

**COMMUNITY SERVICES, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING  
CITY OF CHINO COUNCIL CHAMBERS  
MARCH 24, 2025, 6:00 P.M.  
M I N U T E S**

---

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

Chairperson Martinez called the meeting to order at 6:05 p.m.

**II. PLEDGE TO THE FLAG**

Commissioner Arlt led the flag salute.

**III. ROLL CALL**

Commissioners Present: Chairperson Robert Martinez, Vice Chairperson Neal Jerry, and Commissioners Patricia Pereda Arlt, Stephanie Mendoza, and Linda Takeuchi

Commissioners Late: Neal Jerry

Commissioners Absent: Jamie Aviles and Julissa Montenegro-Olivas

Council Present: Karen Comstock

Teen Advisory Committee

Members Present: None

Staff Present: Silvia Avalos, Ted Bistarkey, Mayra Pratt, Monica Tiznado, Jeff Benson, Monica Tiznado, Dane D'Antuono, Rachel Phelps, Sal Parra, and Marsha Ariyasu

**IV. CONSENT CALENDAR**

1. Minutes – February 24, 2025, Community Services, Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting (All Commissioners were present).

**Moved by Commissioner Mendoza, seconded by Commissioner Arlt, and carried on a 5-0-2-0 vote to approve the Consent Calendar as presented.**

**AYES: Arlt, Jerry, Martinez, Mendoza, and Takeuchi**

**NOES: None**

**ABSENT: Aviles and Montenegro-Olivas**

**ABSTAIN: None**

**V. PUBLIC COMMUNICATIONS**

Chairperson Martinez opened the Public Communications. As there were no requests to speak, Chairperson Martinez closed the Public Communications.

**VI. TEEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE REPORT – No report.**

**VII. INFORMATION**

1. Healthy Chino:

Rachel Phelps, Community Services, Parks & Recreation Coordinator, gave the report. Ms. Phelps reported this year is Healthy Chino's 20-year anniversary, and highlighted programs and events added this year in celebration of this milestone. The Healthy Chino program strives to increase healthy lifestyle options and the

quality of life for all community members through a series of programs, workshops, and special events.

Ms. Phelps reported Healthy Chino recently hosted the Healthier You Challenge Department Showdown, which is an employee challenge that encourages participants to establish healthy habits. Eighty-eight employees from several City departments participated by submitting weekly mile counts from swimming, biking, walking, and running, which added to their department's overall total. Each department competed against each other to win the department title of Healthiest Department. Weekly prizes were given to participants who submitted the highest mile count of the week. Three individual grand prize winners, as well as the department winner were announced at the conclusion of the challenge.

Ms. Phelps reported to celebrate 20 years, Healthy Chino collaborated with Chino Valley Unified School District and Chino SOAR and High Five After School programs to create a cookbook of healthy recipes. Students created original recipes for the book, as well as competed in a cookbook cover contest. The cookbook cover winner was Chenile Jaco from Doris Dixon Elementary SOAR After School program.

Ms. Phelps reported Healthy Family Day was held on Saturday, March 15, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m., at the Neighborhood Activity Center. The event was presented on collaboration with Chino Valley YMCA and Behavior Highway. Together, they view physical activity and nutrition as important components of whole body wellness. As part of their mission, this event provides opportunities for families and community members to gather information and resources to live a healthy lifestyle. This event has something for everyone from various health and fitness screenings, demonstrations, family competitions, and activity stations. This year, there were inflatable obstacle courses, an inflatable rock climbing wall, along with interactive photo booths, healthy snack booth recipe craft station, and seed planting station, as well as various fitness demonstrations, such as a soccer clinic held by Empire Strikers, and YogaSix inside the Neighborhood Activity Center.

Ms. Phelps reported Chino Bike Day will take place on Saturday, May 10, from 7:30-11:00 a.m., at Ayala Park. It will be presented by Healthy Chino in partnership with the Chino Police Department. This event promotes bike safety and awareness, and includes a bike obstacle course, 15-mile community bike ride, and a family bike ride led by the Chino Police Department. The Chino Police Department will also provide helmet fittings and giveaways, and a bike repair booth will also be available.

Ms. Phelps reported Healthy Chino continues to host interactive and information booths at several events throughout the year. Healthy Chino hosts booths at City events and programs, such as Halloween Spooktacular, Chino Youth Christmas Parade and Fair, and partner events such as the Heritage Farmers Market, Senior Health Fair, and Great American Smokeout.

Ms. Phelps reported in celebration of Healthy Chino's 20 years, they are hosting mobile stops, which are themed outreach opportunities. Healthy Chino kicked off their mobile stops in January at Chilly Chino; in February, Healthy Chino partnered with Chino Valley Medical Center to celebrate Heart Health at the Senior Center; in March, they celebrated National Nutrition Month at Family Farms Chino; in April,

they will partner with Green Chino to teach the community about composting at the Chino Community Garden.

Ms. Phelps reported Healthy Grilling is a fee-based program, where participants learn how to prepare healthy meals, as well as enjoy delicious creations in a hands on cooking environment. Participants learn smart grilling techniques. All materials, including food and drinks, are provided. The recipes this summer include Grilled Cilantro Lime Chicken, Grilled Pesto Chicken and Tomatoe Kabobs, and Vegetarian Portabello Burgers.

Ms. Phelps reported Storytime in the Garden is a free weekly reading program during June and July. Children discover the wonderful world of gardening and nature through stories. Participants have the opportunity to express their creativity through crafts and activities. Guest readers often include Chino Valley Firefighters; Chino Police Officers; Community Services, Parks Recreation Coordinators, Supervisors, Managers; and Commission Members if interested.

Ms. Phelps reported Healthy Chino hosts three Coalition Meetings annually. They are held on the third Thursday in March, June, and September each year. Each meeting is themed and includes a presenter pertaining to the topic. Coalition members include Chino residents, representatives for health-based businesses or organizations, and City of Chino employees. The next meeting will be held on June 19. The goal of the Healthy Chino Coalition is to increase healthy lifestyles and the quality of life for the community. Healthy Chino sends out monthly e-newsletters with upcoming events, programs, workshops, and other healthy information. The newsletter highlights the Garden Workshops, Discovery Children's Workshops, and Hike the Valley programs that continue to be offered throughout the year.

Commissioner Arlt congratulated staff on a beautiful Chino Community Garden. She stated she spends a lot of time working in her own yard and has made friendships with people through that gardening and is constantly making referrals to attend the workshops at the garden. Commissioner Arlt stated she is glad we have the garden in the community. The staff who work the garden are always gracious, knowledgeable, and friendly. She asked where she can get a copy of the cookbook.

Ms. Phelps stated they premiered the cookbook at Healthy Family Day, and will send the cookbook out soon to the students who participated and the schools, as well as the Commissioners.

## 2. Chino Youth Museum:

Dane D'Antuono, Community Services, Parks & Recreation Coordinator, gave the report. Ms. D'Antuono reported the Chino Youth Museum is celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. The Museum opened its doors in December 1999, to a diverse public with a mission of bridging the past, present, and future together through fun educational interactive exhibits, special events, and programs for all families. The Museum offers guests a glimpse into Chino's rich history through eight hands-on interactive exhibits set up like a small town. Since January of 2024; 9,120 people have visited the Museum. Guests have enjoyed a variety of enriched programs, such as Letter Learners, where young children explore the alphabet through story time and letter crafts. Last month, two new features were added to this program, which include a "Get Your Wiggles Out" and Playdoh letter making. Older children get moving with live video dances accompanied by story time

during Tunes & Tales. Tunes & Tales is held every Wednesday at 1:00 p.m., and Letter Learners is held every Thursday at 10:30 a.m. These programs are free with paid admission or membership.

Ms. D'Antuono reported the Museum continues to offer CYM Lab. It is a unique steam-based program that introduces our families to science, technology, engineering, art, and mathematics experiment, such as building bridges with conversational candy hearts. The program is free to the public and includes exhibit exploration play. The next First Friday CYM Lab will be held on May 2, from 3:00-5:00 p.m.

Ms. D'Antuono reported crazy educational fun was had with Beat the Heat and Dr. Moo's Silly Science. Beat the Heat is full of wacky water fun and Dr. Moo stretches participants minds with funny science challenges. Both programs will return this summer. Nominal fees of \$4-\$6 apply.

Ms. D'Antuono reported the Museum hosted five special events with the new addition of the City's Inclusive Community Celebration. The Museum joined in on the City event by providing free admission to event participants for the day. Last year, the Museum started offering private tours to individuals and school groups. Tour options include historical staff led narratives, community helper crafts, butter making, and exhibit time; 586 tour guests participated and tours cost an affordable \$10 per person.

Ms. D'Antuono reported birthday party reservations were also offered; 533 kids and guests celebrated their special moments at the Museum. Also, 234 people took advantage of having unlimited visits to the Museum for an entire year by purchasing membership packages.

Ms. D'Antuono reported the Museum held three fundraisers, which included the Spring Bingo Bash, Halloween Bingo Bash, and DairyAire Birthday 5K and Fun Run. More than 420 participants ran in this year's run. The revenue raised for all three fundraisers was \$66,577.92 before expenses.

Ms. D'Antuono reported the Chino Youth Museum Board hosted a Chamber Mixer in September 2024. Nearly 40 businesses and community leaders were invited to participate in developing a new strategic plan, toured the Museum, and took part in an opportunity raffle drawing for prizes. Several new partnerships were formed, such as the San Bernardino County Library providing child admission passes as prizes for the Library's reading program; a collaboration was formed with Chino Self-Storage for a feature article about the Museum, which was published on the corporation's blog at [smartselfstorage.com](https://smartselfstorage.com); a partnership was also formed with Green Chino resulting in the water cycle rain wall renovation and the installation of cane detectors in the water exhibit room; together with the Teen Advisory Committee, Museum staff and TAC members built a polar express experience for the 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary Santa's Village kick-off celebration; and the Museum was recognized in two reviews online.

