

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING March 7, 2024
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER**

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

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add an executive session for real estate and legal for 25 minutes. Move item 40.4 Board Policies Discussion to the end of General Business.

MISSION STATEMENT: Chair Swolgaard 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.

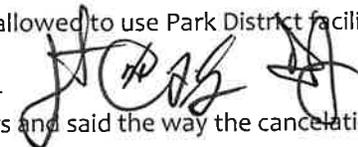
PUBLIC COMMENTS

Trails Director Barb Trafton spoke on behalf of the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation to say that they are excited to move forward with the Sound to Olympics trail planning. BIPTF donated \$50,000 to the City of Bainbridge Island to advance the alignment plan and were successful this year in helping with the Puget Sound to Pacific federal RAISE grant. They are hoping Bainbridge Island can plan quickly so they can get some of their Sound to Olympics trail projects in another grant application for construction funding.

Caty Kehs said she depends on the Park District to provide quality programs that are dependable, but the chess program she relied on for her son for after school programming was unconscionably and irresponsibly canceled twenty minutes before school was dismissed.

Hilde Chichester was involved in the walking program with Mark Cohen and said it is a real disappointment that he will no longer be leading it. She is also disappointed that Kitsap Therapy is no longer allowed to use Park District facilities to train physical therapy patients even if they pay or are members.

Christy Rice is a parent who has had her kids in Park District programs for years and said the way the cancellation of the chess program was handled was unacceptable.

JK 

Edith Cobourn spoke to ask for consideration regarding not permanently changing the tennis courts at Battle Point Park to pickleball courts for at least a year.

Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said permits will be submitted soon for the new tennis courts at Sakai Park and the project is still on target for spring/summer construction. Staff are currently working with the City of Bainbridge Island to correct the identification of a stream in the ravine adjacent to Sakai Park which has two storm water outlets that impact it.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the February 15, 2024 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the February 22, 2024 special board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Batch Date	Fund Number & Name	Warrant Numbers	Total Batch Amt	Pre-Approved
02/22/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	27449-27501	179,845.79	02/22/24
03/04/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	27502-27543	62,806.86	03/04/24

MSC: DeWitt/Janow: I move that we approve these vouchers.

Commissioner DeWitt said the next approval is for the final payment for the Comcast Property. **MSC: DeWitt/Janow: Move to approve funds from the Land Acquisition Fund in the amount of \$260,000 to be paid to Kitsap County Clerk for the purpose of land condemnation.**

Batch Date	Fund Number & Name	Warrant Numbers	Total Batch Amt	Pre-Approved
	310 Land Acquisition Fund	Pre-approval	260,000	

Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson said the Park District has taken possession of the Comcast Property. Staff have looked at the building and taken some basic steps to keep it from deteriorating further. Once the final payment is made the Park District will receive a document indicating official ownership of the property.

GENERAL BUSINESS

PREFERRED ROUTE OF SOUND TO OLYMPICS TRAIL THROUGH SAKAI PARK: Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin introduced City Engineer Peter Corelis with the City of Bainbridge Island. COBI has done an incredible amount of work laying out options for the Sound to Olympics trail. Peter Corelis said he is seeking board approval of the preferred STO trail routes that have been identified. The project scope was the 20% design for the Sakai Park route for the STO and the 20% design and planning level/conceptual alignments from Madison Avenue to the bridge which is all focused on the west side of State Route 305. The alternative 1 alignment through Sakai Park is on the east side of the pond and stays entirely within the Washington State Department of Transportation right of way, COBI property, and Park District property. Alternative 2 is longer and is on the west side of the pond. The key features of alternative 2 are that it is in more wetland, wetland buffer, and stream buffer and therefore there is a higher amount of mitigation that would need to occur, and it is almost double the cost. COBI is seeking board endorsement of alternative 1 through Sakai Park. The corridor wide planning study between Madison Avenue and the bridge is broken into seven segments and for each segment, two routes were evaluated. All the preferred alternatives require the least amount of right of way acquisition. COBI is seeking endorsement of the corridor study preferred alignments.

