



# PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Community Center- 415 S. HWY 395

*Where Life is Sweet*

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September 11, 2025 at 5:30 PM

## AGENDA

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1. CALL TO ORDER
2. MINUTES
  - [A.](#) April 2025, P&R Committee Meeting Minutes
  - [B.](#) May 2025, P&R Committee Meeting Minutes
  - [C.](#) June 2025, P&R Committee Meeting Minutes
3. REPORTS AND BUSINESS
  - A. Director's Report
  - B. Funland Playground Fencing
  - C. Boat Launch Areas
4. PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS
  - A. Upcoming Events & Programs
5. OTHER
6. PUBLIC COMMENT
7. COMMITTEE OPEN DISCUSSION
8. NEXT MEETING
9. ADJOURN

**\*\* AMERICANS WITH DISABILITIES ACT NOTICE\*\***

Please contact Hermiston City Hall, 180 NE 2nd Street, Hermiston, OR 97838 (Phone No. 541-567-5521) at least 48 hours prior to the scheduled meeting time if you need an accommodation. TTY and TDD users please call Oregon Telecommunications Relay Service at 1-800-735-2900 or 711.



## Parks & Recreation

# Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes April 17, 2025

### Committee Members:

- Position #1 ☒ Jay Ego  
 Position #2 ☒ Mary Mejia-Weaver  
 Position #3 ☒ Hunter Tibbals  
 Position #4 ☒ Carlisle Harrison  
 Position #5 ☐ Erica Juarez  
 Position #6 ☒ Angel Aguilar  
 Position #7 ☒ Doug Minton

### City Representatives:

- ☒ Jackie Myers, *Council Representative*  
☒ Maria Duron, *Council Representative*  
☒ Brandon Artz, *Parks & Recreation, Director*  
☒ Kasia Robbins, *Parks & Recreation, Rec Manager*  
☐ Kelly Schwirse, *Parks & Recreation, Admin*  
☐ Yaneisy Perez, *Youth Advisor*

### Members of the Public:

No members of the public present.

### Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Hunter Tibbals, confirming a quorum.
- March minutes reviewed and approved with a motion and vote.

### Cimarron Park Renaming Discussion

- **Led by:** Brandon Artz
- **Update:** No significant progress on playground construction; bidding planned for fall or early winter due to seasonal pricing concerns.
- **Naming Proposals:**
  - Considered names: Sherman Park, Studebaker Park, Jackrabbit Flat.
  - Community survey indicated preference for naming after a person, with Sherman and Studebaker as top contenders.
  - **Sherman Park Advocacy:** Carlisle Harrison highlighted Rick Sherman's 50+ years of community service, including Christmas Express, Shriners Hospital support for 300+ children, and 20+ years as fire board chairman (pro bono).
  - **Studebaker Park:** Suggested by the police chief due to Randy Studebaker's popularity, but not strongly pushed. Concerns raised about eligibility under park naming criteria (long-term, pro bono contribution).
  - **Criteria Discussion:** Policy allows naming after living persons if they meet contribution standards or donate significantly to the park. Studebaker deemed ineligible by some due to his 10-year paid employment.
  - **Concerns:** Jackie Myers suggested avoiding naming after recent or living persons to prevent contention. Some resistance to re-surveying the community, as prior input favored a person's name.
  - **Outcome:** Motion by Carlisle Harrison, seconded by Doug Minton, to nominate Sherman Park. Committee voted in favor of Sherman Park, to be forwarded to City Council for final approval.

### Forestry Grant and Tree Inventory

- **Update by:** Brandon Artz
- Funding uncertainty with USDA grant through River Network; some pass-through partners cut off.
- Plan to maximize fund use with Arbor Pro for tree inventory and urban forest plan (~\$100,000 contract, 10% of \$1M grant).
- Invoicing every two weeks to secure reimbursements; conservative approach to avoid financial risk if funds are cut.



