

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING August 18, 2022
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER**

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

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add an executive session for real estate and potential litigation for twenty minutes.

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

Jessica Malouf supports the Fort Ward playground. She is a Fort Ward neighborhood resident with her husband and two young children. With her background as an early childhood development specialist and a mom of two, she cannot speak enough about the benefits of play for children. A playground is of immeasurable benefit to the physical, social, and emotional health of the children. She has no doubt that when it is approved it will be the pride and joy of the neighborhood. A place where friendships are born, memories are made, and community is built. Her family visits playgrounds several times a week to meet friends and socialize. The parks consistently provide a positive experience as they are litter free and well maintained. No doubt this park will be the same. It is important that the needs and opinions of the 117 residents who signed the change.org petition in support of the playground and the 54 members of the Fort Ward playground boosters group are represented. There are many acceptable and reasonable compromises that can be made in order to make the most people happy. A free play structure is already available. Out of the three proposed areas, the most utilized area is the Fort Ward Parade Grounds. She proposes to leave it as is for the neighborhood to enjoy and rather to look at the other two options presented at the July 21 board meeting which are unused and furthest away from the homes. She would like to see the playground approved.

Erin McMann is very much in support of the Fort Ward playground, and hopes the conversation continues.

Grant Morgan supports the Fort Ward playground and is concerned that it was not on the agenda today as it was stated it would be at a previous board meeting. He asked what can be done to ensure it is on an agenda in September. In terms of next steps, the boosters of the playground met this weekend to discuss the benefits of it and mitigate some of the issues. For example, one of the site options originally presented is on the other side of a busy road which raises traffic concerns. Perhaps a small fence can be put around it. A lot of good ideas have been shared and he wants to make sure this energy and momentum is not lost, and the issue does not fall off the agenda.

Jess Morgan said the people of Fort Ward would benefit from a place for children to gather and play and imagine. In discussions she has had with other boosters, what they were told by this commission is they need to demonstrate the neighborhood's willingness to get this project moving forward. The funding is there, the potential physical structure is there, it is just a matter of where it will go. She asked the board what they can do to demonstrate that this is something the neighborhood wants. Whatever it is, the booster group will make every effort to get that through.

Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin stated he can help them through the process. Commissioner DeWitt stated it would be very helpful, and it sounds like this has already started, to get a group together to organize and talk about the playground and where it will be located. A concern was raised at the last meeting by Sarah Lee who is not in favor of having the playground on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds. She mentioned her father donated a lot of the Fort Ward Parade Grounds area to the community to be kept as open space. Commissioner DeWitt wants to make sure everybody's interests

are accommodated. He urged the group to work with Dan Hamlin to figure out where to put the playground in the safest, best place that would work for the community. Dan Hamlin stated the group can contact him to set up a time to meet to talk about how to move the process forward. Commissioner Goodlin stated that there were a couple people who spoke against the playground at the prior meeting. People in support of the playground can meet with those opposed and see what is most acceptable. The board likes playgrounds but does not want to go against people's wishes. He does not think it is realistic that a vision for the playground will be achieved that pleases everybody. Rather, hopefully the neighborhood can arrive at a plan that a plurality of residents can agree to. Commissioner Kinney stated that the board does not expect a unanimous decision from the Fort Ward community. He told the supporters not to despair, that it does not have to be unanimous consent. He advised them to look at what the whole community wants as many people are in favor of doing this for the kids and to work on trying to find a place that has the most acceptance by the community. Commissioner DeWitt stated when the board votes on the Fort Ward playground, they will take into account recommendations from staff plus community input and involvement. Commissioner Goodlin asked Dan Hamlin if there could be another area besides the three originally proposed sites for the playground if it is on Park District property. Dan Hamlin stated that if there is another location suggested it will be looked at. A community member asked if there is a certain threshold, number, or percentage of support needed. Commissioner DeWitt does not think there is a specific number. His sense is it is not if the board is going to do this, but where it is going to be put. He said the boosters can help figure out where would be a good place. Any place it is put, someone is going to complain. Commissioner Swolgaard said there will be public meetings. Most people who live on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds use it as their backyard. It is logical that it is a play area.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the August 4, 2022 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Goodlin/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
08/03/22	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	23426-23478	196,553.92	08/03/22
08/09/22	001 General Fund	23479-23490	55,838.90	08/09/22
08/18/22	001 General Fund	Pre-approval	414,546.00	

