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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lee Cross, Ken DeWitt, Jay Kinney, Kirk Robinson, Tom Swolgaard.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add real estate to executive session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:
Charles Schmid, with Association of Bainbridge Communities, is requesting that the City and Park District change the zoning at Pritchard Park from WD-I, water dependent industrial to residential. This would make it consistent with the residential zoning of other island parks. He is aware that the Park District has requested a new zoning category specifically for parks but has been told by the City this has been postponed. Because of this, he is asking that the rezone of Pritchard Park be done independently from the park zoning efforts.

Commissioner Robinson questioned if this extra step to pursue residential zoning for Pritchard Park is necessary since the issue would be addressed if and when a park zoning is in effect; he asked why the issue has been postponed by the City. Executive Director Lande said the new planning director would like to research the matter more thoroughly to determine if this is the best option for the Park District. Commissioner DeWitt commented on the possible transfer of the City’s partial ownership of Pritchard Park to the Park District, saying how it is zoned could have SWM fee implications. The board asked that this topic be addressed at a future board meeting.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the July 21, 2016 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Cross/DeWitt: Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing that has been made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board, by a unanimous vote, does approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and summarized as follows:

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WORK GROUP PRESENTATIONS FROM SAKAI PUBLIC PROCESS

Bob Linz, facilitator of the Sakai public process that has been on-going since January, introduced the three remaining work groups unable to attend the July 21 board meeting when the other work groups made their presentations to the board.

1) WORK GROUP: SURVEY: The community’s response to the survey was very high, with close to 2000 respondents. This high number validates the survey results and makes them fairly representative of the island. The survey was
developed by volunteers from the community, was not agenda driven, and was designed so people could not duplicate responses. The intent of the group was to provide a broad brush picture and get to the heart of what people want for the Sakai property. It was conducted as an online survey with paper copies also available at the Senior Center. The overwhelming majority of people were in favor of mixed use on the property, combining passive use with an active sports and recreation center. Given the central location of this site, people see it as a great hub for the community and the Park District that merits some development of the property while leaving other parts more passive. A large interest was indicated in having a gathering place that families and seniors could walk to.

2) WORK GROUP: CREATE A TABLE: This work group took the information generated by the different work groups and compiled it into one table. The table provides an overall picture of what the community would like at the Sakai property, and summarizes what the community came up with during this public process.

2) WORK GROUP: COMMUNITY CENTER: A community center is viewed by this work group as a place that provides social, recreational and educational opportunities for people of all ages. Initially the group toured Park District facilities, and then toured off-island facilities to see what community centers in the region have. They identified the following Park District facilities as lacking and would like to see them included in a community center on the Sakai property: 1) Teen Center: It is on School District property and will be taken down when construction begins; 2) Park District office: Was built in the late 1940’s and remodeled three times to maximize use of the crowded facility. The bathrooms are outside, and the infrastructure is unsafe, outdated, and unable to handle the demands of current technology; 3) Gymnastics facilities: Gymnastics, one of the District’s largest recreation programs, is housed in an undersized school facility with insufficient heating and cooling, and in the Transmitter Building, a facility with low ceilings suitable for small gymnasts only; 4) Senior Center: To meet the island’s expanding senior population, more space with parking is needed for recreation programs. Some other uses that could be included in a community center include a dividable gymnasium, commercial kitchen, indoor track, and dividable conference rooms. Construction of a facility this large would most likely require a bond measure.

CONCLUSION:

Facilitator Bob Linz provided a letter to the board in which he presented the community’s list of recommended uses for the Sakai property, the intended outcome of this public process. This list includes in no particular order the following: trails; picnic shelter(s); multi-use outdoor complex with lighting; community recreation center; multi-use indoor complex; fifty meter pool; mountain bike/trails; tennis court(s); playground; passive use(s).

Facilitator Bob Linz thanked the work groups for their tremendous work the past 6-7 months. He commended staff for all they did to bring about this public process, and expressed appreciation to the board for being open to trying a process that has not been done before. He thinks all the effort has paid off with good results.

The park board also expressed their appreciation to the community, saying it is amazing what the work groups did and that the information they have provided is not only useful but worth a lot.

Meeting adjourned for a break at 7:15 pm. Meeting reconvened at 7:25 pm.