## *Parks & Recreation*

# Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes April 17, 2025

### Community Center Issues

- **Reported by:** Brandon Artz
- Mold found in offices due to water seepage; remediation completed, final painting underway, staff to return by Monday.
- Flooding in women's restroom and kitchen during a quinceañera due to sewer system dip; bidding planned to fix sewer issue.

### Pickleball Complex Progress

- **Update by:** Brandon Artz
- All 10 courts poured, lights installed, fence mesh to be added. Painting scheduled for mid-May after curing.
- Named Good Shepherd Pickleball Complex due to donation. Ribbon cutting planned for June 14, 2025.

### Other Project Updates

- **Harrison Park:** Security cameras installed, awaiting US Cellular connection (~\$75/month, cost-effective).
- **Horizon Park:** Construction delayed due to other priorities and pool prep.
- **Harkenreider Landscaping:** Budget-dependent, awaiting allocation.
- **Cimarron Park:** Installation ongoing.
- **Pool Prep:** Operational by May 10 for second-grade swim lessons.

### Events and Programs

- **Past Events:**
  - **Enchanted Daddy Daughter Dance:** Sold out (370 tickets), successful with waterfall decoration.
  - **Cast and Catch Kids Fishing Derby:** Revamped with high school soccer team support, new prizes for fish weight/length.
  - **Arbor Day Tree Giveaway:** Poor turnout despite ideal weather, possibly due to lack of advertising.
- **Upcoming Events:**
  - **Easter Carnival and Egg Dash (April 18):** Revamped with multiple rounds, glued eggs for sustainability, supported by New Hope Church donation.
  - **Spring Bazaar (May 3):** Planning underway.
  - **Swim Lesson Registration (May 9):** Two-week courses.
  - **I Love My City Day (May 17):** Recycling and hazardous waste events, volunteers needed.
  - **AWS/Arbor Day Planting (May 3):** 57 trees at EOTEC/fairgrounds, \$23,000 donated by AWS.

### Other Business

- **Riverfront Park Equipment:** Removed due to flooding and vandalism; usable parts donated to Echo.
- **McKenzie Park Clock:** Electrical issues being addressed, reprogrammed, awaiting sync check.
- **Volunteer Needs:** Requested for I Love My City Day and AWS planting event.

### Adjournment

- Meeting adjourned with no further discussion items.
- Next meeting: Thursday, May 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm



## Parks & Recreation

# Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes May 8, 2025

### Committee Members:

- Position #1 ☒ Jay Ego
- Position #2 ☐ Mary Mejia-Weaver
- Position #3 ☒ Hunter Tibbals
- Position #4 ☐ Carlisle Harrison
- Position #5 ☐ Erica Juarez
- Position #6 ☐ Angel Aguilar
- Position #7 ☒ Doug Minton

### City Representatives:

- ☒ Jackie Myers, *Council Representative*
- ☒ Maria Duron, *Council Representative*
- ☒ Brandon Artz, *Parks & Recreation, Director*
- ☐ Kasia Robbins, *Parks & Recreation, Rec Manager*
- ☒ Kelly Schwirze, *Parks & Recreation, Admin*
- ☐ Yaneisy Perez, *Youth Advisor*

### Members of the Public:

No members of the public present.

### Call to Order

- Meeting called to order by Hunter Tibbals. In the absence of a quorum, members acknowledged that no formal votes could be taken and agreed to continue with the presentation by Brandon Artz, Parks and Recreation Director.

### Reports & Business

#### **City Email Update**

- A new city email blast system, *Inside Hermiston*, was introduced to enhance public communication.
- Committee members briefly discussed the layout and accessibility of the newsletter.

#### **Forestry Grant, Tree Inventory, and Maintenance**

- Updates were provided on the forestry grant and the ongoing citywide tree inventory performed by Arbor Pro.
- Discussion included maintenance needs, hazardous tree assessments, and upcoming tree planting plans, especially targeting completion before September.

