



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Mar. 20, 2024

4:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

Commissioners Present:

Haygood, Fletcher, Wille, Thompson

Commissioners Absent:

Kuntz, Robbins, Otto, Piland, and Panter

Staff Present:

Perlick, Cook, Gutierrez, Guzman, Burton, Stokke, Meade, Brosius, Donovan, Heath, Nilo, Hull, C. White, R. White, and Tubberville

Guests:

Katherine Kelley, Casey Liles, and Shilpa Mallem

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Haygood called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) regular meeting to order at 4:30 p.m. in the Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and online via Microsoft Teams. Commissioners Kuntz, Otto, Piland, and Panter were absent.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

PRAC approved the February 21, 2024 meeting minutes by consensus.

Item 3: Public Comment

None presented.

Members

Jaynee Haygood

President

Angilo Fletcher

Vice President

Jeremy Robbins

Mathew Kuntz

Jenny Thompson

Stephen Wille

Kerry Otto

AJ Panter, VPS

Cale Piland, EPS

Vacant, Parks Foundation

**Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Services
Department**

P.O. Box 1995

Vancouver, WA 98668

360-487-8311

TTY: 711

cityofvancouver.us

To request accommodation or other formats, please contact:

Alicia Nilo | 360-487-8311 | TTY: 711 | parksrecculture@cityofvancouver.us

Item 4: Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Update

Perlick introduced Katherine Kelley (Policy Advisor), Casey Liles (IBR Delivery Manager), and Shilpa Mallem (IBR Design Manager).

Mallem and Liles gave an overview of the Interstate Bridge Replacement Program Update. The project is a critical connection linking Oregon and Washington across the Columbia River. The Oregon and Washington Departments of Transportation are jointly leading the IBR Program.

Purpose and needs include 1) Safety, 2) Impaired freight movement, 3) Congestion, 4) Earthquake vulnerability, 5) Inadequate bike & pedestrian paths, and 6) Limited public transportation. There is additional emphasis on equity and climate are key priorities for the project.

The team presented a high-level program schedule with upcoming work items. Shilpa highlighted the latest updates and modifications of the program. Alternatives and options in the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement are currently being researched.

Wille asked if IBR is coordinating with environmental agencies so as not to interfere with environmental elements – Mallem confirmed that is correct. Fletcher asked the total estimated cost of the project – approximately \$6 Billion. Haygood asked for the estimated time of completion, and Liles is developing the summary of the delivery plan; it is an estimated 10+ years over the duration of the program. Liles explained that it will be built next to the I-5 Bridge while aiming to minimize impacts on interstate travel. Haygood commended the community outreach efforts for this project. Wille asked about stormwater treatment –Liles confirmed that all areas will be treated in this program.

Kelley notified the commission that they will be back in 4-5 months to share with PRAC about design updates and public engagement reflections.

Item 5: Recreation Staff Conversion Plan

Perlick gave an overview of recreation staffing challenges and impacts. As wages increase nationwide, our pay must remain competitive to retain staff. Without appropriate staffing, our programs cannot operate. Factors impacting our Aquatics include a decreased number of applicants for temporary positions and a national lifeguard shortage.

To mitigate this, our short-term solutions have been to increase pay for temporary staff, expand recruitment and training, and redeploy regular aquatics staff to support pool and program operations. Due to these efforts, new lifeguards have been hired, former lifeguards have returned, and most pool hours and classes have been restored.

For the long-term, a framework has been developed to convert key temporary positions into regular benefitted employees. Other roles will continue to work well within the City's new temporary staff guidelines.

The estimated annual cost for this conversion is \$1.6 million with a targeted \$500k associated revenue increase. This lowers our current cost recovery target from 72% to 55%.

Staffing conversion budget phases include adding Customer Service roles. The 2024 Spring Supplemental will include Aquatics roles and limited Parks and Events support roles. There is a strong commitment to retaining service levels throughout the process.

Item 6: Baseline Budget Calendar

Katherine Stokke gave an overview of the recreation staffing conversion, including a background of recent department budget history for the past 6 years. A lot of research and planning has been completed to address these issues.

The Operating Budget includes staffing, supplies and services, community centers and recreation planning, special events, volunteers, cultural services, and general department administration. Stokke highlighted the impacts of the Operating Budget to Actuals. We have been able to increase our revenue each year since the pandemic.

The Capital Budget includes land acquisitions, park development and redevelopment, major repairs and replacement, some staff time, and capital grants. The Capital Budget to Actuals reflects carryforwards and the rising cost of materials.

Stokke shared the Budget Development Timeline with all important upcoming dates. It was noted that we will return in May with key themes that will guide our budget requests that reflect our growth going forward.

