



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, June 18, 2025

4:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

Commissioners Present:

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

Commissioners Absent:

Piland and Panter

Staff Present:

Herbst, Kennedy, Perlick, Brosius, Tubberville, Heath, Miletich, Johnson, Baynard-Cooke, Nilo, Stokke, Hull, White, Guzman, Burton, Snyder, Gutierrez, Meade, and Nilo.

Guests: Ross Hoover (Parks Division Manager for Clark County)

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Cavaness called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) regular meeting to order at 4:31 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 April 16, 2025 meeting minutes by consensus with no changes.

Item 3: Public Comment

None presented.

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

**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: Our Vancouver Comprehensive Plan Update

Meredith Herbst (Associate Planner, Community Development) and Rebecca Kennedy (Deputy Director, Community Development) presented an overview of the potential impacts of alternatives for Vancouver's growth.

A recap was provided on the [Comprehensive Plan](#) and alternatives for Vancouver's growth and development. The comprehensive plan will serve as a guide for the city's growth and development over the next 20 years (2025-2045). We are currently in the phase where we are working to understand potential impacts and are in the public comment period of the draft EIS.

An overview and comparison of maps with alternative plans was shared. Considerations include housing/job targets, density and mixing of uses, and regional centers of activity.

The environmental impact statement process for the comprehensive plan is being developed as the city studies how each alternative could impact different aspects of the built and natural environment. Factors include:

- Land and shoreline use
- Housing
- Aesthetics (light and glare)
- Historic and cultural preservation
- Transportation
- Noise
- Public service and utilities (emergency services, water, sewer, schools, **parks and recreation**)
- Air quality, greenhouse gases, and climate
- Earth (geological hazard areas, soils, topography)
- Water resources
- Plants and animals

Once the DEIS report is published in July, the public will have the opportunity to comment on it. Public meetings and virtual sessions will be held through July and August.

A preliminary overview of draft environmental impact statement findings was shared. Vancouver's PRCS department oversees:

- 1,775 acres of parkland across 106 sites and 20 miles of trails
- 4.19 acres of parkland/1,000 residents
 - Goal: 6 acres of *acquired* neighborhood/community parks per 1,000 residents
 - Goal: 4.25 acres of *developed* neighborhood/community parks per 1,000 residents
- 75% of residents live within a half mile of park properties

Park Impact Fee Districts include districts A, B, and C. Each district establishes standards for the level of service and assesses impact fees on new residential development to offset the cost of meeting the recreational needs of a growing population. East of I-205 desires more parks, while West of I-205 desires updated park amenities, including benches and trails.

Ways to lower impacts could include increased revenues from taxes and fees, development of parks and facilities with access gaps to meet LOS standards, continued partnership with the City's transportation team, and periodic updates to the Park System Comprehensive Plan. Next steps after the Impact Statement comment period will begin drafting the plan, code and maps for public comment before adoption.

The floor was open for discussion and questions from commissioners. Luce asked about coordination between the City and the County; Herbst confirmed that we are working as closely with the County as possible through regular meetings.

Robbins asked if there is land that can be acquired for parks east of the I-205; parks planning includes looking at more resources for sustainable funding to be able to strategically develop on land that meets parks-planning needs and priorities. Robbins also expressed the need for a new community center in that area. Cavaness also inquired about potential options for available land as a third community center. Perlick recognized that as a key example of community need, where we are seeking to meet.

Thompson inquired about annexation considerations and potential changes to city lines; it was clarified that if land is added, the parks' need will grow on top of existing need. Perlick added that the City and County are engaging in more dialogue regarding our ability to keep service levels up with our growth rates. Cavaness asked how non-residential commercial PIF can support growth; Perlick confirmed that it can be used to enhance certain types of mixed-use developments. Cavaness suggested protecting more species of trees on developer land, as well as including trails as a type of transportation.

Wille expressed the merits of innovation and working with other large entities and local partners. Striplin inquired about similar-sized municipalities in Washington state, as well as out-of-state, and how they are working to solve similar challenges.

Item 5: Charter for Countywide Sustainable Parks Funding

David Perlick introduced Ross Hoover (Clark County Parks Division Manager) to present potential opportunities for regional, sustainable parks funding across the county. The County Council has initiated outreach to the cities in Clark County to launch early dialogue to inform the process ahead.

Ross Hoover emphasized that the County system manages several large, regional parks throughout the county that are heavily used. They are currently looking at their current level of service to assess existing gaps, as well as considering the growth that is ahead. There is a recognition that the parks system is changing to meet the regional need, beyond the local need.

The rapid growth of Clark County was highlighted, with our current census estimating our 2025 population at 543,507, and a projected population of 582,377 by 2030 and 643,552 by 2040. The rate of growth has increased over recent years. The larger regional parks serve a larger capacity with multi-uses, whereas neighborhood parks are more typical within a city parks system. Those systems are brought together through regional trails and connectors.

The demand for high-quality parks and open spaces will continue to rise as the population grows. However, current funding is not adequate. Operating budgets are stretched thin due to deferred maintenance on existing infrastructure, rising costs of labor and materials, and dedicated funding sources have not kept pace with inflation.

With representatives from every city, Clark County is seeking partnerships to assemble a Sustainable Future Task Team with the following objectives:

- Understand the needs and gaps of each park system
- Benchmark systems against national data to see where we stack up (through local and regional data)

- Explore and understand other park system funding models regionally and nationally
- Provide and recommend sustainable long-term pathways forward

Future phases of the work will include pulling together key stakeholders to ensure everyone can express needs, user-level system plans, and a snapshot of anticipated growth. Perlick shared that a group of elected officials from the City and County will initiate a meeting to identify priorities and capacities, and highlighted that PRAC will play a critical role in providing realistic recommendations. The top request from other counties was to provide interconnectedness between our trail corridors to provide access. More discussion will continue in January.

Perlick and Hoover opened the floor for questions and discussion. Striplin expressed appreciation and excitement for the granular community information to be collected from key stakeholders. Wille expressed hope for responsiveness on County Park projects as comments are requested; Hoover highlighted that the tactics used by the County to collect feedback and increase engagement are pivoting to be more integrated.

Thompson is looking forward to hearing more and is excited to support the effort. Robbins asked if the City and County would eventually become competitors for funds; Hoover spoke to several case studies that are based on sharing models between City/County, and this would be the hope for future investments. Perlick added that buy-in for all parties will be a major consideration. Luce and Fletcher both expressed their enthusiastic support.

Item 6: Recreation Summer Registration Updates

Andy Meade and Angela Brosius provided an overview of our recreational registration numbers over the summer so far.

Fircrest camp is full, and Marshall camp is 95% full. We are at capacity with registration. The non-resident fee has had significant impacts. We have 8 partners offering camps. We did branch out with more camps, including photography and CEO camps in addition to sports camps.

Softball leagues have transitioned from city-operated to vendor-operated. We are still assessing David Douglas as a potential sports site, though there are some repairs needed.

The Playground Program is a free, 4-hour a day program with meals for folks living in those neighborhoods. We have special guests from various city departments to help reduce costs and raise activity.

FCC slide replacement is happening for nearly the full month of August.

Silver memberships are down almost 500 members in the first 4-5 months, with a decrease in family memberships. Fletcher asked if there are any consistencies for the folks who have chosen not to return to their membership. Brosius highlighted that we increased our prices for the first time in 9 years, including a raised non-resident fee. She confirmed that we are asking and capturing folks why they are cancelling, and that our fees are reasonable and comparable. Striplin commented that in the following years, folks will recognize that changes to fees will not be as drastic.

We will continue to monitor, as change will initially result in lower utilization. Cavaness commended staff for using city-internal resources.

Item 7: Director's Report

Commissioners were encouraged to volunteer at the Vancouver Arts and Music Festival.

Perlick shared a message around a high-level supplemental budget issue regarding the Arts Hub. After receiving a significant amount of public testimony at our recent Council meeting, we have updated our budget allocation to sustain funding, initially not recommended to be approved – however, this decision was reversed after public testimony in support of the Arts Hub activation.

Item 8: Chair Report

Cavaness announced the Pollinator Festival on 6/21 at Marshall Park, for a day dedicated to celebrating pollinators.

She shared that she attended a climate resiliency meeting, learning about community resiliency gardens.

Item 9: Evergreen School District Report

None presented.

Item 10: Vancouver Public School Report

None presented.

Item 11: Open Discussion & New Business

Robbins inquired what new private pools in Vancouver are charging. Meade provided that Goldfish Swim School at the mall charges about \$40 per lesson, and that the Hazel Dell pool has not opened yet but will likely follow a similar model.

ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:03 p.m.