

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING APRIL 1, 2021
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

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

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add an executive session regarding real estate for thirty minutes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS

Shannon Buxton, Youth & Teen Program Manager, is in attendance tonight to represent the recreation program managers and coordinators. They recognize that it is the purview of the board to offer official resolutions, however they believe that the commissioners and leadership staff should be recognized for their difficult work over the past year during the coronavirus pandemic. She read mock resolution COVID-19 2021 acknowledging and commending the work done by the board and leadership staff to support and adhere to the mission and vision of the agency while keeping staff and the community safe; which was done with wisdom, grace and integrity to ensure that the Park District maintained its vital role in the community at a time when the resources provided were most needed. Commissioner Janow thanked Shannon Buxton and the recreation program managers and coordinators and said the board is thankful for them as well; she commended them for their flexibility throughout the pandemic. Commissioner DeWitt thanked the managers and coordinators for their efforts and said it is a tribute to leadership staff that there is participative management at the Park District. Park District staff are allowed and encouraged to bring their ideas forward and to follow them up, which has shown good results and made difficult decisions at the board level a lot less difficult.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the March 6, 2021 board retreat, Chair Janow stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the March 18, 2021 regular board meeting, Chair Janow stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

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

Batch Date	Fund Number & Name	Warrant Numbers	Total Batch Amt	Pre-Approved
2/25/21	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	21063-21100	59,263.81	02/25/21
3/4/21	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	21101-21120	36,589.09	3/4/21
3/9/21	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	21121-21135	53,052.28	3/9/21
4/1/21	300 Capital Improvement Fund	Pre-approval	221,317.74	
	001 General Fund (Feb. Payroll)	EFT & 2790-2795	362,430.81	

GENERAL BUSINESS

PRESENTATION FROM BAINBRIDGE ISLAND FOOTBALL CLUB REGARDING PROPOSED LIGHTING OF TURF FIELDS AT BATTLE POINT PARK: Bainbridge Island Football Club President Peter Murchie thanked the board for including this

presentation on the agenda tonight and said everyone on Bainbridge Island is fortunate to have a great place to live and play. For everyone from toddlers to elders there is a park, trail or field that gives them the opportunity to be active or just be outside; Battle Point Park is a key center for these activities. The proposal being presented tonight is to build on the existing artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park to create even more opportunities for healthy play and recreation. It has never been more important for the community to ensure there is adequate capacity to allow folks a place to play and develop, which bolsters both physical and emotional health. BIFC understands and agrees with the values and goals presented in the Park District's 2020 Comprehensive Plan. A growing population on the island and forecasts for future population growth are amplifying the urgent need to increase year-round field space options for youth and other recreational programs. They support the sharing and leveraging of community assets owned and managed by the Park District. In recognition of the Park District's resource constraints they want to work with the Park District and other partners to provide funding for this project without using any of the Park District's capital improvement fund budget. They believe asking the board to consider lighting of the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park fully supports the Park District's mission as well as the youth and recreation goals in the 2020 Comprehensive Plan.

This past fall and winter, even in the midst of a pandemic with greatly reduced organized sports participation numbers, it became clear that there is not enough space or hours in the day to accommodate everyone who needs to use artificial turf field space. With increased population and the pandemic, limited artificial turf field space challenges the ability to grow athletics and offer opportunities for recreation. A few of the user groups for the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park and Bainbridge High School are: recreational boys' and girls' soccer teams, high school soccer teams, adult soccer teams, boys' and girls' lacrosse teams, rugby teams and ultimate teams. While it is difficult to come up with a number for all these users, between BIFC and their partner clubs alone they involve over 1,000 participants a year. To ensure the future ability to support these important activities for youth and future generations in a fiscally responsible way they recommend increasing the capacity of the existing artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park by adding lighting rather than building new ones. Upgrading existing artificial turf fields is a better environmental and logistical option than building new artificial turf fields in a new location. BIFC is coordinating a group of organizations and individuals who represent and support thousands of athletes and looking towards the future together they have considered many options on Bainbridge Island to increase capacity for outdoor playing fields. To fully explore the options they have looked at, explored, discussed, and examined for feasibility, ecological impacts, and cost effectiveness both public and private school fields, other Park District fields as well as empty lots on the edge of Winslow. The one location that, by a considerable margin, out does all others is the existing artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park. Over the years since the artificial turf fields were built the technology for outdoor lighting has improved exponentially. They acknowledge there are legitimate concerns from interest groups on the island that may not align with what they are proposing. The need for lighting is between late fall and early spring and predominantly during weeknights after school. They want to sustain and expand recreational options while remaining in harmony with other park users and neighbors, and they recognize the need to engage in a dialogue to move this proposal forward.