Item 7: Director's Report

Due to time constraints, Perlick announced that the director's report updates will be emailed to commissioners.

Registration for summer recreation activities will open on April 17. We're introducing something new this year, where people who live within Vancouver city limits will be given 24-hour priority registration access. Those who live outside city limits will be able to register starting April 18. People who live within Vancouver city limits directly support our programs through their property taxes. As interest in our programs continues to grow throughout Clark County and beyond, Vancouver taxpayers will now have access to both the early registration window and lower program fees. Visit the [Recreation Fees and Residency webpage](#) on the City's website for information and FAQs.

Our senior recreation programs are being celebrated in a number of local publications. The City sends out a printed newsletter to households in Vancouver each quarter. The February edition featured a write up on how senior clubs and fitness classes are helping to combat isolation. The April edition of Clark County's Senior Finder magazine will include a story about how Firstenburg member Ann Wygal has found friendship, support and a renewed sense of purpose through her participation in senior fitness programs. The magazine will also feature a story about our popular Forever Young hiking program.

A Call for Artists is now open for the [2024 Vancouver Arts and Music Festival](#), Aug. 2-4. People can apply for the juried art shows, community stage performances, and art vendor booths. Artists of all backgrounds are encouraged to apply. Please share this information with any artists and performers you know. Applications are available on the Festival website.

Community engagement began last week to replace the playground at [Homestead Neighborhood Park](#) in East Vancouver. The current play equipment at the park was installed in 1991 and is ready for an upgrade. The playground theme includes a whimsical cloud and kite design. Neighbors are being invited to follow the project webpage on Be Heard Vancouver and participate in an online survey to select equipment and refine the design. Construction will begin late summer/early fall of this year.

The playground at Arnada Park is going to be closed starting at the end of this month and will reopen in May. We will be removing an old zip-line that is part of the existing play equipment and replacing it with new equipment designed for ages 2-5. The rest of the existing play equipment is in working condition and will stay

in place but the zip-line was identified as needing to be removed, so we worked with the neighborhood association to select what will go in its place.

Save the date for Earth Day, April 20, which will be a big day of celebrating Vancouver's indigenous communities. In the morning our Special Events team will be supporting the annual Chief Redheart Memorial Ceremony at the Fort. In the afternoon, Volunteer Programs is cohosting a community planting event with native plants, as part of the installation of a new spirit totem called "Mother Camas" by Yakama Tribe artist Toma Villa. We'll have a lot more information about these events coming out in early April.

Item 8: Chair Report

Haygood announced that April is Native Plant Appreciation Month and expressed interest in contacting school districts to spread awareness.

Item 9: Evergreen School District Report

None presented.

Item 10: Vancouver Public School Report

None presented.

Item 11: Open Discussion & New Business

Wille expressed interest in an update for the Bee City USA program. Haygood added that representatives from Bee City USA meet on First Tuesdays.

ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:01 p.m.



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Oakbrook Park Update

Roman Gutierrez

Park Developer

PRCS | April 17, 2024

Melody Burton

Sr. Communications Specialist

PRCS | April 17, 2024

Agenda



History

Project background,
master plan approval



Modifications

Changes to
Phase 1 plan



Revised Plan

Revised Phase 1
graphic



Next Steps

Updated timeline
and communication



Oakbrook Park Project Background

- Park reclassified in the 2022-2031 Comprehensive Plan
- Robust community engagement throughout 2022
- Master plan and Phase 1 approved December 2022
- Fall 2023 construction pushed to Spring 2024; playground removed
- Spring 2024 pushed to Fall 2024



Original Phase 1 Plan at Oakbrook Park

- New Wetlands-Themed Inclusive Play Area
- 4 New Pickleball Courts
- Portland Loo Restroom
- Sidewalk Along 99th Ave.
- Habitat Restoration and Improvements
- Native Planting Areas
- Picnic Shelter



Revisions to Phase 1

Changes implemented through ongoing community feedback

- Inclusive Playground
taller play mound with slide and ramp, new rope climber, seat walls, shade trees and low shrubs
- Nature Play Area
log climbers and stump steppers on the east side of the park
- Pickleball Courts reoriented
- Widen NE 99th Ave.
fire access and legal street parking



Removed from Phase 1

Changes implemented through ongoing community feedback

Native Planting Areas on East and North Side of Park

- Moved to next phase
- Southwest native plantings will continue with Naturespaces

Habitat Restoration

- Moved to future phase for further discussion with stormwater and Naturespaces

Picnic Shelters

- Low community priority, moved to next phase



Revised Phase 1 Plan at Oakbrook Park

- Wetlands-Themed Inclusive Play Area
- 4 New Pickleball Courts
- Nature Play Area
- Portland Loo Restroom
- Sidewalk Along 99th Ave.
- Widening NE 99th Ave. for street/ADA parking
- Native planting on the southwest side of the park