Commissioner DeWitt asked how many trees would have to be removed for alternative 1 through Sakai Park. Peter Corelis said that the tree count has not been done yet. Commissioner DeWitt said one of the concerns of the board has been the removal of screening for Sakai Park and he asked if in both alternatives the plan is to pave the trail. Peter Corelis said yes, the trail will be paved. Commissioner Goodlin said it is pretty clear that for Sakai Park alternative 1 is an easy choice due to less mitigation, less impact, maybe less elevation change, and because there is a need to get easements for alternative 2. Commissioner Swolgaard asked how COBI proposes handling storm water management for the trail at Sakai Park. Peter Corelis said that is part of the next step. **MSC: Janow/Goodlin: Motion that Park District board make an endorsement to the City Council on the STO trail preferred alignment through Sakai Park alternative 1 and that the board endorses the City Council on recommended preferred alignments for the STO trail plan study.** Commissioner Janow said thank you for the work that has been done to get to this point. Commissioner Kinney asked if staff have an opinion on the preferred route for Sakai Park. Dan Hamlin said staff support alternative 1 which has been walked with COBI staff. Most of the tree screening will be preserved and there is a lot less impact on the wetland and the recreational trail on the west side of the pond.

RAY WILLIAMSON POOL RENOVATION FUNDING OPTIONS DISCUSSION: Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said tonight Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson is going to talk about how to fund the original six lane project (Phase I and Phase II A). The potential for a two-lane expansion (Phase II B) will be a topic at the next board meeting at which time options will be discussed to bridge the funding gap between Phase II A and Phase II B. Amy Swenson said funding options include utilizing reserves and the Capital Improvement Fund, taking out loans, other funding types, and any combination thereof. Staff would like the board to choose a funding option soon for several reasons: 1) the CIF needs to be amended before staff can move forward on other projects, 2) staff needs time to work on a request for proposals if a decision is made to take out a loan, and 3) staff needs to know the closure dates, which will be determined by the contractor, in order to finalize program schedules and so that agreements with other pools can be worked on. Additional reasons include that costs will continue to rise, the International Building Code is changing and to stay under the 2018 IBC the project must start this year, and the potential for a forced closure due to failure of systems. Phase I, which includes the critical elements, is estimated to cost 3.5 million dollars. Phase II A is estimated to cost 2 million dollars. Expenditures to date are \$397,956 for planning which got the project to this point. There is about \$200,000 still in the budget for planning. The planning costs are not included in the 5.5 million dollar estimated project cost. Goals for funding the decision are to keep reserves above the 2.4-million-dollar mark which is needed for operations. Staff also want all the projects currently in the five-year CIF budget to stay on plan. Ultimately the amended CIF budget will be reviewed and approved by the board. An option that will address all the goals is to use 2.5 million dollars from reserves and the CIF budget and take a loan for the remainder with grants and fundraising possible as well. This option will keep the reserves at a healthy level, allow the project to move forward right away, and maintain all the projects currently in the CIF budget. Commissioner Janow noted that the Park District has been saving money for this project over the years and reserves are currently at about 7 million dollars.

Commissioner Goodlin asked if the board decides to support Phase II B, which would widen and deepen the pool, how much of what is decided tonight applies to that situation. Dan Hamlin said it will still apply, although Phase II B will necessitate a conversation about a bond. Approving funding tonight kicks the project back into gear to finish planning for Phase I for this summer. Commissioner DeWitt said there has to be some assurance tonight that the Park District is moving down this path even if the Phase II B option does not move forward. Dan Hamlin said this answers the question of what happens if the community does not fund Phase II B. Commissioner DeWitt said assurances also have to be made to the rest of the community that the Park District will be following through on the projects currently in the CIF budget.

Beth Lipton asked about the urgency with the code issue for the six-lane scenario. Dan Hamlin said staff submitted permits under the 2018 IBC and the 2021 IBC would increase project costs by millions of dollars due to additional requirements such as a requirement for electric car charging stations. Beth Lipton asked for clarification that nothing in the code requirements is related to the pool itself and safety issues. Dan Hamlin said no.

