



MINUTES

Richland Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting

Remote Meeting

Thursday, February 24, 2022 ~ 6:00 p.m.

CALL TO ORDER:

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

ATTENDANCE:

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

Commissioner Sullivan was absent.

Also, in attendance were Parks and Public Facilities Director Schiessl, Recreation Manager Jackson, and Council Liaison Alternate Richardson.

APPROVAL OF THE FEBRUARY 24, 2022 SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA:

Commissioner Gutierrez moved to approve the February 24, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Special Meeting agenda. Commissioner Mason seconded the motion. Motion approved 8-0.

APPROVAL OF THE JANUARY 13, 2022 MEETING AND JANUARY 27, 2022 WORKSHOP MINUTES:

Commissioner Lunstad moved to approve the January 13, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting minutes. Commissioner Aldous seconded the motion. Motion approved 8-0.

Commissioner Aldous moved to approve the January 27, 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Workshop minutes. Vice Chair Brooks seconded the motion. Motion approved 8-0.

COUNCIL LIAISON REPORT:

Council Liaison Alternate Richardson presented the Council Liaison Report. Subjects included: Purchase and sale agreement to acquire the Economy Inn Property located at 515 George Washington Way.

RECREATION REPORT:

Recreation Manager Jackson presented the Recreation Report.

Subjects included: One week left for recreation youth basketball season, registration open for spring league NFL Flag Football and Aloha Series grass volleyball program, E-Activity Guide available with several options of programs and classes, and park shelter reservations are available for rent.

PARKS AND FACILITIES REPORT:

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

Subjects included: Purchase of property, streetscape and landscape plan for the 515 George Washington Way property, Library Strategic Plan, and March 21st mask mandate and updated changes to come.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Nancy Doran, 1516 Johnston Avenue, Richland

Ms. Doran provided statements regarding the clean-up at Leslie Groves shoreline. Ms. Doran suggested that the Parks and Recreation Commission develop a comprehensive plan to revegetate the area with native plants and pollinators. Doran stated that she believes that any major changes in this area should have involved public comment. Ms. Doran would also like to suggest how information from the public is being passed on to the Parks and Recreation Commission be readdressed.

Kelsey Kelmel, 86016 N. Harrington Road, West Richland

Ms. Kelmel provided statements regarding the maintenance work completed south of Snyder. Kelmel suggested the creation and implementation of more hyperlocal native planting citywide and holistic comprehensive maintenance practices that would create resilient ecosystems. Ms. Kelmel also suggested utilizing local resources, programs and other conservation organizations that know how the non-human species are affected, find other examples from other parks and cities that have successfully incorporated such plantings and mimic them, identify desirable native plants that already exist and incorporate practices that promote the health and spread of these species, know your plants or collaborate with those that do, provide clear messaging and signage to educate the public. Lastly, Ms. Kelmel suggested ideas on how the community could get involved to create healthy ecosystems.

Kris McKinney, 1806 Hunt Avenue, Richland

Mr. McKinney thanked the city staff for he clean-up efforts at Leslie Groves Park, adding that the clean-up addressed developing safety and fire load issues and is in favor to eradicate the Russian olive plants and create space for nature habitat in the future.

Lower Columbia Basin Audubon Society- Conservation Chair, Dana Ward,
10112 Maple Drive, Pasco

Conservation Chair Ward shared the Audubon's concern with the removal of vegetation, tree trimming at Leslie Groves Park. Mr. Ward voiced his concerns for the welfare of the native birds and their habitat and shared how the birds in this area depend on the land for food and shelter and how the birds have been using the area for a seed source.

Jane Abel, 225 Indian Court, Richland

Ms. Abel commented on the removal of large areas of vegetation at south Leslie Groves Park. Ms. Abel stated correspondence was sent regarding the needs of wildlife and how devastating the clean-up was to the habitat. Ms. Abel agreed with the previous speaker and provided suggestions when replanting which would accommodate birds and pollinators.

Paul Knutzen, 5401 Ridgeline Drive, Kennewick

Mr. Knutzen provided statements supporting the landowners request to purchase the encroached property at Claybell Park, 341 Gleneagles Court.

Jeffrey Stevenson, 1612 Hains Avenue, Richland

Mr. Stevenson thanked the city for the clean-up efforts at Leslie Groves Park. Stevenson agreed that the clean-up has provided safety for public and welcomes the city for additional clean-up in the future.

