

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING August 1, 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:** An agenda item was added at the beginning of General Business to introduce an intern.

**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**

Heidi Stamm Mueller said she is concerned the Park District is spending too much money on aquatics and asked for financial information about pools. Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin gave her a business card and said she should call to discuss her concerns, and she said she would.

Loanne Harmeling spoke to request that if the shared tennis courts at Battle Point Park are converted to pickleball courts that consideration be given to the future of tennis as well as pickleball on Bainbridge Island as the tennis community continues to seek additional free outdoor play space.

**BOARD CONSENT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

**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
07/18/24	001 General Fund	28308-28320	16,526.61	07/18/24
07/22/24	001 General Fund	28323	220.00	07/22/24
07/25/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	28333-28365	100,535.91	07/25/24
07/31/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	28373-28433	145,328.75	07/31/24
	001 General Fund (June Payroll)	EFT & 3304-3321	417,440.46	
	001 General Fund (June Payroll Benefits and Taxes)	EFT & 10000-10007	285,015.27	
	001 General Fund (July Payroll)	EFT & 3323-3333	530,300.40	
	001 General Fund (July Payroll Benefits and Taxes)	EFT & 10010-10017	305,699.93	

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**INTERN INTRODUCTION:** Outdoor Program Manager Stacey Stoner introduced Jacob Walters from Missouri University who is working with her as an intern this summer. Jacob Walters thanked the board for the opportunity and said he has had a variety of opportunities including working on handbooks and organizing photos.

**NEURODIVERSE STUDENT CONSERVATION CORPS DEBRIEF:** Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said how proud staff are of the creativity and cooperation of Volunteer Program Manager Morgan Houk and Adaptive & Accessibility Coordinator Cody Ogren for creating this special program. Morgan Houk said she has gotten feedback for many years regarding a desire for additional Student Conservation Corps opportunities. Through a conversation Morgan Houk initiated with Cody Ogren before he was hired in his current role, the idea for Neurodiverse SCoCo was born. Morgan Houk secured the program funding from a grant through the Recreation and Conservation Office and the Office of the Superintendent of Public Instruction. Cody Ogren said Neurodiverse SCoCo used a model he was familiar with from his work in special education in a public school district, which was to match the neurodivergent crew members with peer mentors. Neurodivergent crew members required various levels of support and it was good for the peer mentors to see the wide range of support needs. During the program the students learned about each other and made personal connections. Cody Ogren said job opportunities for the neurodivergent community are often for the jobs that nobody wants, but this was an opportunity for meaningful employment. Morgan Houk said the Neurodiverse SCoCo crew removed over 60 yards of invasive species, spread 10 yards of woodchip mulch, planted 100 native plants, and learned to identify invasive species. A variety of guest speakers were brought in during the session to share hands-on career opportunities in various fields. The feedback received from both the crew and their parents was overwhelmingly positive. Morgan Houk said while it is still early in the budget season, they are hoping to propose an addition to the 2025 budget to continue the Neurodiverse SCoCo program. They are also pursuing both privately and publicly funded grants to support the program.

Commissioner Janow said she saw the program at Battle Point Park and all the students were genuinely happy and it was a win-win. Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said Morgan Houk and Cody Ogren were honored at the last Sounds of Summer concert in July for their work on this program. July is Park and Recreation Month and the theme this year was “Where You Belong.” These staff members created something that brought everyone together and gave people the feeling that they belong. Commissioner DeWitt said he saw Neurodiverse SCoCo in action and he was very impressed. This is the first Neurodiverse SCoCo program in Washington, if not the country, making this year’s students the pioneers of this program. Commissioner Kinney said he is very proud of Morgan Houk and Cody Ogren. Commissioner Goodlin said he loves the initiative they took to create this program, the enthusiasm is obvious, and it is a real gift to the community. Commissioner Swolgaard thanked them for their work and enthusiasm and told them to keep up the good work.

**CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE:** Senior Planner Matthew Keough said in the City of Bainbridge Island’s comprehensive plan process there are three alternatives being brought forward for growth planning, including alternative 1 which is for no action. Staff are recommending alternatives 2 and 3 which both include park zoning. This development is due to a history of staff engagement with COBI staff in pursuit of park zoning standards. The draft support letter officially communicates to COBI that the board is interested in park zoning. **MSC: Janow/Kinney: Motion to approve Chair Swolgaard to sign the letter in support for the park zoning or code updates in the COBI comprehensive plan as contained in the board packet.** Commissioner DeWitt said 18 years ago he and former commissioner Lee Cross began working on this. He is excited it is being seriously considered by COBI. Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said Park District staff appreciate that COBI staff have been supportive.

**2025 BUDGET PROCESS TIMELINE:** After a brief discussion it was decided that the budget work session will be held on October 3 after the regular board meeting.

**POTENTIAL SOLAR ENERGY ADDITIONS AT BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER AND AQUATIC CENTER:** Park Services Superintendent David Harry said the Park District has been in conversation with Capstone Solar staff who have proposed solar energy systems for Bainbridge Island Recreation Center and the Aquatic Center. According to projections, solar panels at these two facilities could generate about half a megawatt of solar energy a year. While there is a long way to go in this process, staff are looking at grant opportunities. Commissioner Janow asked about adding solar panels at Battle Point Park or Strawberry Hill Park. Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said both BIRC and the Aquatic Center are priorities due to their potential use for emergency services and high electric bills as well as being identified to focus on by Capstone Solar.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

**Park Services Division:** Park Services Superintendent David Harry said there was a pre-construction meeting with the contractor for the tennis courts at Sakai Park this morning and the contractor was given notice to proceed.

Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said that last Friday's Pups in the Pool event was well received. The fall Recreation Connection catalog has arrived in mailboxes. This fall the youth recreational soccer leagues in the catalog will be run in-house by staff.

#### **BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:**

- Commissioner Goodlin said he and Commissioner DeWitt attended the recent Trails Advisory Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Kinney said he attended the Sounds of Summer concert last week.
- Commissioner Janow said the Battle Point Astronomical Association has a new dome.
- Commissioner Janow said she is always happy to get the recreation catalog in the mail and it is a reminder of how much the Park District does.
- Commissioner Janow said she was at the last Sounds of Summer concert, and she gave staff kudos as the event is no small feat.
- Commissioner Goodlin said he met with Brett Deits with the Bainbridge Island Football Club who thinks Park District fields need more attention.
- Commissioner DeWitt said updating the trails vision plan in conjunction with the Park District's upcoming comprehensive plan update was discussed at the recent Trails Advisory Committee meeting.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he and Commissioner Swolgaard, along with some staff, were invited to Governor Jay Inslee's house for an ice cream social to thank those who had worked on Hawley Cove Park.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he attended the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation's monthly donors meeting at Moritani Preserve recently and got to see both Student Conservation Corps and Neurodiverse SCoCo crew members working in the park.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said he was at the Park District booth at the Farmers' Market last Saturday.

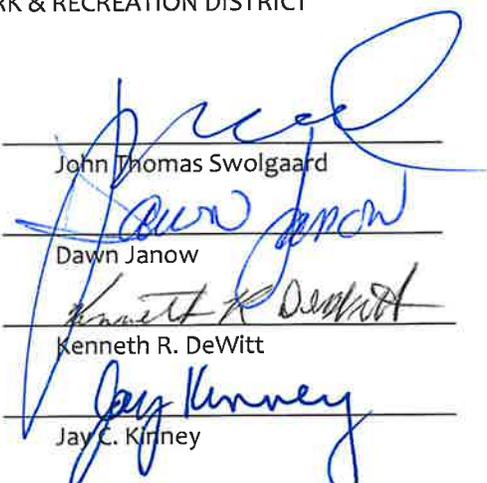
**MEETING ADJOURNED** to a five-minute recess at 7:17 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:22 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:22 pm.

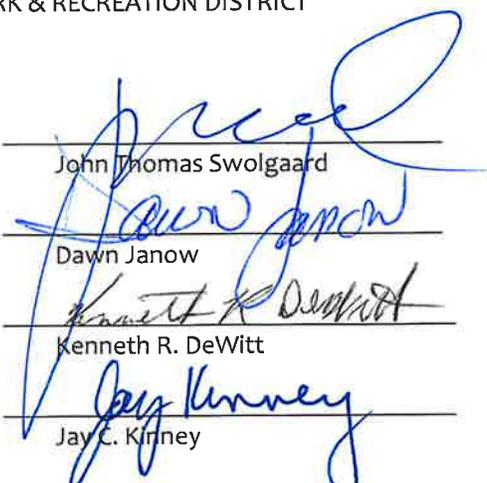
**MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:22 pm for discussion of real estate with announced time to reconvene at 7:52 pm.

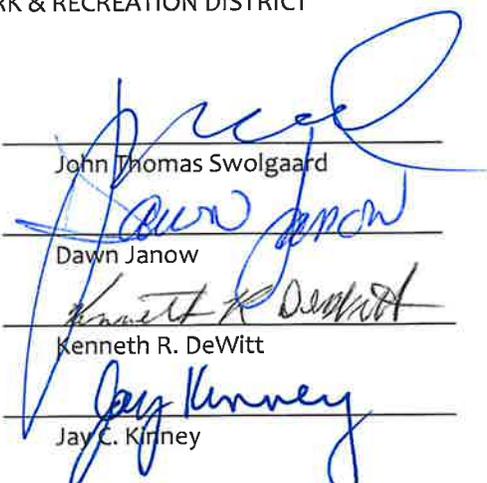
**MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:52 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 7:52 pm.

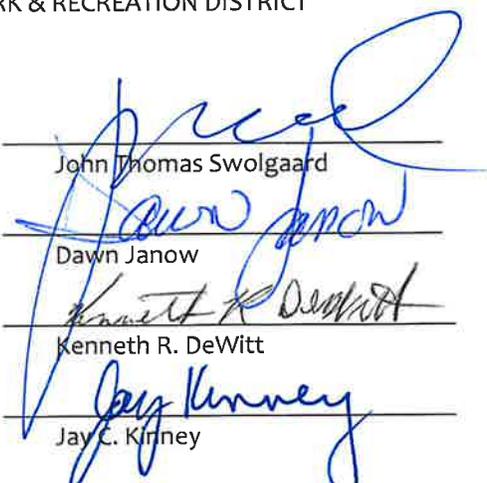
Helen Stone  
Dan Hamlin

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN  
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY:   
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY:   
Dawn Janow

BY:   
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY:   
Jay C. Kirney

ATTEST:   
Tom Goodlin