MINUTES:
Approved July 9, 2026

Commission Work Session Agenda
Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

April 16, 2026
Spokane Tribe Resort and Casino
14300 W SR-2 Hwy, Spokane, WA 99001

Commissioners: Chair Holly Williams, Vice Chair Scott Merriman, Ali Raad, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, and Laurie Connelly
Director: Diana Dupuis

The Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission will be holding their regularly scheduled commission work session on April 16, 2026. Please note that this is a hybrid meeting, you are welcome to attend in-person or online. We ask for patience as we navigate these hybrid meetings and want to remind you that attending in-person is the most reliable option.

At the conclusion of the work session, the commission will transition into its regularly scheduled in-person commission meeting, beginning at approximately 1:00 p.m. Please refer to page 3 for additional details regarding the commission meeting.

You may participate remotely by listening and/or watching using the following link for both the work session and commission meeting:
Watch the meeting on TVW: https://tvw.org/watch/?eventID=2026041040

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

Public Comment Work Session: This is a work session between staff and the Commission. The public is invited to attend, but no public comment will be taken. No decisions will be made by the Commission at the work session.

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

9:00 a.m. **CALL TO ORDER** – Scott Merriman, Commission Vice Chair

- Flag Salute
- Call of the Roll
  - Chair Holly Williams, Vice Chair Scott Merriman, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, and Laurie Connelly
  - Ali Raad and Sophia Danenberg- *virtual*
- Introduction of Staff
  - Director Diana Dupuis; Executive Assistant Becki Ellison; Business Support Services Director Laura Holmes; Workforce, Technology and Equity Director Amber Erdahl; External & Legislative Relations Director Brian

Considine**;** Operations Director Jon Crimmins; Parks Development Director Heather Saunders; and Stewardship Director Lisa Lantz
    - Assistant Attorney General Joe Panesko - *virtual*
- Indigenous Land Acknowledgement Statement
    - We humbly acknowledge the Spokane Tribe as we gather on their ancestral lands. 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.
- Recognition of State, Tribal and Local Officials
- Changes to agenda
- Logistics

9:04 a.m. **LEGISLATIVE UPDATE –** Brian Considine, External and Legislative Relations Director

- This presentation will give the commission an update on the 2026 Legislative Session.

9:30 a.m. **FINANCIAL UPDATE –** Laura Holmes, Business Support Services Director

- This item reports to the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission on 1) State Parks' 2025-27 biennium operating and capital budget expenditures and 2) Parks Renewal and Stewardship Account (PRSA) revenue.

10:01 a.m. **MOUNT SPOKANE PLANNING UPDATE–** Melinda Wolfman, Parks Planner

- This presentation will give the commission an overview of the draft Mount Spokane master plan update in preparation for a requested action in July.

10:32 a.m. **BREAK**

10:52 a.m. **CAPITAL BUDGET SIZE & SCOPE -** Heather Saunders, Parks Development Director and Kyle Murphy, Capital Program Manager

- This presentation will give the commission an update on the current status of the 2027-2029 State Parks Capital Budget build and the current size and scope of the 2027-2029 capital budget ask.

11:34 a.m. **ADJOURN WORK SESSION**

LUNCH

1:00 p.m. COMMISSION MEETING

Order of Presentation: In general, each agenda item will include a presentation followed by Commission discussion and then public comment. The Commission makes decisions following the public comment portion of the agenda.

In-Person Public Comment:
We will be accepting in-person oral public comment at the meeting. If you wish to comment at a meeting, please fill out a comment card and provide it to staff at the sign in table. The Chair will call you up to the front at the appropriate time.

Virtual Public Comment:
Virtual public comment will be accepted for our public meeting. To provide virtual comment you will need to be able to join the Attendee Web link from your computer (no phone option available). Pre-registration is required. To register email commission@parks.wa.gov by 5 pm on April 10. Please provide the name you will be logging in under, contact phone number as well as the agenda item or general topic you will be speaking on. You will receive an email by April 13 with specific instructions around virtual testimony.

Written Public Comment:
Written public comment will be accepted for all agenda items until 5 p.m. on April 10 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.

1:00 p.m. CALL TO ORDER – Holly Williams, Commission Chair

- Call of the Roll
  - Chair Holly Williams, Vice Chair Scott Merriman, Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, and Laurie Connelly
  - Ali Raad and Sophia Danenberg- *virtual*
- Introduction of Staff
  - Director Diana Dupuis; Executive Assistant Becki Ellison; Business Support Services Director Laura Holmes; Workforce, Technology and Equity Director Amber Erdahl; External & Legislative Relations Director Brian Considine**;** Operations Director Jon Crimmins; Parks Development Director Heather Saunders; and Stewardship Director Lisa Lantz
  - Assistant Attorney General Joe Panesko - virtual
- Changes to the Agenda

- Approval of the Agenda
  - Motion by Laurie Connelly to approve the agenda as presented. Second by Scott Merriman. Approved unanimously as presented.
- Logistics
- Approval of minutes of previous meetings
  - January 28,29, 2026 – Work Session/Commission Meeting, Olympia
  - March 4, 2026 – Commission Meeting – Virtual
    - Motion by Alfie Alvarado-Ramos to approve the minutes as presented. Second by Laurie Connelly. Approved unanimously as presented.

