

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING JUNE 16, 2022
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER: A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair DeWitt.

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add a second executive session topic for personnel.

MISSION STATEMENT: Commissioner DeWitt read the Park District's mission statement: The mission of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District is to build a healthy community through effective, sustainable stewardship of the District's parks and open space, and through the development and delivery of innovative cultural and recreation opportunities.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Bernadette Witty said she has lived on Bainbridge Island for 24 years, been involved with Bainbridge Island Swim Club for 16 years and is a USA Swimming nationally certified official. She feels she speaks from experience and as a well-respected member of both the community and the swimming community. She has continued trust and confidence in the Park District's coaching staff to this day and thanks the Park District for its support. She has a mature, long-term perspective and knows there is more to the sport of swimming than tracking times on a scoreboard. She asks that the investigation regarding Head Coach Kyle Harris be prompt, thorough, and impartial. She has nothing but the highest of praise for Kyle Harris, who has her full and continued support.

Joe Solseng said he is a ten-year swim parent with Bainbridge Island Swim Club. He has also been very involved with the BISC booster club, although his comments tonight are his own. He joins Bernadette Witty in support of Head Coach Kyle Harris. He has spent a lot of time at the pool, and he has seen Kyle Harris coach when he did not know anyone was watching. He is a good coach, and he treats his swimmers very well. Joe Solseng said he has no idea what the complaints are, but if he had to guess they are groundless. He is also a lawyer and has been part of bureaucracies before and said he knows how bureaucracies think and move. The problem with bureaucracies is that they move very slowly. He urges the Park District to not treat this in the typical plodding way that bureaucracies have the tendency to, because the Park District is behind the eight ball. The complainants have a private investigator out right now interviewing kids. Normal bureaucratic speed is going to kill BISC. People are speculating that Head Coach Kyle Harris has been accused of some horrible offense. The bureaucracy will say it did what it should have done but Kyle Harris' reputation will be ruined and BISC will be destroyed.

Tyler Stuart said he has been a competitive swimmer since the age of seven and that he is now a collegiate swimmer. Currently his junior and senior high school swim mates are facing a robbing of their swimming futures. Colleges looking at the critical results of meets may not see an accurate representation of their true potential. Their futures are vulnerable because they are not training and competing with their coach. He asks that the investigation be expedited so that his teammates can resume their training. He does not know about the exact nature of the complaints, but he knows that the heart rate zone colors have no tie to race or racism. He is aware that there is a clothing policy for dryland training, which is common in college athletic programs. Those complaints have no grounds and are purely biased.

Yumiko Inoue said her son is a 14-year-old Bainbridge Island Swim Club member. As a parent she does not believe that Head Coach Kyle Harris deserves the allegations brought against him. As a person of color, her and her family have experienced discrimination several times. She feels that both gender and race-based discrimination is common for people like her. Neither she nor her son have seen any gender or racial discrimination or harassment from Head Coach Kyle Harris. He cares about every swimmer equally, regardless of their race or gender. Before Kyle Harris came on board her son was starting to

lose his passion for swimming. Since Kyle Harris started coaching, her son thinks swimming is fun again and he looks forward to it. She supports Kyle Harris 100%.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the June 2, 2022 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: On page 2 under the Board Meeting Format discussion, after the motion insert: (Nay – Goodlin).

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Janow/Swolgaard: 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
06/02/22	001 General Fund 002 Imprest Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	23137-23163	118,223.36	06/02/22
06/08/22	001 General Fund 002 Imprest Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund 310 Land Acquisition Fund	23164-23185	44,561.70	06/08/22

GENERAL BUSINESS

GENERAL FUND JANUARY-MAY BUDGET VS ACTUAL: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said the first section of the information included in the board packet is a summary of the General Fund, which includes Bainbridge Island Recreation Center. The second section is the same information with more detail and the third section just covers BIRC. Revenue is strong with 2.5 million in program revenue collected so far. Only 33% of the amount set aside for wages has been used, which is typical because most of the hiring is done at this time of year for the summer. Accounting Coordinator Stephanie Balangue has onboarded 68 new employees recently with more to come. Commissioner Kinney asked if this is about what Amy Swenson expects to see for this time of year. Amy Swenson said yes, and that the tax collection amount is typical for this time of year as well. She noted that regarding expenses, utility and gas expenses are going way up. The price of propane has gone up 28% from last fall. This is going to affect the budget and especially the BIRC budget as it uses a lot of propane. Commissioner Janow asked how much of an increase might be seen in the Aquatic Center budget. Amy Swenson said she is expecting a 30-35% increase in Aquatic Center utility expenses. The General Fund budget will have to be amended. BIRC revenue is strong considering that the facility is new to the Park District, last month 1,096 memberships were billed for. Executive Director Terry Lande said it is a strong number considering the COVID-19 pandemic and that typically some people stop their memberships for the summer season. Two things that will really affect the BIRC budget are the weather this summer, which will draw people to the pool if it gets warm, and the COVID-19 pandemic as there are still people who are not comfortable sharing space indoors. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said a couple of key positions at BIRC have recently been filled, such as the tennis specialist position. The fitness department is still short a personal trainer and a Pilates instructor. Commissioner Janow asked about summer camps at BIRC and how that impacts use of BIRC. Recreation Program Administrator Julie Miller said BIRC summer camps affect gym use a bit as that is the main location for the camp. Mark Benishek said BIRC summer camps are completely sold out, as well as swim lessons in the BIRC pool. Commissioner Swolgaard asked why such a low amount was budgeted for utilities at BIRC. Terry Lande said for custodial and utility expenses staff based the budget on what they were told by the previous owner.

