



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, July 16, 2025

4:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Fletcher, Piland and Panter

Staff Present:

Perlick, Snyder, Tuberville, Gutierrez, Guzman, Heath, Burton, Hull, Baynard-Cooke, Stokke, Meade, Johnson and White.

Guests: Robert Wright and Chris Erickson

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Cavaness 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 Fletcher, Piland and Panter were absent.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

PRAC approved the June 18, 2025, meeting minutes by consensus with no changes.

Item 3: Public Comment

Robert White, Waterfront resident, spoke in support of installing bocce courts at Waterfront Park.

Chris Erickson, park volunteer, spoke in support of installing firepits on the beach at Wintler Park, noting the presence of sharp debris in campfire waste hidden in the beach sand. He noted that firepits were not permitted by City code but contended that containing the debris would be a more feasible solution than enforcing the fire ban.

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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Item 4: Workshops

a. Disability Pride Month

Melody Burton presented the background of Disability Pride Month including its flag and important civil rights milestones and walked the Commission through the City's Disability Resources available online. There will be several opportunities to celebrate Disability Pride Month including:

- July 7: Disability Pride Month Proclamation
- July 14-30: Disability Pride Flag at community centers at City Hall
- July 27: ADA Anniversary Concert at Sunday Sounds
- August 22: Barbie movie at Columbia Tech Center Park with on-screen ASL interpretation
- Get City disability stickers at community centers and City Hall

b. Homestead Neighborhood Park Update

Omar Guzman presented updates to Homestead Neighborhood Park. Homestead Park is in East Vancouver and serves the Cascade East and Cascade Highlands neighborhoods. So far this is a successful project, on time and under budget.

Guzman gave a refresher on the department's Playground Replacement Strategy and Business License Surcharge. The replacement strategy is dependent on funding availability. Common funding sources include grants, REET, and PIF. Once the funding is available, staff determine where the park falls onto the Parks Replacement Matrix. The matrix includes factors like loss severity, loss probability, the equity index score and the park's level of service.

Robbins asked if we have a matrix of parks that have parks eliminated play equipment. Guzman said there is a list of parks with removed playgrounds and said that they try to renovate two per year.

Thompson shared thanks and suggested the idea of ziplines at a future park. Cavaness inquired if we did any local jurisdiction comparisons for BLS? Perlick answered that this is a local tax, and the allocation is decided locally based on need. Right now, the 18% equates to around \$1M. Striplin asked if there is any future where BLS would be taken away. Perlick shared that is up the city council's discretion. We haven't heard any plans, but it is always a possibility. We try hard to demonstrate the benefit. Striplin added that this is a highly used park.

c. Park Project Updates

Terry Snyder and Roman Gutierrez presented updates to various park projects.

- Phase 1 improvements at Oakbrook Park are underway. This includes the wetland-themed play area, a Portland Loo and four new pickleball courts. 99th Avenue is being widened this week to facilitate street parking and new sidewalks are being installed at the same time. The Naturepaces program will install a native planting on the southwest side of the park. Next steps include finishing the play equipment installation and pour-in-place rubber, finishing the irrigation and planting the landscaping elements, and adding furnishings like bike racks, picnic tables and street lighting. Save the date for a September reopening celebration. Cavaness asked if the design for the mound changed based on lessons learned at Marshall Park. Gutierrez noted that there would be paths on both sides of the mound and that the concrete application method had changed for the better.
- The Elizabeth Austin Playground at Fruit Valley Park is going well. The playground is bird themed and includes a kid-sized play nest. The playground will have accessible rubber surfacing, a 50ft long track ride (zipline) with a full support seat and harness. Other features include a wheelchair friendly spinner, sensory spaces, a water play area, and a climber with a transfer station. The playground would not have been

possible without the funding from the Kuni Foundation. Save the date for a mid-August reopening celebration (most likely August 16 in conjunction with the movie night). Cavaness asked about the challenge of replacement parts for these newer styles of equipment. Snyder stated that the new equipment is all sourced from longstanding, reputable vendors but there have been issues with the pour-in-place rubber failures which resist patching.

d. Vancouver Innovation Center Purchase and Sale Agreement Update

Dave Perlick presented updates to the VIC Purchase and Sale Agreement approved by City Council. PRCS has been in negotiations and discussions for VIC for four years. Perlick reviewed the land use allocation within the approved master plan. There is a restrictive covenant that prohibits development on the heavily forested area in the northwest corner of the park. The 13-acres will be preserved as park land and an additional 0.91 acres have been acquired for a park access area adjoining the park area and proposed extension of SE 29th Street. Public outreach and master planning will kick off in the fall. Cavaness noted that the area has become increasingly overgrown and there could be additional work related to cleaning up the park site.

e. Walk on: Ogden Neighborhood Park Acquisition

Monica Tubberville presented a preview of a potential acquisition of a new neighborhood park near Peter S. Ogden elementary school in PIF district B. The property is owned by the Vancouver School District and was a former school-park. Negotiations to support site acquisition have been ongoing for the last two years and the fate of the site is still unknown. Other uses of the site include a non-profit that supports at-risk youth and multi-family housing, but both of those uses would be compatible with a new neighborhood park on the remaining 7 acres. PIF Area B has a 65-acre park deficit now, and a projected 200-acre deficit over the next 20 years. This project is pursuing a Clark County Legacy Lands grant, and next steps include a Clark County Council work session and hearing on project acceptance. If accepted, staff would develop an interlocal grant agreement and a purchase and sale agreement ideally by the end of the year. Robbins expressed support for the project noting that he lives close to the area and this park will support the extensive apartment construction nearby. Wille asked about the management plan for the adjacent wellfield. Tubberville explained that wellfields require significant security. Striplin suggested reaching out to the Clark County Conservation District for additional funding. Luce asked for an update on the proposal to include PIF rates applied to commercial development and Perlick noted it will be pursued as part of the City's new Comprehensive Plan.

Item 5: Commission and Staff Reports

a. Director's Report

Perlick encouraged the Commissioners to volunteer at the Vancouver Arts and Music Festival. The pool at Firstenburg will be closed for slide replacement this summer based on the vendor's timeline. Tubberville has announced her intent to retire this summer, and the commission will be invited to a celebration of her career this summer.

b. Chair Report

Cavaness congratulated Tubberville and gave a quick reminder that the PRCS community centers will serve as cooling centers this summer.

c. Evergreen School District Report

None presented.

d. Vancouver Public School Report

None presented.

e. Parks Foundation Report

Thompson announced the Park Foundation's fundraiser and gave a reminder of Give More 24 in September.

Item 11: Open Discussion & New Business

Wille and Luce thanked Tubberville.

ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:02 p.m.