Peter Murchie introduced Tim Butz, a representative with Musco Lighting, who is in attendance to explain how the technology has changed, particularly in the last five years. The progression in how the technology has changed was discussed and illustrated by a slide in the presentation. LED technology is now available for field lighting with high intensity diodes instead of lamps. To properly light a sports field without environmental concerns a fully shielded fixture is used that directs the light onto the field without producing any offsite light, up light, or glare.

Marty Pujolar, President of Bainbridge Island Girls' Lacrosse Association said that they fully support the proposal to install lighting for the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park. The girls' lacrosse program has four different age groups and this year had over 100 girls sign up, unfortunately they had to turn some people away due to restraints. It is a growing and

successful program which practices on the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park. The artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park are the best place to play lacrosse due to the way the game is played and the weather in the northwest. This year they ran into scheduling conflicts with other programs and had to move one of their teams to the grass field at Woodward Middle School. Adding some extra times and field space by lighting the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park would benefit not only the girls' lacrosse program but the other programs that want to use the Battle Point Park artificial turf fields, which are the best spot for youth sports on Bainbridge Island. He finds himself in a constant friendly struggle with other programs to find field space. The additional field time which lights would provide would benefit all the programs and the community.

Chris Blair is President of the Bainbridge High School Ultimate program which operates year-round. While they love to play on grass if it is available, artificial turf field space is necessary in the winter and sometimes in the spring due to the weather. Their main concern is the co-ed season in the winter, with the lack of natural light their only option right now is to play at Bainbridge High School on the lighted artificial turf field. However, there is competition from other user groups to use that field. While they may get one chance a week to practice after school, they end up having to practice mostly before school or late at night which is tough on the kids, coaches, and families. They support the proposal to add lighting for the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park to facilitate both more and better practice times. The Bainbridge High School artificial turf field is maxed out for scheduling and the population on the island and the need for more field time are both growing.

Wyatt Friedman, a senior at Bainbridge High School, said he has been playing soccer with BIFC for about 12 years and that having only the one lighted artificial turf field at Bainbridge High School is a problem. From a personal standpoint he thinks it has affected both his mental health as well as the mental health of other players on the team that their practices usually begin around 8:00 pm due to both coronavirus and field space restrictions. With the coronavirus pandemic, and the fact that the future regarding coronavirus restrictions is unknown, additional lighted artificial turf field space will be important to facilitate social distancing and to provide more opportunities for not only BIFC but everyone on the island.

Chris and Tanya Powers are Battle Point Park neighbors and are in favor of installing lights on the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park. Tanya Powers said she represents her family's three properties on Arrow Point Road which are directly across the street from the main entrance to Battle Point Park. As parents of two boys that play lacrosse, they have used the three turf fields on the island often. As a result of artificial turf field time being so limited the boys' lacrosse varsity team does not have priority at the Bainbridge High School artificial turf field. Last year when her older son was on the varsity lacrosse team, they practiced throughout the winter in the 8:00 pm to 10:00 pm time slot most weeknights. This necessitated her to take her younger son who was 12 at the time to pick up his brother as her husband was often traveling. That is a ridiculously late hour to be getting home and hoping your 12 and 14-year-old kids can fall asleep quickly and wake up the next morning and perform well at school and is not setting children up for success. She has heard that there is an issue with the Battle Point Astronomical Association, and while she appreciates what they do, she said we all live here, vote and pay taxes. It is unfortunate for one group to have such control over so many others. Surely the adults in the room can work together and show children what it means to compromise. Chris Powers added that their children are not old enough to drive yet but asked if people even want children driving each other around late at night after a long day of school and practice. Having additional options to mitigate getting home late would be extremely helpful to the health and wellbeing of island youth. Tanya Powers said there is not one house in the Battle Point Park neighborhood that would see the directionally focused lights that are available now. We have an island and she would hope that everyone can share it.

