

Yakima Parks and Recreation Commission
Meeting Minutes for
October 8, 2025

Commissioners Present: Chairman Rod Bryant, Vice Chair Stacy Hackenmueller, Blake Scully, Robert Young, Paul Cook, Bruce Whitmore, Annaka Yockey and Kenneth Garcia Absent and Excused: Gib Van Der Heyden 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 September 10 2025

It was **Moved by Bruce Whitmore, Seconded by Blake Scully to approve the Minutes as written from the September 10, 2025 Parks and Recreation Commission Meeting.** The motion carried unanimously.

Public Comment

Nothing to report.

District 5 Park Review

Ken advised that we are continuing to look at updating the Comprehensive Master Plan. The current plan is good until April of 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 each meeting over the next year. Ken shared the slides of parks within District 5 and reviewed the general information as well as the maintenance expenses, revenue, capital improvements and planned capital improvements. Discussion followed.

City of Yakima Levy Fact Sheet Discussion

Ken stated that he emailed the fact sheet out once he received it and also included it in their packet for the meeting. He advised that the sheet should help answer some questions regarding the proposition that is on the ballot to increase the tax levy. Many community members have questions, and the fact sheet has information that will help educate voters before they decide whether to vote yes or no.

Parks and Recreation Comprehensive Master Plan Survey Discussion

Ken stated that as part of the Comprehensive Master Plan, we do a community survey that is critical to us putting together the Master Plan. Ken advised their packets include the questions that were in the last survey for the current Master Plan. He requested that they each review the questions from the current survey and make suggestions for questions for the next survey. Ken reported that in place of the random mailing of the survey to a selected 5,000 homes within the city limits as previously done, we will be mailing a postcard with a QR code that will allow them to take the survey online. He stated we will try and reach as many households as possible within the Yakima city limits. Blake suggested including the QR code in the City's utility billings. Ken advised that we will be making the survey available in every format possible. Discussion followed. Bruce suggested asking apartment and senior living complex offices to help distribute the surveys to their tenants. He volunteered to help with that. Stacy stated that in light of our budget issues, she would like to see questions about what people prioritize or consider the most critical and what facilities and/or programs they value the most. She also would like to ask if they have visited any of the community centers, which one and what they did there. She also suggested a question about if and how they utilize the website and ask them to rate it. Ken advised that there will be questions regarding the capital improvements needed. Discussion followed. Bruce suggested more educational offerings in Yakima parks. Discussion followed. Ken stated that we will need to get the survey out in May of 2026 and it will be available for people to take for a couple of months. Rod inquired about putting the QR code on the Yakima School District's website. Ken stated we will check into that.

Manager's Report

Ken stated that we are in the early stages of speaking with a donor about the possibility of a renovation at Larson Park. We are also speaking with a donor about the possibility of an outdoor exercise area at

Chesterley Park. Parks and Recreation staff is currently working on changing our online presence. We are moving to a new online registration system. The front desk administration staff has been working very diligently on getting all of our programs and facilities moved over into the new system, so we can hopefully go live on December 1st. We have outgrown Sportsites and need something that will allow more options for our customers, as well as our staff. He advised that the Girls High School State Slowpitch Softball tournament will be held at Kiwanis at the end of October. Halloween events will be held this month and we are planning on the Letters to Santa event in December. Ken stated that he will be visiting a park in The Dalles, OR that has exercise equipment from one of the companies we are looking at using for the exercise area at Chesterley. Ken reminded that there will be no meeting in November.

For the Good of the Order

Nothing to report.

Adjournment The next Parks and Recreation Commission meeting will be on December 10, 2025. The meeting adjourned at 6:24 p.m.