



MINUTES
RICHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING
Thursday, March 13, 2025
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

Regular Meeting - 6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order/Attendance:

Chair Mason	Present
Vice-Chair Gutierrez	Present
Commissioner Buelt	Present
Commissioner Hodges	Present
Commissioner Waltrous	Present
Commissioner Gubba	Present
Commissioner Thallapally	Not Present
Commissioner Lunstad	Not Present
Commissioner Cunningham	Not Present

Also present were the Council Liaison/Mayor Pro Tem Kent, Staff Liaison/Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite, Recreation Manager Piper, and Administrative Assistant II Roe.

Approval of Agenda: (Approved by Motion)

1. Approval of the *March 13, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting Agenda*

Vice-Chair Gutierrez moved, and Commission Hodges seconded the motion to approve the revised March 13, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting agenda. Motion carried 6-0.

Approval of Minutes: (Approved by Motion)

2. Approval of the January 9, 2025, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting and January 23, 2025 Workshop Minutes

Commissioner Buelt moved and Vice-Chair Gutierrez seconded the motion to approve the minutes of the January 9, 2025 Parks and Recreation Regular Meeting and January 23, 2025 Workshop Meeting Minutes. Motion carried 6-0.

Council Liaison Report

3. Mayor Pro Tem Kent provided the Council Report

Subjects Included: Mayor Pro Tem Kent stated the City authorized an agreement with Tripepi Smith and Associates, Inc. to improve communication with the public. City Council also approved a consultant agreement with Moore Iacofano Goltsman, Inc. for the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan. In conclusion, Mayor Pro Tem Kent announced a collaborative effort with Kadlec and Richland Fire & Emergency Services on May 7, 2025, for a Heart Safe event at the Richland Community Center at 6:00 p.m.

Recreation Report

4. Recreation Manager Piper provided the Recreation Report

Subjects Included: The Youth Basketball program season has ended, but late NFL Flag football program registration is still open. Updates on the Youth Volleyball program season are also included, as is the Ready Set Hop event scheduled for Saturday, April 12, 2025. Recreation Manager Piper also discussed gathering a roster of events with the commission at the next workshop.

Parks & Facilities Report

5. Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite provided the Parks & Facilities Report

Subjects Included: “52 in 25” program update, which will resume in warmer weather, Sturgeon Cove Playground reopening celebration on Friday, May 16, 2025, McMurray pathway scheduled for construction in early May. Stevens Drive entry to Columbia Playfields will be closed due to construction. Little Badger Moutai Trail project construction date is slated for 2026. Claybell Park Pickleball Court updates an update regarding the erosion on Columbia Park Trail near the Marriot and a final update on the Urban Greenbelt Trail kiosks.

Public Comments

None.

Presentations

6. Park Reopening Update

Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite provided an update on the reopening of Wye Park and Columbia Park West, detailing the challenges that led to the closure. Efforts before closure included increased patrols and amenity closures, but issues persisted. During the closure, extensive cleanup, vegetation management, and operational adjustments were completed. The phased reopening will begin with Columbia Park West, featuring increased ranger and police patrols, site modifications for improved visibility, and coordinated efforts with social services. The reopening strategy aims to restore safe public use while addressing ongoing challenges.

7. Amon Preserve Restoration

Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite provided an overview on the Amon Preserve Restoration, highlighting it as a first-of-its-kind conservation effort. Researchers and volunteers gathered at Amon Creek to harvest sagebrush from the area designated for road construction. The harvested sagebrush was relocated to the Rattlesnake Slope Unit of the Washington

Department of Fish and Wildlife (WDFW) Sunnyside-Snake River Wildlife Area and the Patterson Unit of Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge (NWR). These plants will act as artificial host plants, creating sagebrush island seed sources to support shrub layer restoration in degraded areas. This initiative aims to mitigate habitat loss and promote long-term ecological health. The presentation was recorded for future reference.

New Business

8. 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Goals

Parks and Recreation Commission Chair Mason discussed the 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) goals at previous meetings and workshops. Final editing and adoption amongst the commission were conducted. The final version of the goals will be presented to the City Council at a future council meeting. The Vice-Chair will make the final edits as recognized and discussed during the meeting.

Commissioner Buelt moved and Vice-Chair Gutierrez seconded the motion to approve the 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission goals. Motion carried 6-0.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 7:04 p.m.

APPROVED:



Samantha Mason, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair

PREPARED BY:



Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II

DATE APPROVED: March 27, 2025

DATE PUBLISHED: