



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 16, 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:

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

Guests: None

Item 1: Call to Order

Vice Chair Fletcher 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 March 19, 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

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Item 4: Park Impact Fees 101

Monica Tubberville (Senior Planner, PRCS) introduced the Park Impact Fee (PIF) program, and provided an additional PIF 101 Fact Sheet for additional context. This is also available online in the April PRAC Agenda Packet.

Tubberville provided some historical context on the Vancouver Parks System, which began in 1853 with the 5-acre donation of Esther Short Park. By 1985, the system had increased to 250 acres. Today in 2025, we have 1,775 acres under City ownership.

Funding sources include the General Fund, donations, grants, Conservation Futures, Real Estate Excise Tax, and partnerships. The PIF program was adopted by Clark County in 1990 and then adopted by Vancouver in 1995.

Legislative purposes and requirements include public infrastructure for new growth. New development supports a proportionate share among streets and roads, schools, parks, open space and recreational facilities, and fire protection. System improvements are designed to serve the community rather than a project. Guiding elements from the Adopted Comprehensive Plan and Capital Facilities Plan also include facility standards, established procedures and code criteria, and adopted service areas.

Tubberville shared an overview of the service area PIF Districts A, B, and C in Vancouver, in addition to the Fee schedule and fund management (managed by service area). Park Impact Fees are calculated by land acquisition costs + development costs X standard minus cost adjustment factor.

The current PIF rate schedule was adopted in 2021, to begin phased implementation in 2021-2026. Consumer Priced Indexing (CPI) will be affected in 2027.

Other provisions include existing park deficits, fee exemptions/waivers for qualifying low-income housing, and credits for system improvements from private development.

PIF has some limitations and challenges. The program can be limited in scope and cannot be used for replacement, repairs, maintenance, or programming. PIF is inherently behind development, rather than ahead of it for best locations and interconnection. Impact fee waivers and exemptions for low-income housing are not funded. Current rates do not fund adopted park standards, and there are limited resources committed to addressing park system deficits.

Opportunities might include non-residential PIF to fund regional trails, civic plazas, linear parks, and special-use facilities. Next steps are to update rates to reflect the current acquisition and development costs, amend rates to reflect proportional impacts in new legislation, and make amendments to align with the adoption of the Vancouver Comprehensive Plan in December 2025.

The floor opened for questions and discussion among commissioners. Robbins clarified the current PIF rate on the schedule for 2025. Wille inquired more about district service areas and asked if there is a size limit of ideal properties for developing parks. Tubberville answered that the ideal minimal acquisition range is 3-5 acres, but we have parks as small as a half-acre.

Wille inquired about a right-of-way as a park opportunity, and Tubberville confirmed that there could be green spaces. Luce asked about impacts on housing affordability, and it was confirmed that there are standards on what qualifies as affordable housing. Striplin shared that she appreciates the consideration of these challenges of accessible green space as listed as essential. Cavaness inquired about the challenge of limited open space, and how we can forecast needs for acquiring open space going forward.

Perlick shared that next month in the Comprehensive Plan Presentation, we will see a list of policy statements that will highlight the direction of this work.

Item 5: Summer Recreation and Special Events

Angela Brosius (FCC Director), and Andy Meade (MCC Director) shared updates on Summer Recreation Programming and Erik Miletich (Special Events Recreation Coordinator) shared updates on Summer Events.

Day Camps: full-day camps operated by PRCS staff. Scholarships and payment plans are available with Youth Day Camps (Marshall and Fircrest Schools) with new aftercare options for ages 6-10. Access to Recreation Camp will be held at Ogden Elementary for ages 13+

Summer Playgrounds Camps: free, outdoor camps operated by PRCS staff. These will be hosted at Crestline and Hough Elementary Schools, and Evergreen Park at no cost to people who live within specified school boundaries (registration required). Lunch will be provided by the USDA Summer Meal Program for ages 18 and under with support from the McClaskey Family Foundation. Camps are open to children ages 6-11.

Community Centers are important resources to our community, with ongoing memberships, drop-ins, Summer Youth Pass, pool use, graduation parties, and private rentals.

A list of summer activities, classes, and leagues was shared for General Activities, Access to Recreation, and Senior Activities.

Our staff are addressing challenges, as interest in summer programs will exceed what we are able to offer. Priority registration will be given to people who live within Vancouver city limits. We have also partnered with several community providers to expand camp offerings.

The floor opened for questions and discussion among commissioners. Commissioners were impressed by the FCC tour last month and expressed gratitude for their work. NASA Globe Goes to Camp was recommended as a potential outdoor educational partner for camps.

