

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
JOINT WORK SESSION APRIL 18, 2019
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

JOINT WORK SESSION WITH BAINBRIDGE ISLAND PARKS FOUNDATION BOARD

CALL TO ORDER: A quorum being present, the work session was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chair Jay Kinney.

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

BI PARKS FOUNDATION MEMBERS PRESENT: Ann Browning, Barry Fetterman, Mort Kondracke, Amy Lenahan, Andy Maron, Steve Matthews, Dave Shorett, Frank Stowell

DISCUSSION: Chair Kinney welcomed the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation board members and introductions were made. BIPF Vice-Chair Andy Maron, who was filling in for President Aiden Dunning, said the purpose of this meeting was to bring everyone together to look at the big picture and to then consider meeting on an annual basis to discuss priorities. While there are 14 BIPF board members, 8 were there this evening. BIPF Executive Director Barb Trafton provided a brief history of the Foundation saying it was incorporated in 1989 with an emphasis on distributing funds raised through One Call For All in response to small grant requests from the community. In 2015, the Foundation was re-structured and expanded resources and activities were added. This included clarifying the focus of the Foundation which included: 1) Recognizing its primary mission to be that of enhancing parks and trails; 2) Choosing not to compete with the Park District and other organizations by running programs; and 3) Recognizing that a major aspect of the Foundation's work is to raise funds for the good of the community and to support its own operations. Barry Fetterman, BIPF board member and chair of the BIPF Parks Committee, said they meet monthly to assess what they can do to enhance or expedite projects the Park District has underway such as the Hawley Cove boardwalk or the renovation of the Kids Up playground. BIPF has also made grant funds available to the community. As an example, BIPF board member Frank Stowell spoke about a fund set up to honor outdoor enthusiast, coach, and youth mentor Jay Abbott who died in a tragic accident. The focus of these funds has been to provide sailing and mountain biking opportunities for youth. While as initially planned, this is the last year for this fund, the impact of Jay Abbott's life has continued to be felt in the lives of the kids who benefited from these funds. BIPF board member and prior park board member, Dave Shorett, spoke about the BIPF Trails Committee that works to establish trail routes and connections. He said getting trail easements is very difficult work. The Waypoint Woods trail system is a great example of a cooperative effort between the Foundation and the Park District. Discussion then turned to several ways the Foundation raises funds: 1) Individual donors who as part of a steward circle commit funds for 3 years; 2) Events such as the Trillium Run that includes many sponsors; 3) Large campaigns for specific projects such as the Kids Up playground. Andy Maron noted that while the Foundation and Park District are independent of each other, the two organizations work together collaboratively. He asked how they can best help and suggested meeting once a year to establish priorities when setting budgets and participating in the comp plan update. Park Commissioners agreed that these suggestions were a good idea. Park Commissioner Swolgaard said he loves this spirit of cooperation, saying things happen when the community comes together and partnerships form. Discussion was held over the importance of communicating the stories that tell not only how a completed project came about but also how a current project is unfolding. It was mentioned that people don't know how much effort it takes to do something, and it is important to get these stories out, especially for new people moving to the island. Frank Stowell said he doesn't think people know how much the Park District does, and that it's amazing what has happened in past years. He said the Park District has great staff and a great executive director and it is a pleasure to help. It was agreed that the BI Parks Foundation and Park District will meet next in August as the budget process gets underway.

WORK SESSION ADJOURNED at 7:00 pm.

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

BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: 
Dawn Janow

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

ATTEST: _____
Michael Pollock