

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, Nov. 15, 2023

4:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

415 W. 6th Street

Vancouver, WA

Commissioners Present:

Haygood, Fletcher, Robbins and Kuntz

Commissioners Absent:

Crow, Panter, and Piland

Staff Present:

Perlick, Zoltie, Hannon, Cook, Stokke, Meade, Brosius, Tubberville, Gutierrez, C. White, Burton, Hull, Heath, Donovan, R. White,

Guests:

None

Item 1: Call to Order

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

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

PRAC approved the September 20, 2023, meeting minutes by consensus.

Item 3: Public Comment

Seven community members provided public comment on Item 4, Recreation Program Staffing Challenges and Strategies, concerning the reduction of water exercise classes at Firstenburg Community Center and Marshall Community Center.

Members

Jaynee Haygood

President

Angilo Fletcher

Vice President

Jeremy Robbins

Mathew Kuntz

AJ Panter, VPS

Cale Piland, EPS

Syble Crow, Parks

Foundation

**Parks, Recreation and
Cultural Services
Department**

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Item 4: Recreation Program Staffing Challenges and Strategies

Perlick gave an overview of the memo titled Response to Recreation Program Staffing Challenges dated November 14 and echoed the real-life impacts to patrons and staff raised by speakers at Public Comment. Swimming pool hours of service have been reduced by half since the beginning of the year due to loss of staff. Equity in service reduction was carefully considered and the cuts were spread across a variety of program types, days, times, and locations.

The memo described several short-term and long-term options that are being considered to both address the current lifeguard shortage and to develop a more sustainable staffing approach that considers the logistical and financial limits of temporary part-time employment. Long term solutions will require a new employee classification and pay structure and the goal is to develop recommendations by February 2024 that can be addressed through the spring supplemental budget. Perlick additionally acknowledge the community's desire to be a part of the problem solving process as raised at Public Comment.

Fletcher thanked staff and agreed that regular updates will be helpful going forward. Haygood noted that non-wage benefits are increasingly important in recruiting and noted that PRAC may need to advocate for that when the time comes.

Item 5: VIC Development Update

Perlick provided updates on the Vancouver Innovation Center (former HP site in east Vancouver). In 2021 the property was rezoned to mixed use from light industrial and a development was planned for the site. The developer is currently working on an updated proposal that will go to the Planning Commission on December 12.

The new proposal does not include any changes to the park size or site. The 13.6-acre park is maintained via a restrictive covenant associated with the property. The park will be transferred to the city as intended and PRCS is committed to community engagement, tree preservation, and constructing phase 1 improvements within 3 years. Master planning will begin in 2024.

Item 6: Waterfront Gateway Overview

Zoltie gave an overview of the Waterfront Gateway project. The site consists of the City-owned property surrounding City Hall. The City is redeveloping the property in partnership with the developer, Lincoln Property Company.

The site plan includes a mix of market rate units, affordable units, retail space, office space and 2 acres of open space. The open space is mostly hardscaped, with a designated plaza area adjacent to City Hall to accommodate events and markets. PRAC will review and approve its design in March 2024. The plaza design will have a community engagement process that includes branding of the plaza to make it a distinctive place.

Haygood expressed concern about parking and Robbins added that accessible parking spaces (and enforcement of those spaces) are needed throughout downtown.

Item 7: Parks Update

Hannon provided updates on various park development projects:

- Minor design changes to Oakbrook Park include relocating the pickleball courts away from residences and into a natural depression to attenuate noise. Stage one construction will start this fall.
- PRAC will approve the Bagley Park master plan in February or March and phase one construction will be completed by 2026.

- PRAC will approve the Shaffer Park master plan in February.
- The playground theme for VanVleet is Western Wildlife. Construction starts next month.
- The playground theme for Columbia Lancaster is STEM. Construction starts next month.
- The playground theme for Fruit Valley is Birds of the Lowlands and the master plan will be ready in January.

Robbins noted he attended a tour of local Harpers Playgrounds and saw that the mallets were missing from musical instruments at every site. Hannon agreed that it was a universal problem and that either a better anchor was needed from the manufacturer, or they would look at options for instruments that can be played with a hand strike rather than mallets.

Item 8: Director's Report

None presented.

Item 9: Chair Report

Haygood recommended Vancouver Family Magazine's article on Marshall Park published in November 2023.

Item 10: Evergreen School District Report

None presented.

Item 11: Vancouver Public School Report

None presented.

Item 12: Parks Foundation Report

None presented.

