

Yakima Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
May 14, 2025

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

Chairman Rod Bryant called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m.

Approval of the Meeting Minutes from February 12, 2025

It was Moved by Gib Van Der Heyden, Seconded by Robert Young to approve the Minutes as written from the February 12, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

Introductions

Ken introduced the new Assistant City Manager, Gary Ballew. He also introduced the newest member of the Parks and Recreation Commission, Youth Commissioner, Kenneth Garcia.

Public Comment

Nothing to report.

District 2 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 it will be helpful to start reviewing 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. He commented that it is always helpful to take our annual park tour in June. Ken shared the slides of District 2 parks and reviewed the general information as well as the maintenance expenses, revenue, capital improvements and planned capital improvements. He highlighted the changes made at MLK Jr. Park. The new playground that was donated by Downtown Rotary along with the new picnic shelter donated by Southwest Rotary and the upgraded lighting throughout the park donated by Sunrise Rotary. The new Aquatic Center has also been constructed at MLK Jr. Park. Discussion followed.

City of Yakima Budget Survey Discussion

Ken advised that they have a copy of the Budget Survey Results in their packets. With the City facing a \$9 million shortfall, the survey was done to help City Council determine what things community members value. The City hosted Town Hall meetings as well. The results showed that 25% of people said Parks and Pools were their number 1 priority. Ken advised this is just an informational document and it will be presented to City Council to review and make their decisions on how to move forward. Discussion followed.

Aquatic Center at Martin Luther King Jr. Park Update

Ken shared that water will be going into the pools very soon and that we are on track for the Grand Opening on June 12th. He advised that some individuals, companies and organizations that donated larger amounts have received naming rights for certain elements. There are also some individuals that were instrumental in making this project happen and they will also have a feature named for them. Ken stated that the Naming of Elements list is before them, and asked that they review it as he would need them to approve or not for the resolution that will be going to City Council in June for their approval. Discussion followed. Stacy moved to accept the Naming of Elements as written, seconded by Gib. The motion passed unanimously.

Manager's Report

Ken stated that Spring has been busy in the parks with many shelter reservations. Franklin pool is ready to open for the season, and the slide has been evaluated. Everyone is busy hiring temporary staff. The finishing touches are be done for the Concerts and Movies.

For the Good of the Order

Nothing to report.

Adjournment The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting TBD (Park Tour or Ribbon Cutting in June).
The meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.