



# Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

## Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, April 15, 2026

4:30 p.m.

Vancouver Innovation Center

Sequoia Room

### Commissioners Present:

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

### Commissioners Absent:

Piland and Panter

### Item 1: Call to Order

Chair Cavaness called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) regular meeting to order at 4:00 p.m. in the Sequoia Room at Vancouver Innovation Center and online via Microsoft Teams. Commissioners Piland and Panter were absent.

### Item 2: Approval of Minutes

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

### Item 3: Public Comment

None Presented

### Item 4: Workshops

#### a. VIC Introduction

Terry Snyder (Park Development Manager, PRCS) shared an overview of the park at Vancouver Innovation Center and its background. North of SE 34<sup>th</sup> and West of 192<sup>nd</sup>, the site was acquired in December of 2025 at 14.2 acres; 13.7 acres of forest covenant.

There is an estimated \$3.4 million construction budget for the project.

City staff are collaborating with the developer and consultants as project partners.

## 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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The RFQ process started in November 2025 through February 2026 with 13 firms submitting proposals. Mayer Reed was selected for the project, with City Council awarding the contract on April 13, 2026.

The developer, Rabina and New Blueprint Partners, are creating a 20-minute community on a 179-acre, mixed-use development. Rabina staff have provided input throughout the process to ensure alignment.

Snyder outlined the project tasks and steps to developing the park:

- Technical investigation
- Public engagement
- Design concepts and priorities
- Final master plan; likely phased
- New Park name selection; research by Outdoor History Consulting

Public engagement will include four public meetings: project introduction, park programs and amenities, design concepts and naming, and final design and naming. The key communication tools include a project webpage, email list, mailed postcards, print/digital flyers, social media, on-site signage, site photos, and videos.

Snyder gave an overview of the project timeline:

- April – August 2026
  - Project kickoff and technical investigation
  - Begin public engagement
  - Add Park naming to public engagement
- September – December 2026
  - Complete public engagement
  - Present proposed master plan and name to PRAC
- 2027-2028
  - Present master plan and name to City Council
  - Drawings and permitting
  - Phase 1 construction begins

The floor was opened for discussion among commissioners. Commissioners all expressed enthusiasm for the project. Cavaness added that neighborhood associations and HOAs would be interested in being engaged during the outreach process. The wetlands is a wildlife corridor, which will be a great place for new community access. Robbins asked for technical investigations, and Snyder shared that they will largely be geotechnical investigations to determine the health of the forest. Commissioners thanked Snyder and staff for their work on this project and will be eager to support as needed.

## **b. Arts Hub Update**

Perlick gave an overview of the Vancouver Arts Hub project background and next steps.

The project journey from historic library building to a community arts building was outlined, highlighting the Culture, Arts & Heritage plan adoption in 2028, relocation of the library administration and City building ownership in 2020-2021, building reuse study in 2022, and assessment of critical building repairs. In 2024, the initial building activation was launched with theARTscentered, with budget approval for critical repairs.

The building reuse study involved a broad community survey with over 1,000 responses, stakeholder interviews, community engagement events, exploration of operating plans from other organizations, and creating early

design concepts. Final outcomes of the building reuse study revealed strong community support, a better understanding of needs and opportunities, endorsement from City Council, and funding for critical repairs.

The building assessment, completed by MENG in 2022, showed that the building is in generally good condition, but some deficiencies were identified including a failing roof, hazardous materials, and lack of fire suppression. Based on the findings of the Building Reuse Study, City Council approved limited funding in the 2025-2026 budget to address priority projects including roof replacement and emergency HVAC upgrades. These projects are focused on structural preservation and maintaining building comfort and are not intended to guide or constrain future design.

Goals for initial activation include open space to support current community needs, development of proof of concept for future operations, understanding community needs and capacity to inform future planning, and building excitement and investment in the project.

Initial activation outcomes have shown an established environment that welcomes a wide range of local artists and organizations. We have developed stronger relationships and renewed community trust by providing critical available space for artists and organizations to thrive.

Perlick provided an overview of current and future work:

- Engagement – Hear from building users and the community. This will include building on previous input through targeted outreach, as well as broader community outreach.
- Analysis – Use what we’ve learned to inform future plans to develop an activity profile to inform the building program, conceptual design, and implementation plan.
- Design – Create a phased approach for design and construction.
- Operating – Recommend an operating plan with cost recovery.

The design team is made up of Opsis (conceptual design), AMS (business and operational planning), and Framework (stakeholder and community outreach). Phase 1 Masterplan begins in the spring of 2026 through fall of 2026. Phase 2 will include design and implementation, starting in fall 2026 with phased construction set to begin in fall of 2027.

Commissioners can support this project by attending committee meetings, helping increase community awareness, advocating for continued investment in the project and building community stakeholder support. Commissioners commented on the need for this project and expressed support for the phased construction approach.

## **Item 5: Commission and Staff Reports**

### **a. Director’s Report**

Parks: Construction is underway for improvements at The Downs Park. This 3.2-acre park serves the Bagley Downs neighborhood in central Vancouver and is part of our Naturespaces program. The existing playground is in good condition, so these improvements include a new picnic shelter, half-court basketball, irrigation of the lawn area, and security lighting. We’re expecting the project to be completed in August.

Park restrooms are open for the season. They’ll be open daily through October during regular park hours. Because staff travel between sites to open, clean, and close restrooms, public access may begin up to an hour after parks open and end up to an hour before closing. 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 opened today for Vancouver residents. It will open for everyone else tomorrow at 7 a.m. I'm happy to report that everything seems to be going smoothly. We'll have an update on how our numbers are looking sometime next week.

Registration for May/June Swim Lessons will open April 22. Thanks to excellent work from our aquatics team, we've recently been able to expand the number of swim lessons we offer, including adding Saturday lessons at Marshall Pool.

Cultural Services: On Saturday you are invited to join the Nez Perce Tribe for their annual Chief Redheart Memorial Ceremony, featuring 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 Spruce the Couve on May 9 from 9-11:30am. Volunteers will be planting flowers in Esther Short Park and working in teams to clean up downtown. You can visit the City's website calendar.

The Renaissance Pointe location had its ribbon cutting ceremony last week with the Parks Foundation. May 9<sup>th</sup>, water features at our parks will be activated.

The Pollinator Festival will take place on June 20<sup>th</sup> at Marshall Park.

Farmers markets are open now.

**b. Chair Report**

Cavaness attended the Battle Ground artists exhibit this month, and it was a huge success. She recommended directing artists and organizations from those events to check out the Vancouver Arts Hub.

Parks Foundation is organizing a work group for Spruce the Couve.

**c. Evergreen School District Report**

None presented.

**d. Vancouver Public School Report**

None presented.

**e. Parks Foundation Report**

- Thompson announced that May 7<sup>th</sup> is the [PFCC Annual Luncheon](#). The event will take place at the Marriott Hotel.

**Item 11: Open Discussion & New Business**

No new business.

**ADJOURNED**

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 4:45pm