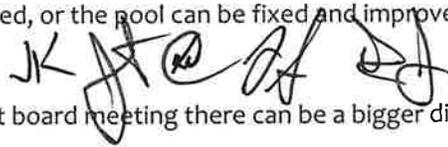
Eric Thompson asked regarding the permitting if there is a differentiation between pool permitting and building permitting and for confirmation that the building is not being rebuilt. Dan Hamlin said some roofing will be done and windows will be replaced which will be impacted by the code changes. Eric Thompson said he does not buy that changing some windows out means you have to add electric car charging spaces. Commissioner Swolgaard said the 2021 IBC is more stringent than the 2018 IBC and that is what the City of Bainbridge Island building officials have said. Eric Thompson continued to question the code concerns and said it seems really nefarious to him and that adding two lanes is an illogical way to spend money.

Martha Deveraux asked about down time for the kids who swim and about temporary measures to keep kids swimming competitively on track during the down time. Aquatic Program Administrator Jenette Reneau said the short answer is that nothing is going to look like it does now, and everyone is going to have to bend. Staff plans to utilize the Bainbridge Island

Recreation Center pool and maximize the use of the Don Nakata pool at the Aquatic Center. She has also started talks with off-site locations.

A man in the audience said capacity is an issue and an eight lane or 50-meter pool would be a better option than just fixing what there is currently.

Commissioner Goodlin said there has been recognition in the community since at least 2015 that the community could use more pool space and a deeper pool. There has been a long discussion, and the board has had staff look at and evaluate options for a variety of sizes for a new pool. What the board was facing is that those were very expensive options and meanwhile the Ray Williamson pool is in worse shape every year and needs attention. The board decided this time last year to do significant maintenance and repairs. While the work needed to be done, that approach had the consequence of not increasing pool capacity. The reason the board is looking at the alternative to add two lanes and an even depth is that it increases the capacity and makes it better for swimming and water polo. It is an opportunity to improve the pool situation. It has been decided that the repairs will be done, and the pool will be shut down for two different periods even with the six-lane option. The board is looking at changing the pool configuration to increase capacity because that opportunity is not going to come around for a couple more decades. The pool can be fixed, or the pool can be fixed and improved. Pool improvement in his mind is a great benefit to the community.



Commissioner DeWitt said tonight is about fixing the pool, at the next board meeting there can be a bigger discussion about enlarging and deepening the pool.

A man in the audience said people from across the county use the pool and he hopes those folks can be encouraged to be involved.

MSC: DeWitt/Janow: I move that the Board of Commissioners authorize the Executive Director or his designee to proceed with the renovation of the Ray Williamson pool in its existing configuration (Phase II A) using a maximum of \$2.5 million from reserves and the Capital Improvement Fund, with the balance of the estimated \$5.5 million project cost to be funded through a combination of fundraising, grants, and loans. The Executive Director (including Board Chair, if required) or his designee is authorized to sign any project related documents. Construction is subject to acceptable final bids to be approved by the Board of Commissioners.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a five-minute recess at 7:23 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:28 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:28 pm.

ENTERPRISE LEASE: Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said at the February 1 board meeting staff brought a proposal for an Enterprise fleet lease option. Since that time staff have completed reviewing the option with the finance team and legal counsel. Staff have also contacted five agencies who utilize an Enterprise lease. Staff will work with Enterprise annually to assess vehicles and make sure it stays within the budget constraints. Tonight, staff would like board approval to move forward with leasing ten vehicles this year. Commissioner Swolgaard said his understanding is you can opt out if it does not work out. Dan Hamlin said yes, and it is very flexible. **MSC: Kinney/DeWitt: Authorize the Acting Executive Director to sign the lease with Enterprise for 10 trucks through 2024.**

BOARD POLICIES DISCUSSION: Commissioner Janow said the board is looking at the board policies section of the Park District policy manual which has not been updated since 2017. She led a review of the policies and proposed items for further review and possible update. Commissioner Kinney volunteered to look more closely into the applicable RCWs for some of the policies.

