



Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday November 26, 2024

**City of Lakewood – American Lake Room
6000 Main Street SW Lakewood, WA 98499**

<https://www.youtube.com/user/cityoflakewoodwa>

Telephone via Zoom: 253.215.8782 Participant ID: 920 3804 6123

CALL TO ORDER

Jason Gerwen called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Present: Jason Gerwen-Chair, Vito Iacobazzi- Vice Chair, Alan Billingsley, Janet Spingath, Shelly Thiel, Anessa McLendon

Parks and Recreation Advisory Board Members Excused: Kate Read

Staff Present: Mary Dodsworth – Director, Nikki York – Office Assistant

Youth Council Liaisons: Alexandra Corona-Hernandez-present, Nevaeh Tutt-absent, Zoe Clifford-present, Irie Hinkle-absent

City Council Liaison Excused: Ryan Pearson

Guests: Tiffany Speir

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ALAN BILLINGSLEY MOVED TO ADOPT THE PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD MEETING MINUTES OF TUESDAY OCTOBER 22, 2024 SECONDED BY VITO IACOBAZZI NO FURTHER DISCUSSION. VOICE VOTE WAS TAKEN AND MPU.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

NEW BUSINESS

Climate Change Initiatives and Urban Forestry Program Update: Tiffany Speir, Planning Division Manager presented the 2025 Natural Environment and Climate Change Plan. Mrs. Speir discussed that a component of the

comprehensive plan is to maintain an urban forestry program to preserve significant trees, promote tree health and increase tree coverage citywide. One of the goals is to expand the tree canopy to 40% by 2050 Mrs. Speir discussed the tree canopy calculations from 2022 and identified areas that have suffered environmental injustice over the years. Mrs. Speir said that the plan will include community engagement and what is realistic restoration and sufficient capacity to launch and maintain the program. Another assessment was done in 2024 to get more detailed tree mapping of about 12,000 trees and 509 acres of parks. Mrs. Speir discussed results from the Pierce County Heat mapping project and correlation of tree canopy to temperatures throughout Lakewood. The energy and climate change plan will be updated to include a plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, coordinate regional electric vehicle infrastructure strategies and to develop an urban forestry management plan. Janet Spingath asked which state agencies we partner with. Mrs. Speir listed DFW, DNR, Tacoma Tree Foundation, Department of Health, Nature Conservancy, Pierce County Conservation District as well as looking for grants and partnerships. Alan Billingsley mentioned that the Department of Ecology just opened a large grant for riparian areas. Mary Dodsworth asked about the greenhouse gas emissions reduction. Mrs. Speir said that most of the reduction would be looking at reducing gasoline travel and the energy coming into the city. A review of installing solar panels on city buildings just isn't feasible. This will be in the non-motorized transportation update and the parks legacy plan update. Mrs. Spingath asked if the plan would include ongoing inventory. The city will have software that the city will be able to update. Shelly Thiel asked what the current tree canopy percentage is? The current tree canopy is at 26%. Jason Gerwen asked how many trees would be needed to get to 40%. Mrs. Speir advised that they are not there yet. The species of trees list needs to be determined since they need to be drought resistant trees. Mrs. Spingath had a point about the species list that there are unintended invasives. Mrs. Spier will make a note and take that back to the consultants. Mrs. Spingath is happy to share contacts on the noxious weed board.

2025 PRAB Draft Work Plan: PRAB reviewed the draft work plan for 2025. Council will approve the work plan in January.

Directors Report:

Mary Dodsworth provided an update on Boat Launch Grant to support Edgewater Park Development, Wards Lake Bids, Parade of Lights, Beloved Community Walk, Grant to update /replace fence around dog park, LTAC grants for so many city events, Camp Murray Boat Launch MOU and American Lake Emergency Boat Launch Repairs.

BOARD MEMBER COMMENTS

Vito Iacobazzi asked about the roof over the Tenzler Log. Footings were poured last week. Shelter has arrived. The log will be resealed to protect it on December 9th. Janet Spingath asked that we clarify where it came from since it was Packwood not local.

Janet Spingath asked if there was a plan to put new roofs on the barns. They were redone in 2002 with funding from the park sales tax fund. The city had \$75,000 for historic preservation at Fort Steilacoom Park. Alan Billingsley commented that it saved the barns. The barn that didn't get a roof fell.

Vito Iacobazzi asked about the orchard restoration project on Facebook. Probably Pierce College. The orchard is on city property. If a group is interested, we would be happy to support them.

Janet Spingath provided an updated Noxious Weed Board report. Holly is now a class C weed. This will give us the ability to kill it in the parks. Free herbicide training will be at Lakewold Gardens in April.

NEXT MEETING

The next regular meeting of the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board is scheduled for Tuesday, January 28, 2025, at 5:30 p.m. in the American Lake Room at Lakewood City Hall, 6000 Main St SW, Lakewood, WA 98499

ADJOURNMENT

Alan Billingsley moved to adjourn the meeting at 6:56 p.m. Shelly Thiel seconded. MPU.

Jason H. Gerwen

Jason Gerwen, Chair

Nikki York

Nikki York, Office Assistant

Signature: 
Jason H. Gerwen (Jan 31, 2025 20:17 PST)

Email: jbird23@comcast.net







20241126PRABMinutes

Final Audit Report

2025-02-01

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