GENERAL BUSINESS

NOXIOUS WEEDS AND HERBICIDE APPLICATIONS: Natural Resources Manager Lydia Roush addressed the inventory of noxious weeds and invasive species staff created. For reference, the commissioners were provided with the list compiled so far, and Lydia Roush believes the list will grow. Lydia Roush said the list includes the class the weed is identified as or listed as a weed of concern, treatment suggestions, and the source. Integrated Pest Management (IPM) uses four strategies to control weeds and can be thought of as a triangle. The base layer of the triangle is cultural controls to change behaviors to reduce spreading weeds (cleaning boots in between hikes, stopping the sale of invasive plants). The second layer is mechanical such as mowing and pulling weeds manually. The third layer is biological, for example using goats munching on invasive species to eat them away. The final layer is chemical applications or herbicides. Depending on how bad the invasive species are, that indicates where on the triangle efforts need to be focused. Most plants require components from every piece of that triangle. The Park District was working with Kitsap County to develop a spraying contract to have their staff

treat most of the noxious weeds in parks. When Kitsap County's noxious weed coordinator left that position earlier this year the contract the Park District had with them was denied. Kitsap County is unable to find a qualified replacement and that position is still vacant. Lydia Roush said staff came to the board earlier this spring to ask to spray some very specific noxious weeds in very specific locations and the board granted approval. Since then, additional noxious weeds have been found that need to be sprayed and some that need follow-up spraying. The Park District and lots of different organizations on Bainbridge Island are in this gray area of how to control these weeds without Kitsap County's noxious weed position being filled. The City of Bainbridge Island has \$50,000 to control noxious weeds that they are trying to figure out how to use. Organizations are trying to work out potential solutions to fill the void created by the vacancy at Kitsap County.

The Bainbridge Island Cooperative Weed Management Area (CWMA) shared Kitsap County's data on the sites Kitsap County was spraying in and around Park District parks. The data revealed a lot of noxious weeds that the Park District was not aware of in parks which were included in the list provided to the commissioners. Lydia Roush said basic weed management is part of a successful restoration program. Herbicides are a critical part of that program, and the staff would like to use them on a manageable level, following state and local requirements as well as the IPM that was created for the Park District. Basically, the IPM says the Park District will use the least toxic chemicals whenever possible. When staff does spray, they will apply very localized applications. If approved tonight, the Park District will purchase a plant injection system which injects a little capsule of the herbicide into a plant's stem to slowly release the herbicide to kill that plant. This tool eliminates the worry about over spraying or drip or killing any other plants in the area. It is also impossible for people to come in contact with it unless they reach down and pull the capsule out of the plant. It is safe for humans and pets to be around. Lydia Roush stated she can provide a list of the species that staff is asking for approval to use herbicides on. She is asking for approval to keep invasive species in check and help reduce populations to manageable levels. The Park District is asking for approval to treat the list Kitsap County was treating, as well as any other noxious weeds that are newly discovered in parks.

Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin stated that Kitsap County will have no one in place for the usual fall application of herbicides on noxious weeds. Commissioner DeWitt said he has noticed that things like tansy ragwort are really proliferating this year, even more than in years past. There is a lot more knotweed around too. He personally thinks it is important the Park District does this. Commissioner Goodlin asked if the other noxious weeds not yet identified would be on the state list. Lydia Roush confirmed this. Commissioner Swolgaard said he is not in favor of using chemicals, he prefers removing weeds manually. He has always been very careful about any kind of spraying. Commissioner Goodlin moved to approve the staff's request to move forward with the noxious weed treatment. Commissioner Kinney seconded the motion. Commissioner Kinney asked if the motion was specific enough. Dan Hamlin said if the board would be more comfortable staff will send out a list of the noxious weeds they intend to treat and come back for final approval at the next board meeting. Commissioner Kinney questioned whether putting it off for two weeks would hurt the timing. Dan Hamlin said not at all. Commissioner Swolgaard said he would like to see spraying kept to a minimum. He does not want to spray everything. Lydia Roush commented that the intention is not to go out and spray everything. The intention is very limited applications just at sites where it must be sprayed because it is too poisonous or in a terrible location where volunteers cannot get in. Commissioner Swolgaard indicated if constraints are used he feels he can support it. Commissioner DeWitt said just because it says this can be done does not mean that is what will be done. Commissioner DeWitt said it will not hurt to come back at next board meeting with a specific list of recommendations. Commissioner Goodlin withdrew the motion.

HAYASHIDA EASEMENT: Park District Attorney Hayes Gori first provided a little background. He said this pertains to the High School Road property which the Park District has a 30-foot-wide easement across for ingress and egress for vehicles and utilities. The property was previously owned by the Hayashida family, and it has since been sold. When they owned the property their attorney, Michael Farber, requested that the easement be vacated. The board denied the request. The new

owners of the property bought it for their daughter, a professional cellist. Their attorney, Joe (J.B. "Bill") Ransom, contacted Hayes Gori and said the new owners are requesting to narrow the easement to go around the footprint of the barn. The owners want to restore and preserve the barn and use it as a musical venue where musicians can practice and perform. More specifically the proposal is to narrow the easement around the footprint of the barn and have it remain narrowed for as long as the barn remains there. If the barn were ever to go away for whatever reason, then the easement would go back to its previous 30-foot width.

Commissioner Swolgaard asked how narrow they want to make the easement. Hayes Gori said on the survey map, it looks like the barn encroaches anywhere from 10 to 12 feet and he does not know how wide the barn is, maybe 15 feet, so maybe a 20' x 10' area or 200 square feet. The new owner's attorney thinks the easement could go around the barn without any buffer because it is a nonexclusive easement. Commissioner Swolgaard asked if the barn can be moved. Hayes Gori stated he thinks it could but that has not been discussed or proposed. Commissioner Kinney asked if vehicles could get through the easement with the barn on it. Commissioner DeWitt said that one of his concerns is that service and emergency vehicles are able to get through the easement. Commissioner Goodlin asked if anything would change about access if the easement were changed as proposed. Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said no as staff would only propose non-motorized access on that easement, although it would still be wide enough for vehicles. Commissioner DeWitt said he thinks there might be an opportunity to talk with the owners to adjust the easement a little bit, so it is further away from the west property line. Maybe it could be softened up so it is not a straight line or moved up the hill to get it away from the steepness of the bank to where there could be better access. The property owners are not using that part of the property and they cannot subdivide it. Maybe there can be a win-win situation. Commissioner Kinney said the current easement is right at the property boundary so it is unlikely the owners will say it is ok to wind it through the property. Commissioner DeWitt commented that if part of it could be moved particularly where the existing driveway meets High School Road it might be better. Commissioner Swolgaard suggested having staff look at this and come up with a proposed layout for access. Dan Hamlin asked if the direction is to layout a trail inside or outside the current easement. Commissioner DeWitt stated if it is put in the existing easement, the route is pretty straightforward. Commissioner Swolgaard said there is a utility pole right at the corner and a steep bank. Commissioner DeWitt said if there is the possibility to get the access away from the driveway that might improve safety. It is worth a discussion at this point whereas if the request is granted it would be more difficult to have this discussion in the future. Hayes Gori said that a survey will be needed at some point to drill down on the property line, the eastern edge of the easement, the amount of the encroachment, etc. Commissioner DeWitt said it is a good time to work with the property owners about a fencing option along the easement that is acceptable to them. Commissioner Kinney stated that staff should go out and layout the trail particularly where it meets up with the road, and if it needs to be outside the current easement see what the trail would look like and then determine if there could be negotiations. Commissioner DeWitt said it should be investigated. Commissioner Swolgaard directed Hayes Gori to let the property owners know the Park District is considering it.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Services Division: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said work on the farm trail continues. Trails crew wrapped up this week. The Student Conservation Corps is wrapping up its third session. Volunteer Program Manager Morgan Houk did a great job overseeing trails crew and SCoCo. Staff is receiving a lot of reports about beehives. The board received a letter from Mary Dombrowski regarding the Fort Ward playground project. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said staff is still in negotiations with the lead consultant for Strawberry Hill Park. Regarding the O'Donald easement, there is a 20-foot easement that's been dedicated; however, staff will probably have to utilize the road right-of-way to get around a wet area. Sunday is the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial event. The regional director for the National Park Service will be in attendance as will Commissioner Janow. Commissioner Goodlin asked if there is any news on the planning

for the Sound to Olympics trail. Perry Barrett stated that the City of Bainbridge Island is negotiating the next phase which will include the design through Sakai Park.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said the summer programs are wrapping up. He acknowledged all the summer staff from the managers to the part-time staff, as they have done a tremendous job. It has been a historic year with the number of participants. Regarding fall program registration, the numbers continue to look great. It was the first registration to be held on a Saturday. Only about 10 people enrolled in-person, about 95% of people enrolled online out of about 1,500 household registrations. Recreation staff is busy with 2023 budget preparations. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said Fitness Program Specialist Marie Figgins is working on fall exercise and fitness classes and will most likely be offering some new classes. An instructor/personal trainer was interviewed. People love the new equipment at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center that came in about a month and a half ago. Sports Program Coordinator Audree Gormanson will be ordering a few more items for the Washington Recreation & Park Association grant. Gymnastics staff went to a regional training in Portland last weekend, they learned a lot and were excited to come back and try out what they learned. Gymnastics staff is still trying to replace a regular part-time recreation program specialist position for which there has only been two applicants. Youth & Teen Program Manager Shannon Buxton only has two theme camps left for the summer. The pottery sale last weekend made \$6,000; a portion was donated back to the Park District.

Administrative Division: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson is spending a lot of time working on the budget. The new community outreach coordinator, Stephanie Bugas, started Monday.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

There will be a special board meeting September 29 and no regular board meeting October 6.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Goodlin said he read the minutes from the August 4th board meeting about the pickleball discussion and saw it was sent back to staff to evaluate. It involves tennis players and tennis courts, and he wants to make sure when decisions are made that both communities are involved in figuring out what would work as far as courts.
- Commissioner Goodlin met with the Water Polo Club Monday, and he thinks they have some good points and that it would be worth revisiting their request regarding fee reduction.
- Commissioner Swolgaard stated he went to the Trails Advisory Committee meeting last Monday night.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said he was surprised to see two horses grazing in a meadow in a park. He asked if that is okay per policy. Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said that is not allowed.
- Commissioner Swolgaard asked how the maintenance on the Don Nakata pool is going. Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin stated there was a delay on receiving the electrical panel, but maintenance has started. Commissioner Swolgaard asked if this is an annual maintenance closure or an emergency closure and why is it done in August and not September when there is not as much need. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek stated there are a couple different factors. It is the best fit from a scheduling standpoint with less impact for swim teams. It is also the driest period, especially if the pool must be drained because of the water table. Commissioner Swolgaard said it is in the summer months and heat of the year and when most people want to swim. He asked why the rates are different at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center than at the Aquatic Center. Mark Benishek stated the cost for admission at BIRC is not just for use of the pool, but use of the entire facility. Commissioner Swolgaard stated if the Don Nakata pool is closed in the summer then the Park District should make the rates the same. Mark Benishek said it will be investigated and that the BIRC pool has been extremely busy.

- Commissioner DeWitt said a question came up during the Walk with Commissioners program last Sunday. A person was wondering about publishing pictures on Park District media of people participating in a Park District activity. The Park District has an opt out policy vs an opt in policy. This person would prefer to see an opt in policy. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said individuals are more than welcome to notify a staff member if they do not want their picture used. The Park District liability waiver indicates that it is an opt out policy.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he and Commissioner Janow walked Fort Ward Park with two members of the public during the Walk with the Commissioners and that they had a good time. There is one more Walk with the Commissioners coming up next month.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a six-minute recess at 7:03 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:09 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:11 pm

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:11 pm for discussion of real estate and potential litigation with announced time to reconvene at 7:31 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 7:31 pm and **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:31 pm for continued discussion of the above items, with announced time to reconvene at 7:41 pm.

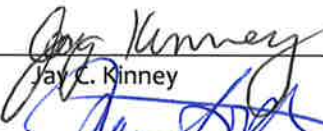
MEETING RECONVENED at 7:41 pm and **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:41 pm for continued discussion of the above items, with announced time to reconvene at 7:51 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 7:51 pm and **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:51 pm for continued discussion of the above items, with announced time to reconvene at 7:56 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 7:55 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 7:55 pm.

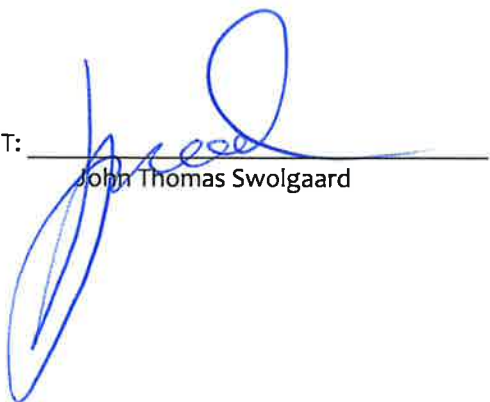
Betty Mirkovich
Terry M. Lande
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

BY: 
Tom Goodlin

BY: 
Dawn Janow

ATTEST: 
John Thomas Swolgaard