



Parks and Recreation Committee Agenda

Tuesday, July 14, 2026, 12:00 PM

Harrigan Centennial Hall, 330 Harbor Drive

Members: Chair Candace Rutledge, Vice Chair Steve Black,
Brandon Marx, Katherine Prussian, Manoj Battar, Ben Hughey
Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Rutledge called the meeting to order at approximately 12:00 p.m.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Candace Rutledge, Steve Black, Manoj Battar, Brandon Marx, Katherine Prussian (arrived 12:09 p.m.)

Absent: Ben Hughey (excused)

Assembly Liaison: Kevin Mosher

Staff Present: Parks and Recreation Manager Kevin Knox, Grounds Maintenance Supervisor Kent Smith, and Deputy Municipal Clerk Holley Bayne

Others:

III. AGENDA CHANGES

Rutledge pulled Item B due to presenter Ben Hughey's absence.

IV. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(For items OFF the agenda – not to exceed 3 minutes)*

None.

V. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 9, 2026

Black moved to approve the June 9, 2026, meeting minutes. Motion passed 4-0.

VI. REPORTS

Chair: None.

Members: Marx commented on the condition of upper Moller Field.

City Staff: Kent Smith provided an update on current and upcoming ground maintenance projects.

Kevin Knox provided an update on summer programs, the Parks and Recreation Master Plan, the Pioneer Park cleanup, and announced the Head Lifeguard position was filled.

Assembly Liaison: None.

Other(s): None.

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

B. Discussion of the Draft Sitka Marine Trails Design Narrative

Item B pulled due to presenter Ben Hughey's absence.

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

C. Discussion/Recommendation Off-Leash Rule Change for Keet Gooshi Heen and Vilandre Fields

Knox introduced a proposal to temporarily restrict off-leash dogs at Keet and Vilandre fields from approximately March 15 through June 30 to protect seasonal recreational use, with the final dates to be approved administratively. The proposal also included increased signage, public education, and enforcement. Members discussed whether the closure period should be extended and emphasized the need for flexibility as community needs evolve.

Kelly McElligott spoke in opposition.

Marx moved to approve the seasonal closure window at the Vilandre & Keet Gooshi Heen Ball fields from March 15 through June 30 annually. Motion passed 5-0.

IX. PERSONS TO BE HEARD *(For items ON or OFF the agenda – not to exceed 3 minutes)*

Kelly McElligott and Cole Haddock commented on Item C.

X. ADJOURNMENT

The next meeting would be August 11, at noon in Harrigan Centennial Hall. Hearing no objection, Chair Rutledge called the meeting to adjournment at 12:39 PM.

Attest:
Holley Bayne, Deputy Municipal Clerk