STRAWBERRY HILL PARK ARTIFICIAL TURF FIELD PROPOSAL: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said that there are a lot of development ideas and options for Strawberry Hill Park being discussed currently. Assumptions for a new lighted artificial turf field are: 1) that it would be a football imprint with triple layouts for football, softball, and soccer, 2) the light poles would stay in their current locations, and 3) the infill would be the same as in the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park. There has been no user group input to date, which is the likely next step if the board decides to move forward. Design and permitting will cost \$135,412.26 plus tax. The artificial turf field construction will cost \$1,716,134.54 plus tax. Potential upgrades include \$428,440 for lights, but that number should come down because the existing light poles will stay in their current locations. Another upgrade would be using cork infill, which would cost an additional \$200,311.20. Details in the estimate include \$102,771 for new backstops, \$72,800 for fencing, and \$54,320 for site furnishings such as benches. The biggest unknown is what the cost will be for stormwater engineering, which will not be known until the design and permitting phase is complete. **MSC: Janow/Swolgaard: Motion to recommend staff move forward with the design and permit process for an artificial turf field at Strawberry Hill Park not to exceed \$150,000 and to have staff meet with user groups for their input on the project.**

NATURAL RESOURCES UPDATE: Natural Resources Manager Lydia Roush said when she first started employment the priorities for her position were identified as wildfire mitigation, improving forest health, and continuing to provide opportunities for sustainable community engagement with natural resources. One of her goals was to update software and she has been involved heavily with that. She has also done her homework by reviewing reports, existing management plans, easement and donation agreements, historical documents, and scientific literature. She has gotten to know and engage with area partners and user groups. She said everybody has different ideas about how natural resources are growing and working together and so the best thing to do is get a lot of different opinions and blend them together into one management plan. Staff has looked at stocking densities, which is how many trees there are in a unit area. In a lot of Park District parks there are a lot of trees per unit area, which increases stress. She shared a core sample from a roughly 55-year-old tree at Strawberry Hill Park that shows the growth rings getting significantly smaller with age; the tree is not growing properly because nutrients have been limited, it has had to fight for space and light, and it has been stressed out. This makes trees very unstable, and they do not absorb much carbon which typically amounts to how much volume a tree puts on. She has been looking at structural diversity, including the understory, mid story, and over story as well as species diversity, and invasive species. At Sakai Park, every species in the field is invasive or non-native. The Park District has acres and acres of fields that are not serving any ecological function, which is also something she would like to tackle soon. The first parks she is working on are Strawberry Hill Park, Moritani Preserve, and Grand Forest. Moritani Preserve is due for its five-year management plan update and a request for qualifications has been posted for development of that plan. There will be additional thinning at Moritani Preserve this fall and staff wants to start turning the non-native fields into meadows which will help sequester carbon and be much more drought tolerant. She is currently writing a management plan for Strawberry Hill Park and staff is trying to pair the restoration with the development of the bike park. Staff hopes to begin implementing that management plan by the end of the year. For the Grand Forest, staff has specifically been zoning in on root rot assessment and monitoring and a management plan is in the works for that site as well. She met with Deputy Chief Jared Moravec with the Bainbridge Island Fire Department about what the Park District can do to help prevent wildfires as well as what can be done to be helpful in the event of a wildfire. He asked that the Park District create a 20-foot buffer around high use parks and that ladder fuels are reduced. This may mean reduced vegetation in those areas to create disconnects to slow or stop the spread of fire. Staff has been using GIS to assess where to start this process by creating risk maps for buffers, focusing particularly on slopes where fire moves the fastest. Educational campaign material is being created for a campaign called: We Love Healthy Forests. The goal is to educate the community on why forests need management and why some trees or vegetation may need to be removed, it will be launched at the 4th of July parade. Commissioner Swolgaard asked why Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve was not included as one of the first parks to get a

