

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING AUGUST 20, 2020
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chair Swolgaard.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken DeWitt, Dawn Janow, Jay Kinney, Tom Swolgaard.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the August 6, 2020 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: Under Bridge Maintenance Fund change John Carlson to Bill Carlson in two places.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Janow/DeWitt: I have reviewed the following vouchers, warrants and electronic payments and move that they be approved for payment.

Batch Date	Fund Number & Name	Warrant Numbers	Total Batch Amt	Pre-Approved
08/04/20	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	20442-20473	57,807.47	08/04/20
08/14/20	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	20474-20491	24,241.61	08/14/20
08/20/20	001 General Fund	Pre-approval	253,261.00	
08/20/20	300 Capital Improvement Fund	Pre-approval	56,792.08	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PARK DISTRICT UPDATE ON CORONAVIRUS: Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said that operations are relatively status quo as far as no recent changes to guidance from the Governor's office. Staff is currently working on fall programming and registration for fall is next Wednesday. There has been a lot of discussion with the School District over the last three weeks regarding both after school and during school programming options in School District facilities. The School District has been open to ideas and staff is in the process of finalizing plans for fall. Commissioner Swolgaard asked what kind of activities the Park District would be offering during school hours. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said it would be a program for multiple grade levels with cultural and recreation opportunities as well as facilitating virtual education time during the traditional academic day while making it clear staff is not taking on the role of teachers for the participants. The School District would be providing internet connectivity and the space to facilitate programming. Commissioner Kinney asked what the requirements for people to participate would be. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said operational guidelines are being developed from the Governor's current guidelines, with a one staff to eight participant ratio. Commissioner Janow said it feels a little grey to her between whether or not it is school and is concerned that the families that most need it cannot afford it. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said the Park District does have funding available through Helpline House for those in need. Commissioner Janow said that it is important to stay as fluid as possible, parents are worried and frustrated, and she appreciates that staff is working to support families. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said that offering programs during the traditional school day is a popular topic among park and recreation staff around the state who are trying to adapt to the new circumstances. Commissioner Kinney said that actively helping in this situation will be well received by the community and applauded staff for the effort to help families.

Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said he attended a meeting with other park and recreation agencies in the state; across the state agencies are not closing parks but rather increasing signage and working with groups who are in violation of the Governor's orders. Issues being dealt with by staff on the island are like what is being dealt with by public agencies across the state. Kitsap County Health District is forwarding complaints they receive about Park District properties with no expectations that the Park District report back to them. The Park District has done a significant job of working with law enforcement regarding teens gathering on docks. Signage in parks has been updated and staff is cleaning bathrooms more often. Staff is doing the best they can to keep people safe while giving them opportunities to get out and recreate. Commissioner Janow said that she lives on the south end of the island and has seen a police presence along Point White Drive every day this week and acknowledged that everyone is doing the best they can.

Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said on August 25 the City Council will be reviewing the Park District's Cares Act reimbursement request.

Executive Director Terry Lande said about the coronavirus situation that the more people feel comfortable with the new normal the more they lower their guard and that people are exhausted from dealing with the coronavirus. While the Park District is trying to fill the gap for families with programming during the school day; the Park District is not in the business of losing money, so staff must make the program pay for itself. Recreation staff is doing an amazing job preparing multiple plans for providing services and keeping up with the Governor's guidelines. Park Services is short staffed but current staff are working extra hard. It is a tough time and it will probably be about a year before the possibility of a return to normalcy.

GENERAL BUSINESS

MORITANI PRESERVE FORESTRY PLAN: Special Events Coordinator Emily Swift, who was the Park District liaison to the Friends of Moritani Advisory Committee in her previous role as Maintenance Coordinator with Park Services, introduced Forestry Consultant Mallore Weinheimer and Friends of Moritani Advisory Committee members Maryann Kirkby, Jerry Berke and Glenn Haber who are present at this meeting. She thanked them and all the committee members for their work and the progress made which has been a collaboration between the Park District and the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation. Glenn Haber said the committee has been working well together and is a great example of a public/private partnership. In the Moritani Preserve donation agreement from the Fletcher Bay Foundation there was an addendum for a management plan, a resource to address restoration needs which is to be refreshed every five years. The board is being asked to approve the forestry management plan with specific recommendations as a supplement to the existing management plan. The forestry management plan was paid for by the Friends of Moritani Advisory Committee.