Fred Walters is the father of three teenage girls who benefit from and use the lighted artificial turf field at Bainbridge High School. He has also been a pediatrician for the past twenty years and is dedicated to the physical and mental health of adolescents on the island. There is a tremendous need for additional lighted artificial turf fields on Bainbridge Island, which has been true for quite some time and has now been further bolstered by COVID-19. COVID-19 is a reality that will continue to affect our community and world for the foreseeable future. The island's population is increasing and about 22% or 6,000

of the current residents are adolescents. Children are our future, and sports fields are instrumental in promoting physical activity, fostering bonds, and learning the life lessons that come with team play. In the Pacific Northwest daylight is at a premium, especially in non-summer months, making competition for the one lighted artificial turf field at Bainbridge High School intense even while the population is projected to continue to grow. Additional lighted artificial turf fields will have the potential to accomplish significant benefit for the community in general and particularly for youth by increasing physical activity and encouraging social interactions in the outdoors, which is a COVID-19 safe environment.

Peter Murchie said BIFC hopes the Park District board will support them in further developing a lighting proposal for the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park by allowing them to work with Park District staff on the concept. If the board will support them moving forward, they have the means and interest to support the development of the project and to lead a campaign to fund it in its entirety.

Commissioner Janow thanked the speakers for the information presented tonight and asked for board discussion on the topic. Commissioner DeWitt said the Park District has an agreement with Battle Point Astronomical Association that will need to be investigated. If the board is going to consider putting lights on the artificial turf fields, they will have to think about the impact on the parking areas which are dark at night. He is not advocating one way or the other, he is simply saying parking will have to be part of the equation if this proposal is going to be considered. Peter Murchie said BIFC understands that there are still many things to look at and address and they are excited to work with Park District staff and other user groups to explore, understand and hopefully solve those issues. Commissioner Swolgaard said one of his concerns is that more use will shorten the life of the artificial turf fields. He asked how many more kids would be able to use the artificial turf fields than are using them now and what hours the lights would be on. Peter Murchie said BIFC is trying to solve the problem of having kids playing late at night and they do not see a need for lights to be on after 9:00 pm on weekdays from late fall through early spring; however there are other user groups that need to be part of the conversation. While he cannot speak to the exact number of kids additional lighted artificial turf fields would serve, currently there is one lighted artificial turf field and the addition of two more would significantly increase the capacity for thousands of youth and adult participants. BIFC recognizes the issue of wear and tear and they are committed to participate in fundraising and supporting the costs associated with renewing of the artificial turf fields. Commissioner Swolgaard asked if adding lighting to the field at Woodward Middle School has been considered. Peter Murchie said BIFC has looked everywhere on the island and all the other fields are grass, so artificial turf fields would also have to be installed in those locations. Battle Point Park is the best option from both an ecological and a cost-effective standpoint considering the logistics of building something new versus enhancing something that exists. Commissioner Kinney asked what a new artificial turf field would cost. Peter Murchie said one new artificial turf field would cost between 2.5 and 3.5 million dollars. Commissioner Janow asked how many light poles would need to be installed to light the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park. Tim Butz said lighting for the Battle Point Park artificial turf fields would require six light poles.

Executive Director Terry Lande said that tonight is the first time both the Park District staff, and board has seen this presentation. The process moving forward is that the board will direct staff on whether or not to engage in discussions with all of the interest groups regarding the issues and how they would be dealt with. If the board decides to move forward, there will be another meeting with another presentation and a third meeting at which time a decision could possibly be made.

Frank Petrie is the President of the Battle Point Astronomical Association which operates the Edwin E. Ritchie Observatory in Battle Point Park. BPAA offers monthly lectures and star parties as well as impromptu observing as weather permits, all of which is open to the public. Their popular observing sessions provide unique and curiosity inspiring opportunities for both kids and adults to see the night sky. BPAA has a popular program for kids age two through sixth grade for fun science learning which is open to everyone, not just members. In a normal year they have approximately 500 participants in their

programs. For many visitors, the view through the Ritchie telescope is their first up close look at astronomical objects, which is a thrilling and memorable opportunity. Battle Point Park is one of the few remaining public places on Bainbridge Island where you can see more than just a few bright stars, and on especially dark nights you can even make out the milky way. The park attracts amateur astronomers who set up on the telescope pads and enjoy the view. When there is a meteor shower, aurora borealis or a comet many people come to Battle Point Park to take in the spectacle. With regard to lighting the fields in the park he had a conversation with Peter Murchie and he appreciates his willingness to consider the needs of the BPAA. Without significant consideration given to the BPAA's needs for a dark sky, their public programs are at risk, as well as BPAA as an organization and public resource. Significant consideration means enforceable assurances that will effectively preclude scope creep or encroachment into later times and more evenings. Without such assurances, lighting in the park threatens the public's access to the night sky with or without the observatory.

Stephen Ruhl, amateur astronomer, and former president of BPAA said he lives next to Bainbridge High School which is the largest light polluter on the island. He shared a photograph taken on Tuesday night at 9:00 pm and one taken last night at 7:30 pm both showing an empty artificial turf field with the lights on at Bainbridge High School. He does not know the scheduling mechanism Bainbridge High School uses but said that artificial turf field is not used all the time. He shared a picture showing what the field lights look like from his bedroom, he can see this happening at Battle Point Park and wanted to share.

Laurie de Loanne said she is new to the island and has two tweens who are starting to get involved in activities. She has one tween who is avidly interested in science and they have joined the BPAA. She said there is more than one way to serve kids and their mental health needs during this pandemic. While they may discover sports teams in time, one of the ways her kids have been served is through BPAA star parties. There is a lot of variety on Bainbridge Island which they are enjoying, and they have found a wonderful treasure in BPAA. When she told her kids about the proposal to put lights on the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park their reaction was that these are two fun things and that we can have sports and science in the same place. However, her kids thought soccer was more of a daytime thing while astronomy is a nighttime activity and she was struck by that and wanted to share.

Malcolm Saunders advised the board that as they consider this proposal to pay close attention to not destroying the functionality of the observatory and to do it in a way that can keep the observatory alive. He is not associated with BPAA, but he is a supporter. He does participate in sports and sees their value. However, the BPAA is a unique island institution which is not replicated anywhere else in the western part of the Puget Sound, if anywhere in western Washington.

Jill Cody said her daughter participates in BIFC and she designs lighting for a living. While she is not associated in any way with the design of this system, she encourages everyone to keep in mind as the process moves forward that technology is moving quickly. The difference between what people are used to and a system like what is being proposed is that they are not even in the same league. While there will be more information presented if this moves forward, she asked everyone to not think about the system at Bainbridge High School. She understands the proximity to the observatory, and while issues regarding light cannot be eliminated completely, they can be minimized under a system like this. She would expect Musco Lighting, as the potential vendor, to address these concerns.

Denise, a BPAA supporter, is concerned about not just the lighting but increased traffic. She thinks there is a bigger discussion about how people will leave the area safely in the dark and how long people will stay in the park and linger with their headlights on. If the field lights were just on a timer that would not be good, someone should be responsible for turning off the lights when they are not in use or needed.

Frank Petrie said he wants to go on record to request that BPAA have a seat at the table for the discussion going forward so their needs are understood and met. BPAA is not going to try to put a stop to everything, as they understand that this is something that the community may want.

JP Meyer said that he is relatively new to Bainbridge Island and has played soccer and been an astronomy fan his whole life. He understands the importance of both giving kids the opportunity for outdoor sports as well as the importance of what BPAA has to offer. He would support the proposed lighting if the two opportunities can both be supported.

Commissioner Janow thanked everyone for the positive communication, compassion, care, and concern for everyone's needs being shown here tonight. After hearing the concerns and comments presented, she asked if the board would like the proposal to be developed further for presentation and continued discussion at a future board meeting. Commissioner Kinney said this is the first time the board has heard about this proposal. Usually in a situation like this where there is a community need, the board asks staff to look into the proposal and begin discussions with all the interest groups to see if there is a way to a way to compromise and make it work to meet the need with the least amount of impact. No decision will be made tonight, and it is still very early in the process. Having raised kids on the island who played sports he thinks it is important to provide recreation, yet he also understands the position of the BPAA. He thinks the Park District should investigate the proposal further and would like to see staff work with the interest groups to see if there is a way to make this work and including an iron clad agreement with enforcement to protect the interests of the BPAA. Commissioner DeWitt asked what the core hours are that people are using the observatory currently. Frank Petrie said that due to COVID-19, programming is currently done online via Zoom. Once BPAA can return to in person activities he does not see much of a conflict in the summertime. On clear winter nights observing can start early in the evening but happens mostly on the weekend. He does not want to make any commitments now, but it is possible that this proposal can be worked out to everyone's mutual benefit. Commissioner Swolgaard said that considering what Frank Petrie just said that he is willing to move the process forward for further development at the staff level. At first, he was doubtful as the proposed field lighting has been explored before. However, if Frank Petrie and BPAA are willing to work with the Park District he supports moving forward with developing the proposal. If it does not work, it does not work, but if it can work that would be fantastic. Commissioner Janow said the board has a consensus and directs staff to work on developing the proposal, bearing in mind all the considerations mentioned tonight. She invited people to continue to send their comments to the board and thanked everyone for the dialogue. Commissioner Swolgaard said the Park District will also need buy in from the neighborhood. Commissioner DeWitt said he lives on Tolo Road, and he is thinking about the increased traffic at night on dark roads with no shoulders and that needs to be taken into consideration. Terry Lande thanked everyone for participating in the process and encouraged everyone present to notify their friends and neighbors about this proposal to assist in making sure the community is aware of it so issues can be addressed as a group sooner than later.

BUDGET FORECAST: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson introduced Alice Ostdiek with Stradling Law Firm, the Park District's bond counsel for over fifteen years who has been enlisted to draft the resolution for the potential levy lid lift. Alice Ostdiek shared a presentation about the levy lid lift being considered by the board. The metro park district was formed in 2004 to provide for more stable funding and give the Park District access to a 75 cents per \$1,000 dollars of assessed value property tax levy. By 2008 the 75 cents had dropped down to 58 cents due to various restrictions under state law. In 2008 the Park District went back to the voters and asked for the levy lid lift to be restored to 75 cents, 75% of which was limited to acquisition and development. Today the levy lid lift rate has dropped back down to 59 cents which is caused by the fact that as assessed value increases the rate decreases; the Park District can only assess 1% more, therefore the rate decreases over time. There are two options for the board to choose between for a potential levy lid lift. The basic option is voter authorization to increase the levy lid lift to 75 cents the first year. After the first year the increase would be the lesser of 1% or the US Implicit Price Deflator for Personal Consumption (IPD) plus new construction. The rate would start

decreasing again as the assessed values on the island increase. The multi-year option, which is a new option since 2008, allows for voter authorization to reset the base the first year and includes the ability to increase the levy lid lift to 75 cents which is more than the permitted lesser of 1% or IPD each year, and after for up to five additional years at a rate or index of the agency's choosing for a specified purpose. The Park District may choose an index such as the Consumer Price Index (CPI) or Consumer Price Index for Urban Wage Earners and Clerical Workers (CPI-W) which facilitates a few years where hopefully revenues are keeping pace with costs required under state law such as minimum wage increases. The multi-year option extends the amount of time until an agency must go back to the voters for a levy lid lift, as the agency would return to the lesser of 1% or IPD increase limitation after six years.

Commissioner Janow asked if the rate for the multi-year option would stay at the level achieved at the end of the six years rather than revert to the original level. Alice Ostdiek said that under the statute, language must be included in the resolution to allow for the levy lid lift rate base to stay at the level achieved after the six years, which she typically sees done and recommends for stability. Commissioner DeWitt asked how a potential levy lid lift, under either option, would affect the current levy lid lift which restricts the use of funding by allocating 75% for acquisition and development. Alice Ostdiek said in her opinion of how she reads the state law, a new levy lid lift would supersede an old one. While she has not ever seen that position tested by an auditor or a court it could be stated in the resolution to avoid any doubt. While the statute allows an agency to collect every year the lesser of 1% or the IPD, which is an inflation index that has rarely been below 1%, if the IPD does go below 1% the board can pass a resolution for substantial need to receive the full 1%. If the board decides to move forward with the multi-year option a limited purpose must be indicated such as the need to renovate, maintain and operate. Since 2018 the legislature has permitted exemptions to be allowed from the incremental increases for low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities and this can be included as a feature.

Commissioner Janow said she likes the idea of the multi-year levy lid lift given what the Park District is looking at as far as wage increases. Commissioner Kinney asked if in the multi-year option, the levy lid lift would go directly up to 75 cents per \$1,000 dollars of assessed value or if that level is achieved incrementally throughout the six years. Alice Ostdiek said that while you cannot set the levy lid lift to stay at 75 cents; in the first year the agency could go up to 75 cents and in the following five years the agency could go up by a rate of its choosing such as CPI. There are options such as going up to 65 cents the first year and using a higher index the following years to achieve essentially the same place financially after six years, but there would be a lot of variables and assumptions in that strategy about how inflation and assessed values are going to behave. Commissioner DeWitt said that once the agency sets the limit and establishes the index it could not go above that limit every year. Alice Ostdiek concurred and said the index would be used to calculate the highest potential that the agency could collect however, the agency can choose to collect a lower amount based on budget and needs and that would create a banked capacity. Banked capacity was designed to discourage agencies from levying more than what they need for fear that they will lose the capacity. Commissioner DeWitt posed the question of why the potential for a levy lid lift is being discussed and said the Park District is looking to keep programs and services at least at the level they are at right now. While there is a surplus in the 2021 budget, in 2022 there is a projected deficit which will grow every year, and which means the Park District would have to start reducing services to balance the budget.

Amy Swenson presented the budget forecast and said she used actual numbers from 2019 and adjusted for inflation to get to the 2021 numbers versus using the 2021 budget which is very unusual due to COVID-19. With no changes to staffing and service levels there is forecasted to be a small surplus in the 2021 budget and in following years the budget goes into a deficit which grows every year by about \$88,000. The budget assumptions included in this forecast are: 1) 1% growth in program fee revenue, 2) 1% growth in tax revenue, 3) \$50,000 of revenue from new growth, 4) 3.5% increase in payroll expenses, 5) 1.5% increase in operations expenses, 6) no growth in the capital improvement plan, 7) no additional parks or amenities that add operational expenses, and 8) 2021 budget was adjusted for impacts from COVID-19. Amy Swenson said

the Park District does have a healthy reserve, which could be used to augment the budget to provide a stable level of service until about 2025. Commissioner Swolgaard said that while the Park District currently has a reserve, some of the reserve is money the Park District needs to operate for the first four months of the year and some of it has already been committed to acquisitions and development. Amy Swenson said that if the Park District moves towards a deficit it will not be able to take advantage of opportunities as it has been able to do. The budget forecast does not include instituting a deferred maintenance plan at the preferred level. Commissioner DeWitt said another thing not accounted for is operations and maintenance funding for potential capital projects and the Park District will need to have that piece of the puzzle solved before it can even consider a bond measure for any potential capital projects. Commissioner Janow said it is important and of concern to her to do climate change mitigation and add additional staff positions. Commissioner Swolgaard asked what the dollar amount cap currently is for tax revenue. Amy Swenson said that currently tax revenue is capped at \$5,662,000. If the levy lid lift is raised back up to 75 cents and assessed value stays the same the increase in tax revenue would be about 1.5 million dollars, although assessed value will probably go up. Alice Ostdiek said the problem with the levy lid lift is that as assessed values go up the rate goes down; it does not change the amount or allow the agency to increase more to cover the shortfall. The point of the levy lid lift to be able to access more of that capacity.

Commissioner Janow said the question before the board is whether to ask staff to look at the basic option, the multi-year option or both for the levy lid lift resolution for the April 15 regular board meeting. Commissioner Kinney said he would be in favor of the multi-year option as it offers the most flexibility and said if the rest of the board agrees it would be better to have staff do less work. The board agreed to have staff draft a resolution for the multi-year levy lid lift option with the index tied to CPI-W and which would allow for the exemption for low-income senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The limited purpose will be operations, maintenance, renovations, and deferred maintenance and exclude major capital purchase, acquisitions, and expansion.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a five-minute recess at 8:07 pm with announced time to reconvene at 8:12 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 8:12 pm.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Services Division: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said he is working to update the proposal for mountain bike trails in the Grand Forest North for the May 6 regular board meeting. For the April 15 regular board meeting he is working with Loanne Harmeling regarding the proposal for tennis courts at Sakai Park. The custom ferry boat play structure is being assembled for the KidsUp! Playground renovation. Earth Corps will be working for two weeks starting on April 12 on the Blakely Hills trails and on restoration at Blakely Harbor Park; this effort is being funded by the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation. There will be a Trails Advisory Committee meeting on April 12. Staff received a preliminary draft design for the Battle Point Park pond dam from the engineer this afternoon. Maintenance Coordinator Chris Andre has been busy working to prepare the ballfields for the upcoming season. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said work is being done with the City of Bainbridge Island on the permit for the split-rail fence at Schel Chelb Park. The permit for Blakely Harbor Park invasive species removal and shoreline improvement is delayed but moving forward. The two options being pursued for the replacement of the sailing float in Eagle Harbor are a new sailing float and the addition of a finger dock on the Waterfront Park dock; a request for qualifications is being reviewed by staff and will be coming out soon. There is a walk-through tomorrow at Blakely Harbor Park for the agreed order with Port Blakely Tree Farms to assess logistics for testing elements; the Park District is not the subject of the potential liability in the agreed order. The City of Bainbridge Island's Shoreline Management Plan review process is being monitored for areas of interest including sea level rise and aquaculture. Work continues to update the wildlife analysis for Grand Forest North. There has been dialogue with Washington State Ferries regarding easements and property adjacent to Schel Chelb Park for which they are looking at the Park District as being the recipient.

Administrative Division: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said the 2018-2019 audit is still underway due to the Office of the Washington State Auditor being short staffed. The \$50,000 payment approved by the board for the two parcels being added to the Ted Olson Nature Preserve will be made next week. The Park District is doing a lot of hiring right now and she encouraged people to spread the word.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said Community Outreach Coordinator Emily Swift has wrapped up handing out the egg hunt kits that participants registered for. Today is the launch day for the Passport to Parks & Trails program to encourage people to visit parks and trails; if participants visit all the locations and collect all the stamps they will receive a special pin with the Park District logo on it. ParentMap will be featuring the Passport to Parks & Trails in their publication for kids and families in Kitsap County. Performer contracts for the Sounds of Summer concert series have been updated and staff is hopeful that some version of the event will be allowed under the applicable guidelines in place at that time. Active Adult Program Manager Sue Barrington has narrowed down the choices to two books for the upcoming story walk program. There have been strong enrollment numbers for the Walks on the Wildside program. Marketing Coordinator Allie Smith is finishing up the production of the summer program catalog. Aquatic Program Administrator Megan Pleli is busy updating guidelines for the Aquatic Center in accordance with Phase III in the Healthy Washington Plan. Joey Antonio has retired from his position as Maintenance Tech at the Aquatic Center and staff would like to wish him a wonderful retirement. Lisa Claesson-Gordon is stepping down from the Aquatic Program Coordinator position to a part-time role. The interview process has started for a head lifeguard position. Megan Pleli and the Aquatic Center will be recognized by the American Red Cross as one of the top regional and national individuals and facilities for safety and training certification. Over the next couple of months staff will be pursuing upgrades to the online registration system's splash page. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said the Teen Center has added some new homework times from 1:00 pm to 3:00 pm to facilitate participants after the morning school session and before sports begin. Youth & Teen Program Manager Shannon Buxton has a youth cookie decorating class this Saturday. All-Day Explorer camp will have 12 participants for the spring break camp this year. Outdoor Program Manager Nick Prevo is working to host a sailing class with USA Sailing over Memorial Day weekend. Mountain bike programs continue to expand. The Boston Whaler was stolen off the Waterfront Park dock but was recovered with no damage; a solution for securing the boats is being pursued. Winter soccer ended this past Saturday and spring soccer will begin soon. Spring basketball has two teams. The Zumba Gold instructor, who has been teaching virtual classes, will resume offering in person classes soon as will the Zumba instructors. The adult spring soccer program has 44 registered participants. Gymnastics staff will be doing spring cleaning and organizing over the next couple of weeks. Next week there are ninja and cheer clinics for spring break.

Executive Director Terry Lande said that Executive Services Manager Helen Stone's minutes from the board retreat and the regular board meetings have been fantastic. She is learning quickly about managing public records requests and doing a great job.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Kinney commended Executive Services Manager Helen Stone and thanked her for doing a great job.
- Commissioner Kinney praised the Battle Point Astronomical Association for being reasonable and willing to work with and give something up for the community and said that BPAA's interests will be protected. He hopes that all parties can work together to find a solution to facilitate more field time for youth. The island's population is growing, and recreation opportunities are a draw for people with children who are moving to the island. It seems that the island is falling behind on field space availability and it is the job of the board to help facilitate recreation for the community.
- Commissioner Swolgaard thanked staff for everything they have done throughout the coronavirus pandemic. He appreciated that Youth & Teen Program Manager Shannon Buxton read the mock resolution tonight. If it was not

for staff being so creative, dedicated, and keeping the agency afloat throughout the coronavirus pandemic the Park District could have fallen apart.

- Commissioner Swolgaard said that he personally knows Battle Point Astronomical Association President Frank Petrie and that what he has always like about him is that he is the kind of guy who is willing to work things out and help solve a problem.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said that in light of the recent theft of the Boston Whaler from the Waterfront Park dock that he has noticed there is a rack of kayaks sitting near the barn in Meigs Park that can be seen from the highway and recommended that they be moved out of sight.
- Commissioner Cox said that Bainbridge Island Swim Club members are thrilled that there were time trials last weekend and that there will be more; there are some happy athletes that have been able to post times.
- Commissioner DeWitt echoed the comments about the Battle Point Astronomical Association and Frank Petrie made by Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner Swolgaard. He was very impressed with the Bainbridge Island Football Club's presentation and the BPAA's comments as well. He is hopeful that an agreement can be worked out.
- Commissioner DeWitt said that the Association of Bainbridge Communities sponsored the Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference that was held over the last four weekends. He attended a breakout session led by Bill Carlson regarding logging on the island from the 1850's through the 1960's which was very interesting. Bill Carlson is a partner with the Park District on the Forest to Sky trail and without his help that trail would not be where it is. At the conference David Kotz, a local custom wood worker, shared examples of furniture and other items he made from wood logged off the island, which was fascinating. Stuart Johnson talked about a study he did comparing the Grand Forest, Islandwood and the Bloedel Reserve forest parcels. Bainbridge Island Fire Department Deputy Chief Jared Moravek gave a presentation about wildfire in western Washington. The Association of Bainbridge Communities is sunsetting at the end of the year, but they gave special recognition to Frank Stowell with their Dionysus Award.
- Commissioner DeWitt said that he attended the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association's 79th anniversary commemoration of Japanese Americans being forcibly removed from Bainbridge Island. The National Park Service has developed a junior ranger program specifically for the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial.
- Commissioner Janow thanked staff for everything they do and responding to needs as they come up.
- Commissioner Janow said that she attended a Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference breakout session with Darlene Peters who is a Coast Salish master weaver. Part of the conversation was about how she teaches weaving to her grandchildren and how one continues tradition in the modern world. How generations transfer knowledge of the visible world and how it is incorporated in present day life is an important part of what the Park District does by creating space to allow each generation to connect together and to create future stewards for the community.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:47 pm for discussion of real estate with announced time to reconvene at 9:17 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 9:17 pm and **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 9:17 pm for continued discussion of the above items, with announced time to reconvene at 9:40 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 9:42 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 9:42 pm.

Helen M. Stone
Terry M. Lande

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
Dawn Janow

BY: _____
Kristine Cox

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard

ATTEST: 
Jay C. Kinney

Commissioner Cox's signature not included due to her resignation.