

CITY OF OREGON CITY
PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE
Meeting Minutes
City Hall Commission Chambers
Thursday, March 27th, 2025 at 6:00 PM

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order. Roll call was conducted with the following members present: Emily Lisborg, Joyce Gifford, Tim Wuest, Erin McClellan, Tim Lainhart, and Melissa Deyoe.

Public Comments

Steve Williams, a former member of the Oregon City Park Recreation Advisory Board, addressed the committee regarding the Capital Improvement Project (CIP) list. He advocated for ranking the Clackamas Park boat ramp as a high priority. Williams cited data from the Clackamette Park Master Plan public input process, noting that the boat launch ranked second only to restrooms in priority elements for the new master plan. He also highlighted that access to the river was the primary reason people visited Clackamette Park. Williams emphasized the limited number of public boat ramps in Oregon City, with Sportcraft Landing being the only viable option currently. He urged the committee to consider the boat ramp's importance when prioritizing projects for city council review.

In response to a question about the number of public access points to the Willamette River in Oregon City, Williams explained that Sportcraft Landing has limited capacity, especially with ongoing bridge construction. He mentioned Meldrum Bar as the next closest boat ramp, which is not in Oregon City, and Cedar Oak boat ramp in West Linn. Williams emphasized that the Clackamette Park ramp would provide access to both the main river and the lower Clackamas River.

Approval of Minutes

January 23, 2025 Meeting

Motion to approve the January 23, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Erin McClellan and seconded by Joyce Gifford.

The motion passed unanimously with all members voting in favor.

February 27, 2025 Meeting

Motion to approve the February 27, 2025 meeting minutes was made by Melissa Deyoe and seconded by Erin McClellan.

The motion passed unanimously with all members voting in favor.

Presentations

Annual Committee Training by Jakob Wiley

Jakob Wiley, the City Recorder, presented the annual committee training. He discussed his role in the city, which includes being the elections official, managing agendas for the city commission, and overseeing records management. Wiley reviewed general public meeting requirements, emphasizing the need for public notice, open meetings, and creation of minutes.

Key points from the presentation included:

- Purely social gatherings are not considered public meetings as long as city business is not discussed.
- Serial meetings occurring electronically (e.g., reply-all emails) can violate public meeting laws.
- The role of the chair in committee meetings, including maintaining decorum and ensuring all members have an opportunity to speak.
- Procedures for making motions and voting, including different voting styles such as roll call and acclamation.
- Ethics guidelines, including avoiding conflicts of interest and limitations on accepting gifts.

Wiley also mentioned the Board and Committee Orientation Manual available on the city website for more detailed information.

In response to a question about food in relation to gift acceptance rules, Wiley clarified that food is generally exempt from gift limitations.

Agenda Amendment

Tim Lainhart asked for a motion to approve an amendment to the agenda to add the following presentation to the docket.

Erin McClellan motioned to amend the agenda to allow the Capstone Presentation. Melissa Deyoe seconded the motion.

Motion passed via unanimous acclamation vote.

ORPA Capstone Presentation by Cecily Rose

Cecily Rose, the Social Service and Community Center Manager for Oregon City Parks and Recreation, presented her capstone project for the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association (ORPA) Leadership Academy. Her project, titled "Bridging the Gap: Creating an Inclusive Scholarship Program for Community Recreation," focused on expanding the city's scholarship program to include adults and senior recreation.

Rose outlined the following key points:

- The project aligns with city commission goals and department values of inclusivity and equity.
- Current scholarship programs primarily focus on youth, leaving a gap for adult and senior recreation opportunities.
- The project involved extensive research of other jurisdictions' scholarship programs and internal department discussions.
- Proposed changes include updating the scholarship application to include adult and senior programs, and potentially phasing in implementation.
- Future steps include presenting to various Oregon City groups, updating marketing materials, and better serving the community through an expanded scholarship program.

Committee members expressed appreciation for the thorough presentation and the collaborative approach with Parks and Recreation. Questions were raised about funding sources, with Rose explaining that the current youth scholarship program is funded by the Parks Foundation, but additional funding would likely be needed for an expanded program.

General Business

5-Year CIP Project List Discussion

Tom Kissinger presented an overview of the types of park development and specific park inventories. He explained that this document would serve as the narrative component for the parks master plan and inform future development decisions.

Key points from the discussion included:

- Types of parks were defined, including pocket parks, neighborhood parks, community parks, regional parks, specialty parks, open space/natural areas, and trails.
- Each park in the city's inventory was reviewed, with discussions on current amenities and potential future improvements.
- The committee suggested several changes to park classifications, such as reclassifying Abernathy Creek Park as a natural area rather than a pocket park.
- Discussions were held on specific parks, including Chapin Park, Clackamette Park, and Wesley Lynn Park, focusing on potential improvements and community needs.
- New parks and facilities were also presented, including planned developments in the Park Place concept area and the Thimble Creek concept area.
- The need for a new aquatics and recreation center was mentioned as part of future planning.

The committee provided feedback on various parks and suggested changes to classifications and proposed improvements. Tom noted that this document would be

revised based on the committee's input and brought back for final approval at a future meeting.

Member Reports

Committee members shared brief reports on recent park visits and events:

- A member reported that Hillendale Park's baseball/softball field looked excellent, with recent improvements to the infield material.
- Another member mentioned attending a resources fair at the Pioneer Center, praising the variety of community organizations present.

Next Scheduled Meeting - April 24, 2025

The next meeting was confirmed for April 24, 2025. The committee discussed the possibility of conducting interviews for new committee members prior to the regular meeting, potentially starting at 5:30 PM.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned about 8:45 pm.