

**CLAREMONT COMMUNITY AND HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Wednesday, April 1, 2026 - 7:00 PM

Video Recording is Archived on the City Website

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**CALL TO ORDER:**

Chair Sifuentes called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM.

**PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE**

**ROLL CALL**

**PRESENT**

COMMISSIONER: BINDER, BROWER, MORA,  
ROSELLE, SCOTT TOUX, SIFUENTES

**ABSENT**

COMMISSIONER: SILVA

**ALSO PRESENT**

Patricia Cisneros, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager  
Eric Ey, Recreation and Human Services Manager  
Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant  
Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director  
Amber Tudor, Program Coordinator  
Melissa Vollaro, Recreation and Human Services Director

**CEREMONIAL MATTERS, ANNOUNCEMENTS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

This item starts at 00:01:10 in the archived video.

Katherine Loeser, Claremont Helen Renwick Library Manager, shared Library updates and upcoming events during the month of April.

**PUBLIC COMMENT**

This item starts at 00:04:24 in the archived video.

Chair Sifuentes invited public comment.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced that no written public comment had been received.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Sifuentes closed public comment.

**CONSENT CALENDAR**

This item starts at 00:06:44 in the archived video.

Chair Sifuentes invited public comment on the Consent Calendar.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced that one written public comment had been received on the Consent Calendar.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Sifuentes closed public comment.

***Commissioner Scott Toux moved to approve the Consent Calendar, seconded by Commissioner Roselle, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:***

**AYES:**            ***Commissioner – Binder, Brower, Mora, Roselle, Scott Toux, Sifuentes***

**NOES:**           ***Commissioner – None***

**ABSENT:**        ***Commissioner – Silva***

1.     Community and Human Services Commission Meeting Minutes of March 4, 2026  
Approved and filed the Community and Human Services Commission meeting minutes of March 4, 2026.
2.     Committee Meeting Minutes  
Received and filed the various committee meeting minutes.
3.     Tree Plantings and Removals for January 2026  
Received and filed the tree plantings and removals report for January 2026.
4.     Youth Sports Committee Membership Resignation  
Accepted the resignation of the Youth Sports Committee member representing Western Christian Schools.

### **ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS**

5.     Request for Tree Removal – 347 Indiana Avenue

This item starts at 00:08:45 in the archived video.

Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Manager Dillman and Richard Hecker, Landscape Maintenance Supervisor and certified Arborist, responded to questions from the Commission regarding the probability of the tree falling during a wind event, whether the City is able to quantify level of risk/probability of failure, the origin of the alternative recommendation for the homeowner to cover the cost of removal and replacement, the location of the tree relative to the house, replant species and locations, and the species of other trees on the street.

Chair Sifuentes invited public comment.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced that one public comment had been received on this item.

Richard Suter, property owner, stated that eight trees on the street have fallen or been removed in the past five years, and that seventy blew over in a single event. Mr. Suter claims that the issue is not whether the tree will fall but where it will land if it does, and he is certain that it will land on the house because of proximity and wind patterns. Mr. Suter asked the Commission not to rely on the findings that the tree is healthy, as many of the trees that failed in previous windstorms were also healthy.

Daniel Leopoldo, Claremont resident, is a long-time resident of Michigan Drive who states that the beauty of Michigan Drive is the pine trees, because of their shape and size. Mr. Leopoldo does not recall any trees falling on Michigan Drive and only one on Indiana Avenue. Mr. Leopoldo spoke in favor of keeping all of the trees on Michigan Drive and not cutting one down because of the possibility of it falling.

There were no additional requests to speak.

Chair Sifuentes closed public comment.

The Commission discussed the idea that removing a tree in good health because of a feeling or supposition may set a precedent for other residents to request removal of other healthy trees, damaging the City's reputation as a "City of Trees"; the fact that all of the trees at the property are healthy; that the City removes trees of concern but that this tree does not qualify for removal; whether cabling or bracing the tree would be practical; and that there is no apparent direct impact to the residents' health caused by the tree.

***Commissioner Brower moved to deny the request for the removal of the Canary Island pine tree at 347 Indiana Avenue, seconded by Commissioner Scott Toux, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:***

***AYES: Commissioner – Binder, Brower, Mora, Roselle, Scott Toux, Sifuentes***

***NOES: Commissioner – None***

***ABSENT: Commissioner – Silva***

6. Request for Tree Removal – 2243 N Indian Hill Boulevard

This item starts at 00:32:51 in the archived video.

