



**Providing public comment at a meeting of Seattle’s Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners**

February 2025

Seattle’s Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners is composed of 15 volunteer members who advise the Mayor, City Council, Department of Parks and Recreation, and other City departments in respect to park and recreation matters.

Members of the public are welcome to attend board meetings and provide comment but must follow meeting rules and sign up in advance. Here are a few tips to help.

1. Check the [Board’s website](#) to find meeting dates, times, agendas, and access information.
2. Sign up for public comment by 4:00 p.m. on the day of the meeting by emailing [PKS\\_BPRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PKS_BPRC@seattle.gov). It may be helpful to share whether you will be attending in person or online and what topic you will be addressing. For example:

*To: [PKS\\_BPRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PKS_BPRC@seattle.gov)*

*Subject: Request to provide public comment*

*Hello,*

*I would like to provide public comment at the February 27 meeting of the Board of Parks and Recreation Commissioners. I will be attending the meeting in person.*

*I intend to share my concerns about the plan for outdoor pickleball court development adjacent to sensitive wetland habitat at Magnuson Park.*

*Thank you,*

*Joshua Morris*

3. Prepare in advance and practice. You may only have one minute to speak, depending on the number of other commenters present. Prepare your remarks in advance and practice. Make sure you are able to complete your comment in the time provided.
  - a. Be sure to include:
    - i. Your name
    - ii. Your neighborhood
    - iii. Who you represent (e.g., organization, community group) if applicable
    - iv. Appreciation for the commissioners’ service



## BIRDS CONNECT SEATTLE

- b. Consider making your comment personal. Can you connect the issue to a personal story? E.g., “I’ve been visiting the wetlands with my granddaughter since she started walking. She grew up alongside the wetlands. She just turned 13, and we still walk to Promontory Pond time she visits. She loves listening for Willow Flycatchers and Yellowthroats in the spring. If this pickleball facility is built, we’ll lose the peacefulness of that experience together.”
  - c. Avoid exaggerating or overgeneralizing. Our assertions should be reasonable and defensible. Avoid claims like, “This development will destroy the wetlands.” More defensible might be, “This development will degrade habitat for sensitive wetland species.”
  - d. See Birds Connect Seattle’s [website](#) for more information.
4. Be punctual. Plan to be seated in the meeting room or logged in to Zoom by 6:30 p.m. You don’t want to miss your invitation to speak.
5. Provide more detail over email. We can’t say it all in one minute. You may provide additional context, facts, stories, information via email before or after your public comment by emailing [PKS\\_BPRC@seattle.gov](mailto:PKS_BPRC@seattle.gov).

### Example impersonal comment

Hello Commissioners, my name is Joshua Morris, I’m a resident of Capitol Hill and a member of Birds Connect Seattle. I want to share my concern about a plan to build an outdoor pickleball facility directly adjacent to the restored wetlands at Magnuson Park. These wetlands cost Seattle taxpayers more than \$3 million to build—a major investment in habitat enhancement and nature access. They are now home to more than 100 native wildlife species, and the ADA-compliant trails make this one of the most accessible urban nature retreats in the city. Pickleball is famously noisy, and noise is a known environmental pollutant that impacts people and a wide range of other species. Even with mitigation, the unavoidable noise impacts would degrade the habitat quality and visitor experience. I urge you to review this project to ensure we protect our investment in wetland habitat and nature access.

Thank you for your service to the City and our Parks.