management plan. Lydia Roush said because it is under a conservation easement the amount of work that can be done there is limited. Commissioner Kinney asked what is done about root rot. Lydia Roush said it depends on who you talk to and said that root rot is not always a bad thing as it opens the canopy for planting heartier and drought tolerant species. Staff is still trying to assess how to manage root rot and it may look different in different areas. The area of root rot in the Grand Forest near Miller Road has been assessed annually for over ten years. Commissioner Swolgaard said there are a lot of dead trees in the Grand Forest along Miller Road. Executive Director Terry Lande said having a natural resources manager is a dream come true for the Park District and the work being done is impressive. Commissioner Janow said she is thrilled and has learned more in the last ten minutes than she has learned in a long time. She is excited the focus of the 4th of July parade float is educating the community on this topic and asked how this could be incorporated into programming so more people can learn about what makes a safe and sustainable forest. Commissioner DeWitt said this is a great opportunity to have education on urban forest planning and improving carbon sequestration. Commissioner Swolgaard said forests are very important to this community.

RESOLUTION 2022-07: SUPPORT FOR RENAMING WATERFRONT TRAIL: Commissioner DeWitt said that this item is near and dear to his heart. Resolution 2022-07 supports the City of Bainbridge Island in renaming the Waterfront Trail the Charles Schmid Waterfront Trail. Tuesday night he attended the City Council meeting to advocate during public comment for the renaming of the Waterfront Trail. Commissioner Swolgaard asked how his comment was received and Commissioner DeWitt replied that it was well received as there is a lot of support for this around the island. Commissioner DeWitt read Resolution 2022-07 aloud. **MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: Move to adopt Resolution 2022-07.** Commissioner Swolgaard said Charles Schmid was a great member of the community and he thinks it is great that he can be honored. Commissioner DeWitt said Charles Schmid worked tirelessly, and the Waterfront Trail would never have happened without his determination and leadership.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said the recreation department has been extremely busy onboarding summer staff. Summer programming launches next week. The fall program catalog is almost halfway finished. Active Adult Program Manager Sue Barrington's walkabout program at Battle Point Park has been updated with work from a local author and illustrator highlighting marine life. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said there is a recreation companion and inclusion training at the Aquatic Center this Friday for summer staff. No More Schoolapalooza was today and there were 600-800 kids in attendance enjoying free food and activities. Commissioner DeWitt said No More Schoolapalooza was started in 1998 as an Eagle Scout project at Waterfront Park. The next teen event is Teen Night at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center on July 8. Recreation Program Administrator Julie Miller said the BIRC gym is open again after the floor was redone and it looks good. Summer camps start at BIRC next week with kids participating in swimming and tennis each day. So far, 53 BIRC student summer passes have been sold. More people are coming to BIRC to use the pool recently which has been fun to watch and group exercise classes are growing. Sports Program Coordinator Audree Gormanson started a corn hole league. The men's softball league starts tonight with six teams registered. Gymnastics is starting off summer with two full parkour camps next week. One of the all-terrain wheelchairs in the Gear Bank will be used at the Juneteenth celebration in Bremerton. All-Day Explorer Camp starts next week and for the first time ever nearly every week is full.

Park Services Division: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said Kitsap Public Utility District did not find a suitable well source in their easement in Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve. KPUD will use the easement as a storage facility and will be moving forward with cleaning up the site. The Ray Williamson pool scoping meeting will be tomorrow for the restoration project, the firm selected for this project has an extensive amount of experience working with pools of the same age. Student Conservation Corps and trails crew will start June 27. SCoCo has thirty kids working for three-week sessions. Trails

crew has almost filled all its positions. The Blakely Harbor Park restroom and the porta potty in front of the KidsUp! Playground bathroom have been blown up. Neighbors at Williams-Olson Park have reported fireworks going off in the middle of the night. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said the sail float replacement project is moving forward with a cultural study being initiated for permitting and for the grant opportunity. The meeting with Asakura Robinson LLC regarding the Strawberry Hill Park request for proposals went well and the firm will be fully reviewed by the end of this month. He sat in as a representative for the Park District on the review committee for the Sound to Olympics trail request for qualifications led by the City of Bainbridge Island.

Creative Services Manager Douglas Slingerland said staff is looking forward to the 4th of July parade and launching the We Love Healthy Forests campaign. There will be a new natural resources section on the website.