GENERAL BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2016-16: SURPLUS PROPERTY: Recreation Services Superintendent Bryan Garoutte asked the board to authorize the sale of the pottery studio’s electric kiln, saying the additional donation of Rosemary Hawk funds has made it possible to purchase a new electric kiln and replace the old one. MSC: Robinson/Cross: That Resolution 2016-16, authorizing the sale of the electric pottery kiln, be adopted.
RESOLUTION 2016-17: OPERATIONAL POLICIES: Administrative Manager Elizabeth Shepherd walked the board through five operational policies before the board this evening for adoption. The following three operational policies are new: Employee Incentive Program; Gift Acceptance, Play Area Safety. The cell phone policy approved by motion at the 2/21/13 board meeting has been revised. Also revised is the following policy that was approved by motion at the 1/17/16 board meeting: Use of Email Distribution Lists. All five policies have been reviewed by staff.

MSC: DeWitt/Robinson: That Resolution 2016-17, approving the above-mentioned operational polices as amended by the board this evening, be adopted. Elizabeth Shepherd said that the Park District is going to start posting its policies on the website so they are more readily accessible. The number of hard copies will decrease from 16 notebooks to three, thereby simplifying the process to keep them updated when changes are made.

DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Park Services Director: Dan Hamlin: there have been many cases of vandalism in parks recently, and Chief Hamner and his officers have been a tremendous support to the District in getting them resolved; funds have been raised to commission an artist to paint a mural in Hannah’s Garden at Owen’s Playground; a recent meeting was held with the City regarding parking at the Fort Ward bakery building and a neighboring property owner’s proposal; the Girl Scout camp-out that was moved from Battle Point Park to Fay Bainbridge this year has been a great success; work is continuing on Phase 2 of Blakely Harbor Park following up on the work the goats begun; the trails crew this years has done an amazing job with both constructing and maintaining trails throughout the island.

Recreation Services Superintendent: Mark Benishek: the last week of summer camps and swim lessons is underway; a mermaid camp was a huge success; the Aquatics Center will be the first in the state to host an American Red Cross Instructor Training Academy this spring; an Aquatics Exercise Association conference (AEA) will also be hosted at the Aquatics Center this spring; a national swim meet is underway in Oregon with a Master’s program swimmer taking the championship in one of the first events; fall registration begins on August 31 at 9:30 am.

Recreation Services Superintendent: Bryan Garoutte: summer programs have gone very well with a lot of positive feedback received; art from some of the art camps is on display at the Bainbridge Library; Sue Hylen’s retirement party will be held on September 29 in Huney Hall at 4:30 pm with September 30 her last day of work; cheerleading camp has been very popular along with tennis; a kickball league might be started in the future; backpacking trips have been great; a new GPS tool has been acquired that will make it possible to better track the whereabouts of these activities; an upcoming ninja program is full and new gymnastics staff member Katie Rochon is doing a great job.

Senior Planner: Perry Barrett: will start soon to develop roster elements for the future Hidden Cove Dock bid; is launching several surveys to gather data at Blakely Harbor Park for the Coast Guard; has traveled recently to Olympia to make the presentations pertaining to the Sakai and Hawley Cove Park RCO grant applications, and should know in approximately one month how they are ranked.

Executive Director: Terry Lande: The intern program has attracted some very capable individuals and is working well for both the interns and the District; the movie “Frozen” will be shown outdoors at Battle Point Park tomorrow night; after Summerfest last weekend, staff has realized Battle Point Park is too hot for this type of all-day event in the summer since there is no shade there and the event is likely to be changed in the future; he is meeting with the new School Superintendent tomorrow; the City’s Marine Access Committee is recommending to the City that a temporary dock with expanded parking be placed at Fort Ward Park next summer when the dock at Waterfront Park is under construction; he will be gone on vacation the first two weeks in September.
BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Cross commented on a recent meeting with the Senior Center Non-Profit and said they are forming a committee and may contract with someone to address their questions and concerns pertaining to the Senior Center such as the automated phone system that is currently in place.

- Commissioner Cross recently attended a very nice gathering at the Brainerd’s home that was held to raise funds for the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation. The deadline for BIPF grant applications is October 15, and there will be a new emphasis this year to ensure any projects they fund have community support.

- Commissioner Robinson met recently with District and BIPF staff to explore membership incentives.

- Commissioner Robinson attended a COBI Non-Motorized Transportation Advisory Committee meeting and learned there have been complaints about pedestrian and bicycle safety at Schel Chelb Park.

- Commissioner DeWitt said there will be a trails open house on Thanksgiving weekend.

- Commissioner Kinney commented on the success of Owen's Playground and mentioned some concern about the water feature. Park Services Director Dan Hamlin said the playground including this feature passed a recent safety audit, and the question is whether the District wants to go above and beyond what is required.

- Commissioner Swolgaard commented on Summerfest and how much fun it was.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:05 pm for discussion of real estate and personnel, with announced time to reconvene at 9:35 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 9:34 pm and ADJOURNED at 9:35 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