Item 13: Open Discussion

Robbins encouraged more signage in multiple languages and in braille. Kuntz announced that he will give an update on the pollinator subcommittee at the next meeting.

ADJOURNED

This meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.



CITY OF
Vancouver
WASHINGTON

Get to Know Parks, Recreation & Cultural Services

David Perlick

Director

Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

January 24, 2024



Agenda

- Guiding Policies
- Divisions and Key Projects
- Role of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission
- Discussion



Guiding Policies



Council Priorities

City Leadership



City Values

Employee Culture



Comprehensive Plan

Community Goals



Best Practices

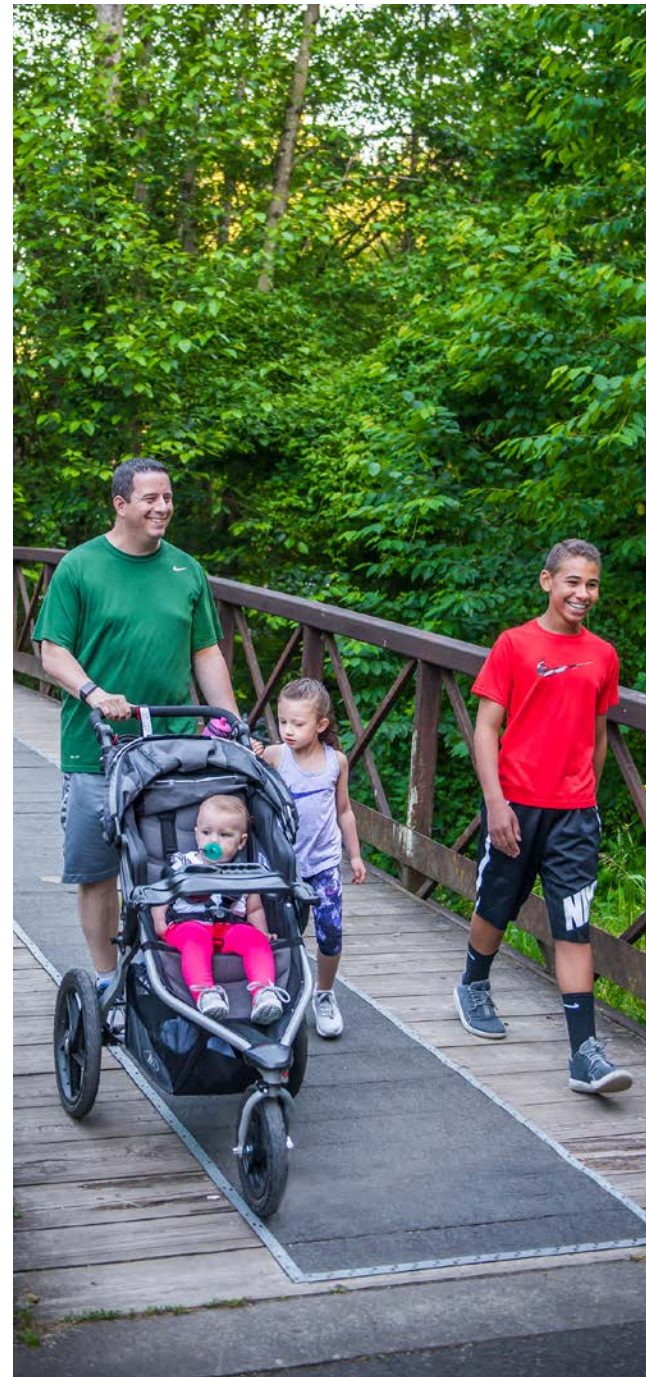
Industry Standards



Council Priorities

Five core priorities identified by Vancouver City Council

- Livability
- Equity and Inclusion
- Innovation
- Sustainability and Resiliency
- Community Trust and Relationships



