



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 18, 2026

4:30 p.m.

Vancouver City Hall

Aspen Room

Commissioners Present:

Cavaness, Thompson, Striplin, Fletcher, Robbins, Wille

Commissioners Absent:

Luce, Piland and Panter

Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Cavaness called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) regular meeting to order at 4:32 p.m. in the Aspen Room at Vancouver City Hall and online via Microsoft Teams. Commissioners Piland and Panter were absent.

Hailey Heath introduced new PRCS Volunteer Coordinator, Erik Horngren, who shared about his volunteer background in nature spaces. Cavaness welcomed Horngren to the team.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

PRAC approved February 18, 2026, meeting minutes by consensus with no changes.

Item 3: Public Comment

None Presented

Item 4: Workshops

a. 2025-2026 Corridor Project Updates

Maggie Derk (Transportation Planning, Community Development Department) presented an overview of the Corridor Projects. Project areas include NE 72nd Avenue, NE 86th/87th Avenue, and 97th/98th Avenue.

Members

Jayne Cavaness
President

Angilo Fletcher
Vice President

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

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These corridors are all up for pavement work between 2025-2026. It was noted that

Project goals include:

- Safety: Improve safety and create facilities for all ages, abilities and modes of travel
- Equity: Engage with community members and provide solutions that benefit all
- Climate: Identify solutions that advance climate goals to transition to green modes of travel
- Connectivity: Implement active transportation in alignment with the Transportation System Plan Modal Networks.

The project scope includes both near-term and long-term improvements. Derk shared an overview of the project timeline, including the launch of community engagement, concept development and recommendations, design, and construction starting in 2027.

To sign up for email updates, visit the project website at tinyurl.com/covstreet25.

The floor was opened for comment from commissioners. Robbins shared that protected striping, barriers, or signage would be helpful along 98th to account for increased pedestrian traffic and cyclists to signal crossing. Thompson added that the visibility on 87th is not ideal due to the rising hill and vegetation, suggesting regular pruning of shrubbery and trees. The point of overgrowth was seconded by Striplin.

Cavaness asked how the team prioritized the project selection, and Derk shared that the modal map is cross referenced with the Transportation plan to select networks with most leverage for existing plans. Cavaness asked about funding sources for corridor projects, including grant opportunities and Complete Streets program. We are currently pursuing Safe Routes to School Grants for Transportation.

b. Events Permitting Update

Sean Douglas (Special Events Permitting Manager),

Special Event Permitting Process:

- Special Event Interest Form submitted by organizer
- Review for date and location availability
- Organizers attend review meeting 90 days prior to event
- Review Team determines additional permits/contracts needed
- Electronic signing of permit prior to event date

Event Review Team spans across multiple COV Departments. Outside agencies require additional permitting and Stakeholders impacted by Special Events.

City of Vancouver: Permitting Office, Police, Fire, Parking, Traffic Department, Land Use, Risk Department, Office of Neighborhoods

Outside Agencies: Clark County Health, CTRAN, WSDOT, WSLCB, Clark County Parks, NPS/Fort Vancouver, Port of Vancouver

Stakeholders: Farmers Market, Historic Trust, VDA, Neighborhoods, Property Management, Hotels

Growth of Events will impact the following projects:

- Main Street Project
- Waterfront Park
- Bagley Community Park Renovation
- Vancouver Innovation Center
- Inspire Vancouver

Challenges include multiple events throughout downtown on the same day, competing requests for the same date and site, increased costs for organizers, staffing capacity for year-round events, and ensuring an equitable process.

Denials/Appeals

- Priority may be given to annual, semiannual or other regularly scheduled recurring special events.
- The denial of special event permit may be appealed to city manager or designee
- Appeal Form submission
- Organizer presents appeal to PRAC for decision recommendation
- Special Event Permitting Manager and Event Review Team finalize decision

The floor was opened for questions from commissioners. Commissioners thanked Douglas for permitting the team's work and education. Cavaness asked if there is a standard to best reflect an equitable process. Douglas shared that he is a member of an affinity group for Washington cities events teams, which has been helpful for developing best practices.

c. Inspire Vancouver (Cultural Access Program) Update

Donovan shared that we expect to see more events around Inspire Vancouver, a publicly funded grant program, to expand community access to science, heritage, arts, and culture in Washington communities. Vancouver began the process in 2024, with the City's role to collect those funds and distribute them back to eligible recipients in the community.

The Culture, Arts & Heritage Commission will oversee and guide this program and grant review team. Staff and the task force committee have been developing program policy, selecting grant software, and developing a grant process.