Next Steps



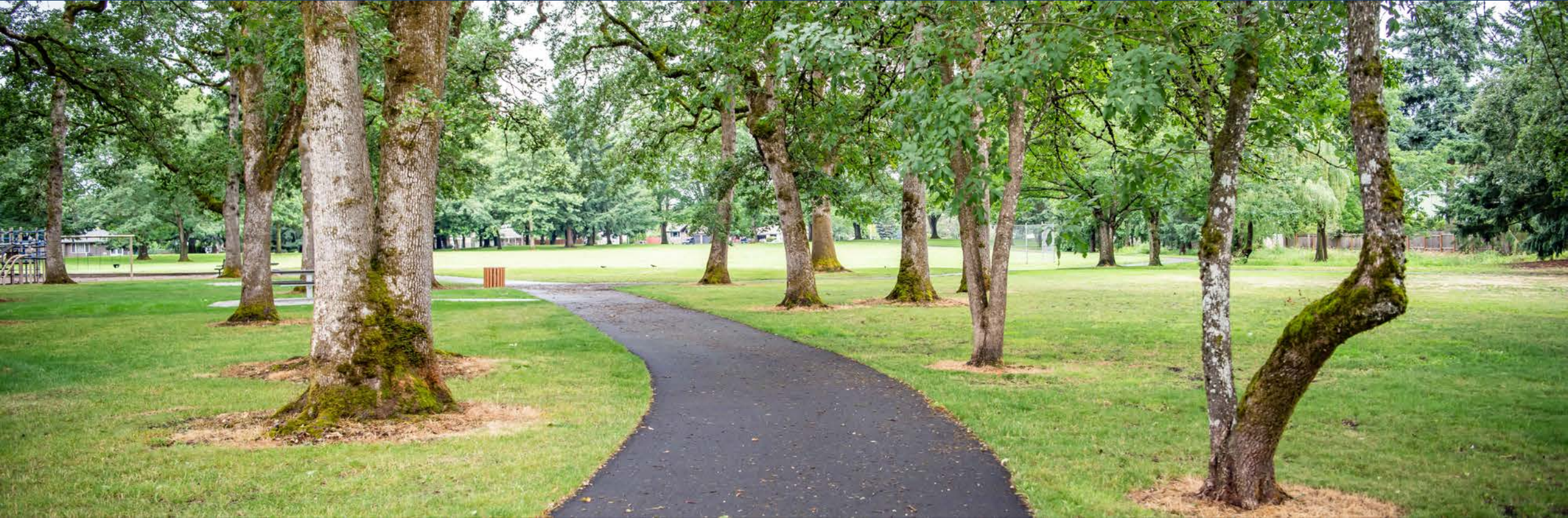
New nature play area will be constructed by July. The rest of Phase 1 construction will begin in the fall with completion in summer 2025.



Discussion



Thank You





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Summer Recreation and Special Events

Angela Brosius
Firstenburg Director

Andy Meade
Marshall Director

Stacey Donovan
Cultural Services
Manager

Sean Douglas
Special Events
Permitting Manager





Recreation Update

- Community value
- Returning programs
- New this year
- Challenges and innovations
- Questions and discussion



Community Value of Summer Recreation

- Free and fee-based programs with scholarships available
- Critical childcare for working families when school is out
- Variety of locations across the city with school partners
- Support public health and safety
- Prioritize programs for vulnerable, underserved populations





Summer Recreation Community Touchpoints

- Camps
- Classes, Activities and Leagues
- Community Center Use



Day Camps

Full-day camp programs
operated by PRCS staff

- Scholarship eligible
- Payment plans available
- Marshall and Fircrest Youth Day Camps (Ages 6-10)
- Firstenburg Teen Camp (Ages 11-14)
- Jim Tangeman Center Access to Recreation Camp (Ages 13+)



Summer Playgrounds Camps

Free, outdoor camps operated by PRCS staff



- Hosted at Crestline Elementary School, Evergreen Park and Hough Elementary School
- Provided at no cost to people who live within specified school boundaries
- Lunch provided by the USDA Summer Meal Program
- Camps are open to ages 6-11; lunch is served to ages 18 and under
- Made possible through support from the McClaskey Family Foundation



Summer Activities, Classes and Leagues

Programs for youth, teens, adults, seniors and people with disabilities

General Activities

- Rock Climbing
- Pottery
- Music
- Dance
- Softball
- Swim Lessons

Access to Recreation

- Arts and Crafts
- Pottery
- Aquatics
- Fun and Fitness
- Hangout Hour
- Social Dances
- Monday FunNite
- Bowling

