

The City of Columbia City

In Columbia County on the Columbia River



PARKS COMMITTEE MEETING MINUTES

MAY 20, 2025 - 6:00 P.M.

City Hall Council Chambers – 1840 Second Street

Present:

Lyle Bluhm, Committee Chair
Sally Ann Marson, Committee Member
Nell Harrison, Committee Member
Katrina Claridge, Committee Member
Mark Gordon, Committee Member
Jim Wills, Committee Member
Kim Karber, City Administrator
Micah Rogers, Public Works Superintendent

Lyle called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Steve with Conservation Technix will discuss Parks Masterplan Update

- Steve introduced himself and explained he has been doing park and open space planning for 19 years and all his staff are former public sector park planners. He did an overview of what the plan is, how it will benefit Columbia City in the future, the timeline (should take about 10 months), and the steps he will go through with us to develop the plan. The masterplan is intended to be a useful tool for the City and will provide a path forward and be a tool for pursuit of future grants. It will look at where we are, where we want to go and the improvements that are requested based on feedback from the community through surveys and a community open house. It will also look at how we can manage what we have with our tight budget, make improvements over time based on priorities, and look at funding options.
- The committee gave Steve input on his questions regarding what they value about what the city offers in the different parks we have, what could happen with the parks we have, and what we would like to see. Some suggestions:

- Bathrooms
- New play equipment
- Benches/picnic tables
- Centralized park/place to sit and relax
- Parking
- Signage
- Walking trails – more/improve
- Steve went over the survey that will go out to our citizens for their input on the parks. It will be advertised in the newsletter, on water bills, Facebook, etc. A survey will be mailed to all households and there will also be the option to complete it online. There will be around a four-week window for people to get the survey turned in.

Steve stated the goal of the Parks Masterplan is to identify improvements to the park system over the next 20 years based on community feedback.

Memorial Day

Kim gave an update that all the events for Memorial Day are finalized, and we are good to go.

Other Business

- None

The next meeting was scheduled for Tuesday, June 10th, 2025, at 6:00 p.m.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:16 p.m.