



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 golf 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 Golf 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 its features, attributes, or activities.

The environmental review process requires a public engagement element before making a formal *de minimus* decision. 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 intends to document that position, subject to the input received at the meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

NEW BUSINESS:

4. New Playground Equipment at Howard Amon Park

- Laura Hester, Parks and Public Facilities Director

Director Hester provided an overview of the proposed purchase of the new replacement playground equipment at Sturgeon Cove Playground in Howard Amon Park. Hester explained to the committee members that the new playground equipment theme of the ship will remain the same, the equipment will be all-inclusive, and the new design is designed to be safer than the current structure. Hester explained that rearranging the space allowed more space to install larger equipment than the current structure. The current playground was installed in 2001 and has reached the end of its life.

In conclusion, Hester answered the committee members' questions.

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: 
Joe Schiessl, Deputy City Manager

Approved by: 
Vice Chair Mason, Richland Parks and Recreation Commission