



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 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. 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.



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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 12th at 5:30pm

DRAFT