



MINUTES

Richland Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting
Richland City Hall – Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard
Monday, May 13, 2024 ~ 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ATTENDANCE:

Chair Mason, Vice Chair Gutierrez, and Commissioners Buelt, Cunningham, Hodges, Lunstad, and Gubba were present.

Commissioner Thallapally entered the meeting at 6:08 p.m.

Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite, Recreation Manager Piper, and Council Liaison Kent also attended.

APPROVAL OF THE MAY 13, 2024, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA:

Commissioner Lunstad moved to approve the May 13, 2024, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agenda. Commissioner Buelt seconded the motion.
Motion approved 7-0.

APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MEETING AND WORKSHOP MINUTES:

- **April 11, 2024 Meeting**
- **April 25, 2024 Workshop**

Commissioner Buelt moved to approve the minutes for the April 11, 2024, Meeting and the April 25, 2024, Workshop. Vice Chair Gutierrez seconded the motion.
Motion approved 7-0.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Council Liaison Kent presented the Council Liaison Report.
Subjects included: National Community Survey.

RECREATION REPORT:

Recreation Manager Piper presented the Recreation Report.

Subjects included an introduction to the Recreation Coordinator, Dane Marlin, swim lessons, softball tournaments, both current and future, at Columbia Playfields (WIAA state tournament), Cancer Crush Run, Girls on the Run, Live @ 5, Aloha Series Volleyball, and other upcoming recreation and aquatic events and programs.

PARKS AND FACILITIES REPORT:

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

Subjects included a self-introduction to the commission, Director Waite, fully staffed recreation, the W.E. Johnson mitigation and vegetation project, a riverfront trail near Hanes Levee, a fitness court in Howard Amon, a softball tournament at Columbia Playfield, and an art installation at the library.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None; public comment closed at 6:17 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

3. 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement Program

- Carlo D'Alessandro, Interim Public Works Director

RCW 35.77.010 requires local jurisdictions to prepare and adopt a perpetual six-year Transportation Improvement Program (TIP). The City's TIP is combined with other state and local agency TIPs into a state-wide STIP. The STIP is used primarily to manage the expenditure of state and federal funds. For the City, the TIP indicates the priority transportation improvements for which the city intends to apply for state and federal grant funding. Richland's long-standing practice of preparing its TIP involves multiple public involvement opportunities, including the involvement of the Parks & Recreation Commission and Planning Commission. The draft TIP is posted on the City's website with an opportunity to provide comments. Public meetings to consider the TIP will be held by the Parks & Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission. The Parks & Recreation Commission is requested to vote to recommend approval of the proposed TIP. RCW 35.77.010 requires a public hearing before adopting the City's TIP. A public hearing will be advertised and held at the Council meeting to accept additional public comments. Barring any compelling public testimony to the contrary, staff will recommend a resolution for adopting the TIP recommended by the Parks and Recreation Commission and the Planning Commission.

Vice Chair Gutierrez moved the Parks and Recreation Commission to recommend that the City Council approve the proposed 2025-2030 Transportation Improvement

Program as presented. Commissioner Gubba seconded the motion. The motion was approved 8-0.

4. Harmful Algal Bloom Public Health Consideration: Howard Amon Swim Dock
- Chris Waite, Parks and Public Facilities Director

In 2023, the Benton Franklin Health District (BFHD) conducted a toxin monitoring program at multiple sites along the Columbia River due to algal blooms. One site of recreational importance that was monitored was the Howard Amon swim dock. The 2023 monitoring identified findings that could impact public health during recreational use of the swim dock. BFHD provided three recommendations regarding the dock. Each has a different recreational impact on the community.

Recommendation 1: Close the swimming dock

Recommendation 2: Have staff use manual means to remove algae daily at the swimming dock.

Recommendation 3: Install a mechanical system that filters or increases turbidity in the swimming area to reduce algae.

Commissioner Buelt moved that the Parks and Recreation Commission recommend that the City Council pursue the Benton Franklin Health District Recommendation No. 1: to remove the Howard Amon swim dock promptly. Commissioner Gubba seconded the motion. Motion approved 8-0.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

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

Reviewed by: 
Chris Wait, Parks and Public Facilities Director

Approved by: 
Chair Mason, Richland Parks and Recreation Commission