

City of West Richland

Parks and Recreation Board Meeting Minutes

March 20, 2023

**Meeting was held in person, via zoom, and available to the public.*

1. Call to order / attendance: Chair S. Fiskum called the meeting to order at 6:01 pm.

Members Present:

Sandra Fiskum, Chair
Robert Miller, Vice Chair
Mark Killinger, Commissioner
Walter Tamosaitas, Commissioner
Kevin Grubbs, Commissioner

Members Absent:

Vacant
Vacant

Staff Present:

Eric Mendenhall, Community Development Director
Elisha Ransom, Associate Planner
Tobie Webb, Staff Recorder

2. Approval of the Agenda:

Vice Chair R. Miller moved to approve the agenda. Commissioner K. Grubbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

3. Approval of the minutes of July 12, 2022:

Commissioner M. Killinger moved to approve the July 12, 2022, minutes. Commissioner K. Grubbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

4. Old Business: None

5. New Business:

A. Election of Officers

Commissioner M. Killinger moved to S. Fiskum as the Chair and R. Miller as the Vice Chair. Commissioner K. Grubbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

B. Park Plan & O & M Plan – Recommendation/ Action

Community Development Director E. Mendenhall presented a staff report on the background and development of the Park Plan and O & M Plan.

Commissioner Tamosaitas asked about development contributions and the impact on the City Budget, his concerns with adoption of the plan, including inclusion of drinking fountains and dog waste bags at all parks, how park maintenance funds effect park project funds, maintenance time allowances, and future projects. Community Development Director Mendenhall suggested that Commissioner Tamosaitas send him an email with his suggestions for future projects.

Commissioner M. Killinger noted that he thinks that this plan is better than the previous version, suggested that the map on page 84 be made bigger and labeled to make it clearer, clarified the location of the Candy Mountain parking lot and trail that is listed on the Capital Improvement Plan, requested information about the Kennedy Road crossing and suggested it be included on the page 84 figure, inquired about Westwood Park, which moved down on the list due to the construction of a park nearby by a developer, and suggested that access to the river at the Yakima Gateway Park is important, therefore, adding in language for a feasibility study for a non-motorized boat launch to be completed by 2024.

Commissioner Tamosaitas inquired if Director Mendenhall would be updating the map as suggested by Commissioner Killinger, and Community Development Director Mendenhall indicated he did not have the original map to modify it, as it was done with special software by the consultant.

Vice Chair R. Miller stated he didn't see anything major that needed to be updated in the plan.

The Board held additional discussion about the Yakima Gateway project and the community's priorities, as well as staffing levels to maintain the level of service selected. They also discussed the City's ability to fund the parks and encouraged the City Council to make parks a priority for funding.

Dan Evans- President of the Greater Richland Little League – Indicated he had trouble hearing everything but wanted to thank the Park Board for volunteering. He suggested that the City needs to get started on the six-year plan, as it takes a couple of years for funding for the projects. He feels the plan is well thought out, and with the City growing, the 20-year outlook may change. He reported that the baseball fields are in fantastic shape thanks to Jeremy and his crew plus the 3-6 volunteers who spend hours on the fields. He suggested the City may look to groups like them to find funding to add projects into the plan, but reiterated the importance of seeing some movement moving forward. He liked the idea of leaving it to Council to pull it back and to balance what we want verses what we can fund

Commissioner Tamosaitas inquired about eliminating parks and Director Mendenhall indicated that Council had evaluated that option, but it is not recommended at this time.

Vice Chair R. Miller moved to recommend the City Council approve the proposed 2023 Park Plan and Park Operation Maintenance Plan as proposed and include a feasibility study to add a boat ramp at Gateway Park to the six-year project list. Commissioner W. Tamosaitas seconded the motion, with the Board voting 4 (Fiskum, Miller, Killinger, Grubbs) – 1 (Tamosaitas) to pass the motion.

C. Park Impact Fee – Recommendation/Action

Community Development Director E. Mendenhall presented a staff report on the proposed Park Impact Fee changes, including changes to the single family and multi-family rates to be stair-stepped every 6 months to reach the updated rate. After they reach the targeted rate, the fees would be adjusted based on the CPI.

Commissioner K. Grubbs moved to approve the proposed park impact fees. Commissioner M. Killinger seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

D. Park Use Fees – Recommendation/Action

Community Development Director E. Mendenhall presented a staff report on the proposed Park Use Fee changes, indicating that the City's park use fees are some of the lowest in the area, meaning we are experiencing high demand for our parks by outside users and it's creating conflicts. Staff proposes the fees increase to better align with our neighboring jurisdictions.

The Board discussed the proposed rates and indicated they could be increased more to be comparative to the neighboring jurisdictions.

Commissioner W. Tamosaitas moved to approve the staff recommended fees but with an increase to the adult resident rate by \$2 and the youth resident rate by \$1, then clarified his motion to increase all adult rates (resident or non-resident) by \$2 and all youth rates(resident or non-resident) by \$1 above the staff recommended rates. Commissioner K. Grubbs seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

E. West Richland Senior Center Rename Project – Recommendation/Action

Community Development Director E. Mendenhall presented a staff report regarding a petition by the Senior Center Board to rename the Senior Center to the Bill Shane Senior Center.

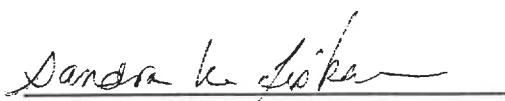
Vice Chair R. Miller moved to recommend to the City Council to rename the senior center to the Bill Shane Senior Center. It was seconded by Commissioner M. Killinger. Commissioner W. Tamosaitas asked if any other facilities in the city were named after people. Chair S. Fiskum, Vice Chair R. Miller, Commissioner K. Grubbs and Commissioner M. Killinger voted aye, with Commissioner W. Tamosaitas abstaining. The motion passed.

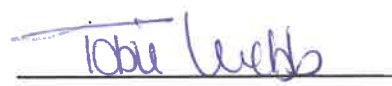
6. Announcements, Reports and Comments

Community Development Director E. Mendenhall thanked the Board and reported on what to expect moving forward.

Staff Reporter Tobie Webb reported that moving forward, she will only send meeting packet information to the city email, so board members will need to have their iPads up and running.

7. Adjourn: 7:26


Sandra Fiskum, Chair


Tobie Webb, Staff Recorder