

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MARCH 21, 2019
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chair Kinney.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken DeWitt, Dawn Janow, Jay Kinney, Michael Pollock, Tom Swolgaard.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add to Unfinished Business: Open Government Training

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Susan Loftus, island resident, expressed encouragement over collaborative efforts by the City of BI and Park District in regards to developing an integrated trails system that integrates the needs of multiple users. She questioned the view that trails are for either recreation or transportation, saying a term she prefers is "transcreation", and that moving from A to Z can be recreational. She encouraged a wider view of biking, saying it doesn't have to be the aggressive speedy biking we tend to think of. There is opportunity to design for a wider group of the population who bike in a less athletic way with studies showing more people bike when there is a safe and appealing infrastructure. She hopes everyone can work together to better address the needs of the larger population.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the February 28, 2019 special board meeting, Chair Kinney stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the March 7, 2019 regular board meeting, Chair Kinney stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Janow/Swolgaard: I have reviewed the following vouchers, warrants and electronic payments and move that they be approved for payment. (Unanimous)

Batch Date	Fund Number & Name	Warrant Numbers	Total Batch Amount	Pre-Approved
3/8/19	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	17994-18038	71,998.46	3/8/19
3/18/19	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	18039-18071	100,605.74	3/18/19

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

COBI CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY COMMITTEE PRESENTATION: Deb Rudnick said Michael Pollock asked her to come tonight to tell the board more about the COBI Climate Change Advisory Committee. Her colleague Laura Hansen came to a prior board meeting on 2/7/19. The committee was formed in 2017 with the purpose of: 1) Helping to inform the City on climate change issues and how they relate to city operations; and 2) Establishing a greenhouse gas inventory in order to provide a baseline. The inventory work is being done by the consulting firm Cascadia. They are looking at City operations as well as the broader public community such as school and park districts and are considering what is being done in various areas such as fleet size and infrastructure. Input is being gathered now and the report should be done this summer. They are also looking at: 1) How the City's comprehensive plan intersects with climate change issues; and 2) Starting the City on doing vulnerability assessments to identify areas that are vulnerable to climate change, such as rising sea levels which could have an impact on roads and sewer. The committee has a

limited timeframe of several years. They want to work with as many stakeholders possible and will share information and identified priorities. What is learned could have an impact on parks as well.

POSSIBLE NEW PICKLEBALL COURTS AT BATTLE POINT PARK OR STRAWBERRY HILL PARK: Park Services Director Dan Hamlin distributed a memo to the board outlining the background of pickleball use at Battle Point Park. Several years ago, the tennis courts at Battle Point Park were striped with pickleball lines so the courts could serve both tennis and pickleball. By the end of 2017 use had grown and there was interest in developing a pickleball facility. Staff informed pickleball proponents of policy requirements regarding project proposals and asked that they establish use and need. At the 1/3/19 board meeting, pickleball users demonstrated use and need, and proposed converting the tennis courts at Battle Point Park to a fulltime pickleball facility. At the 3/7/19 board meeting, the board passed a motion directing staff to work with pickleball proponents on options for new pickleball courts that would not displace tennis at the current Battle Point Park courts, and to bring a complete proposal to the 4/4 board meeting. Tonight's item is on the agenda, so the community is aware that two site options are being considered for new pickleball courts, Strawberry Hill Park and Battle Point Park. Staff is seeking direction from the board this evening on which location to study further for the pickleball court proposal. Dan Hamlin said a group consisting of staff and pickleball users traveled to Sequim recently to view a new 8 court pickleball facility there and found the configuration they had worked well. Using a similar lay-out, although for 6 courts, staff looked at Strawberry Hill Park and Battle Point Park to see which site could best handle something similar. He laid out the pros and cons of each site and said staff recommends Battle Point Park for the new pickleball courts. Among other factors, there is more space at Battle Point Park, stormwater fees will be reduced due to a smaller percentage of impervious surface in the park, pickleball is already an established use there with minimal impact, and it is the preferred site for pickleball users. Pickleball proponent Clay Roberts discussed this more saying he emailed pickleball players asking for their site preference. He got 99 responses with all favoring Battle Point Park. Some of their reasons include: regulation courts would not fit at Strawberry Hill Park and trees would have to be removed; cost and time savings since Sequim has offered to give the Park District their project plans/specifications and their layout modified for six courts would fit at Battle Point Park; there is room at Battle Point Park for a historic display honoring the founders; having pickleball courts next to the tennis courts would give children an opportunity to learn tennis using the USTA recommended Quick Start method that starts kids out playing tennis on pickleball-size courts. He also noted how much community building takes place at Battle Point Park and said there is more parking there. He said Sequim uses funds from tournaments to maintain the courts, and if this were done at Battle Point, the funds could be also used for tennis court maintenance. Dan Hamlin said the Historical Society provided a comment favoring Battle Point Park since more people would see the historic element.

Sid Foster, island resident, thanked the board for their support of pickleball and invited them to play.

Bill Schilling, island resident, also thanked the board for their support and commented on how widely pickleball is played all over. He said it is a unique community sport.

MSC: Swolgaard/Janow: To direct staff to further study Battle Point Park to construct pickleball courts.

(Unanimous) Commissioner DeWitt said his concern over the years has been maintaining the view corridor. He asked that whatever design is done, the view impact be minimized. He suggested vinyl clad fencing as one possibility.

MEETING ADJOURNED for a break at 7:01 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:07 pm.

WILLIAMS-OLSON CONCEPT PLAN: Park Services Director Dan Hamlin said the concept plan the board is being asked to adopt this evening is identical to what was presented at the 1/17/19 board meeting. Since then a public comment period has been held and the written comments submitted have been provided to the board. Several have signed up to offer additional comments tonight. As a brief recap, Dan Hamlin said in March of 2018 an informational

meeting for neighbors and other interested parties was held on the project. Out of this, a citizens committee was formed to develop a master plan for the park. Since the park is small and the committee didn't want to overwhelm the site, they approached their work thoughtfully, focusing on enhancing current uses in the park rather than increasing uses. As the committee worked to develop the plan, the neighbors were very involved in the discussions. Minority opinions were listened to throughout this process and concessions were made to address many of their concerns.

Mark Dasser, park neighbor, said he was not on the committee but attended the meetings. The committee was gracious to him and incorporated many of his ideas into the plan. His house is near the site and he believes park use is reasonable with more use in summer for water access and less use in winter. He supports the plan, was impressed with the process, and said people were given the opportunity to comment and many people were heard from.

Dennis Reynolds, attorney for a park neighbor, thanked the board for their public service. He said staff was great, the committee vetted ideas, and everyone got to have their say. However, he said, the park must be managed. Security is not done by telling someone to call the police. It is done by good planning, what is allowed for uses and where these uses are placed. His clients think the trail which is 5 to 10 feet from their property line is going too far and should not be built. At the very least, a habitat biologist should be retained to discuss the functions and value of the ravine. He noted that just because you can do something doesn't mean you should do it. He said requests have been made for privacy/security fences that have not been built, so people have ended up on private land. His clients are afraid to use their dock because it is being used by park users. He said there will be a reckoning. As the system grows and there are more uses and activities, someday there will be an altercation if security is not better managed. The concerns of his clients are the trail, the float, and increased usage of the park. He said this is a small park designed for neighborhood uses, and while it may seem that uses are not being added, they really are. He said his clients don't want to be in a personal fight with their neighbors so asked him to come make these comments.

Torin Larsen, committee member, said this was a very constructive process and commended everyone involved. He questioned the assertion that there were lots of different points of view, saying most people were on the same page. The contentious topics were around how much parking there should be, how to deal with a restroom or whether to have one, and the trail. They worked hard to come up with solutions that everyone was happy with. He noted that from the onset, there was an emphasis on maintaining a quiet tranquil park, and the acknowledgement that too much use would ruin the tranquility. It is unfortunate that those who got involved in the process later may have missed this foundational piece, since everyone was ultimately concerned about the same things.

Commissioner DeWitt noted that this property has strong CC&R's that restrict what can be done at this park. Executive Director Lande said everything included in the concept plan are within these restrictions.

Roger Long, park neighbor, supports the process and said everyone's voice was heard. He is a big supporter of the trail since the road is narrow, and it gets people off the road. He said most of the trail already exists, and the part that is close to the neighbors is wooded. He and his kids enjoy the access the trail provides to nature and wildlife.

Kirk Robinson, member of the Trails Advisory Committee, said he walked the trail after the last presentation, and noted the impact on neighboring property is minimal.

Commissioner Swolgaard remembered from the January presentation that a family member had said the trail had always been there even when she was a child. He said the property had been acquired with the purpose of creating a community park long before the new houses were built. Commissioner Kinney said it is important to consider how little public access there is to the water on the island and that the property was not bought by the neighborhood. The park was bought by the island and belongs to the whole island. While there must be sensitivity to the size of the park, the Park District cannot close it off for use by the community. Commissioner Pollock said this plan will increase traffic

and didn't want anyone under the illusion that more people will not be going to the park. Chair Kinney expressed appreciation to Mr. Reynolds for the letter he sent and said the Park District has always tried to be a good neighbor. Because the neighborhood put this plan together, he said they will make sure things don't get out of hand, and if something does come up the Park District will deal with it. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: To adopt the Williams-Olson concept plan. (Unanimous)**

2018 BUDGET VS ACTUAL REPORT: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said at the end of 2018, revenues were higher and expenses were lower than what had been budgeted. The increase of \$385,000 in revenues is due largely to how the positions of two retired and one departing staff member were addressed. A custodial position is now contracted out, and changes in administrative and customer service functions were made. Executive Director Lande said it is standard practice when employees leave to assess whether there is need to re-hire the position or whether job functions can be re-organized. Amy Swenson said by the end of 2018, there was a reserve of \$2.3 million. Executive Director Lande said there is a fine line between when there are too many reserves and when some of the funds should be utilized for parks and services. Chair Kinney noted that having a healthy reserve fund is what made it possible to weather the recession, since the District was able to borrow from itself and avoid deficit spending.

INDIVIDUAL AND FAMILY SERVICES WAIVER: Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek mentioned the 12/6/18 board meeting during which a community member asked the Park District to look into the Individual & Family Services Waiver program offered through the WA State Department of Social & Health Services. Since then, staff has been researching the program and has contacted other park districts that participate in it. The intent of the IFS program is to provide services to families that have family members with developmental disabilities. The IFS waivers allow families to participate in recreation programs for a reduced fee with the participating agency submitting invoices to DSHS for reimbursement. It's been learned from other park districts that the program is best managed by a dedicated staff member who processes the waivers and applies for refunds. To participate, the Park District must apply to DSHS and be accepted into the program. It is projected that approximately one dozen people will benefit from the program. Staff will keep the board informed as it continues moving forward.

HELPLINE PROGRAM REPORT: Recreation Services Director Mark Benishek provided an overview of the Park District's partnership with Helpline House saying the Park District budgets \$31,000 in funds each year for financial assistance that is administered by Helpline House. Helpline has trained social workers and is best able to vet families for financial need. It then issues Park District funds through its voucher system. This year Helpline has suggested several changes that will allow more people to benefit from the program. 1) The age for free classes will be lowered from 90 to 80 years for seniors meeting financial criteria; 2) Funds for summer programs will be increased and fall programs decreased since there is more demand during the summer. It was pointed out that the Helpline program is financially-based and the IFS program is disability-based.

OPEN GOVERNMENT TRAINING: Administrative Manager Elizabeth Shepherd said Commissioner Dawn Janow has completed her open government training requirement for new public officials. Her training was done online since training for the full board was just held during board meetings in 2018 after Commissioner Pollock was elected. Commissioner Janow was presented with a certificate indicating she had completed her training in the Open Public Meetings Act, Public Records Act, and Public Records Retention.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Services Division: Division Director Dan Hamlin said the Fort Ward bakery project is going well with work on the roof, rafters and drainage all finished up; improvements to the bluff trail are underway and have been made possible through Paul Brainerd's donation of gravel; the BI Barks group is going to work with the Park District on making

improvements to the Eagledale Park off leash dog area; the cabins at Fay Bainbridge Park are in high demand; the most interest ever has been shown this year by students wanting to participate in the Student Conservation Corps.

Recreation Division: Division Director Mark Benishek said registration for summer classes starts next Wednesday; the catalog is the largest it's ever been with 100 pages of classes and programs; the Dynamic Aging conference will be held next week on Friday; four aquatic staff have now completed their Red Cross Water Safety Instructor certificate training which is the highest level of lifeguard instructor training available; the swim teams are doing very well with one athlete breaking his own record and several others awarded full scholarships to college; the 2019 WA State Men's Gymnastics Championship meet this past weekend went very well despite being short-staffed due to unexpected medical issues that came up; he commended everyone for filling in and doing a tremendous job of hosting the event; fleet repairs are underway in preparation for sailing season; staff met with BI Youth Services today regarding job shadowing opportunities for youth; the grant presentation to the Kitsap Public Facilities District was made this week for possible partial funding of a 50 meter pool. The Outdoor Program wants to submit a grant application to Bainbridge Community Foundation to expand their mountain bike inventory. **MSC: Swolgaard/DeWitt: To approve the grant application for mountain bikes. (Unanimous)**

Administrative Division: Senior Planner Perry Barrett said federal stipulations require that the jetty bridge at Blakely Harbor Park be installed in October as opposed to the State's fish window in August; RCO did a recent site inspection of Hidden Cove Park and was pleased with the work done; after a phone conversation he had on Monday with attorney Hayes Gori and the Department of Ecology, it appears that the agreed order related to the MTCA clean-up site at Blakely Harbor Park will be worked out in early 2020. Executive Director Lande said a meeting will be held tomorrow with the Cave family regarding the historic aspect of the park and an open house will be held by the Olympic Property Group for the neighborhood to view the park plan; the Cave property is still owned by the Olympic Property Group and is likely to be transferred to the Park District this summer; staff met recently with Jones & Jones and the Sakai Park feasibility study is likely to come before the board in April or May. He said the BI Parks Foundation board would like a joint meeting with the park board. It was decided this will be conducted as a joint work session at 6:00 pm prior to the 4/18/19 park board meeting which will start at 7pm.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Pollock said he and Commissioner DeWitt attended a COBI work session on trails this week during which he learned the Park District views trails as recreation and the City views trails as transportation. He thinks the meeting was a positive step forward in collaboration and in thinking about how the two agencies can mesh together towards creating a common vision. Park Services Director Dan Hamlin said much of this is already happening with on-going trail meetings set up between park and city staff, efforts to bring in liaisons from other trail groups to develop common language/vision, emphasis on connections between the different types of trails, and exploration/identification of possible transportation routes through parks with a surface that could withstand this type of bicycle use without using asphalt or concrete. A member of the public, Susan Loftus asked to speak and commented on the City's RFQ process for a transportation plan consultant saying there is need to broaden the vision. She said the big shift in our realities is climate change, and there is need to pull together all agencies/organizations to get more people out walking and biking. She said there is research out there that tells us what needs to happen which is one reason why the City wants to pull in some expertise. Currently design is done for a style of biking that emphasizes speed and athletics and works for 5% of the bikers. She said the question of what the broader population needs must be asked since surveys have shown 60% of the population would be willing to walk and bike if there were safe ways to do it. Executive Director said the next step in the RFQ process for the board is to choose a commissioner to serve on

the consultant selection committee as requested by COBI. It was agreed that this will be decided at a future board meeting.

- Commissioner DeWitt brought up a bill regarding homelessness that is before the legislature this session and could have an impact on public parks. Board discussion followed over what obligation the Park District may have as a public agency to address homelessness, and the importance of working in concert with the City and other public agencies on this issue. It was noted that this topic is very complex and is increasingly becoming an issue that the island must address.
- Commissioner Janow said she attended a recent Trails Advisory Committee meeting as well as the State Gymnastics meet hosted by the Park District this past weekend which was amazing.

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAPITAL FACILITIES: Commissioner DeWitt said the Capital Facilities Committee has met with staff, the BI Land Trust and the Kitsap Public Utilities District related to the KPUD proposal for an expanded Deer Path water easement in the active use area at Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve. KPUD is also interested in drilling an exploratory well at the site since it is seeking an additional source of water away from the shore. KPUD has made presentations to the board on this at the 4/5/18 and 5/17/18 board meetings. The following motion related to KPUD was made at the end of the board meeting. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: That staff be authorized to continue working with KPUD regarding issues related to the revision of KPUD's easement in the active use area at the south end of Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve.**

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Written comments were received during the public comment period held for the Williams-Olson Park concept plan.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:20 pm for discussion of real estate, with announced time to reconvene at 9:30 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 9:30 pm.

Commissioner DeWitt followed up on a topic he raised earlier this evening; the board passed a motion related to KPUD and Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve. (See above "Board Member Committee Reports" for this motion).

MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:35 pm.

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

BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
Dawn Janow

ATTEST: 
Michael Pollock