



Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes, September 12, 2024

Approved by committee on 11/21/2024

Committee Members present:

Position #1	Jeff Kelso	✓
Position #2	*Open Position*	_____
Position #3	Hunter Tibbals	✓
Position #4	Carlisle Harrison	✓

Position #5	Erica Juarez	_____
Position #6	Angel Aguilar	_____
Position #7	Nicole Westing	✓

City Representatives:

Jackie Myers, Council Representative	✓
David McCarty, Council Representative	✓
Brandon Artz, Parks & Recreation, Director	✓

Kelly Schwirse, Parks & Recreation, Admin	✓
Kasia Robbins, Parks & Recreation, Coordinator	✓
Dylan Westfall, Parks & Recreation, Coordinator	✓

Members of the Public: Kriss Dammeyer, *Made to Thrive*

CALL TO ORDER

Meeting called to order at 5:30 by Jeff Kelso.

MINUTES

Motion made by Carlisle Harrison and seconded by Hunter Tibbals to approve the minutes from the July 11th meetings. Committee meeting minutes on June 18. Motion carried unanimously.

REPORTS & BUSINESS

Director's Report, presented by Brandon Artz

RECREATION STAFF

- Dylan Westfall, our newest recreation coordinator, was introduced to the committee detailing his background and experience. Dylan started July 16 with a focus on aquatics, events and teens.
- Recruitment efforts are underway for the Recreation Manager position. A second round of interviews will be held on September 26th where four candidates will be interviewed. A total of 16 applications were received for this position.

HERMISTON WELLNESS CENTER (HAWC)

- Hermiston Aquatics and Wellness Center (HAWC) task force has been formed to assess the feasibility of building an indoor aquatic center, which has been a top priority for the city council and residents. The task force brings together a diverse group of stakeholders, including representatives from Umatilla County, cities of Hermiston, Umatilla, Stanfield and Echo and Hermiston School District.
- Wenaha Group will drive the HAWC task force forward, coordinate subject matter experts, facilitate meetings and bring in specialists to provide insights on various aspects of the project.



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- Key objectives for the task force include:
 - Reviewing the existing aquatic center and potential improvements.
 - Evaluating potential locations for the new facility. Identifying partnerships and funding sources
- The task force has a structured timeline and aims to determine if the project is viable with regional partners or if it needs to be reconsidered based on the partnerships and funding available.

CIMMARON PARK

- Parks & Recreation has been recommended for funding through the local government grant program. Total Project Cost: \$504,000. Funding Breakdown: Grant funding: \$302,000; City reserves: \$20,000 (to be used as matching funds)
- An RFP for a design-build contract is being prepared, expected to go out next month.
- Survey for park naming will be further discussed and distributed to schools for suggestions.

GREENWOOD PARK

- Individual crashed vehicle into park during early morning of August 10th
- Estimates at \$30,00 for repairs to fencing and concrete wall.
- Playground did not sustain damage.

RIVERFRONT PARK

- Installation of signs for the Read and Walk trail along Riverfront Park, estimated completion in October. Project in cooperation with Altrusa International of Hermiston.
- Books provided by Hermiston Public Library

HARRISON PARK

- Basketball court is completed with hoops, lights and courts painted.
- Rotary club will be involved in the construction of the gazebo.
- Made to Thrive along with area churches hosted an outreach event at Harrison Park on August 26 with food, games and activities bringing over 250 people together at the park.

HARKENRIDER SENIOR ACTIVITY CENTER

- Construction is progressing. The drywall installation is currently underway, and the electrical work has been completed. The next step will be the installation of lighting fixtures. Once the drywall is in place, the fire safety systems will be finalized.
- The project is on track for completion, with final punch list items expected to be addressed by mid-October.

PICKLEBALL COURTS

- \$590,000 has been raised for this project, still seeking additional in-kind donations.
- Leveling and grading by Barton Laser Leveling begins October 1st
- Projected opening in Spring 2025



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- The Parks and Recreation Department is working on an agreement with the pickleball club regarding usage of the new pickleball courts. The club doesn't seek exclusive use but wants to establish specific times for hosting tournaments and ensuring court availability for their members. This arrangement acknowledges the club's efforts in developing the courts while prioritizing community benefit.
- The agreement aims to be flexible and not overly restrictive, allowing for changes in leadership or club structure without binding the city to unfavorable terms. The focus is on maintaining open access to the courts for the broader community while accommodating the needs of the pickleball club that has invested time and effort into the project

PARK PROJECTS

The Parks and Recreation department in Hermiston is currently juggling multiple projects, which has led to some stacking and staging of work. The following is summary of the ongoing projects:

- Harrison Park: Improvements are underway, including new basketball courts and a pavilion.
- Riverfront skate park: Development in progress.
- Pickleball courts: Construction planned with community support.
- Horizon Park: A new playground is ready to be installed, pending available time.
- Food Pod: Working on adding picnic shelters, currently seeking bids.
- Park and Rider Center: Focusing on basement work and exterior landscaping.
- Greenwood Park: Ongoing improvements and maintenance as needed.
- Community Center: Interior work, including casework and cabinet installation from the library.

These projects are being managed alongside regular park maintenance duties, such as cleanup after events, addressing homeless-related issues, and routine mowing. The department is working to balance these new developments with their day-to-day responsibilities, which has resulted in some projects being prioritized or staged to manage the workload effectively.

VENDORS IN PARKS

- Ordinance changes
- Requests for usage of Parks
- Public property, right to lease areas for vendors
- Monthly/Weekly Fee amount undecided
- RFP (Request for Proposals) for Hodge Park
- These changes are in response to increased interest from food trucks and vendors wanting to be involved in the city. The new policy will create more opportunities for vendors to operate on public property, specifically in parks.

PROGRAMS & EVENTS

- iCan Swim Program, first time program for Hermiston. Very successful and received a lot of great evaluations and comments about the staff and program overall.
- Melon Fest, 58+ vendors, largest crowd to date for this event. Featured video of the event produced by Duquette Media <https://www.facebook.com/hermistonrec/videos/995768115349553>
- 1,624 total recreation summer program participants



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- Currently offering 18 different fall programs including fall swim lessons, youth volleyball and flag football, bowling leagues, art classes, kids' gymnastics, Rec It Arena, community yard sale plus some adult activities such as dodgeball league, cornhole league and volleyball league.
- Adult Travel Program with Collette featuring two international trips and two domestic trips in 2025. Hosting a trip presentation on October 10, 3-5pm at the Hermiston Community Center along with a representative of Collette to go over all the details of the trips and answer any questions.

AWARDS & RECOGNITION

- Carlisle Harrison has been selected for the Oregon Parks and Recreation Association's Lasting Impact Award. This award recognizes Carlisle's significant contributions to the Hermiston park system over the years.
- Carlisle will be presented at the ORPA conference on October 24, with a formal recognition on November 12.

PUBLIC COMMENT

No public comment

ADJOURNED

Meeting adjourned at 6:45

Next regular meeting, October 10, 5:30pm