



Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes June 11, 2026

<u>Committee Members</u>	<u>City Representatives:</u>	<u>Youth Advisors:</u>
Position #1 ☐ Jay Ego	☒ Jackie Myers, <i>Council Representative</i>	☐ Aspyr Inners
Position #2 ☒ Mary Mejia-Weaver	☒ Maria Duron, <i>Council Representative</i>	☐ Yaneisy Perez
Position #3 ☒ Hunter Tibbals	☒ Brandon Artz, <i>P&R, Director</i>	☐ Gabriel Richards
Position #4 ☐ Carlisle Harrison	☒ Kasia Robbins, <i>P&R, Rec Manager</i>	☐ Jazmin Sanchez
Position #5 ☒ Stephanie Hughes	☐ Telisha Goodwin, <i>P&R, Operations Coord.</i>	☐ Sofia Rodriguez
Position #6 ☒ Helen Nevin		
Position #7 ☐ Doug Minton		

Members of the Public:

None

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Hunter Tibbals at 5:31 pm with a quorum present.

Minutes

- January 2026, P&R Committee Minutes
 - A. Stephanie moved and Mary seconded motion to approve the minutes.
 - B. Motion carried unanimously

Reports & Business

Introduction

- Introduced Mya Moreno as the new full-time Recreation Coordinator/Aquatics Manager.
- Introduced Andrew Guerrero as Recreation Coordinator.
- Recreation staff is now fully staffed for the summer season.
- Lifeguard recruitment has been successful with nearly all seasonal positions filled. Staff discussed the importance of training and retaining returning employees.

Director's Report

- City and Project Updates
- HAWC Project:**
 - Council presentation was completed.
 - Community outreach and surveys will be conducted throughout the summer.
 - Results will be presented to City Council in September for a final decision on whether to proceed with design.

Horizon Park

- Basketball court has been completed.
- Playground installation is substantially complete.
- Final landscaping, curbing, pathways, and surfacing remain.
- Park opening is anticipated within the next few weeks.
- Committee discussed hosting a community Horizon Park Opening Party/Ribbon Cutting following 4th of July Celebration.



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Belt Park Bridge

- Ribbon cutting was held for the newly completed bridge.
- Students who constructed the bridge were recognized for their work and partnership with the local welding program.

Downtown Tree Project

- Greenworks will evaluate downtown tree wells and provide recommendations for improvements, replacement trees, and accessibility enhancements.

I Love My City

- Successful community cleanup event completed.
- Parks, downtown areas, and graffiti cleanup were completed.
- Fifteen trees were planted in Belt Park by Youth Advisory members. ARC updates:

Forestry Grant Update

Progress continues on the Community Forest Plan including:

- Tree inventory
- Hazardous tree assessments
- Tree maintenance planning
- Arboretum development
- Downtown tree planning
- Continued community education and future tree plantings

Aquatics

Pool Operations

- Pool mechanical systems are functioning well overall.
- Staff continue proactive maintenance on filtration and water clarity.
- Future improvements remain dependent on the outcome of the HAWK project.

Second Grade Swim Lessons

- 347 students participated this year.
- High-risk drowning assessments have decreased from 83% in 2018 to 59% in 2026.
- Program success continues through strong partnership with the Hermiston School District.
- Kiwanis Club continues supporting the program through donations of goggles, sunscreen, and water safety books.

Hermiston Family Aquatic Center

- Pool scheduled to open Saturday.
- Staff anticipate a busy opening weekend.

Parks Maintenance

New Equipment

- Department received a new **Toro Groundmaster 5910** mower.
- Equipment features:
 - 16-foot cutting deck
 - Approximately 20 acres per hour
 - All-wheel drive
 - Climate-controlled operator cab
- Purchase funded through an internal Public Works loan with repayment planned over two to three years.



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Upcoming Programs & Events

Staff provided updates on upcoming events including:

- Birdies & Beyond Youth Golf Camp (Camp Full)
- Birdies & Beyond Golf Tournament (Registration Still Open)
- Stars & Stripes 3-on-3 Basketball Tournament
- Summer Feeding Program
- Science in the Park
- Melon Fest Planning
- Fourth of July Celebration
 - New circus-style entertainment
 - Additional food vendors
 - Community mural sponsored by Amazon
 - Traditional pool celebration to continue

Open Discussion

- Community survey will be distributed in English and Spanish throughout the summer.
- Discussion included pool maintenance, irrigation canal safety education, employee retention, and future park improvement opportunities.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:15 pm