

City of Olympia

*City Hall
601 4th Avenue E
Olympia, WA 98501*



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, July 17, 2025

6:00 PM

Room 207

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 5 - Chair Alexandria Safiq, Committee member James Goebel, Committee member Caroline Mellor, Committee member Sare Webster and Committee member Theresa Woodward

Absent: 3 - Vice Chair Jeff Prevost, Committee member Jamie Gerken and Committee member Meg Jones

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The minutes were approved.

3.A Approval of May, 15, 2025, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: Minutes

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

There were no public comments.

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) Advisory committee members are now allowed to use their personal email for committee business. There is a form to fill out to state your email preference.

2) Natalie Weis, Senior Program Specialist in the Climate Department, is leading waterfront walking tours through the lens of sea level rise in July and August.

3) The City Council passed a resolution to sell bonds to finance the Yelm Highway Community Park and the Armory Project.

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.A OPARD Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Program Update

Attachments: City of Olympia Cultural Event Webpage

Olivia Salazar De Broux, the Culture and Belonging Manager, provided an update on the OPARD Equity, Inclusion and Belonging Program.

Information only. No action requested.

6.B Memorials in Parks Policy Briefing

Attachments: Proposed Memorial Tree and Bench Program by John Wolfe

Proposed Memorial bench and tree program by Jonathon

John Wolfe, Parks Maintenance Supervisor, provided a briefing on the Memorials in Parks Policy.

Committee member Caroline Mellor moved, seconded by Sare Webster, to recommend the approval of the Memorials in the Parks Policy with the following six suggestions to be considered:

- 1) Consider the climate impact of the bench option. For example, an environmental impact assessment of materials, green-house gas emissions created through sourcing materials for the bench, etc.**
- 2) Allow for and adjust the title of the policy to include option for people to purchase trees and garden vegetation with no plaques in honor or celebration of living people.**
- 3) Investigate whether trees may be purchased and planted in other areas of the City that are not just park land, i.e., street trees.**
- 4) Investigate where a Memorial Forest and Fields on park land could be accommodated for a communal memorial area that could allow for a lower cost of tree purchase and/or the purchase of an existing tree. ("Fields" are defined as low maintenance green/garden spaces, not recreational sports fields.)**
- 5) Include language in the policy that it will be periodically reviewed and revised as needed.**
- 6) Add a provision to suggest Ina's Fund as an additional or alternative option for making a donation on behalf of someone.**

The motion passed unanimously.

Aye: 5 - Chair Safiq, Committee member Goebel, Committee member Mellor, Committee member Webster and Committee member Woodward

Absent: 3 - Vice Chair Prevost, Committee member Gerken and Committee member Jones

7. REPORTS

There weren't any reports.

8. FOLLOW-UP ON PRAC MOTIONS, QUESTIONS AND FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

None at this time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

Upcoming

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, August 21, 2025.

Accommodations