

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes – October 23rd, 2025

Mt. Hood Room – City Hall 625 Center St.

CALL TO ORDER AND ROLL CALL

The meeting was called to order. Kori Buth conducted roll call with the following members present: Ken Worcester, Joyce Gifford, Tim Lainhart, Melissa Deyo, and Emily Lisborg (participating remotely). Tim Wuest and Erin McClellan were not in attendance.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Four public comments were received:

Brian Schmidt from Oregon City stated he was attending to learn more about the Payson Farms matter, primarily for information gathering purposes.

Joshua Bell from Oregon City explained he lives in the Payson Farms subdivision off Central Point Road near the urban growth boundary. He described how his neighborhood's HOA maintains two parks that belong to their community of 40 homes. The parks have signs indicating they're private and offer use permits for \$40 per year for non-HOA members. Mr. Bell noted difficulties in enforcing these restrictions as adjoining neighborhoods have developed, with many non-residents using their parks. He proposed donating the parks to the City to make them public, noting they are well-established with picnic tables, play structures, irrigation systems, and mature landscaping, in a quiet residential area with few other nearby parks.

Leanne Giles from Oregon City, also a Payson Farms resident, supported the donation of their park to the City. She noted the safety of the park's location, being fenced with a Christmas tree farm up the hill and not adjacent to a busy street. Ms. Giles mentioned additional development coming to the area, including 26 townhomes, that would further increase the need for park space. She asked about maintenance responsibilities if the City were to take over the park.

Pat Ullman from Oregon City, another Payson Farms resident, provided additional context about their park. She mentioned there's a power line tower in its own fenced area within the park, with Dish Network equipment at the top generating \$400 monthly in rent for the HOA. Ms. Ullman noted their association is 23 years old, with a well-developed park that serves approximately 300 homes in the area. She indicated the HOA would need 75% approval from members to donate the park but believed there would be support due to the resulting reduction in dues.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Melissa Deyo moved to approve the minutes from September 25, 2025.

Second: Joyce Gifford

Vote: Approved unanimously (Ken Worcester, Joyce Gifford, Tim Lainhart, Melissa Deyo, and Emily Lisborg all voting yes)

GENERAL BUSINESS

Payson Farms HOA Park Follow-Up

Scott Archer explained that this was the third meeting discussing the proposal from Payson Farms HOA to donate their park to the City. He provided background information, noting that staff had presented management costs of approximately \$10,000 annually for basic maintenance, with potential future equipment and irrigation system replacement costs between \$40,000-\$50,000.

Scott explained that the Parks Master Plan defines this 1.7-acre property as a "pocket park," which is smaller than the City's preferred minimum of 3 acres for neighborhood parks. He noted that while the City has exceeded its need for pocket parks according to the Master Plan, the general area where Payson Farms is located has been identified as needing additional parkland. Scott acknowledged that the HOA park is well-maintained but reiterated that it doesn't meet the City's standards for new park acquisitions.

Ken Worcester asked if the developer received a density bonus when creating the park, suggesting that it could complicate the transfer process. Scott acknowledged this was a good question that would require further research.

Ken also noted that if the City couldn't find larger property in the area, they might need to add improvements to the Payson Farms property to meet neighborhood park needs, potentially changing its current character.

Joyce Gifford asked about liability insurance costs, which Scott explained would be integrated into the City's overall policy if they accepted the park.

Committee Chair, Tim Lainhart, discussed seeing both sides of the issue - appreciating the well-maintained park and community need, but also understanding the concerns about accepting a property that doesn't align with the Master Plan's guidelines and might limit future park development in the area.

Melissa Deyo asked about the timeline for acquiring land in that area. Scott responded that they were still determining priorities within their newly adopted Master Plan.

After further discussion about the process for evaluating donated parks, Ken Worcester made a motion:

Motion: Ken Worcester moved to table the Payson Farms HOA park donation discussion to allow staff time to explore other property acquisition options in the neighborhood and area, with periodic updates (at least annual) to be provided.

Second: Melissa Deyo

Vote: Approved unanimously (Ken Worcester, Joyce Gifford, Tim Lainhart, Melissa Deyo, and Emily Lisborg all voting yes)

Parks CIP Follow-Up

Tom Kissinger, participating remotely, presented a follow-up on the Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) discussion from the previous meeting. He summarized the six-year plan covering three biennium budget periods and addressed questions from last month's meeting.

Tom shared a map showing the distribution of planned projects throughout the city, which demonstrated good coverage across most areas except for the Tyrone S. Woods area, which is a newer park. Ken Worcester noted that the area east of Highway 213 appeared sparse in project distribution.

Tom also presented a map highlighting areas identified for potential land acquisition in the Master Plan, including the Park Place, Thimble Creek, and South End concept areas, plus two targeted areas (Partlow Road and Meyers Road/Caufield) that lack adequate park space.

The acquisition strategy includes monitoring land for sale within the Urban Growth Boundary (UGB), considering property offered by the public, acting opportunistically when appropriate properties become available, and working with planned developments to secure suitable parkland. Ken Worcester asked if the City could acquire property outside the UGB, and staff confirmed there was no policy preventing this.

Tom reviewed how the CIP aligned with community priorities identified through surveys, noting they were addressing most of the top-rated amenities like trails, water access, community parks, and dog parks.

