



MINUTES

RICHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING & SPECIAL WORKSHOP

Thursday, April 10, 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	Not Present
Vice Chair Gutierrez	Present
Commissioner Buelt	Present
Commissioner Thompson	Present
Commissioner Jones	Present
Commissioner Hodges	Present (entered at 6:05 PM)
Commissioner Watrous	Present
Commissioner Thallapally	Present
Commissioner Kreis	Present

Also in attendance: Council Liaison, Mayor Pro Tem Kent, Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite, Recreation Manager Piper, and Administrative Assistant II Roe.

Approval of Agenda: (Approved by Motion)

1. Approval of the Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting and Special Workshop Agenda for April 10, 2025.

Commissioner Buelt moved, and Commissioner Watrous seconded the motion to approve the April 10, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting and Special Workshop Agenda. Motion carried 7-0.

Approval of Minutes: (Approved by Motion)

2. Approval of Minutes for Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting held on March 27, 2025

Commissioner Jones moved, and Commissioner Watrous seconded the motion to approve the Minutes for the Parks and Recreation Commission held on March 27, 2025. Motion carried 7-0.

Council Liaison Report:

3. Council Liaison, Mayor Pro Tem Kent, provided updates on recent City Council activities relevant to parks and recreation, including discussions on upcoming budget allocations and potential impacts on park development projects. Emphasis was placed on aligning park initiatives with broader city planning efforts to ensure cohesive community development.

Recreation Report:

4. Recreation Manager Piper reported on successful community events held in early spring, noting increased participation rates compared to previous years. Upcoming programs were highlighted, including new fitness classes and youth sports leagues promoting active lifestyles among residents. Efforts to expand outreach and engagement, particularly among underserved populations, were also discussed.

Parks & Public Facilities Report:

5. Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite provided detailed ongoing maintenance and improvement projects across various parks and facilities. Key projects included trail enhancements, playground equipment, and landscaping improvements to enhance the user experience. Staff also discussed plans for future developments, emphasizing sustainability and community input in the planning process.

Public Comments:

6. None. Public Comments closed at 6:14 PM

Presentation:

7. 2025 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan
Jon Pheanis, MIG Project Director

Jon Pheanis provided an overview of the 2025 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Comprehensive Plan. The presentation highlighted the plan's purpose and outlined several key outcomes: building ongoing momentum, updating the inventory and existing conditions, documenting community needs and priorities, redefining a community-supported vision and goals, identifying long-term direction, and ensuring alignment with other City planning efforts such as the Comprehensive Plan and Transportation System Plan. The presentation sets the foundation for continued engagement and strategic development of the City's parks and recreation system.

Adjournment

Meeting adjourned at 6:31 PM.

Special Workshop

Call to Order/Attendance:

Chair Mason	Not Present
Vice Chair Gutierrez	Present
Commissioner Buelt	Present
Commissioner Thompson	Present
Commissioner Jones	Present
Commissioner Hodges	Present
Commissioner Watrous	Present
Commissioner Thallapally	Present
Commissioner Kreis	Present

Also in attendance: Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite, Recreation Manager Piper, and Administrative Assistant II Roe.

Discussion Items:

8. Introduction of the 2025 Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan

Jon Pheanis, MIG Project Director

During a special workshop with the Commission, Jon Pheanis, Project Director with MIG, presented an in-depth overview of the 2025 Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan. The presentation focused on building upon existing momentum, updating the park system inventory, identifying community needs and priorities, and redefining a shared vision and goals for the future. Commissioners discussed the importance of equitable access, sustainable growth, and alignment with other City planning efforts. The session included dialogue on community engagement strategies, trail connectivity, maintenance priorities, and integrating the plan with future land use and transportation planning.

Adjournment:

Special Workshop adjourned at 7:59 PM

APPROVED:



Samantha Mason, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair

PREPARED BY:



Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II