

City of Port Orford  
Regular Session of the Parks Commission  
Thursday, July 9<sup>th</sup>, 2026 at 6:00 P.M.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Additions to the Agenda
3. Minutes: June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026
4. Citizen Concerns (on Agenda items only)
5. Report: Buffington Parks Hosts
6. Commissioner Reports
7. Old Business
8. New Business
  - a. Battle Rock Park visit by Commissioners
  - b. Buffington Park Planning Grant: Selection Process/Timelines
  - c. Other:
9. Considerations
10. Future Meeting Dates:
11. Adjourn

## Meeting Minutes

City of Port Orford Regular Session of the Parks Commission

Thursday, June 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026, at 6 pm

Commissioners present: Quorum is 3 members (4 members present)

Chair/Commissioner Golden, Secretary/Ledeen Rickey, Liason/Sara Lovendahl, \* Commissioner Rickel, Commissioner Currier, \*Commissioner Shafer, \*Commissioner Bernt

\*not present ^online

1. Call to order/roll call/Pledge of Allegiance
2. Additions to the agenda - none
3. Minutes May 14<sup>th</sup>, 2026
  - a. Commissioner Golden moves to accept the minutes as presented.
  - b. Commissioner Currier seconds the motion. **Motion carries unanimously.**
4. Citizen Concerns (on agenda items only; 3 min.)
  - a. Jeff Drain, a resident of Port Orford, is interested in the disc golf course at Buffington Park. He is willing to donate his time as a volunteer to keep the course maintained.
5. Report: Buffington Park Hosts – Lauren and Richard McMurtrey.
  - a. Lauren shared that there is a scheduled softball game on July 5<sup>th</sup> at the Buffington Park softball field.
  - b. There is a concern that the park hours are not posted and some park users are not being respectful of the “leave at dusk” timeline. Unsupervised youngster are an issue with our hosts.
  - c. Also, the McMurtreys would like to have the ramp at the restrooms posted for “No skateboarding” as they feel like it is very unsafe.
  - d. The recreational kiosk continues to be a problem – items are disappearing – and the hosts would like to lock this up at dusk.
6. Financials
  - a. Liason Lovendahl reports that the budget committee finished the document and it moves forward for approval with the City Council next Thursday, 6/18/2026.
  - b. She believes that this commission will have some discretionary funds for the next fiscal year, starting July 1, 2026.
7. Commissioner Reports
  - a. Lovendahl – reviewed tribal involvement & rules that we need to follow when doing volunteer work. She reminded us that Sara Palmer is a good contact person when we have questions.
  - b. Currier – reports that it seems like summer time visitors are picking up at Buffington Park, with the good weather. She is concerned that skateboarders are doing damage to the pickleball court & benches.

- c. Rickey – excited to turn in 10 hours of volunteer work, from painting the outside of the bathroom. Recognizes that there is still painting work to be done on the other small building and the inside of the usable restrooms. Wants to consider the option of a mural for the restroom building. New 20’ boards have been donated by Rotary (Ulli Lau of Oregon Overseas Timber) for the replacement of the benches at the softball field. Work parties are being organized to plane and sand the boards and to put on a life-extending oil before they are ready to be installed. The boards are Douglas Fir.
  - d. Rickel – absent
  - e. Golden – Supported the observation that there are many disc golfers & skateboarders at Buffington on fair weather days/evenings. Spoke of a concern that the park hours were not well posted.
  - f. Shafer – absent
  - g. Bernt – absent, but let the commission know about her absence ahead of time.
8. Old Business
- a. Wind Phone Presentation by Mainstreet: Ms. Million & Ms. Russel presented that the closest “wind phone” is in Eugene and that there are 517 “wind phones” worldwide. Ours would be the first for the south coast of Oregon. Mainstreet has chosen a spot in Buffington Park, by the lagoon, which they feel will be appropriate for a quiet, mental health type of activity, such as this. The “wind phone” will have a small building around it for privacy where the phone will be mounted. They have a \$10,000 grant for the small structure – it will have no glass and be built from cedar and metal. They plan to have native plantings around the structure as landscaping; some limbs may need to be trimmed from the branches of surrounding trees when building starts... Mainstreet accepts responsibility for maintenance of the “wind phone” and the design of the small building takes into consideration the potential use by the unhoused in our community. Mainstreet agreed to send their digital file to City Council.  
Ledeer makes a motion to recommend that the “wind phone” plan moves to the Port Orford City Council as a consideration. A second was made by Comm. Currier  
**> approved unanimously**
  - b. Planning grant update – Chairman Golden shared that RFP’s are beginning to come in...with a deadline of Friday, 6/26/26.
  - c. Rotary bleacher repair & clean-up at Buffington – Comm. Rickey shared that the bleacher repair is a scheduling process, as there is a bit of work to be done ahead of the installment. The clean-up that is scheduled is for Battle Rock and is set for 6/28/26.
  - d. Priority List of Projects – review: playground at Buffington Park, A-frame porch, re-fresh on the bathroom building and the “closed” building, debris removal from Buffington Park, tree removal from the Butterfly Garden area and on the nature