Forestry Consultant Mallore Weinheimer was introduced and said the committee has been great to work with. The general intent of the forestry management plan is to be publicly friendly for making informed decisions about management. The plan focused on soils and geology, historic vegetation and disturbance patterns as a basis for the plan to help take the forest from a somewhat degraded and human managed ecosystem to a more natural ecosystem. The plan also takes into consideration climate change and forest resiliency. The main takeaway is that what has happened in the Moritani Preserve is there are three stands of trees and all three stands are very human managed and basically planted in rows. In all three stands the crowns are thinning and there is a lot of stress and competition. The crowns are less than 30% of the height of the trees, which is an indication that they are not healthy because they were planted too close together. At some point there was probably supposed to be a harvest or thinning harvest that never happened in these stands of trees, and now they are stressed. Thinning is recommended and reintroducing historic

native species for biological diversity, structural diversity and to encourage three layers of forest including the under-story which means revegetating the forest floor and the planting of young trees to create a mid-story. The trees that remain after thinning will be healthier and have the best chance to survive and thrive. The management recommendation is called variable density thinning which is a process to mimic a natural disturbance pattern in the forest that includes taking out the smallest, weakest trees in a mosaic pattern. This is an opportunity to show successful forest restoration on a small urban scale.

Commissioner Janow thanked the committee for their work and asked about the plan for the meadow areas. Emily Swift said the footprint of the meadow areas would remain as is. Commissioner DeWitt said that he understood that the Moritani brothers had a Christmas tree farm that was let go. He is curious that he didn't see fire management addressed and said that at some point it will need to be addressed. Forestry Consultant Mallore Weinheimer said that while there is no specific section about fire management, it was inherently built into the plan, and she would be happy to alter it to explicitly address fire management at some point if the committee would like. Executive Director Terry Lande asked how thinning the trees fits in with Bainbridge Island city code. Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said that if no more than six trees are above the significant tree size of ten inches, the Park District does not need a permit. The City of Bainbridge Island is aware of the plan to thin trees at Moritani Preserve and has sent confirmation of this. Commissioner Janow asked if the trees removed would be sold, and if so, would the money go towards the restoration effort. Emily Swift said they are very small; some will be left on the ground and others will be mulched on site and used to suppress weeds and create a moisture rich soil; also the committee did not want to be seen as benefiting from taking down trees in a park. Glenn Haber brought up visual sight lines, which the committee has been careful to maintain during the process of choosing trees for thinning. Commissioner DeWitt said he walked the Moritani Preserve this morning and is very impressed with the way it has been maintained since the Park District took it over; he also thought it was pretty obvious which trees had to go and thinks the committee is doing a good job. Commissioner Swolgaard thanked Forestry Consultant Mallore Weinheimer for a well written and easy to follow report. **MSC: Janow/DeWitt: Approve Moritani Preserve Forest Restoration Plan.**

BLAKELY HARBOR PARK ACCESS AGREEMENT: Senior Planner Perry Barrett said this agreement grants access to Port Blakely Tree Farm and their consultants in the agreed order. They will perform site analysis regarding potentially hazardous waste and develop a work plan for the Department of Ecology. The data compiled will be provided to the Park District once complete. Park District Attorney Hayes Gori has reviewed and approved the access agreement. Commissioner DeWitt asked if neighbors of Blakely Harbor Park are involved in the clean up as well. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said he does not know. They will be doing site analysis which involves taking soil samples and doing a chemical analysis on them which will likely take a couple of years and will conclude in a work plan and clean up effort. Commissioner Swolgaard asked that the Park District not waive claim to any damages done during access. Senior Planner Perry Barrett confirmed that the access agreement does not waive any claims to damages. **MSC: DeWitt/Janow: Move that we approve the access agreement for Blakely Harbor Park and authorize the Executive Director to sign.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Services Division: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said he received a report that someone was open carrying a firearm in a park, the person who reported it asked that he make the board aware of this. The Park District has a rule that no discharge of firearms is allowed in parks. The pickleball courts project is getting closer to wrapping up. A soft opening taking into account coronavirus safety precautions will be held August 29 for the pickleball courts. The soft opening is also a fundraiser where the first official games on the courts will be auctioned to participants. The first Sakai Park trail boardwalk has been completed and staff is working on a second section. There will also be two