Erik Miletich was introduced and shared an overview of the Cultural Services Division of PRCS, which includes:

- Cultural Services Manager
- Cultural Services Support Specialist
- Special Events Coordinator
- Special Events Specialist
- Special Events Permitting Manager
- Special Events Permit Specialist

The Summer Concert Series for the Waterfront will be held on Thursdays from 6:30 to 8:30pm, July 3-24 at Waterfront Park. The Sunday Sounds Concert Series will be held on Sundays from 6-8pm, July 13 – August 17 at Columbia Tech Center Park. Miletich noted the reduction in the Special Events budget resulting in shorter concert series this year, and some innovative ways to make events season more sustainable, including scheduling changes and community sponsorships.

Summer Movies will be on Fridays at dusk in parks across the City, August 1-22. The City has hosted 20+ years of movies in the parks. More details will be released to the public in May.

Cultural Event Partnerships include:

- Juneteenth with Odyssey World International (6/14 at Esther Short Park)
- Children’s Festival with Columbia Play Project (4/21 at Waterfront Park)
- Vancouver Arts & Music Festival with Vancouver Symphony Orchestra (7/31 – 8/4 at Esther Short)
- Dia de Muertos with Vancouver Ballet Folklorico (10/18 at Esther Short Park)
- Holiday Tree Lighting with Rotary International (11/28 at Esther Short Park)
- Menorah Lighting with Chabad of Clark County (12/14, location TBD)

The floor opened for questions and discussion among commissioners.

Commissioners were encouraged to share summer job opportunities with our camp staff, aquatics staff, and summer event staff. Apply at cityofvancouver.us/RecJobs.

Item 6: Vancouver as a Bee City USA

Hailey Heath has announced that Vancouver has been designated as a Bee City USA. Heath thanked the pollinator subcommittee for their advocacy. We will soon see some signage to support the affiliation, and we are working to host our second annual pollinator festival. Perlick also highlighted the Council’s enthusiastic support for this designation. Cavaness thanked the staff and committee members for their support of this initiative.

With next week as National Volunteer Appreciation Week, staff expressed gratitude to commissioners for their work in the community.

Item 7: Director’s Report

Parks

- As you may have seen in the Columbian, the construction bid has been approved for the new Elizabeth Austin playground at Fruit Valley Park. The pre-construction meetings are underway and we expect to start construction in May and with completion in late summer. The community building will also be removed by General Services in May.
- Parking fees are being reinstated at Wintler Community Park. From May 1 - Sept. 30, a daily parking fee of \$6 will be required for all vehicles parked in the lot. Fees will help us better manage traffic and ensure that emergency vehicles always have safe access to the park. Frequent visitors can purchase a \$50 annual parking pass at Firstenburg or Marshall community centers.
- Park restrooms are open at 10 sites. These public restrooms are open seasonally and are locked while parks are closed. If someone wants to report an issue with a restroom, they can do it through the Public Works Service Request online, or by calling 360-487-8177.

Recreation

- Summer registration is open for Vancouver residents. It will open to everyone else tomorrow at 7 a.m. Despite recent fee increases, I’m happy to report that spots are filling quickly.
- Big congratulations to our sports team for being selected as one of 52 recreation agencies nationwide to participate in the prestigious Million Coaches Challenge. Through this exciting initiative, we’ll be receiving top-tier, no-cost training from the NRPA and leading national training organizations.

Cultural Services

- On Saturday you are invited to join the Nez Perce Tribe at their annual memorial to remember Chief Redheart's band with singing, a drum circle, and recognition of veterans. The event is from 10 a.m. to noon at Fort Vancouver and it is open to everyone in the community. Information is on the City web calendar.
- Save the date for First Friday at the arts hub on May 2 from 5 to 8 p.m. The focus will be on fiber arts with demonstrations and displays of weaving, lace making, spinning, felting, basketry, and more.
- And remember to sign up for Spruce the Couve on May 10. Volunteers will be planting flowers in Esther Short Park and working in teams to clean up downtown. This opportunity is family-friendly and great for teens – people of all ages are welcome. You can RSVP on the City's web calendar.

Item 8: Chair Report

Cavaness and Perlick announced Melody Burton as the Tributary Award Winner for the Parks Foundation. Commissioners were also encouraged to attend the PFCC annual luncheon on May 8.

Cavaness also encouraged commissioners to volunteer at and attend the PRCS summer events.

Item 9: Evergreen School District Report

None presented.

Item 10: Vancouver Public School Report

None presented.

Item 11: Open Discussion & New Business

No updates.

ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Public Notice: The May PRAC meeting will be held offsite at Marshall Community Center next month.