

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING APRIL 30, 2020
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Chair Swolgaard.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Kristine Cox, Ken DeWitt, Dawn Janow, Jay Kinney, Tom Swolgaard.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the April 16, 2020 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: Under Park District Update on the Coronavirus, insert which agencies were included in the Emergency Operations All-Day Camp for children of essential workers as: City of Bainbridge Island, Bainbridge Island Fire Department, Bainbridge Island School District, Park District and grocery store workers. Insert that Bainbridge Island Swim Club is conducting dry land workouts and meetings via Zoom.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:

Commissioner Janow will review vouchers and payroll on Monday so that they can be approved at the next board meeting.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PARK DISTRICT UPDATE ON THE CORONAVIRUS: Executive Director Terry Lande talked about Governor Inslee's recent relaxation of restrictions on construction and outdoor recreation including allowing, fishing, hunting, golf and day use of state parks. He participated in a conference call with other public agencies in Washington State concerning what is going on in different communities. Public agencies around the state are having to furlough park and recreation staff, cut recreation budgets and close facilities for financial reasons. Governor Inslee's press conference tomorrow is expected to continue the "Stay Home, Stay Healthy" order and the Park District is waiting for further guidance from the Governor's office on recreation programs.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said that he and his staff have been attending webinars to share and gain insights about what is happening nationally regarding recreation programming. Staff are creating individualized plans for the various departments for when the time comes to phase into reopening. In next week's email newsletter, Parker's Post, there will be additional virtual recreation program options for the community. Aquatic Program Administrator Megan Pleli and the Aquatic Center staff have been reworking budgets as well as putting together strategies for reopening. Swim and gymnastics teams are continuing to offer training via Zoom. Active Adult Program Manager Sue Barrington is preparing a new program called the Elder Wisdom Project which is the written reflections of 60+ year old community members on this time of the coronavirus. Instructor Eileen Magnuson and Intern Deleine Chavez have been working on a senior fitness class which is to be offered virtually. In the Art & Cultural department virtual Spanish classes are underway currently and are expanding, virtual painting and sketching opportunities are being explored. Marketing Coordinator Allie Smith was mentioned for her excellent work with the website, social media and design. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said Outdoor Program Manager Nick Prevo and Sports Program Manager Julie Miller are currently working to offer several virtual courses for each department. Youth & Teen Program Manager Shannon Buxton continues to offer virtual chess and eSports classes and has launched a preschool music class. The gymnastics department is working on virtual class offerings as well as planning for future hybrid in-person/virtual recreation offerings as conditions allow. Staff is exploring what reopening the Teen Center will look like including ideas for an outdoor teen movie night. Teen Center staff is working with other

youth organizations to address food insecurity as it applies to Bainbridge Island's teen population. The Emergency Operations All-Day Camp for children of essential workers will end tomorrow. A survey is being put together to gather information on what virtual recreation opportunities the community is interested in.

Park Services Division: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said vandalism and trespassing events have been on the rise. It is recommended that the Park District open most parking lots starting tomorrow. All staff is now back at work, but no seasonal staff has been hired. The construction crew is working on wrapping up work at Cave Family Heritage Park and Fort Ward Community Hall. The pirate statue and benches have been installed at the pirate ship playground at Fay Bainbridge Park. Staff has been working to prepare for opening the campground as soon as the Park District is able. Staff has been following the one person per truck policy, cleaning all equipment after use, social distancing and been fitted for and provided with N95 masks. Work on the disc golf course is being done to install temporary poles as an alternative to baskets in order to reduce opportunities for transmission of the coronavirus. Signs will be posted limiting group size and encouraging proper social distancing for those playing on the disc golf course. Park Services is putting together opportunities for work for regular part-time and full-time recreation staff who are not able to do their regular jobs due to the coronavirus. Commissioner Janow brought up a concern regarding youth gatherings at Hidden Cove Park and Point White Dock and Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin replied that police are specifically monitoring these sites.

Administrative Division: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said that the accounting staff has been processing payments, doing payroll and working on insurance renewals. Work is being done on revenues and losses based on various reopening scenarios including reopening with smaller recreation class sizes. The Park District has applied for a shared work program through the Washington State Employment Security Office. Should the need arise, this program would keep staff employed and on insurance while partially furloughed.

Executive Director Terry Lande said that when the Park District reopens parking lots it is recommended by staff that four parking lots that primarily serve playgrounds (which are not open yet) not be reopened including: Aaron Avenue Tot Lot, Madison Tot Lot, Schel Chelb Park and the upper parking lot at Rotary Park next to Owen's Playground. It is recommended that the parking lot in back at Camp Yeomalt stay closed, as it is difficult for the police to see into. It is also recommended that the Sands Avenue Ballfield parking lot stay closed as it primarily serves a sports field, which have not yet been opened by the state. Bathrooms on trails will be reopened, cleaned by staff and stocked with cleaning supplies for patrons. Staff plans to bring in porta potties at Fay Bainbridge Park and Battle Point Park to reduce cleaning exposure risks for staff. **MSC: Kinney/DeWitt: Reopen all parking lots tomorrow evening with these exceptions: Aaron Avenue Tot Lot, Madison Tot Lot, Schel Chelb Park, the upper parking lot at Rotary Park next to Owen's Playground, the parking lot in back at Camp Yeomalt and the parking lot at Sands Avenue Ballfield.**

Commissioner DeWitt said it is important to emphasize when reopening parking lots that if social distancing protocols are not practiced parking lots could be closed again. The Park District has developed signage that will welcome people back to parking lots and include Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines. Trail etiquette signs will be posted at trailheads to inform patrons about procedures to safely social distance on a trail.

The City of Bainbridge Island has decided to wait until May 5 to open Pritchard Park and John Nelson Park at Strawberry Cannery Cove. Executive Director Terry Lande reported that the City of Bainbridge Island's attorney made some non-substantive changes to the agreement to transfer Pritchard Park to the Park District and now the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration will need to sign off again before the property is transferred.

Executive Director Terry Lande said that the work the Park District leadership group and staff has done coming up with new and innovative ideas in a difficult situation has been impressive and is a significant reflection of a great team.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

May board meeting dates: 5/7 and 5/21.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:


- Commissioner Janow expressed an interest in supporting the arts, which have been hit hard by the coronavirus pandemic, possibly with facility availability for performances or celebrations. Executive Director Terry Lande said that what Governor Inslee says in the press conference tomorrow will steer future decisions regarding facility use.
- Commissioner Kinney said the Park District needs to have a framework going forward to distinguish between indoor and outdoor recreation programs. Keeping staff safe during recreation programming needs to be a priority. We must hope for the best and prepare for the worst. Discussion is needed on furloughing staff versus laying staff off and whether it is possible to run the Aquatic Center safely. It would be of great benefit to the community if the Park District can present outdoor recreation opportunities for the public that are relatively safe.
- Commissioner DeWitt inquired about the status of the construction of the pickleball courts at Battle Point Park. Staff replied that the contractor is ready to begin work. Kudos were given to the City of Bainbridge Island planning department which has expedited the permit that is expected to be signed off on next week.
- Commissioner Swolgaard asked about the status of renovation work at KidsUp! Playground. Staff replied that as soon as construction projects at Cave Family Heritage Park and Fort Ward Community Hall are complete, work will begin at the playground.
- Commissioner DeWitt got an email from former commissioner Dave Shorett about the status of an easement near Blakely Harbor Park where the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation is interested in opening a trail. Staff will follow up on the issue.
- Commissioner Cox asked about the status of the Sakai Park and Ray Williamson Replacement Pool Advisory Committees. Staff will put it on the agenda for discussion at the May 21 board meeting.

JK DeWitt

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:06 pm.

Helen M. Stone
Terry M. Lande
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: 
Dawn Janow

BY: 
Kristine Cox

BY: Jay Kinney
Jay C. Kinney

ATTEST: Kenneth R. DeWitt
Kenneth R. DeWitt