



Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission

Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 20, 2026
4:30 p.m.
Marshall Community Center
Oak Room

Commissioners Present:

Fletcher, Luce, Robbins, Striplin

Commissioners Absent:

Thompson, Wille, Piland and Panter

Item 1: Call to Order

Vice Chair Fletcher called the Parks and Recreation Advisory Commission (PRAC) regular meeting to order at 4:45p.m. in the Oak Room at Marshall Community Center and online via Microsoft Teams. Commissioners Thompson, Wille, Piland and Panter were absent.

Item 2: Approval of Minutes

PRAC approved April 15, 2026, meeting minutes by consensus with no changes.

Item 3: Public Comment

None Presented

Item 4: Workshops

a. Cavaness Acknowledgement

Perlick thanked former commissioner Jaynee Cavaness for her 9 years of service on the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.

Cavaness shared her background and passion for serving parks and libraries, and her legacy for leaving places better than we find them.

Members

Jenny Thompson

President, PFCC

Angilo Fletcher

Vice President

Jeremy Robbins

Stephen Wille

Valerie Striplin

James Luce

AJ Panter, VPS

Cale Piland, EPS

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Perlick announced the reappointment of Jenny Thompson (effective 7/30/26) and of James Luce (effective immediately), and the appointment of Terah Ebie (effective 7/30/26).

Ebie thanked Cavaness for her service, and shared about her love for the community and the value of showing up for each other. She has served on nonprofit boards and charter boards, and is a founder of the queer community network.

b. Officer Appointment

A vote was held to appoint a new Chair and for the Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission.

The following commissioners were nominated for Chair:

- Jenny Thompson (nominated by Angilo Fletcher and Valerie Striplin)
- Angilo Fletcher (nominated by Jeremy Robbins)

Action: Robbins held a motion to appoint Thompson as the new Chair for PRAC. The motion was seconded by Fletcher and unanimously approved.

c. Vancouver Bee Project Update

Kyle Roslund (Vancouver Bee Project) shared an overview of the latest Vancouver findings in the Washington Bee Atlas. Bee atlas sampling has taken place between 2023-2025, with 14 active volunteers in Clark County, and over 150 volunteers statewide. Efforts are active in 29 of 39 counties, involving over 4,000 volunteer hours per year and 75 events per year.

Bee Atlas Sampling:

- 30,000 specimens/year across the state
- Downs Neighborhood Park (100 specimens)
- Campus Community Garden (200 specimens)
- Greenways (200 specimens)
- Port of Vancouver/Clark College/Public Utilities

Volunteer Summary:

- 110 bee species total
 - 8 bumblebee species
 - 14 mining bee species
 - 30 sweat bee species
 - 14 leaf cutter bee species
 - 10 mason bee species
 - 15 parasitic bee species

More information can be found via the Melittoflora map and the Bee Plant Network. Last year, we saw new bee species in Washington for the first time.

The Pollinator Festival will be held on Saturday, June 20th.

d. June Proclamations

Jane Tesner Kleiner (Lower Columbia Nature Network) and Kyle Roslund (Vancouver Bee Project) announced City Council proclamations for June 1, 2026, in partnership with U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Ridgefield Complex, and U.S. National Park Service Fort Vancouver National Historic Site.

- 2026 Pollinator Proclamation
- 2026 Great Outdoors Proclamation

We are running a documentary event on June 13th to educate the community about pollinators.

e. Summer Recreation Programming Updates

Brosius and Meade shared an overview of 2026 Recreation updates. Summer recreation is engaging our community through aquatics, water features, camps, playgrounds, fitness for adults and seniors, and community center use.

The community value of summer recreation includes free and fee-based programs with scholarships available. This provides critical childcare for working families when school is out. A variety of locations across the city are available with school partners. Our programs support public health and safety, prioritizing programs for vulnerable and underserved populations.

Day camps are full-day camp programs operated by PRCS staff. These are scholarship eligible, with payment plans available.

Summer Playground Camps are free, outdoor camps operated by PRCS staff. These are provided at no cost to people who live within specified school boundaries, with lunch provided by the USDA Summer Meal Program. Camps are open to ages 6-11. Camps are made possible through support from the McClaskey Family Foundation.

