

Yakima Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
August 13, 2025

Commissioners Present: Vice Chair Stacy Hackenmueller, Blake Scully, Robert Young, Paul Cook, Bruce Whitmore and Kenneth Garcia **Absent and Excused:** Chairman Rod Bryant, Gib Van Der Heyden, Annaka Yockey and Matt Brown, Yakima City Council Liaison **Staff present:** Ken Wilkinson, Parks & Recreation Manager, and Jenise Sanders, Parks and Recreation Administrative Secretary

Call to Order

Vice Chair Stacy Hackenmueller called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Introductions

Stacy introduced the new Parks and Recreation Commissioner, Bruce Whitmore. He has been a resident of Yakima since 1991 and worked as an elementary school teacher at Adams Elementary under Principal, Rod Bryant. He is a member of the Board of Directors for the Yakima Arboretum as well.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes from May 14, 2025

It was Moved by Blake Scully, Seconded by Paul Cook to approve the Minutes as written from the May 14, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Nothing to report.

District 3 Park Review

Ken advised that we are continuing to look at updating the Comprehensive Master Plan. The current plan is good through 2027, but it will be helpful to review the Parks by District and update improvements made as well as planned improvements. Ken stated that we will be reviewing a different district per meeting over the next year. Ken shared the slides of District 3 parks and reviewed the general information as well as the maintenance expenses, revenue, capital improvements and planned capital improvements. Ken commented that Franklin Pool was built in 1956. There have been updates done over the years and consistently maintained to the best of our ability as funds allowed, but that is the age of the pool. Ken commented that the current Mayor lives in District 3. He highlighted the fact that Fisher Park Golf Course is close to breaking even as far as expenditures and revenue. He also reported on the safety netting that has been added and more that will be added soon to help keep golf balls from damaging vehicles and private property. The parking lots have been expanded and/or paved by the Streets Division at both the golf course and Gardner Park over the past few years. Ken reported that the Pickleball Club has been very instrumental in the resurfacing of the courts at Franklin Park. Ken advised that Franklin Pool will not be operational in 2026.

City of Yakima Parks & Recreation Budget Reduction for 2026 Discussion

Ken reported that with the City facing a \$9 million shortfall, there have been many discussions and many presentations given to City Council regarding budget reductions. The City Council has decided to put a levy lid lift on the ballot in the amount of \$6 million, which will still leave a \$3 million deficit. Ken went over the proposed items for Parks and Recreation's portion of the \$3 million which is 10% of the our annual budget, approximately \$650,000.

Close Franklin Pool in 2026 - \$167,000

Reduce Lions Pool budget by \$50,000 (not operate pool on weekends beginning in September except for swim meets and party rentals)

Reduce Harman Center budget by \$50,000 (working with staff to decide how to reduce)

Reduce WFCC budget by \$50,000 (working with staff to decide how to reduce)

Reduce Community Recreation funding by \$50,000 (Movies, concerts, Easter Egg Hunt, Letters to Santa, trips to ski or sled)

Eliminate Adult Sports program funding of \$37,000 (Increase fees and look at cutting costs)

Eliminate Day Camps - \$170,000 (Kissel Park and Miller Park)

Reduce Tahoma Cemetery watering - \$15,000 (Domestic water use instead of canal irrigation)

Eliminate Youth Sports programs - \$61,000 (increase fees and look at cutting costs)

Bruce commented that the Arboretum has a nature day camp. Blake inquired about the Harman Center closing. Ken advised that if the \$6 million levy passes, the Harman Center will not close. Discussion followed regarding decisions that need to be made if the levy does not pass. Discussion followed regarding reality of Franklin Pool operating again if it does close. Ken advised that it is at the end of its life. Blake commented about the \$6 million being a short-term fix and what will be done in the long term. He stated he does like that fee increases are being looked at. Bruce inquired about the cost per child for the day camps. Ken stated that we can get those figures for them. Discussion followed regarding sponsorships. Discussion followed regarding the rentals of the pools.

Manager's Report

Ken stated that summer is almost over. There is one last concert at Franklin Park. Park Commissioner, Gib Van Der Heyden's band, Genieve, will be performing. The last movie will be at Chesterley Park on Sunday night, Harry Potter. There are two Viva la Musica concerts left at Miller Park, one this Sunday and one the Sunday after Labor Day. The last day for the outdoor swimming pools will be August 23rd. The Paws in the Pool event will be held at Franklin Pool on August 24th. Discussion followed. Stacy encouraged everyone to go to the Movie in the Park if they have never experienced it.

For the Good of the Order

Nothing to report.

Adjournment The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be on September 10, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 6:27 p.m.