



MINUTES:

All minutes are draft until approved at the next meeting

Commission Meeting Agenda

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

March 6, 2024, 9:00 a.m. – 1:20 p.m.

Virtual/WSPRC HQ, 1111 Israel Rd SW, Olympia, WA 98504

Commissioners: Chair Sophia Danenberg, Vice Chair Laurie Connelly, Secretary Holly Williams, Michael Latimer, Ken Bounds, Scott Merriman, and Ali Raad

Director: Diana Dupuis

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will be holding their regularly scheduled commission meeting virtually on March 6, 2024. Please note that this is an online meeting. We will be providing a meeting space for the public to watch at the WSPRC HQ, 1111 Israel Rd. SW, Olympia, WA 98504. Staff/commissioners will be attending virtually.

You may participate remotely by listening and/or watching using the following link:

Watch the meeting on TVW:

<https://www.tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2024031001>

You can find the agenda and presentations on our website: <https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/parks-commission>

Public Comment: The public is invited to attend, but no verbal public comment will be taken at this meeting.

Written Public Comment:

Written public comments will be accepted for all agenda items until 5 p.m. on March 1st by email or mail. Any comments received after the cutoff will be given to the commission before its next meeting.

Email: Commission@parks.wa.gov

Mail: WSPRC, Attn: Becki Ellison, PO Box 42650, Olympia, WA 98504.

You can find the agenda, agenda items and presentations on our website.

<https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/parks-commission/commission-meetings-agendas>

The meeting minutes and recording will be loaded within one week after the meeting.

Time: Opening session will begin as shown; all other times are approximate.

9:00 a.m. CALL TO ORDER – Sophia Danenberg, Chair

- Call of the Roll
 - Chair Sophia Danenberg, Vice Chair Laurie Connelly, Secretary Holly Williams, Michael Latimer, Ali Raad, Ken Bounds and Scott Merriman
- Introduction of Staff
 - Director Diana Dupuis, Stewardship Director Lisa Lantz, Policy & Governmental Affairs Director Owen Rowe, Communications Director Clare DeLong, Human Resources Director Amber Erdahl, Tribal Relations Director Jenna Bowman, Diversity, Equity & Inclusion Director Janette Chien, and Executive Assistant Becki Ellison
 - Assistant Attorney General Andy Woo
- Indigenous Land Acknowledgement
 - We respect and affirm tribal sovereignty and honor indigenous peoples whose traditional lands we occupy. The State Parks and Recreation Commission is committed to working with all Tribes to help preserve and restore a healthy natural environment for future generations.
- Changes to agenda – Break time adjusted to 10:00 am
 - **Motion** by Scott Merriman to approve the agenda as revised. Second by Holly Williams. Approved unanimously as presented.
- Logistics

9:05 a.m. REQUESTED ACTION

Item E-1: Commission Priorities 25/27

This item Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to approve categorical Commission priorities for the 25-27 biennium. Performance measures will be defined over the next year as part of the 2025-2027 Director’s Performance Agreement.

REQUESTED ACTION FROM COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Adopt the **revised** Commission Priorities for the 25/27 biennium as presented in Appendix 1.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION:

Motion by Ken Bounds to approve the staff recommendation as amended. Second by Scott Merriman. **Motion passed unanimously.**

APPENDIX 1
Commission Priorities 25/27
Revised March 6, 2024

Commission Priority #1 Customer Service

Improve direct customer service to ensure the enjoyment and safety of park visitors.

The operating and capital budgets should reflect the efforts to increase interpretive opportunities, improve quality visitor interactions, and support employee growth and development to efficiently provide an approachable, functional, and well-maintained park experience. Ensure an equitable and inclusive visitor experience by determining use issues within the visitor journey and improving identified concerns.

Commission Priority #2A Stewardship

Plan for and mitigate effects of climate change on the stewardship of our natural, cultural, and historic resources.

Promote efforts to participate in climate resiliency through informed decision making and strategically plan for the protection of our resources and our responses to changing climate phenomena. Understand how we participate in climate change, in both our built environment and the operation of our park system, and effectively work to reduce our impact. Seek financial support to complete projects that have been identified as critical to saving park resources and reducing the agency's impact.

Commission Priority #2B Recreational Impacts

Support continued work on data collection and analysis of recreational impacts on the natural, historical, and cultural resources of the agency.

Work with other natural resource agencies, stakeholders, and the legislature to recognize and mitigate the effects of increased visitor impacts on our resources while continuing to meet the growing demand for recreational services provided by State Parks. Consult and communicate with tribal entities to understand concerns and build community in addressing impacts.

Commission Priority #3 Maintenance and Development

Support continued work and financial investments to rethink, restore, and reinvigorate ageing and deteriorating park infrastructure.

Continue efforts to improve the capital and maintenance project delivery systems by creating effective pathways to reduce backlogs and enhance the built environment while protecting resources and building inclusive relationships. Park planning efforts will include technological innovations, diverse public opinions, tribal consultation, and impacts to climate and resources. Effectively communicate agency project and planning efforts to garner support from the legislature and public.

Commission Priority #4 Tribal Relations

Ensure the Commission's work is carried out using meaningful and respectful engagement with Washington's tribes.

Utilizing resources such as the Centennial Accord, Governor's Executive Order 21-02, Governor's Office on Indian Affairs, Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, Department of Archeology and Historic Preservation, and other tools, create effective internal systems of Government-to-Government consultation and peer to peer communication to complete work on projects that impact the tribal interests of Washington and enhance opportunities to build relationships with Tribes as a long term management approach.

Commission Priority #5 DEI

Further diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts to create a sense of belonging for park visitors and staff.

Seek external partnerships and perspectives to improve identification of barriers to access in parks for visitors; identify and rectify internal barriers to diversity, equity, and inclusion goals and create an agency culture of belonging as a hiring and retention methodology.

Commission Priority #6 Business Strategies

Assess agency operational and business practices to identify risks to strategic planning and long-term success.

Analyze agency policies, processes, and communications to define cost effective improvements that will enhance the ability to strategically plan for long term operational, financial, and business success. Develop and implement strategies to address agency risks regarding revenue and funding sources, hiring and retention practices, and future needs determined by climate and population impacts.

9:21a.m. REPORT

Item E-2: Financial Update

This item reports to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission on 1) 2023-25 biennium operating and capital budget expenditures, 2) Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account (PRSA) revenue, 3) Calendar Year 2024 over 2023 Revenue and Visitation, and 4) the 2025-27 Budget Development.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

ACTION:

Report only, no action taken

WORK SESSION DISCUSSIONS

9:35 a.m. 2024 LEGISLATIVE UPDATE – Owen Rowe, Policy & Governmental Affairs Director

- This item provides the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission with an overview and update of the 2024 legislative session.

10:02 a.m. BREAK

10:15 a.m. BRIDLE TRAILS LAND CLASSIFICATION UPDATE – Nikki Fields, Planning & Real Estate Program Manager, Matt Birklid, Park Ranger and Shawn Tobin, Cascade Foothills Area Manager

- This presentation will give the Commission an overview of a proposal to update land classifications at Bridle Trails State Park to allow for future development of an environmental education classroom and welcome center in partnership with the Bridle Trails Park Foundation. Invited guests: Rachel Kitagawa and Kelly Gode.

10:53 a.m. BOATING PROGRAM UPDATE – Rob Sendak, Boating & Winter Recreation Program Manager and Catherine Buchalski Smith, Clean Vessel Act Grant Program Manager

- This presentation will provide the Commission with a review of the Recreational Boating Safety Program, the Marine Law Enforcement Training and Education Program and the Clean Vessel Act Grant Program.

11:42 a.m. WINTER RECREATION PROGRAM UPDATE – Rob Sendak, Boating & Winter Recreation Program Manager and Corey Tolar, Winter Recreation Programs Manager

- This presentation will provide the Commission with a review of the Non-Motorized Winter Recreation Program and the Snowmobile Program. Invited guests: Dean Meakin, Bob Henrie, and Wayne Mohler:

12:40 p.m. BREAK

12:50 p.m. EVERYONE OUTDOORS – Janette Chien, DEI Director

- This item provides the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission with an introduction to the Everyone Outdoors pilot program - a program providing free annual Discover Passes to applying groups and organizations that serve communities who face barriers to accessing the outdoors.

1:20 p.m. ADJOURN

BE 3/6/24

A recording is retained by WSPRC as the formal record of meeting. The recording is accessible on the park's website approximately one week after the meeting - <https://parks.wa.gov/about/strategic-planning-projects-public-input/parks-commission/commission-meetings-agendas>