1:05 p.m. VIRTUAL PUBLIC COMMENT – *general public comment and items on the agenda* - ***None***

1:06 p.m. GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENTS – *Items not on the agenda*

- In-person public comments only
  - Sam Deal Jr. – Bear Creek Lodge Preservation
  - John Floberg, Executive Director, Washington State Parks Foundation
  - John Hancock – West Plains Water Coalition

1:18 p.m. PRE-ARRANGED SPEAKERS

- Jim van Loben Sels, General Manager, Mt. Spokane Ski & Snowboard Park

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1:32 p.m. EXPEDITED REQUESTED ACTION

Item E-1: WAC 352-40, 352-04-010 and 352-32-251

This item asks the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to approve housekeeping changes to Washington Administrative Code (WAC) 352-40, 352-04-010 and 352-32-251.

REQUESTED ACTION FROM COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission:

1. Formally adopt proposed changes to Washington Administrative Code 352-40 as shown on Appendix 1.
2. Formally adopt proposed changes to Washington Administrative Code 352-04-010 as shown on Appendix 2.
3. Formally adopt proposed changes to Washington Administrative Code 352-32-251 as shown on Appendix 3.
4. Authorize the Director to file the regulations and to comply with all necessary procedural requirements.

PUBLIC COMMENT: None

Motion by Scott Merriman to approve the staff recommendation as proposed in the Requested Action above. Second by Laurie Connelly. Approved unanimously as presented.

1:37 p.m. REQUESTED ACTION

Item E-2: Steptoe Butte State Park Heritage Site – Washington Department of Natural Resources – Perpetual Easement

This item seeks the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission approval to delegate authority to the Director to execute a perpetual easement with the Washington State Department of Natural Resources (DNR). The agreement will provide DNR ingress and egress to access the property adjacent to Steptoe Butte State Park Heritage Site in Whitman County.

ACTION REQUESTED OF COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

1. Authorize the Director or designee to execute an easement agreement with DNR that is substantially in the form of that in Appendix 3.

PUBLIC COMMENT:

None

Motion by Scott Merriman to approve the staff recommendation as proposed in the Requested Action above. Second by Alfie Alvarado Ramos. All those in favor: Alfie Alvarado-Ramos, Scott Merriman, Laurie Connelly, Holly Williams, and Ali Raad. All those Opposed: Sophia Danenberg. Approved 5-1 as presented.

2:00 p.m. REQUESTED ACTION

Item E-3: Saint Edward State Park – Third Amendment to Lease

This item asks the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission to delegate to the Director authority to approve an amendment to the lease held by the Lodge at Saint Edward Park, LLC at Saint Edward State Park in King County. This amendment will grant the proponent an option to extend their lease term from sixty-two (62) to eighty (80) years, consistent with 2025's Second Substitute House Bill 1024 (see *Appendix 4: Saint Edward State Park: Final Bill Report 2SHB 1024*), concerning the agency's leasing authority at Saint Edward State Park.

ACTION REQUESTED OF COMMISSION:

That the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

1. Authorize an exception to Section L of 25-07-01, *Delegations of Authority for Real Estate Transactions and Services* (Commission-adopted revisions dated November 21, 2019), as set forth in Appendix 5, which limits action on real property decisions to ten (10) years from the date of original Commission approval, in order to allow the Lessee to exercise an option beyond the initial ten (10)-year period.
2. Delegate to the Director or designee authority to approve and sign the Third Amendment to Lease, substantially in the form presented in Appendix 3.

PUBLIC COMMENT:
None

Motion by Laurie Connelly to approve the staff recommendation as proposed in the Requested Action above. Second by Scott Merriman. All those in favor: Alfie Alvarado- Ramos, Scott Merriman, Laurie Connelly, Holly Williams, and Sophia Danenberg. Abstain: Ali Raad. Approved 5-0 as presented.

2:18 p.m. BREAK

2:30 p.m. RECOGNITION

- Gold Stars
  - Ariel Ryon, Theresa Wood, and Kelly Mason

2:33 p.m. COMMISSIONER REPORTS

2:52 p.m. COMMISSION COMMITTEE REPORTS

- Real Estate
- Legislative
- Budget
- Executive

3:05 p.m. DIRECTOR REPORT

3:43 p.m. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Commission Chair Holly Williams:

"The Commission will enter executive session at 3:50 pm to discuss potential litigation with the Commission's assigned legal counsel pursuant to RCW 42.30.110(1)(i). The executive session is expected to end at 4:50 pm. The Commission will adjourn after the conclusion of the executive session."

5:00 p.m. ADJOURN

Submitted by Becki Ellison, Executive Assistant *April 16, 2026*

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

The services, programs, and activities of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission are covered by the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA). If you need special accommodations to participate in this meeting, please contact the commission assistant Becki Ellison at (360) 902-8502 or becki.ellison@parks.wa.gov. Accommodation requests should be received at least five business days prior to the meeting to ensure availability. Please provide 7-day notice for requests to receive information in an alternative format and for ASL/ESL interpretation requests.