

**Parks & Recreation Advisory Commission
Meeting Minutes – September 10, 2025**

DATE OF MEETING: September 10, 2025
MEMBERS PRESENT: Nikki Pollock, Frana Milan (remote), Ron Parga, Charlie Smith, Devin Shea, Casey Fiske (remote)
OTHERS PRESENT: Council Liaison Thompson (remote), Council Liaison Beauchamp (arrived late), Parks & Recreation Director Case, approximately 9 members from the public
LOCATION: Meeting was held in the Council Chambers and Virtually

CALL TO ORDER – Meeting called to order at 5:35pm

MEETING MINUTES – Minutes from the August 13, 2025 meeting were approved.

NEW BUSINESS – Park Partnership Presentations and Funding Recommendation

Five applications were submitted for funding through the Park Partnership Program. The total amount of money available in this year's program is \$22,25.94, the five applications requested a total of \$42,320.00. The following projects were submitted:

EPiC Pickleball Court Improvements – Project Description – refresh equipment in parks, add functional and beautification features, maintain courts: 1) Crack repair and resurfacing at West Ellensburg, 2) Install paver patio courtside at West Ellensburg, 3) Install benches at West Ellensburg; 4) Install new nets at West Ellensburg; 5) Install storage poles; 6) Insulate storage container at West Ellensburg. EPiC requested \$9,300.00.

Kittitas Environmental Education Network – EcoExplorers Club – Project Description – Funds from the program will be used to provide support for the KEEN EcoExplorers Club, a new afterschool program designed to provide middle school students with safe, structured, and enriching experience in the outdoors. The club meets every Wednesday, from 1pm-5pm in city park facilities and Helen McCabe Park. Funds will be used to help with staffing and supplies and to cover costs using KEEN's bus for transport to and from city parks. KEEN requested \$4,250.00.

Ellensburg Area Swim Team (EAST) Storage Request – EAST is requesting support to add secure storage shed on the deck of Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool & Fitness Center, purchase 3 pacing clocks, and refurbish the viewing area display case. EAST requested \$4,420.00.

Kittitas County Railroad History Association (KCRHA) Rotary Park Miniature Railroad – The request would result in the construction 2,800 linear feet of an out and back loop track. This works represents phase I of a much larger project. The KCRHA requested \$10,000.00.

Kiwanis Park Basketball Court Project – The Kiwanis Club requested funding to remove the old basketball court at Kiwanis Park and replace it with a full-court, asphalt court with 9' hoops. The layout and condition of the current court results in an underutilized court. The proposed court would cater to players of all ages and provide a unique basketball experience for our community. The request was for \$14,350.00.

The Commission heard a presentation from each of the applicants, scored the projects and deliberated over funding allocation. At motion and second was made to fund the EAST and KCHRA at their full ask, fund EpiC with the remaining balance. The KEEN and Kiwanis Club projects did not receive funding.

Motion passed all in favor. Commissioner Praga recused himself from this item due to his involvement as a Board Member for one of the organizations that submitted an application.

6 Year Capital Improvement Schedule Update

Each year the City updates its 6-year capital improvement schedule for parks and recreation. As a part of that process, the Commission provides their recommendations on what projects should be prioritized, added, or dropped from the improvement schedule. The following recommendations were made by the Commission for the 2026-2032 plan:

- Move the Mt. View Park Tennis Court Development project to #7 on the list indicating that the project is a higher priority.
- Add a general "Kiwanis Park Improvements" line, staff will determine a value of those improvements based on information provided in the 2016-2022 Park, Recreation and Open Space Plan.
- Adding a \$500,000.00 line item for improvements at the Kittitas Valley Memorial Pool & Fitness Center.

COMMISSION MEMBER REPORTS

STAFF REPORTS

Staff reported the following: 1. The Wall That Heals, hosted at Rotary Park, was a great event. Special thanks to the event co-chairs, Russell Colmore and Henry Johnston. 2. The annual pool shutdown is complete. The pool is closed for two weeks each year to perform maintenance, as a part of this year's maintenance, city staff replaced roof shingles on a portion of the sloped roof that has been leaking. 3. Katelyn Perez, Adult Activity Center Coordinator, will be on leave for the next few months. Aaron Riojas was hired to serve as temporary coordinator during her absence. 4. Seasonal employees in the Parks Maintenance Division are reaching the end of their season with us, as a result, staffing levels in parks will be significantly reduced.

Meeting was adjourned at 8pm.