

SUMMARY ACTION MINUTES

(Action Items Displayed in Italics)

TUESDAY, MAY 5, 2026 — 10:00 a.m.

I. ROLL CALL

Chair Skorpanich, Vice-Chair Richonne, and Commissioners Chinn, Harrell, Johannes, Maahs, Moodian, Sarkis, and Yauger were present. Commissioners Brown, Gossett, Thoms, and Senft were absent.

II. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

At this time, members of the public may address the Commission on items of public interest that are within the jurisdiction of the Commission and are not contained in today's agenda.

Keith Johannes, Dana Point Historical Society, commented that they would like to bring the need for moving the Blue Lantern Gazebo to the attention of the Commission, and the historical society would like to add a historical plaque at the location.

III. CONSENT CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A)

The following item(s) on the consent calendar will be approved by one motion unless a Commissioner requests to pull a specific item.

A. APPROVE COMMISSION MINUTES FOR THE APRIL 7, 2026 MEETING

*Motion: Commissioner Richonne
2nd: Commissioner Sarkis
Approved 9–0*

IV. STAFF UPDATE (ITEM(S) A)

A. CULTURAL RESOURCES OPERATIONS FACILITY UPDATE

Staff will give an update on the recent happenings within the Cultural Resources Operations at historical facilities.

Dennis Shaffer, OC Parks Operations Manager, provided an update on current projects at the historical facilities and answered the Commissioner's questions.

V. DISCUSSION CALENDAR (ITEM(S) A–B)

A. COMMISSIONER ROLES AND REPORTS

Commissioners will provide updates on the latest developments or request input from the Commission in their roles.

1. Brown – Oral Histories

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2. Chinn – Historic Preservation
3. Harrell – Arden: Helena Modjeska Historic House and Gardens
4. Johannes – Public Events
5. Moodian – Oral Histories
6. Richonne – Website & Publications
7. Sarkis -- Networking Event
8. Senft – Finance & Website
9. Skorpanich—Website
10. Thoms – Cooper Center
11. Yauger -- Networking Event
12. Gossett – OC Archives

Commissioners provided updates for their roles.

RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

The item was received and filed.

B. ALISO AND WOOD CANYONS WILDERNESS PARK VISITOR CENTER TOUR

The Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park Visitor Center, a 2,600 square-foot facility, opened in May of 2021 and features a public space with reception and display areas for visitors to learn about the park and its surroundings. The visitor center provides nature lovers with an introduction to the park's vast natural and cultural resources and offers a place for outdoor environmental stewardship and education. Commissioners and attendees will be given a tour of the visitor center which will go over the history of the center and showcase the current displays and discuss how the displays are used to connect with the public.

Rick Schaffer, OC Parks Resource Specialist, provided a tour of the Visitor's Center and answered the Commissioners' questions.

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RECOMMENDED ACTION(S):

Receive and file.

The item was received and filed.

VI. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS AND REPORT

At this time Commissioners may comment on agenda or non-agenda matters, provided that no action may be taken on off-agenda items unless authorized by law.

VII. ADJOURNMENT *11:30 p.m.*

ORANGE COUNTY HISTORICAL COMMISSION

STAFF REPORT

FROM: Dennis Shaffer, Executive Officer

DATE: June 2, 2026

SUBJECT: OC Historical Commission's Proposed 2026 Meeting and Field Trip Schedule

A proposed schedule of 2026 meeting and field trip dates is provided below for the Commission's review. The Commission meets on the first Tuesday of each month at 10:00 a.m., unless otherwise indicated.


Seasonal field trips provide the Commission with valuable onsite experiences at various historical sites within the County. The locations and dates of these field trips have been tentatively scheduled for 2026, as noted below.

Please note that meetings may be cancelled, rescheduled, or moved at the Chair's discretion.

January 6	Irvine Ranch Historic Park (Regular Meeting)
February 3	Irvine Ranch Historic Park (Regular Meeting)
March 3	Irvine Ranch Historic Park (Regular Meeting)
April 7	Irvine Ranch Historic Park (Regular Meeting)
May 5	Aliso and Wood Canyons Wilderness Park (Field Trip)
June 2	Irvine Ranch Historic Park (Regular Meeting)
July 7	No Meeting
August 4	Irvine Ranch Historic Park (Regular Meeting) Heritage Museum of Orange County (Field Trip)
September 1	The Village of Putuidem (San Juan Capistrano) (Field Trip)
October 6	Irvine Ranch Historic Park (Regular Meeting)
November 3	The Mission San Juan Capistrano (Field Trip)
December 1	Irvine Ranch Historic Park (Regular Meeting)
January 7, 2027	Irvine Ranch Historic Park (Regular Meeting)

RECOMMENDED ACTION:

Approve the Commission's 2026 meeting and field trip schedule.


Dennis Shaffer