trail, baseball bleacher upkeep, picnic benches installation, 4-Points bench installation, one “open” slot in our 10 projects list.

9. New Business

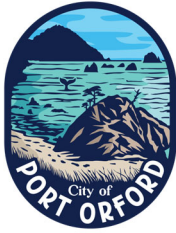
- a. Each individual on the Parks Commission is expected to visit Battle Rock Park and fill out the visitation rubric.
- b. Buffington bathroom painting – still to be completed; probably not before the 4<sup>th</sup> of July.
- c. Tree assessment follow-up – Bryan Thompson is willing to look at the redwood trees at Buffington Park; 3 trees are doing well and 3 trees are not doing well.
- d. The Park ordinance says that Buffington Park is open from dawn to dusk (7 am to 10 pm). It is this commission’s belief that 3 to 5 signs should be posted in the park. Sara Lovendahl made a motion to recommend to the City Council that signage be put up in Buffington Park that says dawn to dusk. Seconded by Ledeem Rickey **>approved**  
**unanimously**

10. Considerations

- a. Citizen – NATT
- b. Commissioners – Comm. Currier would like to remind us that the softball game is really a kick!

11. Future Meeting: Thursday, July 9th, 2026; Regular Meeting in the Gable Chambers and Online at 6:00 pm

12. Adjourned at 7:35 pm



## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The City of Port Orford is requesting proposals for a project to develop a site-specific park and outdoor recreation plan for its Buffington Memorial Park.

This 21-acre city park offers a wide array of recreation amenities. Current facilities include a baseball field with a concession building, a basketball court, a skate park, a disc golf course, two tennis courts that have been retrofitted for pickleball, a playground with swings, two horseshoe pits, a picnic shelter, an equestrian arena, a community garden, and a miniature golf course. There is also a 5-acre natural area that includes a short nature trail. In addition, the park contains parking areas, restrooms, an A-frame building, and a space for a park-host trailer.

However, over time, some elements of the park have fallen into disuse and disrepair or have been vandalized while demand for new activities has grown. In addition, the City needs to add a new large water storage tank at the edge of the park that will necessitate the relocation of a walking route and disc golf hole. The city is also interested to consider adding park elements that could be attractive not only to residents but to visitors as well.

Before proceeding in a piecemeal manner to make changes and improvements, the City seeks to follow the direction of its system-wide Parks Master Plan and to develop a thoughtful, in depth plan to upgrade and update Buffington Park to meet our community's current and future needs. The City's Master Parks Plan can be

accessed here: [https://portorford.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/POrford\\_ParksMasterPlan-021617.pdf](https://portorford.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/04/POrford_ParksMasterPlan-021617.pdf)

The city received an Oregon Parks and Recreation Department LGGP Planning Grant for Buffington Park to fund this project.

Deliverables must include public outreach and engagement, including a public analysis process that leads to a detailed plan for upgrading Buffington Park. The plan should also address cultural resource considerations and priorities identified in the Parks Master Plan. The planning process must include the adoption of the final project planning document through the local land use approval process.

The project must be completed by Dec. 30, 2027. |

Proposals are due to the City of Port Orford on Friday, June 26.  
Send to City Administrator Melissa Radcliffe:  
[mradcliffe@portorfordor.gov](mailto:mradcliffe@portorfordor.gov)

For questions, please reach out to Port Orford Parks Commission Chair Jim Golden at: XXXXX |