

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 7, 2017  
 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND AQUATIC CENTER**

**CALL TO ORDER** A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:05 pm by Chair DeWitt.

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

**STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT:** Terry Lande, Perry Barrett, Mark Benishek, Bryan Garoutte, Dan Hamlin, David Harry, Lori Mejia, Elizabeth Shepherd, Amy Swenson.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:** Postpone to future agenda: Student Conservation Corps/Trails Crew Report; Bainbridge Boogie Presentation. Add executive session for personnel. (This executive session was later canceled).

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Edith Hartmann, island resident, expressed concern over how long it has taken to get a trail connection to Hawley Cove Park. The neighborhood has been waiting a long time for this connection which will also provide park access to tourists and Winslow residents. She understands there have been problems with wetlands and other issues, but said this has been going on for over ten years.

Nathaniel Durrance, island resident, spoke about an incident on 8/17/17 at Battle Point Park that occurred between two men's softball teams. He said the other team attacked his team, and after meeting with the Executive Director and other representatives, the only response they have received is that both teams are on probation and that some individuals will be suspended. He said his team is being treated unfairly since the other team instigated the problem. He asked the District to look into the incident and provide a written response.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Chair DeWitt said any public comments related to the pool would be taken during the Preferred Aquatic Alternative agenda item.

**BOARD CONSENT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the August 17, 2017 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Robinson/Swolgaard: 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:**

Batch Dated	Batch Amt	Fund No.	Fund Name	Fund Amt	Pre-Approved
8/15/17	68,753.86	001	General	65,313.36	8/16/17
		300	Capital	3,440.50	
August	Payroll	001	General	457,410.79	
08/31/17	187,270.00	001	General	187,270.00	
08/22/17	62,556.07	001	General	51,073.07	8/23/17
		300	Capital	11,483.00	

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**MORITANI PRESERVE TRANSFER PRESENTATION:** Chair DeWitt said the Park Board is being asked tonight to approve the transfer of the Moritani property that is being donated to the Park District by the Fletcher Bay Foundation. He said a lot of work has been done on the property and a site study has been completed determining the property has no environmental concerns. He said normally property acquisitions require ALTA title insurance, but in this instance because no grant or outside funds are involved, he would recommend regular property insurance. The board made no objections to this.

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### GENERAL BUSINESS

**RESOLUTION 2017-12: MORITANI PRESERVE TRANSFER:** The resolution was read aloud and outlined some of the unique aspects of this property transfer. The property is named the "Moritani Preserve" and consists of approximately 8-1/2 acres of woodlands and fields in downtown Winslow. A thorough clean-up of the site was done by the donors prior to offering the property to the Park District. No public funds were required for either the clean-up or acquisition. The property will be used exclusively as a passive use park and natural open space with restrictive covenants in place to ensure the donor's intent for the land will be respected. Commissioner Swolgaard said the donors also donated a trail easement recently to the Park District providing a link from Wyatt Way to Shepard Way where the preserve can be accessed. **MSC: Cross/Kinney: That Resolution 2017-12, accepting the private donation of the Moritani Preserve and authorizing the property transfer, be adopted.** A large round of applause followed a unanimous vote to accept the property. Chair DeWitt said the property is absolutely gorgeous and extended thanks to Fletcher Bay Foundation. Principal Glenn Haber thanked the Park Board and District staff, saying he and his wife Nancy, with the help of their attorney Bruce Weiland, have been working on this project for over a year and have mixed feelings about letting it go similar to sending a child off to college. He said they would not do this unless they had confidence in the Park District as an institution, and said the integrity, expertise, and knowledge exhibited by the District every step of the way has been fantastic. Executive Director Terry Lande thanked Glenn and Nancy Haber for their incredible donation, and said he and Glenn Haber have discussed establishing a "Friends of Moritani Preserve" committee. The board agreed that Commissioners Cross and Robinson would serve as board liaisons on this committee. Commissioner Swolgaard said the Park District has been interested in this property for many years, and that his heart sank when after former property owner Shigeru Moritani died, his heirs sold it. He thought the land would be developed, and was so grateful when he learned who had had bought it and their intent for the property. Commissioner Cross said years ago, the Open Space Commission also had an eye on this parcel and expressed gratitude to Glenn and Nancy Haber for stepping up to do this. She said with all the increasing development, Winslow is very much in need of open space. Commissioner Robinson said Glenn and Nancy Haber were his next door neighbors when he moved to the island 28 years ago, and that they would do this is consistent with what he knows them to be. Commissioner Kinney thanked the Habers for their generous donation, saying that without them this would not have happened. He is very grateful the land will be preserved.

