

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING JUNE 20, 2019  
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

**EXECUTIVE SESSION: 5:15 PM to 7:00 PM** (Real estate: tour prospective park property.)

**CALL TO ORDER** A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 7:02 pm by Chair Kinney.

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

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:** Add to Unfinished Business: 2018 Annual Financial Report

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

Rachel Pritchett, candidate for Park Commissioner Position 3, raised questions about the board meeting's time change this evening from 6:00 pm to 7:00 pm. She understood the public meeting to start at 6:00 pm and had checked the Park District's website this morning to confirm this. She said she arrived at 6:00 pm only to find a sign on the door saying the meeting would begin at 7:00 pm. She said the WA State Open Public Meetings Act requires a 20-day notice for a meeting change. If this isn't done the meeting is null and void, and commissioners are liable for a \$500 fine. If there is a violation here, she said it should be taken very seriously. Administrative Manager Elizabeth Shepherd said the time change had gone to the press last Wednesday with the agenda indicating the meeting would start at 7:00. The time change was also posted on both the Home Page and Public Meetings Page of the Park District website with the agenda also indicating the 7:00 start time. Rachel Pritchett indicated again that 20 days notice is required and cited RCW 42.30.075. The 20-day requirement she stated was not known to staff or the board.

**BOARD CONSENT**

As Chair Kinney proceeded with the meeting, Commissioner Pollock returned to the question raised during the public comment period and questioned whether the meeting could be held. Chair Kinney questioned whether the information provided by Rachel Pritchett was correct. Following discussion, the board agreed to defer any board action to the next board meeting including approval of the minutes, financials, and annual financial report. Other items on the agenda were for discussion or information only. Since these items did not require board action it was agreed to move forward with them.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Deferred to next board meeting.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:** Deferred to next board meeting.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**CLIMATE CHANGE DISCUSSION:** Commissioner Michael Pollock introduced the climate change discussion saying this is an informal session intended to talk about issues related to climate change. It provides an opportunity for the Park District to begin considering actions it could take in response to these issues as a public agency. He invited several people tonight to provide input and introduced Michael Cox, Chair of the City of Bainbridge Island Climate Change Advisory Committee and Stacey Justus Nordgren with Foresight Partners Consulting. Stacey Nordgren said she has been working with the City of BI to help them incorporate climate change into their work plan. She said there is a tremendous amount of data out there regarding climate change. Her work as a planner involves bringing data to agencies specific to their region. Examples of established data for this region includes: 1) Seasonal changes due to rising temperatures and increasing precipitation (i.e. wetter winters and dryer summers); 2) Increased precipitation leading to changes in stream flow patterns; 3) High wildfire danger; 4) Changes in vegetation due to changes in the growing season; 4) Rising sea levels; 4) Flood vulnerability in specific areas; 5) Soil instability resulting in increased landslides; 6) Oceans acidifying with impact on shellfish. All these factors can be considered and factored into decision

making when undertaking planning efforts. Much of this data is available in the Bainbridge Island Climate Impact Assessment she and Lara Hansen with EcoAdapt developed together to assess the impact of climate change on the island in 50 years. The City of BI used this when developing their comprehensive plan. She noted this resource might be useful to the Park District and encouraged the District to consider looking at its own comprehensive plan through the lens of climate change. She noted there are two aspects that must be considered when looking at climate change, mitigation and adaptation. An example of mitigation is reducing future gas emissions. Adaptation is adapting to a change that is already in motion and coming, even if efforts to mitigate the risk (such as reducing gas emissions) are done. She said another resource she was involved in developing is the Climate Change Adaptation Certification Tool. This provides a mechanism that walks agencies through the decision-making process and helps them evaluate the impact their decisions will have on climate change. She said there is need to think through climate impacts 40-50 years out when making decisions related to major capital projects and other improvements that will be in place for a long time. She asked the Park District to consider what it can do to help adapt to the changes coming, saying parks, facilities, and recreation programming will all be affected. Chair Jay Kinney asked how to make all this concrete from an operational standpoint. Michael Cox said doing a carbon inventory and developing a baseline is a good way to begin. From this, targets can be set, and the question of how to get there can be looked at. He said to ask where in the Park District greenhouse gases are coming from. In most cases, they come from three places: generating energy, transportation, and buildings. He said to then ask what the Park District can do and develop an on-going work flow. Assess what is already being done to use energy more efficiently and ask how any new efforts can fold into what is already being done. He noted the importance of staff involvement in this work. Commissioner Pollock said including some broad language about climate change in the Park District's comprehensive plan is something that can be done at a policy level to indicate a commitment to climate change. Executive Director Lande expressed some concern about the language used around climate change, saying when it becomes too scientific it can turn people away. He noted that the Park District has had a staff committee for years assessing ways to be more energy efficient and as a result more cost effective. He said in the past six months the Park District has sought to formalize what it is already doing so more efficient and simultaneously meeting climate change goals. Towards this end, the staff committee has been reorganized and work is underway to contact other park districts in the nation to see what they are doing. It's been learned that this Park District is more on the forefront than the other park districts the committee has contacted. Commissioner Swolgaard mentioned an effort done at the Aquatic Center several years ago to use less propane by installing solar panels on the roof. Executive Director Lande said irrigation systems are moving to the forefront now as an issue for park districts to address. While not as formalized as this effort, he said the Park District is always reviewing its irrigation systems to assess what areas need and do not need to be irrigated. Chair Kinney said the Park District is the biggest landowner on the island and mentioned the benefit the agency provides through its forests, saying the trees suck the carbon out of the air. Executive Director Terry Lande said the Park District works with Firewise to protect structures by removing vegetation near them that is prone to catching fire. He also noted staff works with the Fire District in a variety of ways to address wildfire concerns on the island. Commissioner Janow mentioned efforts underway to "leave no trace" in parks. Commissioner DeWitt mentioned a motion the board passed years ago to not provide individual serve plastic water bottles. Michael Cox encouraged the Park District to take credit for what it is already doing and to document it. He thinks the community would say "Wow, I didn't know you're doing all this". Executive Director Lande mentioned possible adjustments needed to address climate change can frighten some people, and that climate change is an issue everyone needs to pull together on. Michael Cox thanked the board for having them come tonight and said they'd be more than happy to come back. Commissioner Pollock thanked them for their work and for coming this evening.

**YEAR TO DATE BUDGET UPDATE:** Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson provided budget comparisons between May of 2018 and May of 2019. She said since last year, revenues are up approximately 1% and expenses are up approximately 3%. The increase in revenue is due primarily to the Fay Bainbridge Park campground and is the result of an extended camp season due to the new cabin rentals and having electricity now at the campsites. The increase in expenses is due primarily to higher stormwater management fees than anticipated due to increased rates by COBI and the addition of Moritani Preserve. She said the Park District is close to where it typically is at this time of year and in good shape.

**2018 ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT:** Deferred to next board meeting.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Recreation Division:** Division Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said the Park District has been approved by the State for participation in the DSHS Individual and Family Services Waiver Program; summer programs and camps are starting on Monday; the Teen Center had over 2000 participants in the past year with the highest use coming from 10<sup>th</sup> graders; Outdoor Programs has been awarded grant funds from the Bainbridge Community Foundation for new mountain bikes; Gymnastics received a \$20,000 donation from the Gymnastics Parent's Club that will purchase new parallel bars and a balance beam; the all day camp started this week; and 49 kids signed up for rope skipping camp.

**Park Services Division:** Division Superintendent David Harry said the pool liner repair work is done and the pool is filling with a goal of opening on June 23; at Fay Bainbridge Park, the retaining wall is finished and replacement of the volley ball court will start next week; at the Fort Ward bakery building, demolition is completed, work is underway on the interior walls, the concrete floor will be poured soon, and the windows are being made; the Forest to Sky Trail boardwalk is failing with portions needing to be replaced.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:** 7/4/19 board meeting is canceled due to the holiday. The next board meeting will be held on 7/18/19.

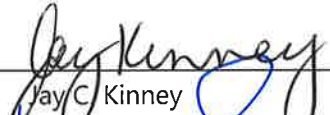
### **BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:**

- Commissioner Janow asked that efforts be made to protect Battle Point Park from fireworks going off over the upcoming holiday since the fire at the roller hockey rink was approximately one year ago.
- Commissioner Janow commented on the great job of getting out the word about the comprehensive plan and the need for public participation.
- Commissioner Janow mentioned concern about over-usage of trails and suggested trails be addressed some time in the future as a board meeting agenda item.
- Commissioner DeWitt attended a COBI Multi-Modal Transportation Committee meeting and said the City Council has decided to sunset the committee. He said he helped set the committee up when it first started years ago and has served as the Park District liaison on it for many years. He said the current group serving on the committee is one of the best he's worked with and thinks their work will be missed.
- Commissioner Swolgaard questioned why there are stormwater management fees for Moritani Preserve since it has no public parking. It was noted the park does have an access road for maintenance.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said he and Commissioner Janow recently attended a Trails Advisory Committee meeting and commented on how great the new trails map looks.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said he attended the Farmer's Market recently and worked the Park District's booth with Executive Director Terry Lande and Park Services staff member Chris Andre. They were amazed by the number of people who stopped by and how positive everyone was about the Park District.

- Commissioner Pollock asked who produced the new trails map and upon hearing it was Park District staff, commended them for doing a good job.
- Commissioner Kinney said there was some discussion at the last board meeting about the state of the Park District's current administration office and said a back-up plan needs to be made in case bond funding does not come through for improvements at Sakai Park.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** at 9:05 pm.

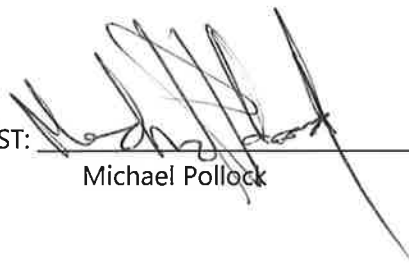
Elizabeth R. Shepherd  
Terry M. Lande  
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN  
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY:   
Jay C. Kinney

BY:   
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY:   
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY:   
Dawn Janow

ATTEST:   
Michael Pollock