Senior Activities

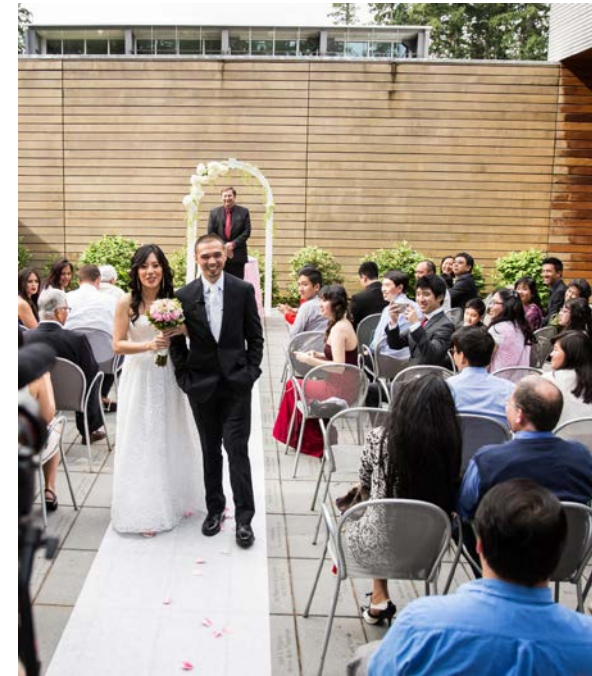
- Hikes
- Social Clubs
- Social Dances
- Music



Community Centers

Our facilities are important resources in the community

- Ongoing memberships
- Drop-in visitors
- NEW Summer Youth Passes
- Pool use
- Graduation parties and private rentals
- Safe, free public space during heat and wildfire emergencies



Addressing Challenges with Innovation

Interest in summer programs will exceed what we are able to offer

Priority registration for people who live within Vancouver city limits

Partner with community providers to expand camp offerings

- Vancouver Volcanoes
- UK International Soccer
- 18 Shots Junior Golf
- Skyhawks Sports
- Jordan Kent's Just Kids Skills Camps
- USTA Pacific Northwest RecTennis
- LEGO STEM Explorers
- LEGO STEM Engineers



Recreation Discussion



Special Events Update

- Special Events Team
- City sponsored events
- City partnered events
- Permitted events
- Questions and discussion



Meet the Special Events Team

This team is part of the Cultural Services Division of PRCS

Stacey Donovan

Cultural Services Manager

Sean Douglas

Special Event Permitting Manager

Kirsten Hull

Cultural Services Support Specialist

Erik Miletich

Special Events Coordinator

Meg Johnson

Special Events Specialist



Summer Concerts

Waterfront Concert Series

- Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
- July 11 - Aug. 15
- Waterfront Park

Sunday Sounds Concert Series

- Sundays from 6 to 8 p.m.
- July 7 - Aug. 18
- Columbia Tech Center Park



Summer Movies

Fridays at dusk in parks across the city, July 12 – Aug. 23

- Bagley Park
- Nikkei Park
- Marshall Park
- Esther Short Park
- Fruit Valley Park
- David Douglas Park
- Columbia Tech Center Park



Cultural Event Partnerships

Sharing event planning leadership to community partners

**Juneteenth with
Odyssey World International**
Saturday, June 15 | Esther Short Park

**Día de Muertos with
Vancouver Ballet Folklórico**
Oct. 19 | Esther Short Park

**Children's Festival with
Columbia Play Project**
Saturday, June 22 | Waterfront Park

**Holiday Tree Lighting with
Rotary International**
Friday, Nov. 29 | TBD

**Vancouver Arts & Music Festival with
Vancouver Symphony Orchestra**
Aug. 2 – 4 | Esther Short Park

**Menorah Lighting with
Chabad of Clark County**
Dec. 26 | TBD





WRPA Conference Presentation:
Illuminating Community through
Cultural Event Partnerships

*Stacey Donovan, Erik Miletich
and Anna Cruz from Vancouver
Ballet Folklórico*



Permitted Event Growth and Challenges

Interest in summer programs will exceed what we are able to offer

Permitted Events, Shelter Reservations and Park Use Permit requests have increased beyond levels we experienced pre-pandemic

Major Construction Projects: Salmon Run Bell Tower Restoration, Main Street Promise and Waterfront Gateway

Managing public expectations and preparing for the future

- 1 FTE in supplemental budget request
- 1 FTE in 2025-26 biennium budget request



Special Events Discussion





Share Summer Job Opportunities

Our staff enjoy active, meaningful work that serves the community and develops job skills. (Ages 16+)

- Camp Staff
- Aquatics Staff
- Special Events Staff
- Apply at cityofvancouver.us/RecJobs