bridges built on the Sakai Park trail and there is gravel work to be done. KidsUp! Playground renovation is going well, and the crew is doing incredible work. Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin gave kudos to his staff, Park Services is understaffed but the staff they do have is doing a phenomenal job. Senior Planner Perry Barrett is integrating updated appraisal guidelines from the Recreation and Conservation Office regarding the Sakai Park appraisal. The Hidden Cove II grant being applied for through the Recreation and Conservation Office is being finalized. Work is being done to address insurance for the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial at Pritchard Park.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said that Special Events Coordinator Emily Swift is doing a tremendous job taking on multiple roles for the Park District; including working at the front desk, follow up work from her former role with Park Services, and in her current role in special events coordinating the drive-in Movies in the Park events which are going well. Marketing Coordinator Allie Smith has recently wrapped up work on the fall catalog and marketing insert which will be hitting mailboxes soon. Active Adult Program Manager Sue Barrington received positive comments from recent art class participants and attended a virtual seminar with the Arthritis Foundation. Aquatic Center staff is busy finishing the last session of summer swim lessons. There will be some upcoming adjustments to the Aquatic Center schedule. Swim coaches continue to do a great job of working with athletes while adapting to the current situation. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte shared a photo from one of Youth & Teen Program Manager Shannon Buxton's camps where dolls had a sleepover during which staff captured photos of their adventures for campers. All-Day Explorer Camp is going well, and the kids have had a good time playing in sprinklers during the recent warm weather. Eagledale Pottery Studio is now reopened on a limited basis and there is a new Kinder Clay activity for youth at the Eagledale Park picnic shelter. Sports Program Manager Julie Miller has had success with tennis camps which have been very popular. A girl's lacrosse program has been added to the fall schedule in response to community interest. Fall scheduling for gymnastics has been a challenge as staff tries to fit everyone in while adhering to the current limited building capacity guidelines. Teen Center programming is going well, and parents are grateful for the opportunities provided for their kids.

Executive Director Terry Lande said that at this point it is unknown when the board will be able to meet in person. If board members have ideas for future agenda items, they are asked to send them to him to add to upcoming agendas. Staff and the board will have a challenging fall with smaller than projected program revenues in the soon to be addressed amended 2020 budget and the 2021 budget.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

September board meetings will be on Zoom.

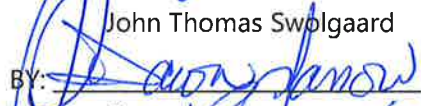
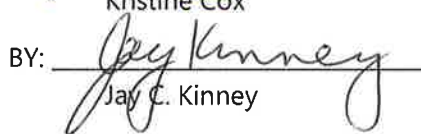
BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeWitt said that he walked the John Nelson trail to Sound to Olympics trail connection with Don Willott, who had the idea of making an ADA access trail connection. Executive Director Terry Lande said that the Park District must be careful around the John Nelson trail because an adjacent property owner and their property management company did not know that the Park District owned property and easements in the area.
- Commissioner DeWitt said that the Forest Service has restricted outdoor access near Lake Cushman and to keep this in mind for programming that might be going to that area.
- Commissioner DeWitt said the Kingston/Edmonds ferry route is going back to having two boats starting this weekend and to keep this in mind if the Park District has any programs using that ferry route.

- Commissioner DeWitt said he ran into Clay Roberts with the pickleball group this afternoon and that Clay Roberts is appreciative and happy for the way the pickleball courts project has been handled by both the Park District and the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation.
- Commissioner Janow applauded the transformation that the pickleball courts and the KidsUp! Playground renovation are having in that area of Battle Point Park.
- Commissioner Janow asked about the new invoicing system. Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said that it is working well.
- Commissioner Kinney said that he is impressed with Park District staff in these trying times.
- Commissioner Swolgaard asked about the status of the Pritchard Park transfer. Executive Director Terry Lande said there has been no word from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration regarding the transfer.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said that he was impressed with the Moritani Preserve Forestry Plan and thinks there should be a discussion about having forestry plans for the rest of the Park District properties.
- Commissioner Swolgaard has seen lots of people out walking and biking recently.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:33 pm.

Helen M. Stone
Terry M. Lande
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard
BY: 
Dawn Janow
BY: 
Kristine Cox
BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

ATTEST: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt