



Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, May 7, 2025

Council Chambers and Online

1. Call to Order

Chair Wheeler called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

2. Roll Call

Commissioners Present: Chair Aram Wheeler, Vice Chair Laurie Davies, Hilary Dykstra, Bill Fosbre, Michelle Gipson, Annette Roth

Commissioners Absent: Gary Larson, Aryan Kumar (youth commissioner)

3. Land Acknowledgment

Commissioner Fosbre read the land acknowledgment.

4. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Davies motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Fosbre seconded. Motion carried.

B. Approval of March 5, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Commissioner Fosbre motioned to approve the agenda. Commissioner Davies seconded. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment

No public comment.

6. Business Items

A. Youth Sports Program Update

Byron Schorzman, Recreation Coordinator

Recreation Coordinator Schorzman provided a recap of Lacey's youth sports programs from 2024 and highlighted youth sports programs expected during summer 2025.

- B. New Board Member: Michelle Gipson
Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner
Commissioner Gipson provided an introduction to the Board as a new Commissioner.

- C. New Board Member: Annette Roth
Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner
Commissioner Roth provided an introduction to the Board as a new Commissioner.

- D. Metropolitan Park District Update
Jen Burbidge, Director
Director Burbidge provided updates relevant to Resolution No. 1166 adopted by the City Council to place a proposal on the August 5, 2025 ballot to create a Metropolitan Park District.

- E. Board Policies and Procedures Update
Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner
Commissioner Dykstra motioned to approve the updates. Commissioner Davies seconded. Motion carried.

- F. Memorandum of Understanding: Thurston County Pickleball Club
Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner
Commissioner Dykstra motioned to approve the memorandum of understanding. Commissioner Gipson seconded. Motion carried.

7. Reports

- A. Commissioners
No report.

- B. Chair
Chair Wheeler reported happiness in seeing residents enjoying the parks with the warmer weather.

- C. Recreation Manager

Recreation Manager Falash highlighted the 2025 Quarter 1 program updates as included in the agenda packet.

D. Parks Maintenance Supervisor

Senior Parks Planner Wilson provided the Parks Maintenance Supervisor report. Parks Maintenance has performed the following since the last board meeting:

- Onboarded two full-time employees and fifteen seasonal employees;
- Assisted in the planning of several projects: Regional Athletic Complex Phase 3, security camera expansion, Rainier Vista tennis court resurfacing, parks asset condition assessment, Woodland Creek Park bridge replacement;
- Issued six firewood permits;
- Charged irrigation and drinking fountains;
- Aerated athletic fields;
- Conducted the quarterly playground inspections;
- Replaced the Regional Athletic Complex synthetic turf on soccer field 1 and the bullpens and replaced the LED scoreboard panels;
- Improved field drainage in saturated areas at the Regional Athletic Complex;
- At Wonderwood Park, installed bat racks on the baseball field and added boulders to prevent vehicles from driving into the park;
- Added Turface, a soil conditioner that increases water retention and improves play, to dirt infields;
- Repaired a broken swing at Woodland Creek Park;
- Removed a cracked slide at Thornbury Park and mitigated new entrapment hazards;
- Repaired a broken gate at the Lakepointe tennis courts;
- Mitigated twenty-six acts of vandalism and graffiti; and
- Graded gravel and repaired a broken door and gate at the Lacey Depot.

E. Senior Parks Planner

Senior Parks Planner Wilson reported:

- Thurston County confirmed that the railroad at the end of the Karen Fraser Woodland Trail is still owned by BNSF.
- The Woodland Creek bridge replacement project will go out for construction ad soon.
- Intercity Transit is planning bus stop enhancements, two of which will be near Lacey Parks. The Ruddell Road stop by Rainier Vista Community Park is moving 450 ft north of current stop. The stop by Meridian Neighborhood Park is being moved closer to the park.
- A historic marker will be added to Homann Park to recognize the Homann family's donation of the park property.

- The Parks, Culture and Recreation Department will be submitting the following requests for the 2026 budget: Homann Park picnic area replacement, Huntamer Park sidewalk repairs and playground replacement, Thornbury Park playground replacement, Regional Athletic Complex concrete replacement.

F. Director

Director Burbidge reported:

- The Greg Cuoio Park groundbreaking event was held on March 6, 2025. Construction is underway and is currently on schedule for substantial completion of Phase 1A by end of June 2025.
- The consultants for Regional Athletic Complex Phase 3 will present three concepts during the June 2025 Board meeting then present to the City Council on June 10, 2025.
- Museum Curator Quinn Valcho will give the Lacey Museum annual report and celebrate May being Lacey History Month during the May 20, 2025 City Council Meeting.
- Director Burbidge will be presenting with the Lacey Community Foundation during the May 27, 2025 City Council meeting to showcase a Five-Year Fundraising Plan for the City of Lacey, which has an emphasis on the Parks Department and the new Museum and Cultural Center.
- The Regional Athletic Complex kiosk dedication was held on March 8, 2025.
- A lease and maintenance agreement renewal consideration for Arbors Park with the Meadowlake Homeowner's Association will be presented to the Board during the June 2025 meeting.

8. Adjourn

Chair Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 6:57 p.m.