



MINUTES
Richland Parks & Recreation Commission Meeting | Special Workshop
Thursday, November 13, 2025
Richland City Hall ~ Council Chambers
625 Swift Boulevard

Parks & Recreation Commission Regular Meeting | Special Workshop- 6:00 p.m.

Welcome

Pledge of Allegiance

Attendance:

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

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

1. Approval of Agenda: (Approved by Motion)

COMMISSIONER BUELT MOVED, AND COMMISSIONER KREIS SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE NOVEMBER 13, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING AGENDA. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

2. Approval of Minutes: (Approved by Motion)

COMMISSIONER THOMPSON MOVED, AND COMMISSIONER KREIS SECONDED THE MOTION TO APPROVE THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2025, PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION MEETING MINUTES. MOTION CARRIED 6-0.

Presentations:

3. Silas Education Solar System Project Presentation
Trevor Macduff

Macduff presented an update on the Hanford Reach Solar System Project, a large-

scale outdoor model of the solar system located at The REACH Museum. The project places planet markers along regional trails at proportional distances to help the public explore astronomy through outdoor learning. The group reviewed current installations, future planned markers, and the educational and tourism benefits the project brings to Richland's parks and trail system.

4. See 3 Slam Annual Presentation Terry Fleischman

Fleischman provided an informational overview of the See 3 Slam 3-on-3 basketball tournament, discussing the event's history, community involvement, and interest in continuing or expanding the event within Richland's recreational offerings. The presentation introduced the commission to potential partnership or support opportunities.

5. Hanford Reach National Monument Citizens Committee Interpretive Kiosk Presentation Karyn Wiemers

The committee shared progress on the upcoming interpretive kiosk highlighting the Hanford Reach National Monument. They reviewed the kiosk design, planned interpretive content, and its purpose in educating park and trail users about the area's natural, cultural, and historical significance. The project is progressing through content review and installation planning, aimed at enhancing visitor understanding along Richland's waterfront and trail network.

Public Comments:

Laila Krowiak, Richland Resident

Krowiak, mother of a six-year-old, shared her perspective as a frequent bicycle commuter, praising the city's multi-use trails and wider bike lanes while noting safety concerns at certain intersections, such as G Way and Jadwin. She expressed alarm over high-speed e-motorcycles on trails, emphasizing that these are motor vehicles under Washington law but lack licensing or driver training requirements. She criticized the city's 15 mph trail speed limit as unenforceable and unfair to bicyclists, highlighting the lack of safe alternative routes and urging the city to provide more safe, comfortable, and clearly marked routes for both cyclists and pedestrians.

Sarah Letard, West Richland Resident

Letard expressed concern about misuse of the Riverfront trails, noting that some users travel at excessive speeds, small motorbikes are present, and trail users do not always share the path safely. The patron suggested the city consider improved signage and measures to enhance safety and encourage proper trail use.

Francesca Maier, Richland Resident

Maier, a certified League of American Bicyclists cycling instructor, provided information on proper bicycle etiquette and recommended the use of signage to

educate trail users about safe and respectful cycling practices.

Rich Mayer, Richland Resident

Mayer also agreed with the cycling instructor's comments, recommending improved education and signage to promote proper etiquette for bicycles, walking, and shared trails.

Mike Watkins, Richland Resident

Watkins, a certified League of American Bicyclists cycling instructor, provided information on a proposed resolution regarding shared trails and reiterated the importance of proper signage and education to ensure safe and respectful trail use.

Mike Weimers, Richland Resident

Weimers highlighted the distinction between e-bikes and motorcycles, discussed appropriate and safe trail speeds, and expressed the belief that the community can work together to help enforce safe trail use.

Ben Jensen, Richland Resident

Jensen suggested improved trail signage, thanked the City for renovating the tennis courts at Leslie Groves, and requested that pickleball lines be added to the courts.

Jim Hanson, Richland Resident

Hanson expressed confusion regarding the authority and responsibilities of park rangers, specifically related to their ability to enforce rules or provide education on park trails.

Dene Koons, Richland Resident

Krous reiterated previous comments, emphasizing that motorized vehicles on the trails are a significant safety concern.

Mike Walker, Richland Resident

Walker reiterated previous comments, emphasizing that ebikes and scooters on the trails are a significant safety concern. Also mentioned some maintenance issues that he would like to discuss with the proper staff later.

Eric Jensen, Richland Resident

Jensen reinforced previous comments, emphasizing that enforcing speed limits on the trails is a significant safety concern.

Richard Doval, Richland Resident

Doval reiterated previous comments, emphasizing that motorized vehicles on the trails are a significant safety concern and the city should use other ways of communicating to the community regarding the problems, rather than the use of social media.

Karyn Wiemers, Richland Resident

Weimers suggested a solution for improving trail safety and encouraged trail users to contact the police department's non-emergency line when issues arise.

Rebecca Burghart, Richland Resident

Burghart, an avid bicyclist, suggested setting a trail speed limit of 12–15 mph, noting that slower speeds can make it difficult for cyclists to maintain their balance.

Council Liaison Report:

Mayor Pro Tem Kent provided updates on city council initiatives and decisions affecting parks and recreation, including ongoing budget considerations, trail improvements, and support for community events. Kent also highlighted council interest in enhancing recreational infrastructure and coordinating with the Parks & Recreation Commission on long-term planning.

Recreation Report:

Recreation Manager Piper reported on current and upcoming programs, participation statistics, and facility use. Piper highlighted successful youth and adult recreation programs, noted community feedback, and discussed upcoming events and registration timelines. She also touched on efforts to improve program accessibility and promote community engagement.

Parks & Facilities Report:

Supervisor Colvin provided updates on parks maintenance, recent facility improvements, and ongoing capital projects. He discussed trail repairs, playground updates, and park safety initiatives, as well as scheduling and planning for upcoming park projects. He also noted challenges, including seasonal maintenance and staffing.

Parks & Public Facilities Report:

Director Waite presented a department-wide overview, which included major capital projects, park and trail improvements, and updates to public facilities. Waite highlighted coordination with other city departments, grant opportunities, and upcoming initiatives, including interpretive kiosks and educational projects. He also addressed staffing, community engagement, and strategies for maintaining and enhancing park assets.

New Business:

**6. West Village Community Park Playground Design Concept
Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite**

Director Waite presented the concept design for the West Village Community Park playground, developed based on community input gathered during a May 2025 outreach event. This Phase 2 presentation highlights features and themes preferred by the community. Staff noted that additional funding is programmed for 2026 to support construction; the shade structure shown is not included in this phase, and the final design will utilize a uniform safety surface. This item was presented for discussion only and will be returned for approval at the December meeting.

7. Little Badger Mountain Trailhead Parking Lot Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite

Commissioner Waite provided an update on the implementation of the Little Badger Mountain Loop Trail Master Plan, focusing on the parking lot and trailhead project, which is currently at 30% design. A community meeting was held on November 6, 2025, to gather input on trail alignment, access, parking, and interpretive features. The City is collaborating with Friends of Badger Mountain and their consultants to advance the project, which will feature a loop trail, trailhead parking, and support the future Gage Road extension, thereby promoting access to recreation and environmental stewardship.

Discussion only.

8. Trail Etiquette and Safety Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite

Director Waite reported an increase in trail user conflicts and inappropriate use, including the use of high-speed e-bikes, failure to signal when passing, and the operation of motorized mini-bikes on non-motorized paths. Staff recommended that if park safety is retained as a 2026 PRC goal, a subcommittee be formed to collaborate with community stakeholders on an awareness campaign promoting proper trail etiquette and responsible recreation. Proposed efforts include establishing volunteer "Trail Etiquette Ambassadors," conducting a signage audit to clarify permitted uses, and providing recommendations to reinforce safe and respectful trail behavior. Staff also requested Commission input on the timeline for developing 2026 goals.

Discussion only.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:08 PM.

Special Workshop

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Commissioner Hodges	Not Present
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Commissioner Watrous	Present
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Discussion Item:

1. Bike Park Discussion Parks and Public Facilities Director Waite

Representatives from the local chapter of the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance discussed potential future bike park and trail development in Richland. The discussion focused on opportunities to expand mountain biking amenities, enhance trail experiences, and collaborate with the City on locations and design concepts that support community recreation goals and sustainable trail practices.

Special Workshop Adjournment:

Special Workshop adjourned at 9:03 PM

APPROVED:



Samantha Mason, Parks & Recreation Commission Chair

PREPARED BY:



Patty Roe, Administrative Assistant II