

Dear Community Members,

The Park District is excited to report that the Bainbridge Athletic Club (BAC) transaction is moving along towards an anticipated closing in late August. To keep the community apprised, please review the following letter from the Chair of the Board, which was written in response to concerns raised by some members of the community. We want to ensure that there is timely and accurate information available for all concerned. In addition to the following letter, there is information on the transaction posted at the Park District's website, [biparks.org](http://biparks.org).

As Chair of the Board of Commissioners, I would like to reassure the members of this community that the Board has been fully and fairly advised on and considered the various financial and legal aspects of the opportunity presented to us to purchase the BAC. We did not seek this out, but instead were approached with the opportunity that fits within our mission and allows the Park District to provide greater recreational opportunities to the public immediately, at a cost that is reasonable. The Board feels strongly that it meets these criteria and is excited to expand access for all community members.

Three specific points are worth highlighting:

- The decision to purchase the BAC is independent of the ongoing public process for development of the Sakai Park property. The purchase of the BAC does not threaten but rather complements development of the Sakai Park property, offering more flexibility in how Sakai Park is used. In 2015, the community passed a \$5.9 million bond to purchase land, provide funding for planning, and secure public access to the downtown park site. While some people may be under the impression that the purpose of Sakai Park was a community facility, this is simply not accurate; such a facility was only one of many possible options. Development at Sakai Park is an ongoing conversation that has been underway for six years and will likely take more. Estimated costs for the facilities currently under consideration are upward of \$55 million and will require additional public input and a public vote. Environmental review, design, permitting, and construction will take an additional several years.
- The acquisition of the BAC is a cost-effective, environmentally sound way to bring a recreational facility quickly and efficiently to all. This acquisition is a fraction of the cost of building a similar structure at Sakai Park and increases public access to indoor facilities, which currently exists only for a select few.

- The Board fully intends and expects that the facility will pay for itself. The Park District, with the assistance of its highly experienced appraiser, has analyzed the business and is confident that revenue will more than cover the costs of operating, maintaining, and paying for the BAC. User fees will cover the cost of owning and operating the facility; the public will not have to subsidize the purchase.

To sum: We are confident that the new community recreational facility will meet the needs of those residents who desire an indoor facility immediately. Acquisition of the BAC will not cost the taxpayers additional funds, and will provide flexibility in the options we can consider at Sakai Park.

Closing: The Park District Board, which is obligated to be responsive to community input, maximize recreational offerings, and be a good steward of public funds, feels that it would be irresponsible not to seize this unique and wonderful opportunity for the community.

Respectfully,

Dawn Janow

BIMPRD Commissioner Chair