

City of Olympia

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



Meeting Minutes - Draft

Thursday, April 16, 2026

6:00 PM

Room 207

Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m.

1.A ROLL CALL

Present: 7 - Chair Alexandria Safiq, Committee member Emily Boone, Committee member Grace Fletcher, Committee member Jamie Gerken, Committee member James Goebel, Committee member Sare Webster and Committee member Theresa Woodward

Absent: 2 - Committee member Meg Jones and Committee member Caroline Mellor

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was unanimously approved.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

3.A Approval of March, 19, 2026, Parks and Recreation Advisory Committee Meeting Minutes

Attachments: [Minutes](#)

The minutes were unanimously approved.

4. PUBLIC COMMENT

The following people spoke during Public Comment:

Christina Jones
Sean Flynn
Henry Valz
Connie Lantagne
Dan Decker
Bill Penn
Corey Grauny
AJ Valz
Dr. Rachel Rubin
Beth Provo
Brent Barnes
David Peterson

5. ANNOUNCEMENTS

1) The Welcome Figure construction is underway at Isthmus Park. A tentative ribbon cutting date is set for June 4, 2026 at 4:30 p.m.

2) Yashiro Japanese Garden is closing June 1, 2026. Staff will remove remaining salvageable plants and stone structures to store for the future Japanese garden location.

3) Andrew Deffobis, Thurston County Planner working with the Conservation Futures grant program, is seeking applicants to sit on the volunteer committee to evaluate and rank project proposals.

4) Parks Stewardship is holding the annual Earth Day event at Squaxin Park on Saturday, April 18, 2026, from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m.

5) There are two new PRAC members. Please welcome Emily Boone and Grace Fletcher!

6. BUSINESS ITEMS

6.A 2025 OPARD Year in Review

Attachments: [Link to Dashboard](#)

Sylvana Niehuser, Parks Director, presented the 2025 OPARD Year in Review.

Information only.

7. REPORTS

No reports at this time.

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

None at this time.

9. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:10 p.m.

Upcoming

The next meeting is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 2026 at 6 p.m.

Accommodations