#### **Main Street Tree Plan**

- The Main Street tree project requires approximately \$380,000, within a total urban forestry budget of \$1 million.
- Committee members discussed tree species selection, historical planting issues, and the importance of suitable tree choices for urban settings.

#### **Community Tree Education**

- An educational initiative, Hydro Mania, will target 4th and 5th graders to raise tree awareness.
- Marketing and funding efforts were noted as essential to expanding the program.

#### **Pickleball Court Project**

- The project is nearing completion, with a budget of \$741,000, including donations and in-kind contributions.
- Updates included painting, installation of benches, lighting, and plans for a ribbon-cutting event.
- The need to finalize court usage rules and scheduling of tournaments was emphasized, along with maintaining public access.

#### **Columbia Ridge Park Development**

- Preliminary discussions were held regarding the development of Columbia Ridge Park by Hayden Homes.
- Concerns were raised about public access, safety, canal proximity, and potential traffic issues.

#### **Oasis Park Development**

- Committee discussed a church-led proposal for Oasis Park development, contingent on surrounding residential growth.
- Ideas included creating athletic fields or a general park area, stressing the importance of community input and infrastructure planning.



## ***Parks & Recreation***

# **Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee**

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Meeting Minutes    May 8, 2025

### **Tree Planting and Pool Project Updates**

- A recent volunteer event resulted in the planting of 57 trees at the fairgrounds with 29 participants.
- Updates were shared on the municipal pool project, including staff training, swim lesson planning, and handling of mold and flood damage in the Parks and Recreation office.

### **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned with no votes due to lack of quorum.
- Next meeting: Thursday, June 12<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm

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## Parks & Recreation

# Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

Meeting Minutes June 12, 2025

### **Committee Members:**

- Position #1 ☐ Jay Ego  
 Position #2 ☒ Mary Mejia-Weaver  
 Position #3 ☒ Hunter Tibbals  
 Position #4 ☐ Carlisle Harrison  
 Position #5 ☐ Erica Juarez  
 Position #6 ☐ Angel Aguilar  
 Position #7 ☒ Doug Minton

### **City Representatives:**

- ☒ Jackie Myers, *Council Representative*  
☒ Maria Duron, *Council Representative*  
☒ Brandon Artz, *Parks & Recreation, Director*  
☐ Kasia Robbins, *Parks & Recreation, Rec Manager*  
☒ Kelly Schwirase, *Parks & Recreation, Admin*  
☐ Yaneisy Perez, *Youth Advisor*

### **Members of the Public:**

Karyn Jones was present for meeting.

### **Call to Order**

- Meeting called to order by Hunter Tibbals. In the absence of a quorum, members acknowledged that no formal votes could be taken and agreed to continue with the meetings agenda.

### **Reports & Business**

#### **Urban Forestry Update**

Presentation on the Urban Forestry Project presented by Oscar Corvera from Arbor Pro.

#### **Tree Inventory and Management**

- Collected data on approximately 1,000 city-maintained trees
- 674 trees in good health, 325 in fair health, 34 in poor health
- Developing a comprehensive urban forest management plan
- Created detailed mapping and imagery of city trees

#### **Main Street Revitalization**

- Most Main Street trees are in poor condition
- Recommended complete removal and replanting
- Plan to create a more suitable tree environment with proper species selection

#### **Budget and Maintenance**

- Proposed a \$55,000 budget for first-year tree maintenance
- Recommended priority work including pruning and removals
- Suggested planting 100 trees annually
- Developed a five-year management strategy

#### **Program/Events Update**

- Discussed Hermiston Youth Soccer Organization transition
- Reviewed upcoming summer events (swim lessons, Fourth of July, pool opening)
- Introduced Memorandum of Understanding for Pickleball Courts

### **Adjournment**

- Meeting adjourned,
- Next meeting: Thursday, June 10<sup>th</sup> at 5:30pm