestions.

Chair Schooner stated that more water trucks are needed to ensure new trees get water in areas without irrigation. The Commission discussed the current guidelines for residents who refuse to water or care for trees; perhaps more incentive for residents would encourage residents to take care of parkway trees. Trees native to California should be added to the approved tree list. When a City tree is removed, a new tree should immediately be planted in its place.

Lotus Thai reported that the City Council would like the Commissions input on the development of a Community Orchard. A community orchard is a collection of fruit trees in a public space like a park. The program would provide the community with a healthy food system, volunteer opportunities, and environmental benefits. On the other hand, the program would require paid staff time to maintain, proper care so trees produce tasty ripe fruit, and could attract loitering and pests. There are two community gardens in the City for Buena Park residents; there is a high demand for more community gardens. The startup cost for a community orchard is approximately \$10,000.00.

Chair Schooner stated that a community orchard would need to be well supervised for liability reasons. Commissioner Bendinelli stated that it is a great idea; signage should be used to make rules clear. He suggested a group from Buena Park like the boys and girls club or high school could learn a lot about agriculture and also be a good volunteer base for the orchard.

## 6. CITY/STAFF UPDATES, INFORMATIONAL ITEMS, FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

**ADJOURNMENT:** The meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m. The next regular scheduled meeting is September 2, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.



**A. Sustainability Learning Session: Gross National Happiness**

| Meeting                             | Agenda Group                                               |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 6:00 PM | NEW BUSINESS Item: 5A.                                     |
| Prepared By                         | Department Head Approval                                   |
| Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager  | Matt Foulkes, Director of Community & Economic Development |
| Presented By                        |                                                            |
| Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager  |                                                            |



**B. Discuss Involvement at Future Community Events**

| Meeting                             | Agenda Group                                               |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------|
| Tuesday, September 2, 2025, 6:00 PM | NEW BUSINESS Item: 5B.                                     |
| Prepared By                         | Department Head Approval                                   |
| Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager  | Matt Foulkes, Director of Community & Economic Development |
| Presented By                        |                                                            |
| Lotus Thai, Sustainability Manager  |                                                            |