

Yakima Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
February 12, 2025

Commissioners Present: Chairman Rod Bryant, Blake Scully, Robert Young, Paul Cook, Gib Van Der Heyden and Annaka Yockey **Absent and Excused:** Vice Chair Stacy Hackenmueller 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

Chairman Rod Bryant called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes from January 8, 2025

It was Moved by Blake Scully, Seconded by Gib Van Der Heyden to approve the Minutes as written from the January 8, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Nothing to report.

District 1 Park Review

Ken advised that we are already starting to look at updating the Comprehensive Master Plan. The current plan is good through 2027, but we thought it would be good to review the Parks by District and update the planned capital improvements. Ken stated that we will be reviewing a different district per meeting over the next year. Ken commented that it is always helpful to take our annual park tour in June. Ken shared the slides of District 1 parks and reviewed the general information as well as the maintenance expenses, revenue, capital improvements and planned capital improvements. He highlighted the renovations that were done at Miller Park in 2023, which was the 100th anniversary of that park. Annaka asked about applying for grants for improvements. Ken stated that Parks and Recreation staff apply for state and local grants as well as service club grants regularly. Robert inquired about tracking vandalism. Jenise advised that we do track it and some of it is billed to Clean City. Ken stated that we ran a report and shared the information at a previous meeting that he may not have been present for. Discussion followed.

Current Park & Recreation Fees Discussion

Ken advised that the City is facing a bit of a budget issue in the coming years. He stated that City Council is going to be creating a budget review committee. One of the things we have talked about is sharing our fees with the committee. These fees went into effect in January 2024. Ken shared the 2019 fees compared to the current 2024 fees that we worked on in 2023. He commented that it is complicated setting our fees for our programs because we want to serve as many people as possible for the lowest fee possible. Parks and Recreation fees help offset the costs of the programs that we offer. Ken stated that we have to be careful not setting our fees to high, otherwise people will not participate and that reduces our revenue as well. Discussion followed.

Aquatic Center at Martin Luther King Jr, Park Update

Ken shared that he received confirmation from the contractor that we are on schedule to open in early June. He stated that a ribbon cutting ceremony for some time in early June is being planned and that at least one Park Commissioner will be asked to speak. Others being invited to speak will be Senator Curtis King, County Commissioner Kyle Curtis, a representative from the Dept. of Commerce, the Governor and the Executive Director from RCO. Ken commented that most of the work being done now is finishing work like door knobs and cabinets. Ken stated that he has applied for two additional grants from the Dept. of Commerce. One the projects being done is the plaques for the donor wall. Ken advised that there will be 5 levels of donations and plaque sizes. The plaques will be placed on the wall in the entry area. Discussion followed.

Manager's Report

Ken stated that staff met with Human Resources this morning to discuss ways to recruit and hire lifeguards and cashiers for the new pool. The increase of temporary summer help is going to be significant. High school and middle school teams will be using the parks soon for their spring sports practices. Our seasonal employees will be returning on March 3rd and will be working on getting the parks ready to use.

For the Good of the Order

Nothing to report.

Adjournment The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be on March 12, 2025.
The meeting adjourned at 6:22 p.m.