

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING May 2, 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: Strike general business item 40.5.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE: Commissioner Goodlin said he received an email that asserted that he had a conflict of interest regarding the Ray Williamson pool renovation bond. The email did not say why, but presumably it is because he is a frequent user of the pool and a member of Bainbridge Aquatic Masters. Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin consulted with Park District Attorney Hayes Gori who said he does not consider Commissioner Goodlin as having a conflict of interest regarding this item.

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.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the April 18, 2024 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

Commissioner Janow noted that she threw around some numbers regarding how much of the swim team fees go towards Aquatic Center expenses at the last board meeting that were from her own personal calculations and did not come from staff. She encouraged people to always reach out for clarification if they have questions.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: DeWitt/Janow: 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
04/15/24	001 General Fund	27715-27732	50,921.45	04/15/24
04/19/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	27733-27772	137,131.24	04/19/24
04/22/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	27773-27785	32,455.70	04/22/24

GENERAL BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2024-04: RAY WILLIAMSON POOL RENOVATION BOND: Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said tonight the board has the final draft of the bond resolution for the Ray Williamson pool renovation and the explanatory statement was shared this week.

The conversation about adding lanes to the Ray Williamson pool started in December 2023 when Stemper Architecture Collaborative found the addition of two lanes to be feasible after conducting a study. The expansion came with some tradeoffs, including loss of deck space. The reasons the project needs to be addressed sooner than later are cost, code, and closure. If the project is delayed costs will go up, code requirements will change, and there are imminent failure concerns

that need to be addressed to avoid the potential for closure. Phase I of the renovation will address most of the imminent failure concerns such as the electrical and the HVAC. Evening the depth of the pool has positives and negatives. An even depth will serve the community better but there are risks even with the minimal amount of excavation that would be required. More pool space would mean more space for aquatics programs. Possible outcomes of adding two lanes are more users served and shorter waitlists, which are concerns that have been pointed out for years as staff have worked with the aquatics community to solve the issue of the aging Ray Williamson pool. The Ray Williamson pool is 54 years old, and the Park District must do something. There have been several renditions of efforts to meet this need. Replacing the facility was an option but due to cost the board has decided to renovate the existing facility.

On February 22 of this year there was a special board meeting to discuss funding options which were laid out by staff for the 6-lane renovation (Phase I and Phase II A) and the board narrowed down the options. The board passed a motion at the March 7 board meeting to commit up to 2.5 million dollars out of reserves and to fund the remainder of the estimated 5.5 million dollars for Phase I and Phase II A with a combination of fundraising, grants, and loans. At that point the 6-lane renovation had a funding plan even if the board decided not to go for a bond for the 8-lane option (Phase II B), or in case a bond for Phase II B was to fail. At the March 21 board meeting the board passed a motion to seek a bond to fund Phase II B. By the April 4 board meeting a campaign committee was forming and a sizable group showed up to support Phase II B. At the last board meeting the draft bond resolution was reviewed, and the board had the opportunity to weigh in on it.

Regarding the cost to run the Aquatic Center, the current budget is \$2,149,000, and of that \$883,000 is subsidy. A lot of pools are not built because even if the money can be found to build a pool, \$500,000-\$1,000,000 a year is needed to operate it. He noted that the Park District's current subsidy has increased by over \$100,000 in the last couple of years due to propane and chemical costs rising significantly. There were also impacts to Bainbridge Island Swim Club membership which decreased to the point of needing to subsidize the team last year. Staff are working to get the entire subsidy back to the annual range of \$700,00-\$750,000. However, those savings will not be realized until after the Ray Williamson pool is renovated and reopened. Commissioner Janow asked if there may be an opportunity to save some overhead costs during the period when the Ray Williamson pool is closed for renovation and Dan Hamlin said yes.

Steve Letson, president of Friends of the New Bainbridge Pool, posed a series of questions regarding the potential 8-lane Ray Williamson pool.

Ann Marie Borys said she is a lifelong swimmer and supports having Phase II B on the ballot.

Ken Bennett has been swimming with Bainbridge Aquatic Masters for about 12 years and supports putting Phase II B on the ballot. He is part of a group of Aquatic Center users who are planning how they can support the expansion and have already met with a professional fundraiser.

Marc Hoecker spoke in support of Phase II B.

Katherine Fort is a BAM member and has kids who are members of BISC, and she is part of a group of people who have already secured more than \$46,000 worth of pledges towards fundraising for Phase II B.

Commissioner Goodlin said having a pool facility has been a core service of the Park District since 1965 when the Park District was created in part due to the recognition of the need for a community pool. The original Ray Williamson pool opened in 1970 as a multipurpose pool with a shallow end and a deep end with diving boards because it was the only pool. Now the Don Nakata pool serves some of those original needs. The island population has roughly doubled since 1970 while the competition pool capacity has remained the same, which speaks to the need people have spoken of. He is in favor of anything that can be done to increase capacity.

MSC: Kinney/Goodlin: Move to approve Resolution 2024-04 to go forth to the public for a bond.

Commissioner Kinney said the resolution provides the ability to raise 10 million dollars to renovate the Ray Williamson pool. The current situation requires the Park District to move quickly due to code changes which would require significant additional funding. Stemper has experience renovating pools in the Seattle area, but the Park District has no bids yet. If it becomes impractical to build two extra lanes, then the Park District is not required to do so. The public is being asked for their confidence in the Park District and to give the Park District the authority to raise 10 million dollars for this project with the intention of expanding the pool. He likes the idea of expanding the pool because the Ray Williamson pool is 54 years old and if a new tank is built then all the systems will be brand new. There will be a bigger pool in the same spot to get the Park District through the next 50 years. It is a great idea because the island population is going to grow and there is going to be more demand for the pool. With the cost and operational expenses involved, building a new pool somewhere else is just not realistic. The bond is a lot of money, not everyone swims, and there are a lot of other needs on the island, but this is a once in 50 years chance.

Commissioner Janow said that her reservation regarding Phase II B is that there is not enough information about it. She is interested in a feasibility study to see the differences between the 6-lane and the 8-lane options. She asked if it is correct that the resolution gives the Park District the authority to use funds for all parts of the renovation and of the facility. Alice Ostdiek, bond counsel for the Park District, said that is correct. As it is written the resolution describes the Aquatic Center, with the Ray Williamson pool as one component, and related facilities. Commissioner Janow emphasized that there is no obligation to add lanes in the resolution and Alice Ostdiek said that is correct. Commissioner Janow said she is in favor of the resolution as it is written which gives the board a lot of flexibility, does not obligate the board to any one plan, and does not make any guarantees to the public.

Commissioner DeWitt said he is in favor of the resolution and letting the people of the island decide. The project cannot be delayed due to the impending code changes which will significantly increase the cost.

FOR AND AGAINST COMMITTEE APPOINTMENTS: Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said that in preparation for the potential of the board passing the bond resolution people have reached out to staff who are willing to serve on both the “for” and “against” committees for the voters’ pamphlet. Three people have volunteered to serve on the “for” committee: Katherine Fort, Kenneth Bennett, and Joy Archer as chair of the committee. **MSC: DeWitt/Kinney: Move to approve the “for” committee of Katherine Fort, Ken Bennett, and Joy Archer.** For the “against” committee the volunteers are Caitlin Lombardi and Chelsea Minola as chair. **MSC: Janow/Goodlin: Motion for the “against” committee: Caitlin Lombardi and Chelsea Minola.**

STEMPER ARCHITECTURE COLLABORATIVE ADD SERVICE REQUEST: Senior Planner Matthew Keough said Stemper Architecture Collaborative is under contract to work with the Park District on the Ray Williamson pool renovation from initial study to design to construction documentation and through project management of the construction. At the end of last year five items were added to the original scope of work and the total cost of the add service request is \$59,166. **MSC: DeWitt/Goodlin: Finding the five listed additional service items consistent with the current Stemper AC contract but not specifically identified in the contracted scope of work, move to authorize these add services and increase the Stemper AC contract by \$59,166.**

Commissioner Janow said her comment concerns the add service request item regarding expanding the original scope of the project from a strict renovation to an expansion of the pool space. She said the board can dither about language or about how that did or did not get approved, but she wanted to make a note that at the March 2 board meeting in 2023 the board told staff to focus on renovating the existing pool and to not spend any time on a new pool. She said she

understands there can be some ambiguity in the language and that the board never stopped the project from moving forward. She said the project is moving rapidly, which has been a concern for her. Commissioner Kinney said that a modified pool is not a brand-new pool in a brand-new building, and the additional lanes are a reasonable addition. The Ray Williamson pool is being renovated and the motion passed in 2023 by the board did not preclude expansion. Commissioner Goodlin said that in his opinion, based on the 2017 report which pointed out the challenges in addressing the piping under the current pool, replacing the entire shell and piping has benefits for longevity.

FLETCHER BAY PROPERTY ACQUISITION: Park Services Superintendent Lydia Roush said the Park District has an opportunity to receive the Fletcher Bay Property from an anonymous donor. The property is 0.4-acre and shows signs of community use. The site offers potential trail connections and has minimal amounts of invasive species. Staff sees it predominantly as a passive use park with some potential for a neighborhood pocket park.

Mary Meier, executive director of the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation said this is a great opportunity to highlight what an incredible gift something like this is. Small parcels like this are very meaningful for building community. It is an incredible opportunity and a great example to other people in the community.

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE COOPERATIVE MANAGEMENT AGREEMENT FOR BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE AMERICAN EXCLUSION MEMORIAL: Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said this draft agreement with the National Park Service has been brought to the board to review in case there are any concerns, although there are additional edits to be made. The agreement would give the Park District access to up to \$100,000 annually from NPS to implement an interpretive services plan. The Park District has asked the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association if they are interested in using the money to implement the interpretive services plan, which they are. The Park District would receive the funds, use a portion of them to cover the cost of services provided to the site, and pass the rest to BIJAEMA to implement the plan. Staff see this as a positive step for the site.

STAFF REPORT

Park Services Division: Park Services Superintendent David Harry said staff are in discussions with community members about a project to build a picnic shelter next to the KidsUp! Playground at Battle Point Park. Park Services Superintendent Lydia Roush said that after work on the tree thinning project at Moritani Preserve it looks messy, but that is part of the process like in a home renovation and she guarantees it is going to be gorgeous.

Recreation Division: Aquatic Program Administrator Jenette Reneau said the Aquatic Center is offering more swim lessons currently than it has since before the pandemic, and staff have built a very robust swim lesson program for summer. There are 27 new Bainbridge Aquatic Masters members who were able to be moved onto the team from the waitlist after some lane and schedule modifications were made. The Aquatic Center is almost fully staffed for summer when just a year ago staff was struggling to keep the pools open. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said resident summer registration starts on Saturday and non-resident registration starts on Sunday. Staff have already begun work on the fall recreation catalog. The Fly Fishing Expo at Battle Point Park will be held May 18. There will be a middle school dance next Saturday. Two more recreation companions have been hired to provide individualized attention and support to program participants.

Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said he and Recreation Division Director Madison Collins are taking a tour of BARN tomorrow. Having Michelle Miller back on staff as procurement manager has been phenomenal, she is doing a great job. Dan Hamlin expressed appreciation to Aquatic Program Administrator Jenette Reneau and said she is the most qualified aquatics manager the Park District has had.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

- Commissioner Janow thanked staff for accommodating her questions and concerns regarding the Aquatic Center.

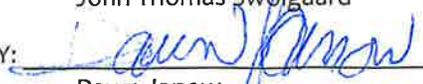
- Commissioner Janow wished staff good luck with summer registration, which starts Saturday. She said the adaptive section of the catalog is fantastic and speaks to how staff are striving to meet the needs of everyone on the island.
- Commissioner Janow said she attended the Earth Day Expo at Battle Point Park last weekend and gave staff kudos for the event.
- Commissioner Janow said she met with Reed Price, executive director of the Bainbridge Island Senior Community Center, who was putting out feelers to see if the Park District can house BISCC programs during possible closures of their facility.
- Commissioner Janow said that there have been two Finance Committee meetings recently, and she is excited for the opportunity to analyze the budget in new and fresh ways.
- Commissioner Janow said Tyler Moniz was active in the roller hockey community. He could not see his way to stay on Earth and he left it when he was 21 years old. The Tyler Moniz Project was created by his family in his memory to put benches in the community to help spark conversation and connection. The Tyler Moniz project is now being housed under the auspices of Bainbridge Youth Services. She said projects like this are very impactful.
- Commissioner Janow read an email from a community member who said she was told that Helpline House ran out of funding for this year for those who qualify for financial assistance with Park District programming. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said he has addressed this with Helpline House, which is not out of the funding allotted to them by the Park District.
- Commissioner DeWitt said on April 21 he attended Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation's presentation on mason bees at Prue's House. It was fascinating and there were a lot of kids in attendance.
- Commissioner DeWitt said Jack Niehaus, a young man who grew up on the island and was very involved in Park District activities, was killed in a car wreck in Thailand last week.
- Commissioner Kinney said he mentioned at the last board meeting that the pickleball group wanted to make a presentation to the board about plans for covered courts and that has been scheduled for the first regular board meeting in June.
- Commissioner Kinney asked if staff anticipates that the tennis courts at Sakai Park will be built this year and Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said yes.
- Commissioner Kinney said he thinks the aquatic community realizes that to encourage people to vote for the Ray Williamson pool renovation bond they are going to have to raise a lot of money themselves, and he is glad they are working on that. Fixing up the pool is a long-term gift to the aquatic community, but it is this current group that is going to be making the sacrifice during closure periods.
- Commissioner Goodlin said the disruption to and dislocation of swimmers during closure periods for the Ray Williamson pool renovation is going to be significant. Whatever staff can do to incentivize the contractors to do quality work quickly would be good.
- Commissioner Goodlin said at some point having an Aquatic Center committee may make sense for the Ray Williamson pool renovation project.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:43 pm.

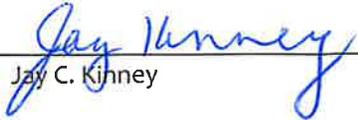
Helen Stone
 Dan Hamlin
 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN

PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: _____
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY:  _____
Dawn Janow

BY:  _____
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY:  _____
Jay C. Kinney

ATTEST:  _____
Tom Goodlin