



MINUTES

Richland Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting

Thursday, September 9, 2021 ~ 6:00 p.m.

Remote Meeting

CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Gutierrez called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Chair Gutierrez, Vice Chair Buelt and Commissioners Aldous, Arnquist, Mason, Henry and Brooks were present.

Commissioners Slougher was absent.

Also, in attendance were Parks and Public Facilities Director Schiessl and Recreation Coordinator Davis.

APPROVAL OF THE SEPTEMBER 9, 2021 AGENDA:

Vice Chair Gutierrez moved to approve the September 9, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting agenda. Chair Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

APPROVAL OF THE AUGUST 12, 2021 MEETING MINUTES:

Commissioner Henry moved to approve the August 12, 2021 Parks and Recreation Commission meeting minutes. Chair Gutierrez seconded the motion.

Motion approved 7-0.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Parks and Public Facilities Director Schiessl presented the Council Liaison Report.

Subjects included:

RECREATION REPORT:

Recreation Coordinator Davis presented the Recreation Report.

Subjects included: October 1st-2nd Cool Desert Nights, 2021 Geocoin Challenge update, fall season of NFL Flag football will begin September 11th, and the first fall softball tournament at Columbia Playfields will be on September 11-12.

PARKS AND FACILITIES REPORT:

Parks and Public Facilities Director Schiessl presented the Parks and Facilities Report: Subjects included: Fire Station 73 and Fire Station 75 near completion, dates for ribbon cuttings will be announced, and COVID Plan update.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Jennifer Ovink – 38 Vista Ct, Richland

Submitted a letter of concern with the walking path obtrusive rock lining in North Richland. Letter attached.

Public Comment closed at 6:17 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Property Encroachment at Claybell Park and Owner Request to Purchase
 - Joe Schiessl, Parks and Public Facilities Director

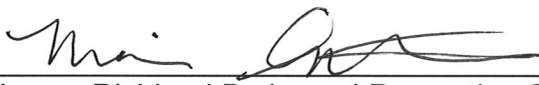
The City purchased property from Duane Smith in 2008 as part of the Amon Basin Natural Preserve located adjacent to Claybell Park. At the time of purchase, a small fence encroachment existed on the Smith property originating from 341 Gleneagles Court. The owner of 341 Gleneagles Court desires to purchase the encroachment area of approximately 1348 square feet at market value through the City's surplus process.

Discussion Only

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 6:38 p.m.

Reviewed by: Joe Schiessl, Parks and Public Facilities Director

Approved by: 
Chair Maria Gutierrez, Richland Parks and Recreation Commission



2021 PRC Meeting Comment Card

City of Richland

Submitted On:
September 9, 2021 1:55pm
America/Los_Angeles

2021 Meeting Dates	September 9, 2021
I wish to comment using the	Call-in Option - a Staff liaison will follow-up with contact information on how to attend the meeting.
Call-in Public Comments - Please share the topic to which you would like to provide comment on:	North Richland shoreline walking path obtrusive rock "lining"
Full Name	Jennifer Ovink
Address:	38 Vista Ct, Richland, WA, USA
Email	jdill7@gmail.com

I wanted to speak about the human-caused placement of medium sized river rock along side of the walking/biking path in North Richland. At the top of the path beginning at Ferry Street some people have been taking river rocks used to prevent erosion during rainstorms that are located at the top of the path and using them to line either side of the asphalt path that runs the length of the shoreline through the portion described as the North Leslie Groves Natural Area. This is north of the boat ramp and south of Ferry Street near Harris. The rock lining has progressed steadily since early this year until now it reaches about $\frac{1}{3}$ of the length on west side of the path and a short way on the east side of the path.

My issue is that these rocks were placed at the head of the path for erosion control, not to be used as ornamentation in other parts of the park. Second, I believe these rocks could be a potential trip and fall hazard for walkers, who often have to step off the path to the shoulder when bikers or others cause them to veer left or right off the path. They could also be a hazard for bikers who often leave the path for a short time to bike on the shoulder, or for joggers who prefer to run on the shoulder. These hazards would be especially present during the low light times of dawn and dusk. They are also in the way for those people permitted to augment the park with natural plantings. These folks have to bring wagons down to the park full of water jugs to water their plantings.

I have spoken to some of these “rock people” and they claim that it is their right to do what they please with the rocks and they feel they are part of a “community of neighbors working to beautify” the area. One gentleman told me “we voted and you were outvoted”—presumably meaning that my desire for no rocks lining the path was not favored by his “group”.

Several people have described this “ornamentation” to me as akin to graffiti. Meaning, that they are “decorating” the park in their own fashion without permission from any formal entity, group, or governmental organization. My question is, if some have to apply for a permit to change

the park, and sign waivers against harm and injury, shouldn't this apply equally to those who change the landscape by lining the path with rocks?

Ultimately, I would like the rocks removed and put back where they came from—at the head of the path or around the Ferry St. "beach" area.

Roe, Patricia

Sent: Wednesday, September 8, 2021 4:16 PM
To: Roe, Patricia
Subject: Rocks lining city path

I also incurred a photo of someone running on the shoulder as many do. The rocks could be a hazard if you're going from the path to the shoulder.



Looking north toward Ferry St entrance



Red rock is now a urinating target for dogs





Jogger on shoulder

-Jennifer Ovink
Sent from iPhone