



Agenda
Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting
Thursday, November 9, 2023
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

Commission Members: Chair Buelt, Vice-Chair Mason, and Members Arnquist, Cunningham, Gutierrez, Heaton, Lunstad, Nune, and Thallapally

Liaisons: Council Liaison: Kent
Council Liaison Alternate: Richardson
Staff Liaison: Schiessl

Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order/Attendance:

Approval of Agenda: (Approved by Motion)

Approval of Minutes: (Approved by Motion)

I. Approval of the following Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting and Workshop Minutes:

- September 14, 2023 Meeting
- October 26, 2023 Workshop

- Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II

Council Liaison Report:

Recreation Report:

Parks & Public Facilities Report:

Public Comments:

Presentations:

Unfinished Business:

New Business:

Commission Comments:

Adjournment

Individuals with difficulty attending the in-person meeting may request to provide comments remotely. (Ch. 42.30 RCW)
Requests for sign interpreters, audio equipment, and/or other special services must be received 48 hours before the meeting by calling the City Clerk's Office at 509-942-7389.



PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION AGENDA ITEM COVERSHEET

Meeting Date: 11/9/2023

Agenda Category: Approval of Minutes

Prepared By: Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II

Subject:

Approval of the following Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting and Workshop Minutes:

- September 14, 2023 Meeting
- October 26, 2023 Workshop

Department:

Parks & Public Facilities

Recommended Motion:

Approve the minutes of the Parks and Recreation Commission meeting and workshop held on Thursday, September 14, 2023, and Thursday, October 26, 2023.

Summary:

Fiscal Impact:

Attachments:

1. 2023.09.14 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Minutes
2. 2023.10.26 Parks and Recreation Commission Workshop Minutes



MINUTES

Richland Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Richland City Hall – Council Chambers

625 Swift Boulevard

Thursday, September 14, 2023 ~ 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Vice Chair Mason called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Vice Chair Mason and Commissioners Arnquist, Cunningham, Heaton, Gutierrez, Lunstad, Nune, and Thallapally were present.

Chair Buelt was absent.

Also, in attendance were Parks and Public Facilities Director Hester, Recreation Manager Piper, and Council Liaison Kent.

1. APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 14, 2023 AGENDA:

Commissioner Lunstad moved to approve the September 14, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agenda. Commissioner Thallapally seconded the motion. Motion approved 8-0.

2. APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 24, 2023 SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Heaton moved to approve the August 24, 2023 Parks and Recreation Commission special meeting minutes. Commissioner Gutierrez seconded the motion. Motion approved 8-0.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Council Liaison Kent presented the Council Liaison Report.

Subjects included:

Free Home Energy Kits are available online through the Energy Services department. Home energy kit is available to Richland utility customers who use all electricity to heat their homes.

RECREATION REPORT:

Recreation Manager Piper presented the Recreation Report.

Subjects included:

Cruizin Car show, NFL Flag Football program, Youth basketball, and 2023 Winter Wonderland.

PARKS AND FACILITIES REPORT:

Parks and Public Facilities Director Hester presented the Parks and Public Facilities Report.

Subjects included:

Fitness Court completion of concrete pad, parking lot at Badger Mountain South, Keene Trail, Flagpole at Lee Landing, West Village Park, planning of Leslie Groves Long Range plan, approval of Bernard Hosey art, Public Works Department will take on the Park Planning/Project position.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None; public comment closed at 6:16 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

3. South George Washington Way Intersection Project

- Andrey Avetisyan, Public Works Civil Engineer II

Public Works Department staff explained the project features of the section 4(f) review process and answered Commission questions.

Staff explained that the City is currently preparing the engineering design of the South George Washington Way Intersection Improvements project located near the intersection of George Washington Way and Aaron Drive/Columbia Point Drive. This project includes a new southbound through lane on George Washington Way, extending approximately 600 feet north, and an added westbound left-turn lane, creating a third westbound left-turn lane. These improvements will require traffic signal modifications, including relocating and installing new signal poles. The project will add a sidewalk to eliminate the missing sidewalk connection along the north side of Columbia Point Drive adjacent to the gold course. These additions will improve intersection performance and safety for vehicle and non-motorized users.

Some of these improvements, specifically at the northeast corner of this intersection, will take place on City-owned property that makes up the Columbia Point Gold Course. A small portion of the golf course parcel will be acquired for street right of way. The golf course property, being a publicly owned recreational facility, requires special consideration during the environmental review of the street improvement project. Federal rules, called section 4(f), require an evaluation of the impacts on recreational facilities by street improvement projects. Section 4(f) of the Department of Transportation Act of 1966 prohibits FHWA from approving land use from a

significant publicly owned park, recreation area, wildlife and waterfowl refuge, or any historic site unless certain conditions are met. One such condition occurs when a project's impacts are minor. In this case, the project will impact a very small portion of the golf course parcel but will not impact any improved features or functions of the golf course. This is deemed a *de minimus* impact determination of the 4(f) resource, meaning it must have no adverse impact on it. The attached exhibits show that this project will indeed have a *de minimus* impact on the golf course activities as it will not adversely affect the features, attributes, or activities on it.

The environmental review process requires a public engagement element before a formal *de minimus* decision is made. This public meeting fulfills the requirement for the City to present and discuss the subject as an agenda item, inviting public comment. City staff agrees that the impact qualifies as *de minimus* and, subject to the input received at the meeting, intends to document that position.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

4. New Playground Equipment at Howard Amon Park

- Laura Hester, Parks and Public Facilities Director

The Sturgeon Cove Playground in Howard Amon Park was constructed in 2001 and has reached the end of its useful life. The playground is a popular amenity (4.5 stars on Trip Advisor and 4.7 stars on Yelp). The City initiated a public engagement strategy during the design phase of the project to better understand community sentiment. Outreach included our typical website and social media opportunities. It was supplemented by focused consultation with the Mid-Columbia Children's Museum and one-on-one conversations with kids and adults on-site at the current Sturgeon Cove playground.

The playground will be the first all-abilities, integrated playground in the City. We currently operate one fully accessible playground. The "All Abilities Place" playground located in Claybell Park is a stand-alone playground specifically designed for accessible play. It is located away from another playground in Claybell Park. This design for Sturgeon Cove will be an integrated playground where users of all abilities and ages may play together in the exact location. The project scope includes the demolition of existing structures, installation of new equipment, and durable poured rubber safety surfacing.

Commissioner Heaton moved the recommendation to the City Council to approve the purchase from Great Western Installation for the new playground equipment at Sturgeon Cove in Howard Amon Park. Commissioner Gutierrez seconded the motion. Motion approved 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 6:34 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Patty Roe, Parks and Public Facilities - Administrative Assistant II

Reviewed by: _____
Laura Hester, Parks and Public Facilities - Director

Approved by: _____
Chair Jim Buelt, Richland Parks and Recreation - Chair



MINUTES

Richland Parks and Recreation Commission Workshop
Richland Community Center – Meeting Room
Thursday, October 26, 2023 ~ 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Buelt called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Chair Buelt, Vice Chair Mason, and Commissioners Arnquist, Gutierrez, Lunstad, Cunningham, Heaton, Nune, and Thallapally were present.

Also in attendance were Deputy City Manager Schiessl and Recreation Manager Jackson.

PRESENTATIONS:

1. Richland Police Department

Rescheduled presentation for November 9, 2023 Special Workshop

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

2. Leslie Groves Park Long-Range Planning

Deputy City Manager, Schiessl

Schiessl updated the commission and the public present at the workshop on the plan to pause the current public engagement process while the city processes the information received to date, allowing time to adjust graphics accordingly. Leslie Groves Park is a beloved amenity providing natural habitat and recreational opportunities for residents. There is no rush to develop a plan. The city looks forward to re-engaging with the public soon and ultimately developing a plan representing our citizens.

ADJOURNMENT:

Workshop adjourned at 6:42 p.m.

Prepared by: _____
Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II

Reviewed by: _____
Joe Schiessl, Deputy City Manager

Approved by: _____
Chair Jim Buelt, Richland Parks and Recreation Commission