Melissa Deyo raised concerns about the survey results, noting that youth sports facilities and activities were ranked low on the statistically valid survey despite being priorities for many families she knew. Tom clarified that there were differences between the statistically valid survey and the online community survey results, with the latter showing higher rankings for amenities like diamond sports fields and skate parks.

After discussion about funding sources and the evolving nature of the CIP, Ken Worcester made a motion:

Motion: Ken Worcester moved to approve the CIP in concept, with the understanding that financial details would be determined later.

Second: Melissa Deyo

Vote: Approved unanimously (Ken Worcester, Joyce Gifford, Tim Lainhart, Melissa Deyo, and Emily Lisborg all voting yes)

Concerts in the Park Process

Taylor Miller, Rental and Events Coordinator, presented a recap of summer programming and the selection process for the 2026 Concerts in the Park series. Scott first recognized Taylor's recent "Rising Professional Award" from the Oregon Recreation Parks Association (ORPA).

Taylor, with support from Social Services and Community Center Manager, Cecily Rose, reported on the successful Fourth of July community celebration that had approximately 2,000 attendees, two entertainment stages, a Kids Zone, food vendors, partnership with OC Brewing Company, and a drone show with lasers.

The Concerts in the Park series had averaged 1,200-2,000 guests per concert with a new Kids Zone, sponsored by Floyd Family Orthodontics, providing family-friendly activities. Taylor noted they launched their first community survey for feedback, receiving a 4.59 out of 5-star rating, with appreciation for the family-friendly atmosphere and suggestions for additional amenities.

Taylor also reported on the inaugural OC Fall Fest in early October, which had nearly 500 attendees, 52 vendors (up from the initially planned 10), a petting zoo, mini pumpkin patch, food trucks, and live entertainment. The event received positive feedback from attendees and vendors.

For the 2026 concert series planning, Taylor presented six proposed genres:

- July 9 - Hometown Night (Indie Folk/Country featuring Oregon City artists)
- July 16 - 90's/Early 2000s Tribute

- July 23 - Blues Rock/ Country
- July 30 - Latin Pop
- August 6 - 70's Soft Rock Tribute
- August 13 - Pop Variety Cover Band

Committee members provided feedback on the proposed lineup, with the Chair noting that while he personally enjoyed the Foo Fighters tribute from the previous year, he'd heard some negative feedback from older attendees about the harder rock sound. Overall, the committee expressed approval for the variety and community responsiveness of the proposed genres.

Motion: Melissa Deyo moved to recommend the proposed genres for the 2026 Concerts in the Park lineup.

Second: Ken Worcester

Vote: Approved unanimously (Ken Worcester, Joyce Gifford, Tim Lainhart, Melissa Deyo, and Emily Lisborg all voting yes)

PRAC Annual Report to City Commission

Scott Archer explained that historically PRAC provides an annual report to the City Commission, typically near the end of the calendar year. The Chair noted he had been tracking meeting notes and accomplishments and would be prepared to deliver the presentation. Ken Worcester, who had presented the previous year, offered to assist.

Ken emphasized that the report should focus on PRAC's work and recommendations rather than taking credit for staff accomplishments. The committee discussed timing and agreed to coordinate offline with staff to schedule the presentation, likely in November or early January.

PRAC Interview/Appointment Process

Kori confirmed that the next meeting on December 4th would include interviews for open positions. She reported there are two seats becoming available, two seats already available, plus one youth member opportunity (for ages 14-17).

Kori explained that the first week of November she would send interview questions to current committee members for review and then contact candidates to schedule 15-minute interviews for the December meeting. The committee was encouraged to share the application link with potential candidates.

Barclay Park Off-Leash Dog Area Follow-Up

Scott reported that PRAC's recommendation to pause the off-leash designation at Barclay Park had been presented to the City Commission. The Commission did not take formal action but directed staff to review the overall off-leash program at the three designated parks (Wesley Lynn, Barclay Park, and Park Place).

Scott noted that the Commission had received information indicating there were no code enforcement responses or formal complaints filed about the Barclay Park off-leash area. They directed staff to review signage, boundaries, and maintenance of these areas.

The Chair commented that one issue was the undefined nature of "temporary" in the designation, which had now lasted about a decade. He suggested the need to either formalize the off-leash areas or create a clear process for reviewing them periodically.

Scott agreed this would be part of the staff review, noting that when the program was established it was called a "pilot project" but had continued without formal reevaluation. He indicated staff would return to PRAC with recommendations after completing their review.

MEMBER REPORTS

Melissa Deyo reported that during a softball tournament at Chapin Park, visitors from outside Oregon City were confused about field numbering because the map on the city's website didn't match the actual field numbers used by locals. She noted that some fields don't have numbers on the dugouts or backstops. Scott thanked her for bringing this to their attention and indicated they would look into it.

Joyce Gifford commented on the abundance of community activities in Oregon City over the summer, expressing pride in how well departments collaborated to deliver successful events including downtown celebrations, Juneteenth, Fall Fest, and Porch Fest. She commended Cecily and Taylor for their role in making events run smoothly.

Ken Worcester mentioned visiting many parks throughout the summer and asked about the regulation of vendors who show up at parks, particularly regarding the additional trash they generate. Scott explained there is a permitting process but acknowledged it can be difficult to enforce consistently.

NEXT SCHEDULED MEETING - DECEMBER 4TH, 2025

The Chair confirmed the next meeting would be held on December 4th, 2025, at 6:00 PM.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at about 8:20 p.m.