



**MINUTES**  
**Richland Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting**  
**Wednesday, August 14, 2025**  
**Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers**  
**625 Swift Boulevard**

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**Parks & Recreation Commission Special Meeting - 6:00 p.m.**

**Welcome and Roll Call**

**Pledge of Allegiance**

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|--------------------------|---------|
| Attendance: Chair Mason  | Absent  |
| Vice-Chair Gutierrez     | Present |
| Commissioner Buelt       | Present |
| Commissioner Jones       | Absent  |
| Commissioner Hodges      | Present |
| Commissioner Watrous     | Absent  |
| Commissioner Thompson    | Present |
| Commissioner Thallapally | Present |
| Commissioner Kreis       | Present |

Also present were Council Liaison/Mayor Pro Tem Kent, Staff Liaison/Parks & Public Facilities Director Waite, Recreation Manager Piper, Parks and Facilities Supervisor Colvin, and Administrative Assistant Christian.

**Approval of Agenda**

**COMMISSIONER KREIS MOVED AND COMMISSIONER BUELT SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE AUGUST 14, 2025, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

**Approval of Minutes**

1. Approval of the July 9, 2025, Parks & Recreation Commission Special Meeting Minutes.

**COMMISSIONER HODGES MOVED AND COMMISSIONER THOMPSON SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE JULY 9, 2025, PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.**

**Council Liaison Report**

Council Liaison Report, presented by Mayor Pro Tem Kent, highlighted continued planning efforts for the 2025 Ironman Washington Tri-Cities, emphasizing the central role of Richland's parks, especially the waterfront at Howard Amon Park and Columbia

Point Marina Park, as key venues. Feedback about the favorable swimming course, current, and event logistics was noted. Kent also commented on the ongoing interagency coordination involving public safety and volunteers to ensure a smooth and festive event.

## **Recreation Report**

Recreation Report, presented by Recreation Manager Piper, discussed preparations for the Ironman event, including the relocation of the transition area to improve spectator engagement, and adjustments to the bike route to enhance traffic flow near the new Costco.

## **Parks & Public Facilities Report**

Director Waite presented the Parks & Public Facilities Report, which included infrastructure-related updates related to the Ironman event and reiterated the city's commitment to facility readiness, safety measures, and event support.

## **Public Comments**

None.

## **New Business**

2. Park Safety and Security Update  
Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite

Director Waite outlined collaborative safety protocols for large-scale events, including enhanced security presence, crowd management, and volunteer coordination. As part of the year-long pilot program, the city has deployed solar-powered mobile security units stationed at Claybell Park, Badger Mountain Community Park, and the Uptown Shopping Center parking area. These units offer real-time monitoring and deter problematic behaviors while providing valuable evidence when necessary. The pilot's success will determine whether the program will be expanded or if units will be permanently installed. The city is also installing speed bumps and parking barriers to improve pedestrian safety within park areas.

Discussion only.

3. 2025 Ironman Washington Tri-Cities Update  
Recreation Manager Piper

Recreation Manager Piper delivered an update on the upcoming IRONMAN 70.3 Washington Tri-Cities event, scheduled for Sunday, September 21, 2025. She highlighted the significant economic impact anticipated—approximately \$7 million—

driven by the onset of athletes and spectators. Key locations like Howard Amon Park and Columbia Point Marina Park were emphasized for their roles in hosting the event. activities and showcasing Richland's scenic appeal. The Commission was informed of planned road closures and related traffic adjustments beginning September 2, particularly affecting major thoroughfares such as George Washington Way and the Aaron/Columbia Point Drive corridor. Finally, Piper underscored the importance of inter-departmental coordination, volunteer support, and engagement with local businesses to ensure a well-executed and community-beneficial event.

Discussion only.

### **Adjournment**

Vice Chair Gutierrez adjourned the meeting at 7:25 p.m.

APPROVED:

Maria Gutierrez

Maria Gutierrez, Parks & Recreation Commission Vice Chair

PREPARED BY:

Patty Roe

Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II