Community Centers are important resources in the community, including ongoing memberships, drop-in visits, Summer Youth Passes, family events, a climbing wall, senior clubs and hikes, and graduation parties and private rentals.

f. Summer Events & Recreational Programming Updates

Erik Miletich (Special Events Supervisor) shared an update on 2026 community events and festivals.

Vancouver Arts & Music Festival:

- Esther Short Park
- August 7-9, 2026
- 2025 Snapshot
 - 40+ performing artists
 - 160+ visual artists
 - 70+ volunteers
 - 40,000+ attendees

America 250

- July 3rd at Fort Vancouver Parade Grounds
- Live music, games, activities, tours, and movie in the park
- Visit Vancouver America250 event listings

Waterfront Concert Series

- July 9, 16, 23, 30
- Thursdays, 6:30-8:30pm
- Attendance: 1,500-2,500

Sunday Sounds Concert Series

- July 12 – August 16
- 6 Concerts
- Sundays, 6:30-8:30pm
- Attendance: 3,500

Cultural Partner Events

- Juneteenth Freedom Celebration
 - Esther Short Park
 - June 20th 10am – 3pm
- Dia de Muertos
 - Esther Short Park
 - October 17

Vendors – 40 food vendors applied to participate in our summer events and festivals. 20 different food vendors were selected.

Sponsors – 10 business sponsors; sponsorship revenue has remained steady, currently covering core direct costs (talent, audio services, movie licenses)

g. Clark County Sustainable Parks Funding Team Update

Perlick shared an overview of the latest Countywide Parks Funding team updates. It was found that each Clark County agency that participated is under the national median of parks acres, budget, and FTEs per 1000 residents. Metro Park districts were discussed as a possible funding tool to explore for the countywide system.

A draft task team report on Regional Parks Funding was included in the agenda packet, outlining the task team's objectives and information discussed to meet the needs of our current funding challenges. More exploration is needed, and we will continue to provide more updates from the funding team.

Next steps recommended: hiring a firm to conduct early market research. We will give a presentation to City Council on June 1 and begin communicating with the community as we learn more. An open discussion was held regarding concerns about funding gaps.

Item 5: Commission and Staff Reports

a. Director's Report

Parks: We're getting ready to kick off community engagement for the new park next to VIC on June 1. The first engagement activity will be hosted online from June 1-15. Once the webpage is live, we'll ask you to help share the link and encourage people to go learn about the project, take a virtual tour of the site and respond to our initial survey questions. We'll be hosting our first in-person engagement activity at the site on July 25 so save the date!

Recreation: Our Youth Summer Pass is on sale now at Firstenburg and Marshall. This seasonal pass provides access to both community centers from June 1 through August 31 for one low fee. The cost is \$54 for Vancouver residents and \$68 for non-residents. The pass is open to ages 18 and under. There is more information on our website at cityofvancouver.us/summer-pass.

We are seeking nominations for our 2025-26 Dave Miletich Volunteer Coach of the Year Award. The award is named after a former Recreation Manager and Assistant Director who played a major role in shaping our recreation program as we know it. The award recognizes volunteer coaches who embody compassion, encouragement, selflessness and fun! We're accepting nominations through June 10. More information is available on our website.

Cultural Services: We would appreciate your help spreading the word about our Inspire Vancouver Info Sessions. These are great opportunities for people who are interested in the grant program to learn more and connect with other organizations and individuals who are doing this work. Each of the sessions we've had so far has raised interesting questions and led to great discussions. You can find information on the Inspire Vancouver website at inspirevancouver.org and share on social media through Inspire Vancouver Instagram or LinkedIn pages.

The Pollinator Festival will take place on June 20th at Marshall Park.

b. Chair Report

None presented.

c. Evergreen School District Report

None presented.

d. Vancouver Public School Report

None presented.

e. Parks Foundation Report

None presented.

Item 11: Open Discussion & New Business

No new business.

ADJOURNED

With no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 6:13pm