Cari Dillman, Community Services Manager, provided a PowerPoint presentation.

Manager Dillman and Richard Hecker, Landscape Maintenance Supervisor and certified Arborist, responded to questions from the Commission regarding Edison's regular trimming of the tree, whether increased watering or trimming would mitigate nuisance debris, the responsibility of the property owner to increase watering, whether there are feasible measures other than a root barrier to mitigate hardscape damage, whether the nuisance debris is seasonal, and the overall health of the tree.

Chair Sifuentes invited public comment.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced that no public comment had been received on this item.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Sifuentes closed public comment.

The Commission discussed the Tree Committee's recommendation to deny removal because the tree is healthy but needs more water; the exploration of installation of a root barrier and its minimal, temporary benefit; and advising the property owner of the need to increase watering and possible follow-up monitoring.

***Commissioner Scott Toux moved to deny the request for the removal of the California sycamore tree at 2243 North Indian Hill Boulevard, seconded by Commissioner Brower, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:***

***AYES: Commissioner – Binder, Brower, Mora, Roselle, Scott Toux, Sifuentes***

***NOES: Commissioner – None***

***ABSENT: Commissioner – Silva***

7. Request for Use of Athletic Fields at La Puerta Sports Park on Sunday, May 31, 2026

This item starts at 00:45:40 in the archived video.

Eric Ey, Recreation and Human Services Manager, provided a presentation on the request from Claremont Fastpitch for use of the two athletic fields at La Puerta Sports Park on Sunday, May 31, 2026, to host a tournament. Manager Ey highlighted key factors to consider when reviewing the request, including the ability of the park to accommodate the proposed use, any possible traffic concerns, whether there may be any adverse impact on adjacent property, and the history and frequency of similar permits and their impact on the neighborhood.

Manager Ey responded to questions from the Commission regarding notification sent to neighboring properties/residents and whether staff received any feedback from the community following notification.

Chair Sifuentes invited public comment.

Dawn Ross, Senior Administrative Assistant, announced that no public comment had been received on this item.

There were no requests to speak.

Chair Sifuentes closed public comment.

The Commission discussed the length of time since the City last hosted a similar event.

***Commissioner Roselle moved to authorize the Recreation and Human Services Department to issue a permit for use of La Puerta Sports Park on Sunday, May 31, 2026, between the hours of 8:00 AM–7:00 PM to Claremont Girls Fastpitch for the purpose of a softball tournament, seconded by Commissioner Scott Toux, and carried on a roll call vote as follows:***

**AYES:**            **Commissioner – Binder, Brower, Mora, Roselle, Scott Toux, Sifuentes**

**NOES:**           **Commissioner – None**

**ABSENT:**        **Commissioner – Silva**

## **Staff**

### **DIRECTORS' REPORT**

This item starts at 00:52:13 in the archived video.

Melissa Vollaro, Recreation and Human Services Director, reported on:

- Special Needs and Inclusion Program Updates
- Youth Program Updates
- Senior Program Updates
- Special Events Update
- 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration Update
- Padua Hills Theatre Community Use Dates Program
- Committee on Human Relations Workshop
- Annual Volunteer Recognition Event

Jeremy Swan, Community Services Director, reported on:

- Pooch Park Closure
- Earth Day
- Urban Forest Update
- Trane Energy Efficiency Project
- Open/Upcoming Bids

### **Commission/Committee**

Commissioner Scott Toux reported that the Teen Committee will be posting around the school new flyers listing mental health resources. The Committee is planning a field trip on April 21, 2026 to tour the San Gabriel Valley Mosquito and Vector Control District.

Commissioner Binder reported that the Youth Sports Committee's new scoreboard program is now in place. The gopher issues at the sports fields are under control, and the abatement program is working.

Commissioner Brower is impressed with the Independence Day Committee's organization and looks forward to bringing a report to a future meeting. The Committee on Aging has two trips planned in the fall—one to Descanso Gardens and one to Los Angeles County Museum of Art. The dates for these trips have not yet been determined.

**ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Sifuentes adjourned the meeting of the Community and Human Services Commission at 8:12 PM. The next regular meeting of the Claremont Community and Human Services Commission will be held on Wednesday, May 6, 2026, at 7:00 PM.

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Brisa Sifuentes, Chair

ATTEST:

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Dawn Bonnell Ross, Recording Secretary