STAFF REPORT

Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said that regarding the chess program cancelation brought up during public comment that staff was onsite to help with the children impacted by the cancelation. The Park District's hands were tied with the decision that had to be made. Staff were put in a precarious situation, and they handled it well although the contractor involved did not make it easy by being onsite when he was told not to be. Staff did do their due diligence for a tough situation and reviewed as a team what the impacts would be and were prepared to watch the children enrolled in the program throughout the scheduled program time frame if that was needed. One of the concerns heard tonight was that the program was relied on for childcare and staff were certainly prepared to provide that though they were turned down by most of the families. Staff has also been available to work to place the children into other programs.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Madison Collins said the walking program mentioned tonight during public comment is still being offered and this is a good time to recognize that no program is owned by one staff member. The Park District is going to have a hiring fair on April 15 from 2:00-6:00 pm at the Aquatic Center. The National Recreation and Park Association is holding a cover photo contest and staff submitted a photo of adaptive recreation participants in front of Pia the troll at Sakai Park. Bainbridge Island Swim Club is setting some team records. There will be a snowshoe trip on Sunday to Lake Angeles. Gymnastics Open Play Time is being offered again on Saturdays due to increased staffing levels. The summer recreation catalog will be viewable online on April 5 with the first day of registration on May 4.

Park Services Division: Senior Planner Matthew Keough said state grant season is starting and next week staff will submit a preapplication for a community oriented athletic facility grant for 1.2 million dollars for the Battle Point Park artificial turf field replacement and one for the Ray Williamson pool renovation. Park Services Superintendent Lydia Roush said she was invited to speak at a Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation meeting about how the Park District implements their stewardship funds in parks and why they are so meaningful. There are a lot of activities planned for Earth month. Staff are gearing up with the City of Bainbridge Island for work on the farm trail. The grounds crew is wrapping up spring preparations by pruning orchards and mulching flower beds. Fields are too wet right now to support equipment for mowing and dragging the fields, but staff are keeping an eye on the weather and will get to it as soon as they can. The Strawberry Hill Park tree thinning project is complete. Park Services Superintendent David Harry said work is being done at Williams-Olson Park. Staff have also spent time stabilizing and preserving the building on the Comcast Property. The permit for the dock extension was received from the City of Bainbridge Island. Matthew Keough noted that the federal permits for that project have not been received and that they require that the mitigation be paid for.

Administrative Division: Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson said hopefully by the end of March staff will go live with the new accounting system for accounts payable.

Dan Hamlin said the Park District has possession of the Comcast Property and the facility looks nice. He made a presentation to the Oatmeal Club this morning regarding what the Park District is working on, what is coming up, and what the challenges are. He said the staff the Park District has are great and are making his job easy, it is a privilege to be taking credit for all their work. So far 115 responses to the recent Ray Willimson pool survey have been received.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

- Commissioner Goodlin said that he attended the recent Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation meeting.
- Commissioner Kinney said at the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation annual meeting this afternoon Park Services Superintendent David Harry got kudos for his work on the structure at Pritchard Park. He thanked David Harry and said people on the island appreciate it.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he was at upper Fort Ward Park on February 17 and there was a trail work party with 17 people.

- Commissioner DeWitt said February 19 he was at the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association work party with over 100 people.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he attended the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce annual mixer.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he and Commissioner Kinney were at the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation annual meeting today.
- Commissioner Janow said she was at the recent Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation meeting with Commissioner Goodlin where Park Services Superintendent Lydia Roush spoke. Commissioner Janow said that every time Lydia Roush speaks, she learns something new.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said the snowshoe trail up to Lake Angeles is one tough trail.
- Commissioner Janow said the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation has launched their fundraising campaign for the bike park.
- Commissioner DeWitt thanked the staff for the good presentation last week at the community meeting regarding the Ray Williamson pool renovation.

