



Parks Advisory Committee

OFFICIAL MEETING MINUTES
FOR MAY 12, 2026

PRESENT: Adam Peterson, Cosi Slider, Emma Gray, Nisha George, Beth Dittman, Taylor Sarman, Bella DePhillipo (staff), Dustin Schull (staff), Kira Hein (Staff), Kate Griffin (staff), Amanda Watson (staff)

ABSENT: None

Call to Order

1. Roll Call: Adam Peterson called the meeting to order at 6:02 pm.

Approval of Minutes

1. April 14, 2026: Adam entertained a motion to approve the minutes from the April 14th meeting. Cosi Slider motioned, Emma Gray seconded, and the minutes were approved by vote.

Communication & Comments

1. Chair: Adam thanked Parks staff for their work at the Las Casitas ribbon cutting.
2. Staff: Kira Hein shared that she has City volunteer appreciation gifts for Taylor Sarman, Emma Gray, and Carl Hosticka available for pickup at Van Raden. Dustin Schull spoke about the letter of support for the Atfalati Restroom grant application that Adam signed, and also shared that the Recreation Supervisor position has been opened for applications.
3. Public: None.

Presentations

1. Kate Griffin - Volunteer Coordinator: Adam introduced Kate Griffin, and Kate introduced herself as the new volunteer program coordinator. Kate then gave a presentation that focused on the scope of her current duties, an overview of recent volunteer projects in parks, and her goals to expand for future volunteering opportunities.
 - a. Nisha George asked where the funding for volunteer programs comes from, and Dustin replied that it is mostly general fund supported. Nisha also asked where the City procures plants from, and Kate replied that most come from Beaver Lake but Valley View has also been a source more recently.
 - b. Dustin thanked Kate for the work she does and mentioned that many things the Parks Department does would not be possible without her, and Kate expressed how thankful she was for how helpful the Parks Maintenance staff are.

- c. Emma asked if Kate is the person to reach out to when the Parks Advisory Committee has new members, and she said that she can always help but Margaret Gunther has officially taken over the work of supporting advisory committees.
2. Amanda Watson - Climate Action Program Manager: Adam introduced Amanda Watson, and Amanda introduced herself as the climate action program manager. She gave a presentation that provided background on the climate action plan and gave an overview of how it is currently being implemented, providing a few detailed examples of how parks factor into the overall plan.
 - a. Nisha asked about pools in Tualatin, and Emma clarified that there isn't one in Tualatin but added that the Tigard High School pool is often open for public events and programs.
 - b. Taylor asked how many people have opted out of Pennies for Climate Action, and Amanda said about .5% at the moment.
 - c. Amanda asked for feedback on prioritizing climate plan actions. Beth Dittman asked if alignment with Federal Government opportunities or incentives is part of the criteria and also asked if a definitive rubric will be made. Amanda replied that the government alignment is definitely considered, and that a rubric is currently in the works but she is not sure how it will be laid out yet.
 - d. Adam mentioned that it seems like there will be a lot of opportunity for co-benefits with the new Riverfront Park coming in, in terms of alignment with prioritization, and Dustin added that Kira and Amanda meet regularly on those alignments.
 - e. Nisha mentioned that the website link to the draft plan is broken, and also mentioned that in her community there isn't a lot of marketing being done on pursuing actions that both benefit the climate and benefit homeowners. She posited that the average person will not read through the whole plan and fully invest in it to get to the "how it benefits me" part. Dustin suggested working with Heidi Stanley on a one-page fact sheet and Amanda agreed that it would be a good idea that she wants to get going as soon as those benefits become more concrete.
 - f. Nisha asked if a climate action advisory group has been formed yet, and Amanda replied that it is currently just a staff coordination group but there will likely be more to come in the future.
 - g. Emma emphasized Nisha's comment about helping the community see the direct benefits of Pennies for Climate Action and suggested a focus on the dangers of extreme weather events.

Committee Member Communications

1. Adam asked if staff are planning another joint meeting outdoors with Arts Advisory Committee, and Dustin replied that staff will start planning now and send out more information in early June.
2. Adam asked if there have been any applications for the open committee positions, and Dustin said there haven't been any yet and that he will give an update at the next meeting.

Adjournment

1. Adam adjourned the meeting at 7:09 pm.