### Public Comment

Barb Trafton, Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation Executive Director, thanked Fletcher Bay Foundation for their amazing gift to the island and the Park Board for their willingness to accept and assume responsibility for it. She expressed appreciation for the vision that brought this about and said the BI Parks Foundation is here to do what it can to provide support.

### UNFINISHED BUSINESS (CONTINUED)

**PREFERRED AQUATIC ALTERNATIVE:** Recreation Services Director Mark Benishek said a feasibility study assessing the condition of the Ray Williamson Pool was presented by the consulting firm Aquatic Design Group at the 8/17/17

board meeting. He reviewed the options presented that evening, saying the cost to repair the existing facility was estimated at \$1.4 million. An additional three options were presented for building a new pool: 1) 25 yard x 25 meter pool at existing site, estimated cost \$10.6 million; 2) 6 lane x 50 meter pool at existing site, estimated cost \$13.9 million; 3) 25 yard x 50 meter pool at different site, \$19.3 million. In addition, he noted additional options for a pool at Sakai Park were presented by consultant Jones and Jones this summer in July when they presented overall site plan options for the park.

### **Public Comments**

Lisa Comacho, island resident, thanked the board for sticking with their request for a 50 meter pool, saying it is needed to meet the growing program needs. She asked that Sakai Park not be discarded as an option until certain a pool of this size can be accommodated at the current site.

Bernadette Witty, island resident, spoke in support of a new community pool saying a pool serves cross training, health and fitness for all ages, as well as swimmers, and that it is also a draw for bringing people downtown and generating revenue.

Dana Thompson, island resident, said her entire family swims and participates in Masters, BI Swim Team, and Water Polo programs. She said a bigger pool is needed to accommodate the growing needs of all groups, including the elderly and disabled, and to have regulation water polo tournaments here both ends of the pool need to be deep.

Carolyn Ackerley, BI Swim Club Head Coach, said there have been many changes since she began with the swim club 20 years ago, one being that swimming has become a year round program. She said the swim team has grown and could grow more, but safety has required them to cap the program at 120-130 members. There has been an active wait list for 8 years of 12-25 kids, and they are having to turn kids away. She said the mission of their program is to help kids become good human beings. Swimming is a tough sport that requires suffering and sacrifice, and this contributes to kids becoming better people. She urged the board to go big.

Garrett Waite, BI Swim Team member, said he is 16 years old and that being part of this team has pushed him to his limits, forged strong friendships, and made him who he is today. It's sad to think kids will not have the experience he's had just because there are not enough lanes. He urged the board to consider a new pool for the future of the island.

Sandy O'Hare, island resident, said she's the parent of a water polo athlete and voiced support for a pool that will foster growth of the program. She said practices last until 9:30 pm which is not the best for students who have to get up in the morning. She asked that the unique needs of water polo be remembered when decisions are made.

Sarah Baird, island resident and water polo mom, said having such late practices is hard on kids, and that the shallow water discourages other teams from coming here. She also commented on the tension that happens when adults have to fight to get pool time for teams. She urged the board to consider going big.

Paul Webber, island resident, is on the Master's Team and a parent of two sons who play water polo. He stressed the need for more capacity to meet all the needs of the many groups which use the pool.

Tom Goodlin, island resident and a Master's swimmer, said he thinks it would be an unwise investment to upgrade the Ray Williamson Pool, and noted that the number of concerns mentioned tonight indicate it is over capacity. Options 1 and 2 would require 18 months of construction, and that consideration must be given to the extreme hardship these groups would feel if without a pool for this long. He encouraged the board to consider a 50 year vision taking into account how the island will grow. He said there is enthusiasm here so there will be support for fundraising.

James Muir, island resident, is an active member of the Water Polo Team. He said water polo practices can go until 9:30 pm, and that the late practices prohibit some kids from being able to play. He said there is not enough space, and encouraged the board to consider an Olympic size pool on the Sakai property with two deep ends.

Kirsten Karahan, said she lives in Turkey, has property on the island, and comes here every summer with her son who swims with the BI Swim Club. She said in Turkey there are 50 meter pools everywhere. Here the kids work so hard and have to scramble over to Port Orchard to get the 50 meter experience. She thinks this community deserves a 50 meter pool.

Ron Powell, island resident, spoke in favor of a 50 meter pool.

Gus Thompson (name unclear), island resident and swimmer, said he's been swimming here for 20 years and over time the programs have grown. He thinks both the pools in the Aquatic Center have reached their maximum capacity, and encouraged the board to think big.

Doug Rauh, island resident, commented on the costs to go big saying the community must ask what it can afford. While the aquatics center is one of the most heavily used facilities the Park District has, the bond measure for it took three times to pass because some people don't have deep pockets. He said there's the need and there's the expense, and both need to be considered.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** for a five minute break at 7:00 pm and **RECONVENED** at 7:08 pm.

Chair DeWitt opened up the meeting to board discussion of the options presented on 8/17/17 for the Ray Williamson Pool. Commissioner Kinney said no final decision can be made tonight but it is possible to consider what might be taken off the table. Two options he considers to be a last resort include: 1) Repairing the current pool which he thinks would be a Band-Aid approach; 2) Building a pool on the Sakai property. He did not think this is what the community wanted when they purchased the property, and he thinks there is an option for a new pool at the current site without sacrificing the Sakai site. He said it is imperative to talk with the School District about forming a partnership around this, saying there will be a better product if the two agencies work together. Commissioner Swolgaard agreed with Commissioner Kinney and supported the idea of working with the School District. He did say some immediate issues at the Ray Williamson Pool need to be addressed such as the pool deck. He also commented on the number of cuts that were needed before the bond for the Nakata Pool passed on the third try. He said it will be very difficult to pass a bond for another pool saying it will require a lot of work and a lot of fundraising to get there. Commissioner Cross said she agrees with Commissioner Kinney, that repairing the current pool will not solve a long term problem and should be taken off the table. Whatever is decided upon will be expensive, and given that a large bond for the School District was just passed a year ago, she believes it will be very difficult to pass another. She thinks a new pool will require both a bond and private fundraising efforts. Commissioner Robinson also agreed with Commissioner Kinney. He said some repairs are needed at the Ray Williamson Pool in the interim period before a new pool can be built, and the option of a pool at another site is not feasible for long term operation and maintenance. Commissioner Robinson said two aquatic facilities would require duplicate staff, infrastructure, and locker rooms. He suggested budgeting funds for 2018 and forming a committee to explore all the options possible for the current site. It is apparent to him that it would be best to keep the Ray Williamson Pool in operation while a new pool was being built, and that discussions with the School District are needed to see how much flexibility there is. He said not only capital costs need to be considered but also operational costs. Once a new pool is built, it is important to know that there will be money to operate it. He said a pool is not a revenue generator. It is the biggest subsidized operation in the Park District and that the revenue generated by the pool offsets the cost to operate it by only 50%. He said a new pool will require a bond and it is important to consider what the community will be willing to fund. He also asked what the commitment of all

these groups would be. Is there a commitment to raise 25% of the costs knowing construction would not begin until their portion was raised? He said all these factors need to be considered in order to determine where the Park District will go with this. **MSC: Robinson/Cross: That the option of renovating the Ray Williamson Pool be taken off the table with the understanding that some safety repairs will be needed. MSC: Robinson/Kinney: That any new pool must be co-located with the existing aquatics facility.** Executive Director Terry Lande said he met with the School Superintendent Peter Bang-Knudsen who is very interested in having a discussion about the footprint that the pool sits on. Terry Lande confirmed that the board wants to direct staff to budget funds in 2018 for safety repairs to the Ray Williamson Pool even though the board is not opting to pursue the pool renovation option. He reiterated what was discussed this evening and agreed it is a feasible and practical approach to: 1) Do a feasibility assessment study on what it will take to build and operate a new pool at the existing site; and 2) Work with community members to explore options on what kind of facility can be built to best serve the community in the future. Chair DeWitt said the vote tonight has nothing to do with the design of a new pool facility. The decision of where a new pool will be located had to be made tonight in order to move forward with developing site plan options for Sakai Park.

**TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE 2018 TRAIL PRIORITIES:** Park Services Director Dan Hamlin introduced members of the Park District's Trails Advisory Committee (TAC). He said TAC was formed in 1978 and works with staff in a variety of ways, one of which is to help review trail options and determine those that will make the most impact on the community. He noted a number of groups on the island are interested in trail development, including the District's Parkland Acquisition Committee, the BI Parks Foundation, the BI Land Trust, and the City of Bainbridge Island. Because of this, a large number of potential trail projects have been suggested. The Trails Committee has listed and scored these projects according to criteria they developed. The result of their work is a list of trail projects and descriptions with a summary sheet indicating categories and priorities. This was presented to the board. Dan Hamlin said the intent of this work was to narrow down the large list of trail possibilities. Which projects are chosen will depend on a number of factors being in place such as permitting and funding. Some projects indicated as high priority may not be achievable at this time since some of these conditions may not have been met. Chair DeWitt asked about the status of the Hawley Cove Park trail. Staff said there have been two attempts to secure grant funds from the State but the project did not score high enough to get funding. The project has since been scaled back, and work has been underway to secure permitting for the amended project. Executive Director Lande said the primary hold-up has been lack of funding. A commitment by an individual to raise the \$65,000 for the project is not coming through. The BI Parks Foundation has since indicated a willingness to raise \$20,000 for the project. The board asked that the project be considered for the 2018 budget. It was agreed that efforts to obtain a building permit will be tabled until the budget process is complete. The board thanked the Trails Advisory Committee for their work. Park Services Director Hamlin will bring prospective trail projects forward during the budget process.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Recreation Services:** Division Director Mark Benishek said fall registration has begun and is going well. Some consideration is being given to moving registration to the Aquatic Center where it is more central and there is more room. Division Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said the new Teen Center location is working out well, and that a permanent space for teens to do art is being explored. Over 150 kids have signed up for soccer; the new Paddling Program this summer was a great success; fall classes begin next week.

**Park Services:** Senior Manager David Harry said work continues on constructing the Fay Bainbridge Park cabins and bringing electricity to the campground with a goal of October 1 to have these projects completed. Construction is beginning for rest room facilities at Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve and upper Fay Bainbridge Park.

Administrative Services: Senior Planner Perry Barrett said the federal permit for the Hidden Cove Dock project is expected to arrive tomorrow. Executive Director Terry Lande said once all the permits are in hand and the design completed, the project will go out to bid. The bid amount will determine whether there are sufficient funds to build the Hidden Cove dock. Dick Haugan of the Seattle Yacht Club is donating some furniture and a number of other items to the Park District for use in District facilities. Staff member Alison Miller is researching the history of the Ray Williamson Pool and it's been learned that Ray Williamson was the Rotarian who started the Rotary Auction. He also was an early board member of the Park District who was instrumental in getting a public pool built. Several years before the pool was completed, he died in a plane crash. The Ray Williamson Pool was named in his memory. Terry Lande also said KIRO evening news will be at the SH Park Skatepark at 11:30 Friday morning to do a special on George, the skateboarding bulldog.

**BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:**


- Commissioner Robinson said he attended a BI Parks Foundation meeting and reported on some of the items discussed.
- Commissioner Cross said she recently attended a great Trails Advisory Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Kinney asked about stocking supplies at the Aquatic Center in the event of an island emergency. Executive Director Lande said the Park District is participating in a multi-agency effort to address this concern.
- Commissioner Swolgaard went to Fay Bainbridge Park with his family to watch the solar eclipse and was amazed at the number of people who were there.

**WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Written comments regarding preferences for the pool and Sakai Park were distributed.

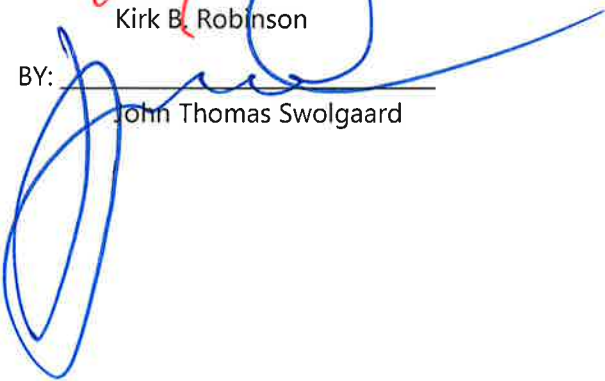
**MEETING ADJOURNED** at 8:43 pm.

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

BY:   
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Jay C. Kinney  
BY:   
Kirk B. Robinson

BY:   
John Thomas Swolgaard

ATTEST:   
Lee Cross