



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, September 17, 2025

4:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

Commissioners Present:

Cavaness, Fletcher, Thompson, Luce, Wille, Robbins, and Striplin

Commissioners Absent:

Piland and Panter

Staff Present:

Perlick, Snyder, Tubberville, Gutierrez, Guzman, Heath, Burton, Hull, Gigler, Stokke, Meade, Johnson, and White.

Guests: Carmen Deleon, Kimberlee Elbon, Kelly Moyer

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Cavaness called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) regular meeting to order at 4:44 p.m. in the Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and online via Microsoft Teams. Commissioners Piland and Panter were absent.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

PRAC approved the July 16, 2025, meeting minutes by consensus with no changes.

Item 3: Public Comment

Kimberlee Elbon, life citizen of Clark County, and born in Vancouver shared that she would like parks to have fruit trees and berry bushes to support wildlife as well as feed people as a means of sustainability. She highlighted the importance of preserving and stewarding land for pollinators with less emphasis on hardscape development.

Members

Jayne Cavaness
President

Angilo Fletcher
Vice President

Jeremy Robbins
Jenny Thompson
Stephen Wille
Valerie Striplin
James Luce
AJ Panter, VPS
Cale Piland, EPS
Vacant, Parks Foundation

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Carmen Deleon suggested designing traditional park play equipment that features obstacle courses, balance beams, rings, and climbing elements that focus on upper body strength. She emphasized how playing in parks is great exercise for children to enhance physical strength and suggested any Olympic play equipment is approached at the guests' own risk to avoid liability issues.

Item 4: Workshops

a. Bagley Community Park Phase I Update

Terry Snyder shared an overview of the Bagley Park Phase I master plan.

Project History:

- 2023-2024: Master planning / public outreach
- Feb 2024: PRAC approved master plan
- March 2024 – Sept 2025: Finalize a phase I budget and scope for consultant
- Sept 2025: Update PRAC with a vision for phase I development

Bagley Park Master Plan: \$17.4 million, with a \$6.8 million Phase 1 which includes: Phase 1 playground, entry plaza, remove softball fields, picnic tables, benches, gathering areas, large community event space, park promenade, paved path system, new trees and landscaping, cleanup of the woodland area, single-stall restrooms, safety lighting, and stormwater improvements

Project Timeline:

- October 2025: MIG Contract amended and Notice to Proceed Issued
- Fall 2026: Construction Drawings and Permits Completed
- Winter 2026/27: Request Bids for Construction
- Spring 2028: Project Complete

An open discussion was held regarding the Bagley phase I project. Fletcher asked for clarification regarding funding sources, and Snyder confirmed additional funding from ARPA and other sources to increase the original amount allocated for Phase I. Fletcher asked about coming up with a theme that speaks to the diverse cultural backgrounds – have Parks considered using AI to generate ideas? Snyder affirmed that any tools to help shape themes will be utilized. Perlick agreed on creating holistically representative themes, for example a lot of red colors. Cavaness loved the preserved woodland and addition to the tree canopy. She suggested going forward with community outreach, adding an adopt-a-park group to help involve folks from the ground up. Educational signage for the trees was also recommended.

b. Jaggy Road Playground Update

Omar Guzman presented an update on the playground replacement process, outlining the project neighborhood location and background.

- 3.4-acre neighborhood park
- North-Central Vancouver
- Serves the Van Mall and Walnut Grove neighborhoods
- Amenities include walking paths, picnic tables, benches, playground, basketball court, drinking fountain, and open irrigated lawn

April-May survey results: Butterfly Garden was the strongest desired theme.

Elements of the Master Plan include ages 1-2 play area, ages 5-12 play area, swings, existing basketball court, existing drinking fountain, bench, picnic tables and ADA picnic tables, artificial turf, wood chips, existing path, and playground access.

Playground Replacement Timeline

- April-May 2025: Project start and design development public survey
- June-Nov 2025: Refine design and share with community at Open House
- Dec-Feb 2026: Apply for permits and design complete; secure contractor
- Mar-Jun 2026: Start construction and completion of project

The floor was opened for questions from commissioners. Robbins asked if there are any plans to revitalize the dry side of the park; there was discussion of adding a path system, but it is not feasible to extend out to the side that is a functioning stormwater collection facility. Cavaness added that a butterfly theme needs pollinator plants – could we add in those areas? Guzman said UF will come in and plant additional trees and we can locate some flower beds or places for shrubs. There will also be benches and picnic table seating for adults. Luce asked if the park would include a splash pad. This is not proposed currently at this park, as water features are expensive to build and to operate.

c. Cultural Access Program Update

Perlick shared a policy overview of the Vancouver Cultural Access Program.

What is Cultural Access?

- A publicly funded program created in 2015 that expands community access to cultural programs in science, heritage and the arts
- 0.1% increased sales tax adopted Dec 2, 2024, with ordinance M-4481
- The City collects the tax and administers the program to distribute funds
- ELIGIBLE: cultural nonprofits and individuals with an eligible fiscal sponsor
- INELIGIBLE: state agencies, city governments, private foundations, radio or television broadcasting network or stations, cable communication systems, internet-based communications venture or services, newspapers, magazines

Public Benefits

- **Expanding Access & Engagement**
 - School-based programs for K-12
 - Free/low-cost admissions
 - Transportation to cultural events
- **Strengthening the Cultural Ecosystem**
 - Operating support for cultural nonprofits
 - Capital investments in accessible cultural spaces
 - Long-term sustainability and outreach programs
- **Driving Economic & Community Vitality**
 - Job creation in creative sectors
 - Cultural tourism and business growth
 - Community events foster civic pride
- **Fostering Innovation & Creativity**
 - Lifelong learning and creating exploration for all ages

