



Parks, Culture, and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, March 4, 2026

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, Gary Larson, Michelle Gipson, Annette Roth

Commissioners Absent (unexcused): Aryan Kumar

3. Land Acknowledgment

Commissioner Fosbre read the land acknowledgment.

4. Approval of Agenda and Minutes

A. Approval of the Agenda

Commissioner Roth moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner Fosbre seconded. Motion carried.

B. Approval of December 3, 2025 Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Davies moved to approve the minutes. Commissioner Fosbre seconded. Motion carried.

5. Public Comment

Eight (8) people signed up to speak at the meeting.

David Mercer, Lacey resident, commented on Wanschers Park Lift Station.

Janet Ikeda, Lacey resident, commented on Wanschers Park Lift Station.

Mike Bloom, Lacey resident, commented on Wanschers Park Lift Station.

Lynne Dearing, Lacey resident, commented on Wanschers Park Lift Station.

Scott Goddard, Lacey resident, commented on Wanschers Park Lift Station.

Jeffrey McKenzie, Lacey resident, commented on Wanschers Park Lift Station.
Marilyn Eshenbaugh, Lacey resident, commented on Wanschers Park Lift Station.
Liz Mercer, Lacey resident, commented on Wanschers Park Lift Station.

6. Business Items

A. Wanschers Park Lift Station

Justin Knox, Utility Engineer
Jen Burbidge, Director

Utility Engineer Justin Knox presented details about the proposed Wanschers Park Lift Station project.

Chair Wheeler moved to affirm the following: at this time, the Parks Board does not have enough information to make a decision on either location, and we request additional environmental and fiscal impact information, should this advisory board make a decision on the two. Commissioner Larson seconded. Motion carried.

B. Youth Sports Programs

Byron Schorzman, Recreation Coordinator

Recreation Coordinator Schorzman provided a report on Lacey Parks, Culture and Recreation's youth sports programs.

C. Thurston Conservation District Agreements

Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner

Senior Parks Planner Wilson reviewed the drafted agreements with Thurston Conservation District.

Chair Wheeler moved to approve the agreements. Vice Chair Davies seconded. Motion carried.

D. 2026 Parks, Culture and Recreation Workplan Update

Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner

Senior Parks Planner Wilson summarized the drafted updates to the 2026 Parks, Culture and Recreation Work Plan.

Chair Wheeler moved to approve the work plan updates. Dykstra seconded. Motion carried.

E. Enhancements Program Updates

Jenny Wilson, Senior Parks Planner

Chair Wheeler moved to approve the staff recommendations. Commissioner Gipson seconded. Motion carried.

F. Draft 2025 Annual Report

Sue Falash, Recreation Manager

Director Burbidge presented the 2025 Parks, Culture and Recreation Department's Annual Report.

Chair Wheeler moved to approve the report. Commissioner Roth seconded. Motion carried.

7. Reports

A. Commissioners

Commissioner Fosbre noted that staff prepare items a week ahead of each meetings date, indicating a lack of need to change meeting processes for the Parks, Culture and Recreation Board. Commissioner Roth stated public comment policy is consistent amongst all city advisory boards.

B. Chair

No report.

C. Recreation Manager

Director Burbidge provided the Recreation Manger report, highlighting the 2025 Quarter 4 Program Updates as attached.

D. Parks Maintenance Supervisor

Senior Parks Planner Wilson provided the Parks Maintenance Supervisor report.

Senior Parks Planner Wilson shared a summary of the work that Parks Maintenance staff completed since the previous board meeting.

E. Senior Parks Planner

Senior Parks Planner Wilson reported updates on the Bush Park playground replacement project; appreciation for Commissioners in attendance at the Woodland Creek Community Park bridge ribbon cutting event; updates on the

progress of the Rainier Vista Park pickleball project; work has begun on the camera project relevant to the Depot Building, Lacey Community Center, and Rainier Vista Park; the McKinney House project is scheduled for Council review on March 24, 2026; appreciation for Commissioners in attendance at the recent Council Meeting; the City's Commission on Equity's request to have Parks Commissioners to serve on an application review panel for the new Community and Cultural Events Grant Program; and demolition of the Long Lake House is forthcoming.

F. Director

Director Burbidge reported a contractor was selected to assist the department in soliciting sponsorships; an opening date for Greg Cuoio Park remains to be determined; and the Lacey Museum is open for business in its new space.

8. Adjourn

Commissioner Wheeler adjourned the meeting at 7:55 p.m.