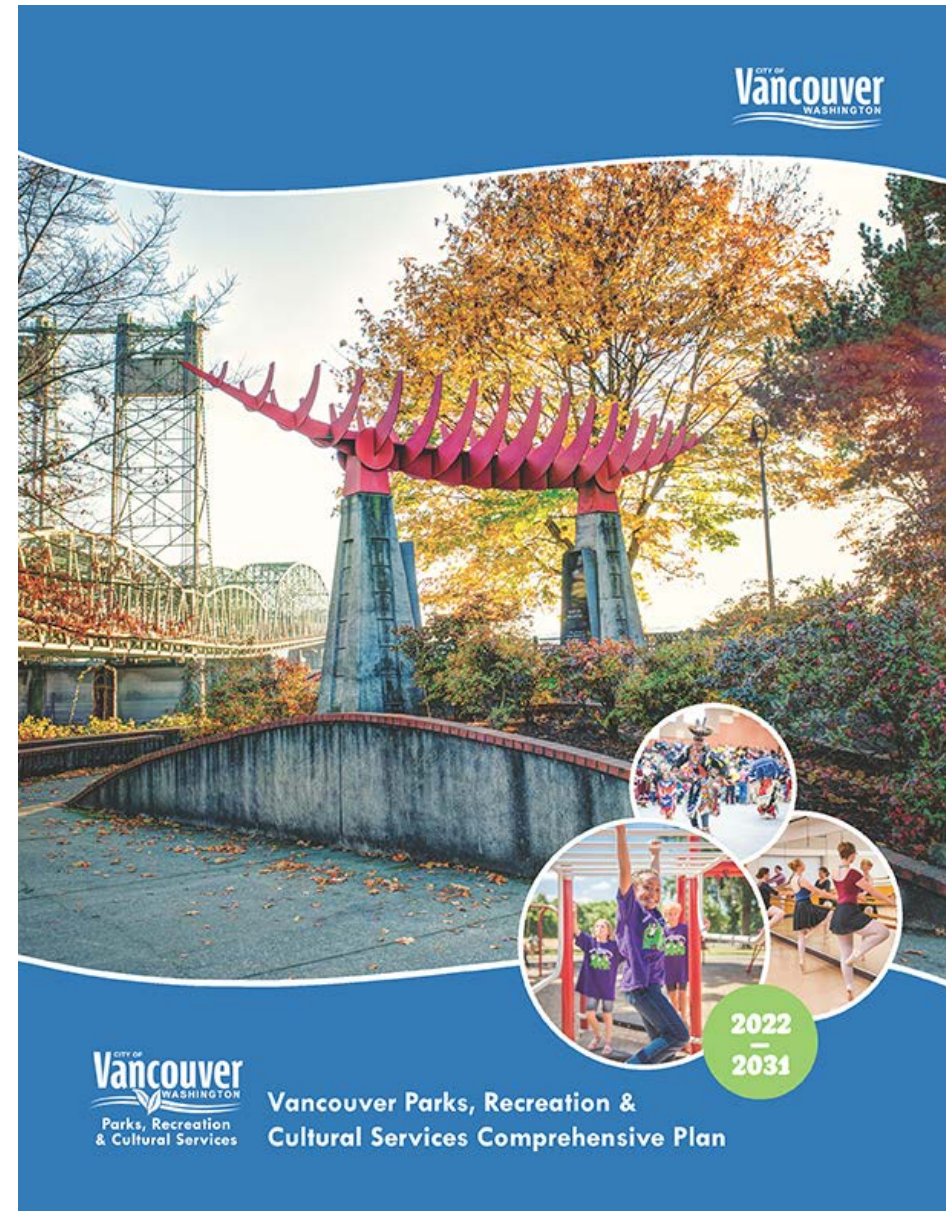
City Values

Unifying values create an employee culture with shared accountability and expectations



Comprehensive Plan

Work plan for 2022-2031
created in collaboration
with the Vancouver
community



PRCS Comprehensive Plan Community Goals

Community Goals 1-4

1. Safe, equitable access to parks, natural areas and public arts and culture spaces
2. Interconnected parks system that supports alternative modes of transportations, public health, recreational opportunity and environmental stewardship
3. Preserve Vancouver's history and cultural heritage
4. Expand existing tools to guide project funding priorities with an equity lens



