

Thurston Park Committee
Minutes of December 18, 2025

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 pm

In Attendance: Steve Nelson, Sonia Nelson, Tim Hatch, Ken Molfetta, Scott Monroe, Jen Smith

The minutes of the November 20, 2025 meeting were reviewed. Scott Monroe made a motion to approve the minutes. Sonia Nelson seconded the motion. The minutes were approved unanimously.

We discussed the TIF application for 2026-2027 briefly. The committee agreed we will request money for the culvert work on the Yorktown Trail near the handicapped parking area, work on the Deer Trail to improve drainage including adding a culvert if necessary, and trail name signs at each end of the trail and at any intersections.

We again discussed activities for 2026. These will definitely include the spring and fall 5K races, the Owl Prowl for China Ice Days, and the Last Man Standing and Gravel Ride races. We will also look into the antique snowmobile race. These activities bring people to the park and increase awareness of what we have to offer. We set the dates for the two 5K races as May 24th and October 11th. The Owl Prowl will take place on Friday, February 13th at 6:30 pm.

Scott Monroe reported that a few people made suggestions for possible trail names for the newly completed ridge trail. One person suggested that we name it after one of the early settlers in that area. The committee liked that suggestion and decided to explore that further. Other names included Reflection Ridge and Dragonfly Acclivity.

Steve and Sonia Nelson reported that they are trying to reach a couple of people regarding the mountain bike improvements for the Waterfall and Monument Trails. These people do this kind of work regularly and would know what needs to be done to make it suitable for all age and experience levels.

The committee agreed to have Ken Molfetta manage our Instagram account. It has been stagnant for about a year and needs to be revived. Ken asked that we share photos and such with him whenever we are there so he can post them.

Ken Molfetta also mentioned that he talked to Mike Brown at China Lake Provisions and he would be interested in sponsoring an event or making a monetary donation for a special fund or activity. We discussed perhaps having him donate to help purchase materials for building the new kiosks at the park. Steve Nelson will discuss it with the wood shop instructor at Erskine to see if they would build them.

Finally, we discussed dedicating one of the benches to the memory of Bob Jackson, a former committee member. Ken will look into getting a plaque to attach to the bench and we'll plan the dedication and installation for the spring.

The meeting was adjourned at 7:40 PM.

The next meeting will take place on Thursday, January 15, 2026 at 6:30 pm in the portable building at the town office.

Respectfully submitted,
Jeanette "Jen" Smith