



MINUTES

Richland Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Richland City Hall – Council Chambers

625 Swift Boulevard

Thursday, November 16, 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, Watrous, Hodges, Lunstad, Gubba, and Thallapally were present.

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

APPROVAL OF THE NOVEMBER 16, 2024, AGENDA:

Commissioner Gutierrez moved to amend the November 16, 2024, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agenda. Commissioner Thallapally seconded the motion, which was approved 9-0.

APPROVAL OF THE FOLLOWING MINUTES:

- **October 24, 2024, Special Meeting**
- **October 24, 2024 Workshop**
- **October 26, 2024 Park Tour**

Vice Chair Gutierrez moved to approve the meeting, workshop, and park tour minutes. Commissioner Buelt seconded the motion, which was approved 9-0.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Council Liaison Kent presented the Council Liaison Report.
Subjects included: 2025 Budget public feedback encouraged.

RECREATION REPORT:

Recreation Manager Piper presented the Recreation Report.
Subjects included Youth basketball registration, the 2024 Winter Wonderland, and lighted vehicle parade, the community center's annual maintenance closure, and volunteers needed for Meals on Wheels.

PARKS AND FACILITIES REPORT:

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

Subjects included: the placement of the third donated Hosey sculpture, seasonal operations in the parks, tree trimming and replacement, and park winterization on irrigation and comfort stations, W.E Johnson Park, Sturgeon Cove playground in Howard Amon Park, Parks Open Space Master Plan.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Brien Reep

Richland Resident

Reep notified the commission that he is a homeowner in the Westcliff Heights neighborhood. He commented on the Little Badger Mountain trail project and summarized an email sent to staff in November 2023. Commissioners were provided with the correspondence.

Gary Westergard

Purple Sage Riders

Westergard inquired about a video sent to staff and questioned if the video was received.

Debbie Berkiwitz

Richland Resident, North Leslie Groves Native Plant Restoration Project

Berkowitz informed and invited commissioners and staff to assist with planting native plants on Saturday, November 16, 2024, from 1:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m.

Public Comment closed at 6:33 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

Tumbleweed Music Festival

Dave Carson and Katrina Knight – Festival Coordinator

The Tumbleweed Music Festival coordinators presented an overview to the Parks and Recreation Commission, supported by a detailed slideshow. Key highlights included the festival's history, its role in promoting local and regional music and its contribution to the community's cultural vibrancy. They discussed the logistics of organizing the event, partnerships with local organizations, and strategies for attracting attendees. The presentation also emphasized the economic and social benefits of the festival, including tourism and community engagement. Future goals, challenges, and opportunities for growth were outlined, fostering a collaborative discussion with the commission.

See3Slam

Terry Fleischman – Event Coordinator

Fleischman, the event coordinator of the 2024 See3Slam basketball tournament, provided a presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission, accompanied by a slideshow. The presentation highlighted the tournament's success, showcasing its role as a premier local sports event. Key points included participant turnout, community involvement, and the economic boost provided by the influx of visitors. The slideshow featured event highlights, logistical details, and feedback from participants and spectators. The coordinator discussed challenges faced during the event, strategies for improvement, and plans for enhancing future tournaments to ensure continued growth and positive impact on the community.

ADJOURNMENT:

The meeting adjourned at 7:43 p.m.

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

Reviewed by: 
Chris Waite, Parks and Public Facilities Director

Approved by: 
Chair Mason, Richland Parks and Recreation Commission