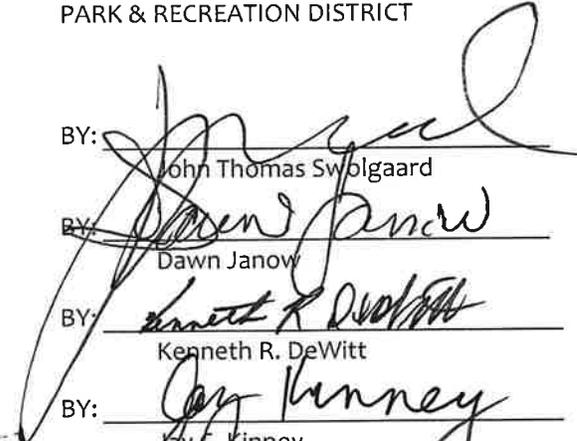
MEETING ADJOURNED to a four-minute recess at 8:37 pm with announced time to reconvene at 8:41 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 8:41 pm.

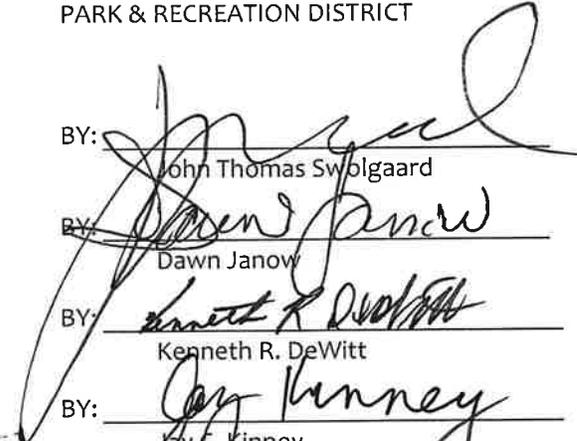
MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:41 pm for discussion of real estate and legal with announced time to reconvene at 9:06 pm.

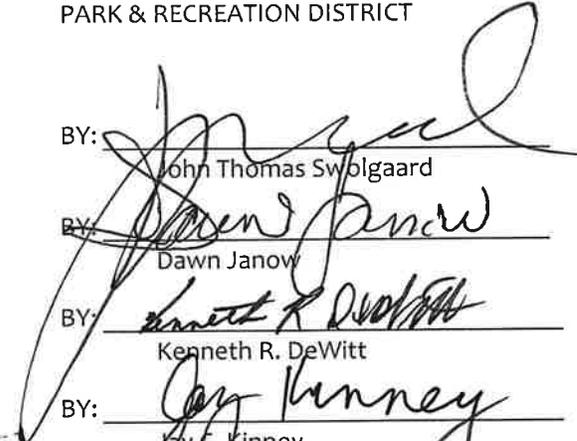
MEETING RECONVENED at 9:06 pm and **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 9:06 pm for continued discussion of the above items, with announced time to reconvene at 9:11 pm.

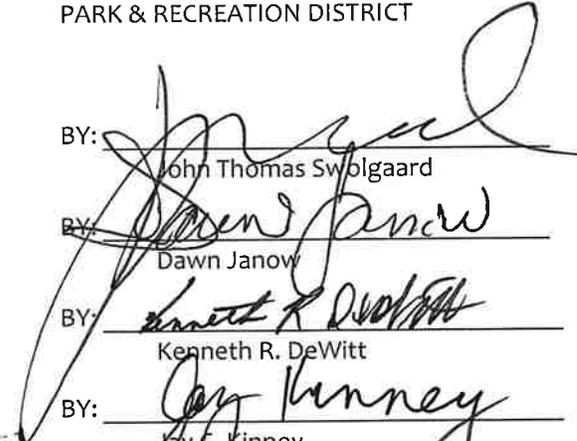
MEETING RECONVENED at 9:11 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 9:11 pm.

Helen Stone
 Dan Hamlin
 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
 PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
 John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: 
 Dawn Janow

BY: 
 Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
 Jay C. Kinney

ATTEST: 
 Tom Goodlin