Burton has been working with a branding team to develop a program brand, logo, website, and social media channels. The website is expected to launch in early April, along with logo release and social media sites. We are in the process of hiring 4 staff to support the program. Community outreach and ambassador education will begin in April.

Donovan and Hull are available for questions, and there will be more information on the CAHC City webpage. Robbins asked about grant timelines, and Donovan gave an overview of the grant category cycle for the upcoming year. Wille asked about funding allocation for schools, which will receive 10%. Fletcher asked about other cities participating in this program. Staff are getting process insights from Olympia, Tacoma, and King County.

d. Spring Parks Update

Terry Snyder (Park Development Manager) shared an overview of active major capital projects in 2026-2028. Snyder gave kudos to the Parks Team, Guzman and Gutierrez for their work in these park improvements.

- The Downs Neighborhood Park (Construction: March-July 2026)

- Jaggy Road Neighborhood Park (Construction: June-Sept 2026)
- Evergreen Neighborhood Park (Construction: Sept-Dec 2026)
- Bella Vista Neighborhood Park (Design 2026 / Construction 2027)
- Franklin Neighborhood Park (Design 2026 / Construction 2027)
- Shaffer Community Park (Construction: Summer – Spring 2027)
- Bagley Community Park (Design 2026 / Construction 2027-2028)
- VIC Community Park Site (Masterplan 2026, Construction docs and permitting 2027, Construction 2028)

Snyder shared renderings of Evergreen Neighborhood Park and Jaggy Road Neighborhood Park.

Active Minor Capital Repair Needs (REET)

- Leach Neighborhood Park surfacing replacement
- MyPark Neighborhood Park surfacing replacement
- Gretchen Fraser Neighborhood Park surfacing replacement
- Marine Park gate replacement
- Restroom facility upgrade (design)

Major Capital Repair Needs – critical repair projects that exceed available funds

- Burnt Bridge Creek Trail pedestrian bridge repair, design, and permitting
- Marine Park Boat Launch
- Systemwide ADA improvements

The floor was opened for questions and discussion among commissioners. Snyder was thanked for his continued work in ADA access and improvements in parks.

e. Coordination Plan with Urban Forestry Commission

Dave Perlick, Charles Ray, and Philip Gigler followed up on previous conversations around coordination of both commissions. Commissioners are always encouraged to attend other commission meetings, however with quorum concerns, it was recommended to appoint designated liaisons for those interested in attending as members of the public.

Item 5: Commission and Staff Reports

a. Director's Report

On Saturday we honored PRAC chair, Jaynee Cavaness at the 9th annual Volunteer Tree Grove ceremony at Centerpointe Park. She and 5 other honorees were awarded a tree planted in recognition of their dedication and volunteerism in the City of Vancouver. As Chair of the City's Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission, Jaynee is a tireless advocate for parks, trees, and healthy natural spaces. She consistently shows up—at meetings, volunteer events, and community conversations—with positivity, thoughtful ideas, and a genuine commitment to making Vancouver better for everyone. Her leadership, environmental advocacy, and willingness to lend a hand wherever needed embody the spirit of community service and stewardship that keeps our parks and neighborhoods thriving.

The Washington State Department of Agriculture's Washington Bee Atlas recently announced the discovery of more than 30 new or rare bee species in Washington. Four species were discovered right here in Vancouver along Burnt Bridge Creek near Devine Road, at Campus Community Gardens and at Clark College.

Parks: Restrooms over the winter are closed or operating at limited hours. We coordinate with our Grounds maintenance team. April 3, all our restrooms will be open for normal hours. Community Gardens will be starting soon, and all but 2 slots are sold.

A reminder that we will be sending out confirmation and public notice for the PRAC meeting at the VIC next month.

b. Chair Report

Cavaness attended the State of the City event last week and loved the performances and art exhibitions.

c. Evergreen School District Report

None presented.

d. Vancouver Public School Report

None presented.

e. Parks Foundation Report

- Thompson announced that May 7th is the [PFCC Annual Luncheon](#). The event will take place at the Marriott Hotel.
- Bricks are available at Esther Short to celebrate friends and family or to honor a veteran. Learn more about [Buy a Brick](#) on the PFCC website.
- The WhyRacing Event Couve Clover Run is happening this weekend on 3/22.

Item 11: Open Discussion & New Business

Robbins was recently appointed the director of the ADA at parks and off-leash dog parks, and would like to come up with an ADA transition plan to develop best practices.

ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:53pm