Executive Services Manager Helen Stone said she is currently working on four public record requests. There is a large ongoing request from Mark Hoffman for records with the key words: Gazzam, wildlife, and preserve. There is a request from Jonathan Baas regarding a custodial invitation to bid that his company did not win. Jennifer Solseng has submitted a request regarding complaints made against Bainbridge Island Swim Club Head Coach Kyle Harris which will require input from Park District Attorney Hayes Gori. American Transparency out of Florida has submitted a request for a list of names and other personnel file information which will require input from Hayes Gori if they fill out the non-commercial use declaration.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Kinney said that he and Commissioner DeWitt had an interesting meeting with Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin and Natural Resources Manager Lydia Roush to get a preview of the forestry plan.
- Commissioner Kinney said an Eagle Scout project for a chess table near the KidsUp! Playground at Battle Point Park was recently completed.
- Commissioner Janow said that on June 6 she attended a Dog Advisory Committee meeting. The committee is starting to get some good feedback for ways to meet the needs of the community with the dog park expansion.
- Commissioner Janow said she saw the newly redone pump track at Battle Point Park, and it looks great.
- Commissioner Janow said a couple of meetings ago she talked about affordable housing on Bainbridge Island and how the Park District may or may not fit into that. She feels it would be interesting to discuss as a board if the board wants to give staff guidance on this issue. Commissioner Kinney said that it is policy more than operations and he thinks that the board needs to take the lead on that. The community has given the Park District the role of taking care of parks, not housing. Giving land or resources to housing is not what the Park District has been tasked with. However, the Park District can help by providing people in condos and apartments with great parks to stretch their legs and get their dogs outside. He thinks this is one of the reasons the community supported the purchase of Sakai Park, and it needs to be developed and made attractive for people. Commissioner DeWitt said dense housing means people are going to want park space. He got an email the other day requesting an additional dog park downtown due to the population density. Those are the types of things the Park District can look at. Commissioner Janow said the other piece for her is that affordable housing is a component to recruiting and retaining excellent staff. She asked if the board wants to draft a blanket statement about how the Park District addresses that need on Bainbridge Island. Commissioner DeWitt said that is an item that the City of Bainbridge Island is taking the lead on. Commissioner Janow said she is trying to be proactive and that the Park District could be ready with a statement if the City asks. Executive Director Terry Lande said he is certain that staff does not know where the board stands on this issue yet. He would ask the board to have more dialogue and be more directive about what statement they would want made by staff. Commissioner DeWitt said he would want to see direction from the City

since they are the lead agency on affordable housing. Terry Lande said the first question would be does the board want to make a statement about whether it supports affordable housing, the second question would be does it want to make a statement about what its role is in affordable housing. Commissioner Janow said it is a very complex issue. She thinks the Park District should take a stand on saying it is willing to help to create parks and sustainable environments for diverse housing. She thinks the Park District has an active role to play in creating a diverse and sustainable community. Commissioner Swolgaard said it is a tough one because it is not the Park District's business, it is City's because the City controls what happens to property on the island.

- Commissioner Janow said the Park District should think about including in board meetings an acknowledgement of ancestral land. It is becoming increasingly popular to do, and she thinks it is important.
- Commissioner DeWitt said on June 4 he staffed a booth at Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve for National Trails Day. It was a good opportunity to talk to people about the Kitsap Public Utility District easement activity, including that there will be more parking added.
- Commissioner DeWitt attended Walt Ball's memorial. Walt Ball was a Park District commissioner in the 70's.
- Commissioner DeWitt thanked Executive Services Manager Helen Stone for her work putting together Resolution 2022-07.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a seven-minute recess at 7:48 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:55 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:55 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:55 pm for discussion of personnel and real estate with announced time to reconvene at 8:25 pm.

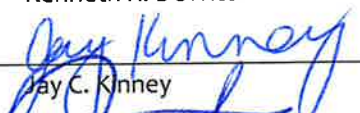
MEETING RECONVENED at 8:25 pm and **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 8:25 pm for continued discussion of the above items, with announced time to reconvene at 8:40 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 8:40 pm. **MSC: Kinney/Janow: Direct Park District Attorney Hayes Gori to make an offer of 1.1 million dollars for the Comcast property as is.**

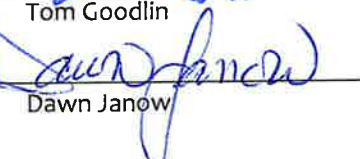
MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:42 pm.

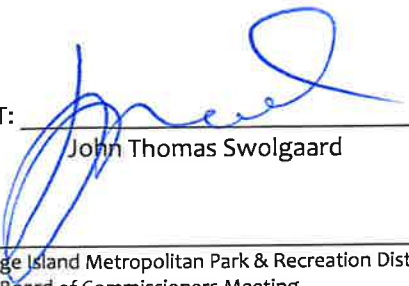
Helen M. Stone
Terry M. Lande
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

BY: 
Tom Goodlin

BY: 
Dawn Janow

ATTEST: 
John Thomas Swolgaard