



Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes November 13, 2025

<u>Committee Members</u>	<u>City Representatives:</u>	<u>Youth Advisors:</u>
Position #1 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jay Ego	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Jackie Myers, <i>Council Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Aspyr Inners
Position #2 <input type="checkbox"/> Mary Mejia-Weaver	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Maria Duron, <i>Council Representative</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Yaneisy Perez
Position #3 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hunter Tibbals	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Brandon Artz, <i>P&R, Director</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Gabriel Richards
Position #4 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Carlisle Harrison	<input type="checkbox"/> Kasia Robbins, <i>P&R, Rec Manager</i>	<input type="checkbox"/> Jazmin Sanchez
Position #5 <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant		<input type="checkbox"/> Sofia Rodriguez
Position #6 <input type="checkbox"/> Vacant		
Position #7 <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Doug Minton		

Members of the Public:

None

Call to Order

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

Minutes

- C. Harrison moved and D. Minton seconded motion to approve the minutes:
 - A. April 2025, P&R Committee Minutes
 - B. May 2025, P&R Committee Minutes
 - C. June 2025, P&R Committee Minutes
 - D. June 2025, TRT Committee Minutes
 - E. September 2025, P&R Committee Minutes

Motion carried unanimously.

Reports & Business

Naming of Newport Park Basketball Courts

Councilor Barron proposed naming the Newport Park basketball courts in honor of Joe Thompson.

Committee Members discussed

- the naming of the courts and park history
- background on Joe Thompson. No information was given by Councilor Barron.
- city's policy on naming public facilities

A motion was made by C. Harrison and seconded by J. Ego to postpone the naming discussion until the January meeting to allow time for further research and community input.

Harkenrider Center Agreement Review

Director Artz gave an overview of the agreement with the Senior Center Board on the usage of the Harkenrider Senior Activity Center.

- Review prompted by Councilor Linton's \$30,000 funding request for senior meals.
- Senior board is a non-profit tenant with priority use from 8 AM to 3 PM.
- Contract requires five meals/week; currently only two provided.
- City covers ~95% of utilities and maintenance, contrary to agreement terms.
- City budgets \$132,000 annually for the center:
 - A. 4,000 for personnel.



Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Parks & Recreation

Meeting Minutes November 13, 2025

- B. \$57,000 for maintenance.
- Seniors rent the facility after 3 PM and retain rental income.
- Senior center president declined use of basement.
- City earned \$1,500 from basement rentals since July.
- Meeting with senior board planned for January.
- Concerns raised about:
 - A. Underperformance on contract.
 - B. Lack of budget transparency.
 - C. Resistance to city assistance and grant support.
 - D. Limited meal service and promotion.
- Suggestions:
 - A. Survey seniors to assess needs.
 - B. Offer incentives (e.g., free meals, yoga classes).
 - C. Distribute surveys at local businesses (e.g., Hermiston Drug).
 - D. Consider renaming Harkenrider Activity Center to broaden appeal.

Director's Report

P&R Director Artz gave updates on the following:

- Staff updates
 - Stephanie Thongdy departed; operations coordinator recruitment underway.
 - Myanna H. hired as recreation coordinator (started October 2).
 - Background in sports and university recreation.
 - Will oversee aquatic center and special events.
 - Assisting with basketball programming improvements.
- AED Grant and Installations
 - \$7,500 grant received from Good Shepherd Community Health Foundation.
 - Three AEDs and two outdoor boxes purchased.
 - AED locations:
 - Pickleball courts.
 - Funland (with pediatric pads).
 - HEROS Fields (for staff use).
 - AED boxes are heated, lit, and monitored by cameras.
 - Umatilla County dispatch has access codes.
- Entry Sign Landscaping & Community Center Projects
 - New welcome sign and water-efficient landscaping installed at airport.
 - Landscaping improvements made at community center to address mold.
 - Six trees to be planted via tree grant (Columbia Tree Care) at Community Center.

Program/Events Update

- Upcoming Events – Christmas Market, Tree Lighting and Parade, Youth Basketball

Open Discussion

- D. Minton asked about Aquatic Center updates.
 - Updates should be coming in January with results of agreements and interests from reach out by CM Smith.
- D. Minton asked about winter pickleball.
 - New, lower cost nets will be purchased to protect the valuable competition nets for over the winter.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:57pm
- Next meeting: Thursday, January 8th at 5:30pm