Ms. D'Antuono reported upcoming events include the Arbor Day Celebration on April 4, Easter Bunny Extravaganza on April 12, and the new event, Starbucks Reads Dr. Seuss on April 19. This is the first community event ever with Starbucks Coffee Corporation. The event will feature Starbucks staff storytime, coloring contest with a prize, Starbucks cup craft, exhibit exploration and play, and free coffee will be provided while supply last for the grown ups. The event is free with

paid admission or membership. This event will be advertised by Starbucks Coffee Corporation in all of their 13 Chino and Chino Valley locations.

Chairperson Martinez asked if the Museum coordinates school visits.

Ms. D'Antuono stated yes if a school is interested, they reach out to the Museum. There is a tour application that they fill out. They choose the type of tour they want, public or private; what activities they want, such as a narrative, educational, historical tour or exploration time. They also get to choose from butter making, which gives them a brief history of our dairy farms and how the process of butter making is done. Participants make it themselves or a community helpers craft teaches them about the different community helpers and careers that we have in the Chino Valley.

Chairperson Martinez asked if there are costs for the upcoming events.

Ms. D'Antuono stated Arbor Day at the Museum is a free event. The Easter Bunny Extravaganza is \$20 per child with all accompanying adults are free. This amount includes Easter Bunny story time, crafts, games, photo opportunity with the Easter Bunny, and special Easter favors.

Commissioner Mendoza stated after 25 years with the new events, programs, and partners, it is good to see how creative we are at keeping things fresh for the community, especially for generations coming back to the Museum.

Commissioner Takeuch stated she could not ask for a better re-creation of Herb's Hardware than at the Chino Youth Museum.

## **VIII. ACTIVITY REPORTS – FEBRUARY 2025**

### **1. Administration Activity Reports:**

Commissioner Arlt stated it is great to see that social media engagement numbers are climbing.

### **2. Programs Activity Reports:**

Commissioner Arlt stated it is incredible what staff does month to month.

### **3. Parks & Facilities Planning and Development Activity Reports – No comments.**

## **IX. DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Jeff Benson, Parks and Facilities Manager, gave the report. Mr. Benson noted upcoming events on the calendar, which included Chino Rancho Park Grand Opening on March 29, at 9:00 a.m.; Legends-The Senior Challenge Opening Ceremony on March 31 through April 24; CHINO Days on Saturday, April 5, from 2:00-8:00 p.m., and Sunday, April 6, from 11:00 a.m.-5:00 p.m.; Easter Bunny Extravaganza on April 12, from 10:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.; Volunteer Recognition Dinner on April 16, from 6:00-8:00 p.m.; and Earth Day on April 17, at Chino Creek Wetlands, from 4:00-7:00 p.m.

## **X. COMMISSIONERS' REPORTS**

Commissioner Arlt reported on parks visited since the last meeting, which included Ayala Park. Commissioner Arlt stated she is looking forward to all the upcoming events.

Commissioner Aviles – Absent.

Commissioner Mendoza reported on meetings and events attended and parks visited since the last meeting, which included Healthy Family Day at the Neighborhood Activity Center and Olympic Park. Commissioner Mendoza stated she is looking forward to the upcoming events, and that the Chino Youth Museum Board meetings are now taking place on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of the month.

Commissioner Montenegro-Olivas – Absent.

Commissioner Takeuchi reported on meetings attended, and parks visited since the last meeting, which included both Council meetings. Commissioner Takeuchi reported the parks look nice and are greening up after the little bit of rain we had, and stated the City is taking very good care of our trees, and she is looking forward to CHINO Days.

Vice Chairperson Jerry reported on meetings and events attended, and parks visited since the last meeting, which included the DairyAire Birthday 5K and Fun Run, Chino National Little League Opening Ceremony, a City Council meeting, Chino Valley Youth Track and Field Meet, meeting with the Presidents of Chino American and Chino National Little Leagues to hear about their needs and concerns. Vice Chairperson Jerry reported it is good to have a good line of communication open, and parks look good. Vice Chairperson Jerry reported Carolyn Owens Centennial Square could use a good cleaning.

Chairperson Martinez reported on meetings and events attended, and parks visited since the last meeting, which included a Council meeting, Chino National Little League Opening Day, Chino Valley Historical Society meeting, Chino Valley Youth Track and Field Meet, and meeting with the Little League Presidents. Chairperson Martinez reported fields are looking good.

Chairperson Martinez asked if we are still applying for a grant to fund Monte Vista Park's improvements.

Mr. Benson stated currently we have an outstanding application. Staff followed up recently with the state and their response is if you have not heard anything, then you are still in the running. Engineering is looking at a parking lot improvement project at Monte Vista Park.

## **XI. MISCELLANEOUS**

1. Calendar. April 2025: No comments.
2. Commission Assignments/Parks. Listing of Current Commission Assignments and Parks: No comments.

## **XII. ADJOURNMENT**

Chairperson Martinez adjourned the meeting at 6:43 p.m.

APPROVED THIS 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF APRIL 2025.