



MINUTES

RICHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING

Thursday, June 12, 2025

Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers

625 Swift Boulevard

Meeting - 6:02 p.m.

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Call to Order/Attendance:

Chair Mason	Present
Vice Chair Gutierrez	Not Present
Commissioner Buelt	Present
Commissioner Thompson	Present
Commissioner Hodges	Present
Commissioner Jones	Not Present
Commissioner Watrous	Present
Commissioner Thallapally	Not Present
Commissioner Kreis	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. Motion to approve the agenda of the June 12, 2025, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.

Commissioner Buelt moved, and Commissioner Hodges seconded the motion to approve the agenda of the June 12, 2025, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. Motion carried 5-0.

Approval of Minutes: (Approved by Motion)

2. Motion to approve the minutes for the May 8, 2025, Parks and Recreation Commission meeting.

Commissioner Watrous moved, and Commissioner Buelt seconded the motion to approve the May 8, 2025, Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting minutes. Motion carried 5-0.

Council Liaison Report:

3. Mayor Pro Tem Kent provided the Council Liaison Report.

Subjects included: Mayor Pro Tem Sandra Kent began her report by recognizing local leadership and congratulating the Tri-Cities graduating class, with a special acknowledgment of Captain Marroquin from the Richland Fire Department. She noted that budget planning for 2026 is underway and encouraged community members to participate in the process. Kent also highlighted the Richland Public Library and Parks & Recreation's "Dive into Summer" program, inviting residents to explore the activities and resources available throughout the season.

Recreation Report:

4. Recreation Manager Piper provided the Recreation Report.

Subjects included: Recreation Manager Piper delivered the Recreation Report, highlighting current programs and upcoming events. She noted that George Prout Pool opened for lap swim sessions in May, with a lifeguard recertification course scheduled for June 13, 2025. Piper also promoted the "Dive into Summer" program and announced that swim lesson registration will open on June 18. She shared updates on community events such as the Tri-City Academy recital, Live @ 5, Mushroom Fest, Richland Regatta, Fusion Fest, and Pop-Up Play Days—all free and family-friendly. Additionally, Piper recognized the upcoming retirement of long-time Recreation Coordinator Stan Johnson, who will retire after 34 years of dedicated service to the City of Richland.

Parks & Public Facilities Report:

5. Director Waite provided the Parks and Public Facilities Report

Subjects included: Director Waite provided several departmental updates. He shared that the next phase of the Parks, Recreation, and Open Space (PROS) Plan is underway, with a community survey set to launch soon, and he reviewed the overall project timeline. Waite also updated on capital projects, including installing an informational kiosk along the GA Pehrson Urban Greenbelt Trail and the completed pathway at McMurray Park. A soft opening was held at West Village Park, part of the "52 in '25" initiative, and community feedback has suggested a firefighter-themed playground for the site.

The new playground at Howard Amon Park is now open, and budgeting is in progress to add shade structures. Facilities staff continue landscaping efforts in the Uptown and Parkway areas. Waite also noted ongoing infrastructure projects, including the sewer line repair at Janette Taylor Skate Park to restore restroom functionality, the Leslie Groves tennis courts construction, and the progression of 2025 Park Partnership Projects, such as collaborations with Allied Arts and the Hanford Reach. Lastly, a geotechnical investigation near Columbia Point Marina was completed, identifying shoreline stabilization needs that will be addressed moving forward.

Public Comments:

6. None. Public Comments closed at 6:33 PM

New Business:

7. Richland Library Donation Recognition Plaque
Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite

Staff presented a proposed recognition plaque for the Richland Public Library outdoor space. Although City Council has already approved the plaque, this presentation to the Parks and Recreation Commission serves as a housekeeping step in alignment with the City's Plaques and Markers Policy, which requires PRC review prior to Council approval. This step was inadvertently missed during the initial process.

The bronze plaque, to be mounted on concrete, will acknowledge the Richland Public Library Foundation and its donors for their contributions. The plaque text reads:

"A day without a friend is like a pot without a single drop of honey left inside."

--Winnie the Pooh

With gratitude to The Richland Public Library Foundation and its community donors for supporting this shared space where stories and friendships grow."

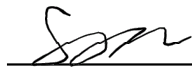
Staff recommendation supports installation as proposed.

Commissioner Watrous moved to approve the donation plaque that was recommended to City Council to acknowledge the Richland Library Foundation's donation for the Library Outdoor Space. Commissioner seconded the motion. Motion carried 5-0

Adjournment:

Meeting adjourned at 6:39 PM

APPROVED:



Samantha Mason, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair

PREPARED BY:



Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II