Debbie Berkowitz, 544 Franklin St.

Ms. Berkowitz also provided statements regarding the removal vegetation Leslie Groves south, north of Snyder St. and Hains St. Levee, Berkowitz also suggested that the PRC review the letters sent by Ms. Abel. Berkowitz included statements referring to the Richland Municipal Code (RMC), Title 26 Shoreline Management. Ms. Berkowitz suggested that the PRC and staff converse with all stakeholders to discuss a plan for restoring and improving habitat for birds, pollinators, and other wildlife in this area.

Adam Fyall, 182 Alder Avenue, Richland

Mr. Fyall provided statements regarding Claybell Park Encroachment correspondence which was submitted on February 10, 2022 on behalf of Tapteal Greenway.
(Correspondence attached)

Public Comment closed at 6:44 p.m.

PRESENTATIONS:

None

UNFINISHED BUSINESS:

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

The City acquired property adjacent to Claybell Park on April 8, 1980 known as Tract C of Willobwrook No. 1. The property at 341 Gleneagles Court, abutting Tract C, encroaches (1,348 square feet) upon the City's property and the owner is requesting to purchase the land. The encroachment is presumed to pre-exist the City's acquisition of Tract C on April 8, 1980 as the building permit for 341 Gleneagles Court was issued on September 1, 1976.

The Parks and Recreation Commission originally considered this item consistent with RMC 3.06 on January 13, 2022 and recommended on a split vote to sell the encroachment area as requested by 341 Gleneagles Court. The item was re-discussed by the PRC on January 27, 2022 based on new property ownership information (reflected in the first paragraph herein). The PRC desires to obtain additional public feedback on this item. Per the Richland Municipal Code, the Parks and Recreation Commission, Physical Planning Commission and Economic Development Committee must first make a recommendation to the Richland City Council for their final decision.

The process includes two steps. First, should the property be surplussed? Items C 1-4 in 3.06.010 (attached) must be satisfied for an affirmation of the first question. Second, if the answer to the first question is yes, and the property is declared surplus by the City Council, how will it be sold, leased, or otherwise transferred? Items A-B in 3.06.040 must be evaluated to determine the desired process. The choices are a direct negotiation with one party or a public sale or auction available to any buyer. In this case, item 3.06.040 A (direct negotiation) would apply because the adjacent owner has requested to purchase the property, the encroachment does not meet the minimum lot size of the zoning district and could not constitute a legal property, and there is no access to the encroachment site.

No action required; the January 13, 2022 recommendation stands.

Per Roberts Rules of Order and the City Attorney, if the Parks and Recreation Commission desires to change the January 13, 2022 recommendation, a member previously voting on the affirmative side of the split vote will need to bring a motion to rescind (or amend) the previous decision. A decision to rescind (or amend) must be approved by a two-thirds majority. Any member can make a new motion after that.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission (PRC) Goals
Joe Schiessl, Parks and Public Facilities Director

The 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Goals have been discussed and developed by the PRC at several meetings and are now ready for adoption and presentation to the City Council.

Commissioner Gutierrez moved to adopt the 2022 Parks and Recreation Commission Goals with the following revisions:

P&RC Goal 2

Objective 2 – Review the maintenance agreements of relevant park partners to identify and recommend best practices with such groups as Friends of Badger Mountain and Tapteal Greenway Association.

Objective 3 – Partner with stakeholders to make recommendations for the maintenance, long term development and land use designation of Leslie Groves Park south of Snyder Street and north of Hains Levee comfort station.

**Vice Chair Brooks seconded the motion.
Motion approved 8-0.**

2. Park Hours

Joe Schiessl, Parks and Public Facilities Director

RMC 9.22.075 provides for park hours across all City parks. Draft Ordinance 2022-07 will be considered by Council February 15 and will provide opportunity to amend park hours to address exigent circumstances based on recent discussions by the Parks and Recreation Commission.

**Commissioner Lunstad moved to recommend that Council adopt Resolution No. 2022-07. Commission Aldous seconded the motion.
Motion approved 8-0.**

ADJOURNMENT:

Meeting adjourned at 7:35 p.m.

Reviewed by: Joe Schiessl, Parks and Public Facilities Director

Approved by: 
Chair Jim Buelt, Richland Parks and Recreation Commission