- Cross-sector partnerships between schools, nonprofits and the City
- Platforms for diverse voices and community storytelling

Eligibility:

- Have a primary mission focused on arts, culture, heritage, or science
- Be a 501(c)(3) nonprofit incorporated in Washington or apply with a qualified fiscal sponsor
- Be located within Vancouver city limits or deliver at least 55% of programming within city limits
- Provide cultural programming directly to people who live within Vancouver city limits

Funding Categories and Allocation (Grant types, program costs, and allocation minimums)

- Impact Grants: \$10k - \$75k (minimum 10% of available funding)
- Innovation Grants: \$5k - \$25k (minimum 5% of available funding)
- Comprehensive Grants: \$100k - \$300k (minimum 10% of available funding)
- Capital Grants: \$300k+ (minimum 15% of available funding)
- School Grants: minimum 10% of available funding
- Program Administration: 10% of available funding

Annual Allocation:

- 60% *designated* to identified grant categories (est. \$4.2 mil)
- 40% *flexible* to be directed toward opportunities for greatest public benefit (est. \$2.8 mil)
- Program goals and direction will be reviewed annually by the Culture, Arts and Heritage Commission

Program Timeline – key milestones after the policy is adopted

- Q3 2025:
 - Adopt ordinance amendment
 - Policy adoption by resolution
- Q4 2025:
 - Program branding and identity
 - Application design
 - Establish available funding pool
- Q1 2026:
 - Hire program staff
 - Community outreach and education
 - Recruit and train grant review committee
- Q2 2026:
 - Host workshops and training
 - Year one grants open

Perlick acknowledged the work of the core planning committee. Thompson shared that it's been a gamechanger in building economic strength in the community and a sense of belonging. She emphasized the 10% operating support is key to running a strong grant program. The goal is to make it easy and accessible to nonprofit partners to apply. Thompson is enthusiastic for the next steps of growth being reinvested back into our community.

Overlaps with PRAC will largely touch on the ability to grow events, experience things happening in public spaces, expansion of public art through ongoing event support and advocacy.

Cavaness inquired if there's a way we can provide grants for City events. Perlick shared that the City is not eligible, but nonprofit partners who support city events are eligible. Luce: asked how funds will be focused. According to state law, the program will be largely available to the community of nonprofits. This will include smaller impact grants for nonprofits and individuals, and a balance of large grants for organizations with larger operating scales. The goal is to elevate a wide variety of organizations. Thompson added that 40% of the funding is dedicated to flexible initiatives. As with any competitive grant program, sustainability is key. Ultimately, the annual grant decisions will be grant review committee, to be approved by the CAHC on an annual basis.

d. Clark County Sustainable Parks Funding Team Update

David Perlick shared the concept of the countywide sustainable funding team: To explore, identify, and recommend sustainable funding strategies for the region to preserve, maintain, and enhance public parks and natural areas, ensuring equitable access, promoting environmental stewardship, committing to health and wellness and enhancing economic vitality for current and future generations.

- History and Existing Conditions
- Reviewing Standards and Needs
- Understanding Funding Options
- Community Expectations
- Benefits of Regional Coordination
- A Path Forward?

Discussions with All Cities:

- Clark County – May 6
- City of Vancouver – June 2 & Aug 4
- City of Battle Ground – June 3
- City of Washougal – June 9
- City of La Center – June 11
- City of Camas – July 7
- City of Yacolt –
- City of Ridgefield – Aug 28

Team Concept and Timeline

- Preliminary concept and timeline will be refined as team comes together
- This is a first phase – focus on “feasibility analysis”
- Representatives from each Council and Staff
- Work includes:
 - Agency overview and benchmarking
 - Recent history
 - Comparison of needs
 - Case studies and models
 - Review of potential funding tools
 - Narrowing set of options to more fully consider

- Proposed timeline is Aug 2026 through Jan 2026
- Next phases will pivot to larger community and stakeholder engagement

The floor was opened for discussion among commissioners. Luce asked how much time the cities will require to discuss opportunities. They will endeavor for 6-8 meetings to determine focus and feasibility. Wille expressed concern with top-heavy administrative framework and minimal results. Robbins cautioned that the buy in Vancouver has for accessibility is not the same as other Cities in the county. Acknowledging past disconnect between city/county initiatives, this level of investment and focus can be very different based on the size and development priorities of the organization. We believe in being collaborators, this is to share metrics, vision, values, and how every city can benefit from this effort, despite any difference in population sizes, services provided, etc.

Cavaness hopes for improved coordination and communication. Dreaming big can eventually lead to more opportunities for collaboration, input, and shared resources, such as the interconnected trail system.

Item 5: Commission and Staff Reports

a. Director's Report

Perlick encouraged the Commissioners to volunteer at the 9/20 Oakbrook Park Grand Opening. Community event begins at 10am – 12pm.

b. Chair Report

Cavaness encouraged everyone to attend 29th City Council Community Forum as a great to hear what community wants to talk about. Apple Tree Festival is on 4th. Visit the City Website to learn more about Ivy removals, adopt a park events, and learning opportunities.

c. Evergreen School District Report

None presented.

d. Vancouver Public School Report

None presented.

e. Parks Foundation Report

Thompson announced next week is GiveMore24. Parks Foundation is working on big projects that are about to be announced on 9/25.

Item 11: Open Discussion & New Business

Wille was at the Fruit Valley opening and a great time was had by all! Robbins will be speaking at the Oakbrook grand opening, and shared that the park has already been used for the last 2 weeks. The public has loved this positive change in the neighborhood.

ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:58pm