



Parks & Recreation

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes January 8, 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	☒ Myana Hibbert, <i>P&R, Rec Coordinator</i>	☐ Sofia Rodriguez
Position #6 ☐ Vacant		
Position #7 ☒ Doug Minton		

Members of the Public:

Helen Nevin

Call to Order

- The meeting was called to order by Hunter Tibbals at 5:36pm with a quorum present.
- Committee members, city representatives, and staff introduced themselves, sharing their roles and personal reasons for serving on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee.

Minutes

- M. Mejia-Weaver moved and C. Harrison seconded motion to approve the minutes:
 - A. November 2025, P&R Committee MinutesMotion carried unanimously.

Reports & Business

Naming of Newport Park Basketball Courts

Councilor Barron in a 2025 City Council meeting, 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.
- city's policy on naming public facilities

No motion made.

Aquatics Recap 2025

Recreation Manager Robbins gave a recap report on the Hermiston Family Aquatic Center 2025 season.

- Presented 2025 statistics: 82,218 facility visits, \$137k in Admission Revenue, \$62k in concessions revenue, 1,619 swim lesson participants.
- Discussed strong overall performance and operations, cost recovery at 80%
- Discussed upcoming Pasco aquatic facility opening and potential regional impact.
- Reviewed kiddie pool usability issues with planned improvements.



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Director's Report

Director Artz gave a report on the ongoing operations and events around the Department.

- Christmas events recap: ~2,600 attendees at Tree Lighting, 168 at Pancakes with Santa.
- Personnel updates: new operations coordinator starting soon; recreation coordinator hiring in progress.
- Park projects:
 - Belt Park bridge replacement planned via high school shop
 - Sherman Park design finalized with \$320,000 budget, bidding targeted for spring 2026.
- Outlined 2026 Department Goals:
 - Parks
 - Finalize Community Forest Plan, continue planting trees, design Main Street Tree plan.
 - Construct Sherman Park
 - Install Horizon Park Playground
 - Trees and irrigation on HEROS.
 - Recreation Programs & Activities
 - Rebuild and relaunch programs that were previously placed on hold
 - Add 2 new youth and/or teen programs
 - Introduce 1 new family-focused program
 - Create a Quarterly Activity Guide (in-house production) to improve communication and program awareness
 - Community Center
 - Increase rental utilization by supporting multiple rentals per day and quick turn-over between events
 - Develop and publish a Community Center Rental Brochure (website + printed)
 - Improve scheduling efficiency to maximize rental availability and revenue
 - Hermiston Family Aquatic Center
 - Launch a new Pass Holder Program to increase pass sales and reduce household-related barriers
 - Enhance the Multi-Use Pool experience with a small, non-plumbed slide to expand recreational offerings
 - Harkenrider Senior Activity Center
 - Restructure Senior Agreement with Senior Board
 - Increase facility rentals through inclusion in the Rental Brochure
 - Streamline rental processes to ensure accurate scheduling and conflict reduction
- Harkenrider Center agreement review on February 4th: planned restructuring discussion with senior board.

Program/Events Update

- Swim lesson registration opens February 7.
- Daddy Daughter Dance scheduled for March 21.
- Spring Market set for March 28.
- Youth basketball ongoing with over 400 participants; soccer signups active.
- Rotary tree giveaway planned for first Saturday in April (needs promotion support).

Open Discussion

- C. Harrison discussed Rotary Tree Giveaway.
- Discussed plans and potential future of old Carnegie library building.

Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned at 6:40pm
- Next meeting: Thursday, February 12th at 5:30pm