

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
PUBLIC MEETING: PLANNING THE SAKAI PROPERTY
APRIL 23, 2016
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND AQUATIC CENTER**

INTRODUCTION

The public meeting for the Sakai property began at 10:00 am with an introduction and background information on the public process provided by Facilitators Bob Linz and Christina Hulet. The intent of this public process is for the public to generate 10-12 recommended uses for the property that will be given to the Park District's Board of Commissioners for further consideration and a decision on what uses will be included on the property. At the initial public meeting held on January 23, 2016, ten work groups were formed. These groups will present today what they have learned. The intent by the end of today's meeting is to synthesize the data that is presented and come up with any next steps for subsequent work that may be needed before the community is ready to pass off the list of 10-12 recommended uses to the Park District. It was also reiterated from the first meeting on January 23, that the Park District does not have an agenda or preconceived notion for what this property will be used for. The presentations today are the result of citizen work groups without input from the Park District. Bob Linz said the land has three natural characteristics: 1) Wetlands; 2) An area set aside for a Sakai family member to live on throughout that person's lifetime; 3) Dry uplands that are both flat and sloping. Certain legal constraints will determine what can or cannot be done in each of these areas. (The following board members were present at the meeting today as observers: Tom Swolgaard, Lee Cross, Kirk Robinson).

WORK GROUP PRESENTATIONS

Facilitator Bob Linz said each of the groups would have five minutes to present and ten minutes for questions.

1) WORK GROUP: PARK VALUES

The task of this work group was to reduce the list of 400 values generated at the January 23 public meeting by consolidating the items on it into six primary values. The intent is to show where community interest lies. The six values will not be ranked by the work group. The results of their work can be reviewed on the Park District website at www.biparks.org.

2) WORK GROUP: SURVEY

A community survey was developed by this work group to randomly sample public preferences, needs and demands for the Sakai property. The survey gives everyone in the community the chance to give input and provides a good cross section of various uses on the island. The Park District did not give input into this survey.

The Survey Work Group does not yet have the final results since the survey is not due back until May 1. To date there has been a good response with 1800 respondents to the survey representing 20% of all island households. The results to date were made available and will also be posted on the District's website. The results will be used by the work group to help discern what uses the community would like to have at the Sakai property. Their work has not yet been completed.

3) WORK GROUP: FINANCIAL FEASIBILITY

The intent of this work group was to come up with a way to put a price tag on uses. In doing this, people would gain some awareness into how much something they might want would cost and how this would then translate into needed tax or other revenues to bring it about. The work group's presenter, Doug Rauh, encouraged people to keep their expectations in line with what would be needed to make their preferred use happen. He encouraged people to consider factors such as timeframe, what a community of this size can afford, and what the on-going cost will be for

operation and maintenance and whether this is affordable. This work group addressed how much expense (capital costs) would be involved to develop certain uses. It did not explore how these uses would be paid for or how they would be maintained. The results of this work can be viewed on the District's website.

4) WORK GROUP: PRIORITIZE PROJECTS

This work group took the long list of possible uses generated at the January 23 public meeting, and placed them in three categories based on the amount of work needed to implement them. These three categories ranged from the least complicated to the most complicated, and considered factors such as: 1) existing resources, staff and volunteers; 2) the need for additional funds and expertise, 3) regulations, approvals and construction contracts. The group's work can be viewed on the District's website.

5) WORK GROUP: DEMOGRAPHICS

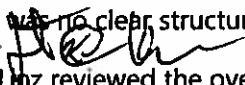
This work group developed a system to break out the list of possible uses from the January 23 public meeting into five demographic age groups. Subjective scores for these uses were assigned based on the likelihood of different age groups using it. While this was a non-scientific process, the group tried to be reasonable in determining their estimates of use. The intent of this work group was to paint a picture that would create some clarity. The results of their work will be posted on the District's website soon.

Meeting adjourned for a break at 11:00 am. Meeting reconvened at 11:15 am.

6) WORK GROUP: CREATE A TABLE

The intent of this group was to create a table that would summarize information generated by other work groups. The goal was to provide an overall view of what the community wants or needs that could assist in making an informed decision about recommended uses for the property. The table does among other things the following: 1) breaks uses generated at the January 23 meeting into categories including: building, nature-related, sports, and other uses; and 2) Inserts information compiled by other work groups such as estimated costs, values, and project complexity. The table will be available soon for viewing on the District's website.

Following the presentation of the Table Work Group, some members of the audience expressed dissatisfaction with the work of several work groups saying the information presented today has been incomprehensible, non-scientific, and lacking in objective data. Facilitator Bob Linz said this is a bottoms up public process that is governed by the participants. He encouraged people who are not satisfied to contact work group members and get involved in the process. Some comments from the audience indicated discomfort with the lack of guidance from officials and experts, saying there was no clear structure that would result in a deliverable product.

Facilitator 
Facilitator Bob Linz reviewed the overall process, saying there had been a first meeting on January 23 out of which ten work groups were formed. A second meeting was scheduled and the work groups had several months to complete their work. During this time anyone interested could jump in and get involved. All work group contact and other information has been posted on the Park District website. Not all the work groups finished their work in time to present their final results at the meeting today.

7) WORK GROUP: COMMUNITY CENTER

The intent of this work group was to research and explore a multi-age/multi-use recreational community center as a way to bring many youth and adult programs and activities, currently all over the island, under one roof on the Sakai property. The group toured current District facilities and found many of them lacking in their capacity to meet current

demands. Some of these included the District's gymnastics facilities, administrative offices, and the Teen and Senior Centers. The work group also toured a number of community centers in the region and gathered input from the people they spoke with. A handout of this group's work will soon be available on the District's website

8) WORK GROUP: YOUTH SPORTS

The goal of this work group was to gather data from Bainbridge Island sports leaders about their needs and the number of youth that would benefit from a new sports facility. The group developed a survey that was sent to leaders of a variety of sports activities conducted on fields and courts, in water, and within indoor facilities. The sports survey gathered input on perceived inadequacies of the current sports facilities on the island and what each organization would want. The work group reported lots of interest in creating a multi-use sports facility on the Sakai site. More information can be viewed on the District's website.

9) WORK GROUP: ADVENTURE PLAYGROUND

This work group focused on a specific use for the Sakai property. Presenter Kevin Mills said an adventure playground is a new notion in the United States that helps children get the most out of childhood. It is a program that allows children to create, design, build and destroy in an unstructured open play area. An adventure playground survey has been sent out that is intended not only to determine the community's level of interest but to be informative as well. Currently, there have been 47 respondents. He will submit the results later for posting on the District's website.

10) WORK GROUP: SCHOOL DISTRICT AND PARK DISTRICT COLLABORATION

The intent of this work group was to bring the School District and Park District together to unite development in such a way that open space would be preserved. There was no representative from this group present at the meeting.

Following the work group presentations, those attending the meeting were broken into groups to come up with suggestions for next steps. Discussion followed with possible next steps shared by the different groups and a number of comments from the public expressed. Many ideas were explored, including one group's suggestion to generate the list of recommended uses today. It was believed by a number of people in attendance that enough input had been received to produce for the Park District today a list of what the community would like to see in on the Sakai property. A show of hands indicated a willingness to move forward with this suggestion, and a preliminary, non-prioritized list of eleven uses was generated. The items included on this list were as follows:

1) Multi use indoor complex with 50 meter pool; 2) Mountain bike park; 3) Tennis courts; 4) Trails; 5) Community center; 6) Playground; 7) Passive use; 8) Multi-use outdoor complex with lighting; 9) Adventure Playground; 10) Picnic shelter; 11) Nature center.

Everyone present agreed that their interest was represented in the eleven uses identified. Concerns were then raised over whether the process was being rushed, since some of the work groups had not yet finished their work and the survey group's deadline for submitting the survey was still another week out. There was concern that without the survey results, the views of community members who had not been able to attend these meetings would not be represented. A lengthy discussion followed, during which it was pointed out by some community members that the survey group was only one of the ten work groups and that the work of all the groups must be considered.

The meeting concluded with a decision to hold another public meeting in 90 days. This would allow the work groups time to refine or finish up their work. Facilitator Bob Linz encouraged people to get involved and join one of the ten work groups that would best address their issues. He reiterated that the objective of this public process was to end up

with a final list of 10-12 recommended uses for the Sakai property that has been fully vetted and discussed, so it can be passed onto the Park District. The list of recommended uses that was generated during today's public meeting was put on hold until further input and discussion can be considered at the third public meeting in 90 days.

Meeting adjourned at 1:35 pm.

Elizabeth R. Shepherd
Terry M. Lande
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: _____

John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: _____

Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: _____

Lee Cross

BY: _____

Kirk B. Robinson

ATTEST: _____

Jay C. Kinney