PRCS Comprehensive Plan Community Goals

Community Goals 5-8

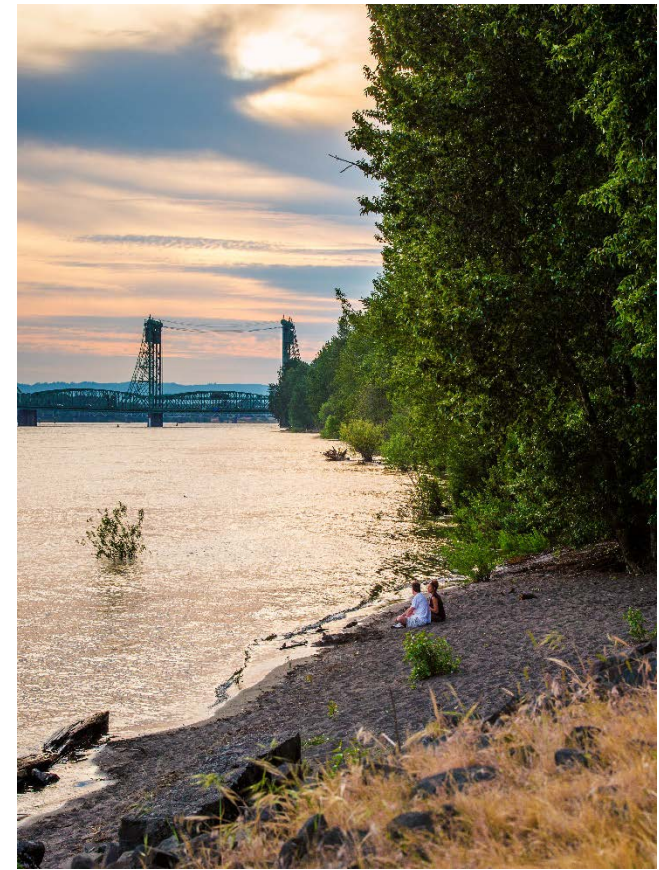
5. Update existing “Improvement Level” definitions to include innovative approaches that meet the needs of a growing and diversifying community
6. Maintain and enhance the parks system, recreation facilities and community assets to meet identified standards
7. Establish and meet the goals outlined in division program areas
8. Reflect the community we serve through creative public engagement, collaborative planning and culturally responsive communication



Best Practices

Other organizations that guide our work

- **WRPA** – Washington Recreation and Parks Association
- **NRPA** – National Recreation and Parks Association
- Other organizations focused on equity and inclusion, event and volunteer management, and safety





Vancouver Parks, Recreation and Cultural Services

- Parks Division
- Recreation Division
- Cultural Services Division
- Administrative Division



Parks Division

Acquire, develop and maintain parks, trails and natural areas

Managing Staff:

Terry Snyder

Monica Tubberville

Assets:

2,246 Acres of Park Land

82 Parks

28 Natural Areas

20+ Miles of Trails

Team Roles:

- Park Planner
- Park Developer



Parks Division

Key Projects in 2024

- Acquiring new park property
- Master planning and construction
- Pursuing grants
- Developing code updates
- Begin focusing on trail expansion
- Interstate Bridge Replacement
- Engaging City development projects
- Replacing aging features and playgrounds



Recreation Division

Aquatics, sports, fitness and social connections for all ages

Managing Staff:

Angela Brosius
Andy Meade

Facilities:

Firstenburg Community Center
Marshall/Luepke Community Center

Team Roles:

- Center Director
- Administrative Assistant
- Recreation Coordinator
- Recreation Specialist
- Facility Assistant
- Customer Service Representative



Recreation Division

Key Projects in 2024

- Reorganizing recreation workforce to convert temporary staff to benefitted roles
- Cost of service study and adjustment of program fees
- Strategic program growth
- Increasing equity and access



Cultural Services Division

Special events, volunteering, community gardens and park permits

Managing Staff:

Stacey Donovan

Assets:

- Vancouver Arts Hub Building
- 28 Public Art Features

Additional Oversight:

- Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission

Team Roles:

- Special Events Permitting Manager
- Special Events Coordinator
- Special Events Specialist
- Volunteer Coordinator
- Volunteer Assistant
- Support Specialist



Cultural Services Division

Key Projects in 2024

- Strategic growth of events and cultural partnerships
- Event impacts due to Propstra Square construction
- Vancouver Arts Hub and Arts & Music Festival
- Naturespaces Pilot Program



Administration Division

Performance metrics, support and communication for all divisions

Managing Staff:

David Perlick

Team Roles:

- Management Analyst
- Tech Systems/Park Operations
- Communications Specialist
- Marketing Assistant
- Administrative Assistant



Administrative Division

Key Projects in 2024

- Strategic planning with PRAC
- Community engagement and education
- Preparation for biennial budget requests
- Updates to the City intranet
- Department workplans and metrics



Commissioner Role

Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission Duties

- Advise department staff
- Make recommendations to City Council
- Advocate for park and recreation issues among decision makers
- Connect with community members and provide information about PRCS





Ways Get Involved

- Policy creation and review
- Sit on a strategic subcommittee
- Attend department events in the community
- Connect with community partners and organizations
- Advocate at City Council and other community meetings





What to Expect in 2024

- Visit Parks and Community Centers
- Improved Communication
- Strategic Retreat
- WRPA State Conference in Vancouver



Get to Know the Commissioners

- What inspired you to join the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission?
- How do you hope to impact the community through your role as a commissioner?
- Do you have any questions about what was covered today?



Thank You

