

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting minutes

May 22nd, 2025 6:00 p.m. at City Hall

Call to Order and Roll Call

The meeting was called to order. Kori Buth conducted a roll call, confirming the presence of Ken Worcester, Joyce Gifford, Tim Lainhart, Tim Wuest, and Melissa Deyoe.

Public Comments

Damon Mabee from the Oregon City Parks Foundation addressed the committee. He announced a cleanup event at Buena Vista Clubhouse on June 7th from 9 AM to noon. Mabee also informed the committee about Metro's Nature in the Neighborhoods Citizens Choice grants program, which has \$3 million available for projects in Clackamas County. He encouraged committee members to vote for the Buena Vista Clubhouse project on Metro's website and attend an informational session at the Oregon City Library on June 7th from 11 AM to 2 PM.

Approval of Minutes

Draft PRAC Meeting Minutes - March 27th, 2025

Joyce Gifford moved to approve the minutes from March 27, 2025. Tim Lainhart seconded the motion.

A roll call vote was conducted, and all members voted in favor of approving the minutes.

General Business

Scott Archer Introduction

Scott Archer introduced himself as the new Parks and Recreation Director. He provided an overview of his extensive experience in local government and Parks and Recreation, including his previous tenure with Oregon City from 2004 to 2016. Archer expressed his excitement about returning to Oregon City and working on strategic initiatives for the future of Parks and Recreation in the community.

Open PRAC Seat/Interview Update

Kori provided an update on the open PRAC seats. She explained that the decision was made to postpone filling the vacant seats until the end of the year. This decision was based on the limited number of meetings remaining in the current term and the desire to maintain the group dynamic. Kori mentioned that she would keep the applications on file and reach out to the candidates to inform them of this decision.

Master Plan Update/Project List Update and Prioritization

Scott Archer discussed the Parks and Recreation Master Plan update, which has been in progress for over two years. He explained that the plan was approved by the City Commission last year but still needs to be adopted into the City's comprehensive plan. Archer mentioned that the final adoption is scheduled for June 4th.

The committee discussed the project list included in the Master Plan. Archer emphasized the need for public engagement in prioritizing projects and implementing the plan. He suggested that this could be a multi-meeting process for the committee to determine how to move forward with prioritization and community engagement.

Tom Kissinger added that this project could be an opportunity to work on both the 5-year Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) and community engagement simultaneously. The committee discussed ideas for engaging the public, including having booths at community events and using technology to share information.

Ken Worcester suggested the need to align prioritization with available funding sources, including SDCs, grants, and other potential funding mechanisms. The committee agreed to continue this discussion in future meetings and to work on developing a more formal 5-year CIP for Parks and Recreation projects.

Staff Reports

SDC Methodology Update - Public Hearing June 18th, 2025

Scott Archer informed the committee that the SDC Methodology update is scheduled for a public hearing on June 18th. He mentioned that the draft methodology is ready to be presented to the City Commission.

2025-2027 City Budget Update

Scott Archer provided an overview of the proposed 2025-2027 biennium budget for Parks and Recreation. Key points included:

- The total operating budget is approximately \$13.5 million.
- There is a reduction of 3.26 FTE positions department-wide.
- Seasonal parks maintenance staffing has been eliminated.
- The overall cost recovery for revenue is about 40% across the department.

Archer also highlighted several capital projects included in the budget:

- Master plans for the EOT site and facility and the Aquatic Center (\$300,000 total).
- Clackamette Park implementation (\$400,000).
- Wesley Lane Dog Park and Hillendale restroom replacement (\$505,000).
- Phase 2 of the Parents of Murdered Children memorial at Mountain View Cemetery (funded by donations).
- Roof replacement at the Pioneer Center (funded by donations).

The committee discussed the impact of staffing reductions and the need to prioritize projects based on available funding sources.

Summer Events

Tom Kissinger provided details on upcoming summer events:

- Movies in the Park: Four movies scheduled between July 25th and August 22nd at various parks.
- National Night Out: August 5th at End of the Oregon Trail from 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM.
- First City Celebration: July 26th from 11 AM to 6 PM on Main Street.
- Fourth of July: Event at End of the Oregon Trail featuring two bands, a kid zone, and a laser light show.
- Concerts in the Park: Six concerts scheduled between July 10th and August 14th at End of the Oregon Trail.

Kissinger discussed volunteer opportunities for these events and encouraged PRAC members to participate. Kori provided additional information on specific volunteer roles available for Concerts in the Park.

Scott Archer also mentioned the following additional items:

- Cemetery fee increase: Approved by the City Commission, including an inflationary factor and a new perpetual maintenance fund.
- Memorial Day ceremony: Scheduled for Monday at 10 AM at Mountain View Cemetery.

Member Reports

Committee members shared various observations and concerns:

- Tim Wuest inquired about the locked gate at Hillendale Park near the new parking lot. Tom Kissinger explained that they are working on addressing this issue with the County.
- Ken Worcester commended the overall appearance of the parks and inquired about the opening dates for spray pads and restrooms. Tom Kissinger confirmed that June 1st is typically the start date for spray parks.
- The committee discussed ideas for creating informative displays and materials for community events to engage residents and promote parks and recreation initiatives.
- Joyce Gifford asked about efforts to manage invasive plants, particularly poison oak at Park Place park. Tom Kissinger explained the ongoing treatment efforts and the reliance on volunteers for invasive plant management throughout the City.
- Melissa Deyoe commented on the well-maintained softball fields.

The committee agreed to further discuss booth materials and engagement strategies at the next meeting.

Next Scheduled Meeting - June 26th, 2025

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned.