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

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

MISSION STATEMENT: Commissioner Janow read the Park District’s mission statement: The mission of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District is to build a healthy community through effective, sustainable stewardship of the District’s parks and open space, and through the development and delivery of innovative cultural and recreation opportunities.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Postpone 50.2 the 2021 Budget Amendment, until the July 1, 2021 regular board meeting.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the May 20, 2021 regular board meeting, Chair Janow stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: on page two, second to last paragraph, second line, change “would” to “could.”

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the May 26, 2021 special 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.

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GENERAL BUSINESS

PROPOSED PURCHASE OF BAINBRIDGE ATHLETIC CLUB: Commissioner DeWitt read the following statement: In my many years serving as a Park Commissioner, this is by far the toughest decision I’ve had to make. As many of you know, my son is the Fitness Director of Island Fitness, the Bainbridge Athletic Club’s main competitor. While I do not believe I have a conflict of interest as I have no direct or indirect involvement in the management, operations, or finances of either company, I acknowledge that there could be a perception of a conflict. The Board of Commissioners currently has a quorum able to make a decision regarding the proposed transaction without my vote. In order to maintain both the appearance of and actual transparency of the decisions made regarding whether to proceed with the acquisition of the BAC, I have recused myself from the negotiations, including any knowledge of the BAC’s finances or terms of the transaction until the information is made public. At such time the information regarding the acquisition enters the public realm, hopefully at tonight’s meeting, I will participate as I see appropriate in any discussions among the Board of Commissioners but will continue to recuse myself from any direct material involvement in decisions related to consummating the transaction, including voting, other than to sign any documents necessary as required by my position as a Commissioner.
Commissioner Janow said and it is the current owner's wish that BAC remain a public facility. The acquisition of BAC would meet a myriad of community needs and desires as identified in the public planning process for Sakai Park. It is a testament of the Park District's work to date that it would be considered as a viable owner and steward of this property.

Commissioner Kinney said that even if the board passes motions tonight to move forward with the purchase of BAC, the sale will not be final and there will still be time for community input.

Executive Director Terry Lande reviewed the 53,000 square feet of recreation space at BAC which includes: four indoor tennis courts, indoor gym, indoor class and multi-purpose spaces, outdoor pool, and fitness rooms. BAC is located just off Highway 305 on the north side of Koura Road and the campus includes two buildings. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek shared photos of the facilities to illustrate the amenities. If the board decides to move forward with the acquisition it would mean opportunities for increased community access, expanding of fitness and recreation programs and access to indoor activity spaces for year-round recreation programming that is not limited by access to School District facilities. Terry Lande said the community has expressed a desire for more indoor recreation opportunities, an example of which is the survey done for the Sakai Park planning process. The Sakai Park planning process has been delayed by the coronavirus pandemic. It is fiscally and environmentally responsible to acquire BAC for the following reasons: 1) it is far cheaper to buy this facility for 13 million dollars than to build a new one for 50-70 million dollars, 2) the facilities would be self-sufficient in that they would be paid for with revenues generated by the facilities, 3) the facilities would be available immediately as opposed to having to pass a bond measure and then build which could take 5-7 years, and 4) this would allow for less intensive uses at Sakai Park.

Tom Goodlin said he is an island resident and a candidate currently running for election to the Park District's board of commissioners. He expressed concern regarding impact from the acquisition on the operations and maintenance budget. The proposed acquisition would meet some of the needs identified in the Sakai Park planning process. He understands the enthusiasm, but the Park District needs make certain the operation of the facility essentially pays for itself through increased programming. He asked that the Park District proceed only after a thorough evaluation of the operation and maintenance costs.

Dinah Satterwhite said she has been an avid tennis player for 25 years on the island. Her concern is that a lot of people rely on BAC to play in leagues. She asked what the Park District intends to change should it acquire BAC. Terry Lande said the bottom line is that what will change is unknown at this point; all the things currently happening at BAC will be taken into consideration, evaluated, and input will be gathered. Dinah Satterwhite said that tennis players have no other indoor options other than BAC on the island and taking those options away raises serious concerns.

Peter Benson said he lives in the Meadowmeer neighborhood and he wants to address parking and traffic in the neighborhood. If membership at BAC is increased the current problem will get worse and he wants to know what will be done to mitigate that. Terry Lande said staff will work with the neighborhood on this issue. Commissioner Janow said these meetings are to discuss a community facility and to meet as many needs as possible. Peter Benson said if BAC becomes public the membership will grow and he wants to know how parking and traffic problems can be headed off beforehand.

Morgan Fanberg had some questions about the Park District's priorities. Sakai Park was purchased and has not been developed and now the Park District is asking the community to pay for this acquisition which might not be a benefit to all residents. Commissioner Kinney said he was on the board when the bond was passed to acquire Sakai Park and the idea was to preserve the last big piece of open space near downtown. The planning process for Sakai Park identified the need for a community center, among other things. When the coronavirus pandemic started, the planning process for Sakai Park had to be paused. This incredible opportunity has come up that would fill most of the needs identified for significantly less money than it would cost to build at Sakai Park, and it is already done. There has been a lot of talk about not developing
Sakai Park as well and if BAC is acquired to fill the needs identified in the planning process for Sakai Park, that planning process will be revisited and the community will decide what to do there. Morgan Fanberg asked if this is just a target of opportunity and if Sakai Park will be put on the back burner. He said there has been a commitment to the community to build a park at Sakai Park first and this feels like it is coming out of left field. Commissioner Janow said developing a park takes a long time, for example it took two years just to get the permits from the City of Bainbridge Island to build the trails at Sakai Park. Morgan Fanberg said he has witnessed very little progress on a park that has been owned for quite a while and was purchased with taxpayer dollars.

David Chichester said he has been a long-time member of BAC. He asked how this proposed acquisition came about, what the financial information is to be able to assess if this is a good deal, if there will be a dues change, how additional traffic will be handled, and how many acres would be acquired. Terry Lande said the proposed BAC acquisition includes 5.75 acres. The Park District does not have access to the owner’s financial statements, as there is a non-disclosure agreement. David Chichester said there are already tennis court constraints on the island and not having a sense of the price that will be paid or how it will be financed are also of concern. Terry Lande said that the next two months will involve doing due diligence on the facility including financials, title, inspection, and feasibility. David Chichester asked where the cash will come from. Terry Lande responded that cash would come from lending agencies and due diligence regarding financing is being done by professionals. Due to the non-disclosure agreement he is not at liberty to say a lot of things, but due diligence will be done.

Marie Figgins said she is a current employee at BAC and asked about plans moving forward regarding keeping the current staff. Terry Lande said he does not know the answer; when BAC comes to an end the employees’ current employment will come to an end, but staff may be rehired by the Park District and consideration will be given to those who have done the work in the past. He will be meeting with BAC staff next week and will be better able to answer if this process moves forward tonight.

Eddie said he wanted to echo the tennis comments and asked that tennis court time not be reduced, as that would be extremely difficult. He asked what expanded community access means. Terry Lande said there is a lot of potential for different kinds of programs and activities to fully utilize the space. There may be some sort of monthly pass, but it is premature to get into specifics. Eddie said he does not want anything to change or to see the club degraded, he uses the unused multi-purpose rooms and they are important to him. If there are chairs and tables and crayons for kindergarten camps in the rooms that means he cannot use them when he is paying $300 a month, it feels like it is not worth it. He thinks the current members want to see BAC maintained at the current high quality and not change. Terry Lande said there will be changes, it will not continue to be operated the same way. Commissioner Janow said it is important to keep in mind that the plan for BAC was to be sold. Eddie said that the Park District has not run or owned gyms, and he hopes that it remains a gym and is not turned into a recreation center. Terry Lande said many staff members have experience in running recreation centers and the Park District does run pools, which is very challenging.

Loanne Harmeling said she understands that there will be borrowing to purchase BAC and wonders where the funds will come from for the repayment. She assumes there will be a bond floated to pay for this acquisition, and she would like to see it include the development of outdoor tennis courts at Sakai Park. She asked if BAC would replace the multi-purpose building, office space and digital and non-digital rooms planned for Sakai Park, which would therefore reduce the amount of impermeable surface and allow for more outdoor tennis courts and other amenities. Terry Lande said it would replace the field house, offices, and the digital and analog buildings. There are several types of bonds, and the type that would be used to acquire BAC does not require a vote. Loanne Harmeling asked what kind of fees will be in place and if it will be accessible to the public. Terry Lande said that is unknown and will be explored during the budgeting process, which is open to the public, if the board decides to move forward.
Rob said he is concerned about the ability to play tennis and said that building outdoor courts does not really help in the northwest. BAC does an incredible job of maintaining weights and equipment and he is concerned that he has seen other public facilities that do not have the budget to maintain equipment in the way a private club does.

Sundance Rogers said this is an incredible opportunity and she hopes the Park District moves forward.

Doug Mackey asked how many square feet of usable recreation space would be part of the BAC acquisition. Terry Lande responded that there is 53,000 square feet of recreation space. Doug Mackey asked if any thought has been given to bailing on the synergy that would be created by having these types of amenities at Sakai Park next to other facilities. Terry Lande said the ability to pay just 13 million dollars as opposed to 50-70 million dollars to build at Sakai Park is a driving factor.

Derek asked what is new with this purchase, he has heard today that the goal is to expand community access, but the community already has access if they want to buy a membership. Terry Lande said the context is that it will be a community center not a club with great potential for activities and even rentals. Derek said BAC is well run, but we have all been to the Aquatic Center which is not as nice as BAC, and he asked what will be done to maintain the quality of BAC.

Michael Rosenthal said that he and Alexa own Island Fitness and that there are no less than 20 independent fitness oriented small businesses on the island. The history of for-profit businesses in communities where a non-profit comes in to compete is not great as they are not operating on an even playing field. They hope the board will consider the impact of the Park District’s fee structure on private businesses that have to make a profit. They were doing fine before the coronavirus pandemic, but right now they are struggling, and the introduction of a publicly funded facility in direct competition could be concerning.

Sarah Lee said that she thinks this is a fantastic idea and would be a great public amenity. With more emphasis now on diversity, equity, and inclusion, one of the things the Park District offers is access. She has always been blown away by the extremely well-maintained Park District buildings and the Park District is very responsive to public concerns.

An island resident said that he hears magical talk when it comes to the financing of this property and asked if the Park District can pay more than appraised value. Terry Lande said that yes, to a degree the Park District can pay more than appraised value. The resident said that the Park District is not buying an athletic club, rather the Park District is going to extinguish that. What the Park District is buying is two special purpose buildings on five acres which cannot be further developed. He would have a great deal of difficulty imagining how this property would ever appraise at 13 million dollars. He asked how the Park District would go to a bonding agency for this property and justify that magical fees are going to service the 13-million-dollar debt. The public should have an idea in advance and play a role in establishing what the budget would be, not magical numbers. Terry Lande said that well known and respected professionals will be hired to do due diligence on appraisals, inspection, and financing and that there are no magical numbers, that is what the due diligence period is for. Park District Attorney Hayes Gori said that there is a non-disclosure agreement in place and professionals will be hired for due diligence. There are exceptions to the non-disclosure agreement for the professionals the Park District will hire to see the information. The resident said the Park District cannot bury or camouflage information under a non-disclosure agreement, it does not work that way. Commissioner Kinney said that is not what the Park District is going to do, however the Park District cannot disclose something it does not have and that belongs to someone else. It will have to be determined how user fees can cover the debt, the Park District does not intend to subsidize this purchase and the Park District has a couple months to look at programming and the figures and figure out a way to do that.

Maddie said she is one of the current supervisors at BAC said that she has received a lot of feedback that BAC is one of the only basketball facilities that a lot of youth programs have access to and asked if they will still have access to continue their programs. Terry Lande said that the Park District runs a basketball program and feels that pinch regarding lack of facilities and would certainly entertain the idea of youth sports programs.
Chad Haight said five years ago he developed a business plan to build a tennis and fitness center. The budgets he created were nothing like 13 million dollars and wondered if the Park District would like to look at the possibility of building a center with less money. He thinks that 13 million dollars is paying too much and that if BAC was put on the market it would not cost 13 million dollars. He would like to share that information and asked if the Park District would be interested in seeing it. Terry Lande told him he was welcome to send in that information.

Julie Riely said she thinks this is an amazing opportunity for the public. She is very aware of the struggle that tennis players face to get on courts as it is, although this is a wonderful opportunity. She is concerned about the number of courts on the island and asked the board to keep in mind that tennis players are struggling for court time. Terry Lande said the Park District recognizes that this acquisition would not add any more tennis courts to the island.

Edith Cobourn said she plays tennis on the island. She said not anyone can join BAC because it costs money. She asked if there would be a membership fee or separate fees to use the different amenities at BAC. Terry Lande said there would be some form of use fee which will be determined by the numbers that need to be reached for revenue. There will be no bond measure that would increase taxes to pay for BAC.

Jennifer Sharp said she is a current BAC tennis member. Four tennis courts take up a huge amount of the 53,000 square feet of recreation space and she asked how much of that space is available for mixed use. She said the pictures shared tonight make everything look enormous and she would be curious to hear comments after staff tour the facility. She heard that fees will be used to cover the bonds and asked what will be used to cover maintenance. She is also concerned that the demand for tennis courts is already high and asked how anyone will ever get a court if the membership is increased.

Kenneth Kowren said that he coaches youth basketball on the island, and he thinks this would be bad for basketball, which is already an underserved sport on the island. The Park District has priority for reserving basketball courts through the School District, making it difficult to book time if you run a competitive private team, and this would just be another facility for the Park District to have priority. Currently BAC is the only place on the entire island where you can go to practice basketball indoors on your own time. This would do away with that because the plan is to keep the building as occupied as possible for classes rather than to have open time where kids can come and play. This is not additive for basketball, building something new at Sakai Park with extra courts would be additive. Commissioner Kinney said that he coached youth sports for a long time and youth sports is near and dear to everyone’s hearts at the Park District, the Park District will listen to the community about how to use the space and try to meet as many needs as possible. He said he thinks the community will find the Park District particularly eager to help kids recreate and asked that Kenneth Kowren not assume that it will turn out badly. Terry Lande said he has coached basketball for forty years and that basketball is a priority for him.

Kerry Smith said she has been a member of BAC since its inception seventeen years ago. She shares concerns other people have raised regarding the current exceptional gym equipment and the group exercise offerings. The staff that has been working there is exceptional. The parking is a challenge and she is concerned about accommodating parking for added use.

MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: Motion to direct Executive Director to sign the Asset Purchase Agreement with Forecourt Inc. Commissioner DeWitt abstained from this vote.

Commissioner Janow said that with respect to the Asset Purchase Agreement the Park District would be purchasing all BAC’s tangible and intangible business assets including the furniture, artwork, equipment, inventory of goods and supplies, and computer hardware and software. The Park District is also receiving an ongoing concerned value of the business, considerable goodwill of the BAC and a three year non-compete agreement with BAC’s business entity and its owners. The purchase price of the business assets is 4.4 million dollars, there is no earnest money involved in this transaction. At closing the purchase price would be paid in cash. There is a due diligence contingency where the Park District will meet with the BAC staff regarding contracts and operations and to inspect equipment etc. and that would expire 30 days after the
purchase and sale agreement is signed. The financing contingency which would include appraisals etc. expires 45 days after the purchase and sale agreement is signed. Anticipated closing date would be August 31, 2021 and the business asset transactions would close at the same time as the real estate transaction and the Park District would get possession of those business assets at closing.

Commissioner Swolgaard said that the board has heard a lot of concerns and comments from the public and all the issues that were brought up tonight will be investigated and the Park District will try to resolve everything it can.

Commissioner Kinney said that the closing of this proposed transaction is August 31, so there is time to look into it, go through the inspection, to pencil it all out and figure out how it would be run and how it is going to pay for itself. The Park District is doing this for the community, not to run it like a private club, and the community will participate and be listened to. It is this simple, if the Park District cannot buy BAC for 13 million dollars and operate and run it without losing money there is no way the Park District can build something for 50 million dollars; you just cannot build something like this for 13 million dollars. This acquisition would give the Park District a chance to get a community center and run it and he does not think there is another feasible option considering what needs to be done at the Aquatic Center. This is a good financial move if the Park District wants to have a community center and the Park District does not have anything like this. This would take the Park District in a new direction, a lot of communities have community centers, and this is going to help the Park District tremendously if it pencils out.

MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: Motion to direct Executive Director to sign Real Estate Purchase & Sale Agreement with BAC Court LLC. Commissioner DeWitt abstained from this vote.

Commissioner Janow said the Real Estate Purchase & Sale Agreement purchase price is 8.75 million dollars. The earnest money is $100,000 payable by a promissory note, converted to cash before closing, and will be credited toward the purchase price. At closing the purchase price is to be paid in cash. The contingency title expires 10 days after the Park District's receipt of the title. The due diligence contingency for inspections etc. expires 30 days after the purchase and sale agreement is signed. The financing contingency expires 45 days after the purchase and sale agreement is signed. The closing date is August 31, 2021.

MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: Motion to direct Executive Director to sign Earnest Money promissory note for Real Estate Purchase & Sale Agreement. Commissioner DeWitt abstained from this vote.

MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: Motion to direct Executive Director to commission inspection and appraisal for Real Estate Purchase & Sale Agreement. Commissioner DeWitt abstained from this vote.

Commissioner Janow said the board really values the time members of the public have taken to comment tonight and that the information gathered will help the board to direct staff to consider the issues throughout the due diligence process. With creativity, community input, and flexibility on everyone's part, this could be an incredible opportunity for the community.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a five-minute recess at 7:45 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:50 pm. MEETING RECONVENED at 7:50 pm.

BOARD VACANCY UPDATE: Commissioner Janow said there are ten applicants for the interim commissioner position. It is fantastic that the community is so robustly engaged with the Park District. The Personnel Committee, which consists of Commissioner Swolgaard and Commissioner Janow, will narrow down the ten candidates to a smaller field of candidates which will be presented to the board at the July 1 regular board meeting. At the July 1 regular board meeting the finalists will be determined. There will be a special board meeting July 8 at which time the finalist will be interviewed and an appointee for commissioner position five will be selected.
DIRECTOR’S REPORT

Park Services Division: Park Services Superintendent David Harry said it is a busy time of year and projects are moving forward including the KidsUp! Playground renovation which is scheduled to be finished in the established timeline. Executive Director Terry Lande said that on July 15 there will be an agenda item for an update on the Battle Point Park pond dam. There are seven jurisdictions and businesses working on this project. Staff has been able to stop the loss of water from the reservoir and is working to keep the water currently in the pond healthy by adding oxygenated cold water from the water tower to the reservoir. There are separate systems at Battle Point Park for irrigation and potable water. The water tower is used for the irrigation water system and water can be added from it to the pond without any concerns from the health department. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said that regarding the request for qualifications for the sail float in Eagle Harbor, that contract will be finalized in July.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said that staff is closely tracking the COVID-19 situation with the Washington State Department of Health and the Governor’s office with the possible reopening of Washington State coming up on July 1. Staff has received communications indicating preparations are being made that would reduce the guidelines in place. Staff is in the process of adjusting plans for the reopening. While there was some initial difficulty with hiring part-time staff for the summer, hiring has picked up which has been helpful in preparing for the reopening. Community Outreach Coordinator Emily Swift is excited to launch the Sounds of Summer concert series this year, she was hired right before the coronavirus pandemic began and this will be her first year that she is able to run the concert series. Marketing Coordinator Allie Smith has been working on the fall catalog and the Park District booth will be at the Farmers’ Market starting in July. Aquatic ProgramAdministrator Megan Pleli has been preparing for safely reopening the Aquatic Center. Evening summer swim lessons have filled up and there has been strong registration for water fitness classes as well. The search for a new Bainbridge Island Swim Club Head Coach is underway with in-person interviews coming up for the final candidates. Active Adult Program Manager Sue Barrington has retuned the story walk program, which will now be called Exploring Community. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said the Teen Center had a last day of school celebration. Sports Program Manager Julie Miller launched summer camps today. Outdoor Program Manager Nick Prevo has been working on training summer staff and will be hosting a US Sailing level one instructor course. The all-terrain wheelchair in the Gear Bank was rented out for the first time. Gymnastics hired seven new staff members for the summer and staff is working to accommodate as many people as possible from the waitlists. Youth & Teen Program Manager Shannon Buxton’s All-Day Explorer Camp starts next week.

Terry Lande said he met with members of Bainbridge Island Football Club who want to install lights on the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park, as well as members of the Battle Point Astronomical Association and the Battle Point Night Skies Alliance who are opposed to the lights, and they will meet again tomorrow.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:

There will be a special board meeting July 8.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeWitt asked if water exercise classes will continue to be 45 minutes or revert to being 55 minutes with the reopening that is being planned for at the Aquatic Center, and if people will be able to start dropping in for classes and lap swim. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said he will get back to Commissioner DeWitt on water exercise class times and that staff is still working through the details; plans are being made to allow drop ins for some classes and lap swim.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he attended a Zoom presentation put on by the City of Bainbridge Island regarding the crosswalk from the Grand Forest to the Forest to Sky trail on Miller Road.
- Commissioner Kinney said regarding the proposed purchase of Bainbridge Athletic Club there needs to be some structure for how the community can be involved and participate in the process. He suggested there be a future agenda item to discuss possibilities such as forming a committee. He knows people are concerned about the details but there is a non-disclosure agreement; however, to the extent that information belongs to the Park District, the Park District is very aware of its duties under the public records act. It is an exciting time and a great opportunity; BAC would be a major addition to the Park District and what it can do and how it can serve the community. If the Park District cannot operate a 13 million dollar building and make it pay for itself there is no way it could operate a 50-million-dollar building. Something could still be built at Sakai Park to take care of additional needs, but BAC very economically takes care of a lot of the Park District’s needs. He is thrilled that the Park District has this chance.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said he echoes Commissioner Kinney’s comments.
- Commissioner Swolgaard attended the Trails Advisory Committee meeting. He asked about when the trail from Strawberry Hill Park to Grand Forest will be completed. Executive Director Terry Lande said the neighbors to the north have withdrawn their offer for an easement, but they will allow people to walk through the trail. Discussion and outreach with the neighbors will continue.
- Commissioner Janow said the potential to purchase Bainbridge Athletic Club is an exciting opportunity. She hopes people can find creative ways to work together and thinks this is an opportunity to do that.
- Commissioner Janow said she attended a planting work party at KidsUp! Playground last weekend.
- Commissioner Janow said she walked the Sakai Park trails with staff, City of Bainbridge Island staff and Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation staff for a conversation regarding how they will connect with the Sound to Olympics trail.
- Commissioner Janow said she attended a Zoom presentation by the City of Bainbridge Island regarding traffic calming around Schel Chelb Park.
- Commissioner Janow said she attended the Trails Advisory Committee meeting and the June work party will be at Ted Olson Nature Preserve.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a five-minute recess at 8:30 pm with announced time to reconvene at 8:35 pm. MEETING RECONVENED at 8:35 pm.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:35 pm for discussion of real estate with announced time to reconvene at 9:10 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 9:09 pm and ADJOURNED at 9:09 pm.

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

BY:  
Dawn Janow  

BY:  
Board Vacancy  

BY:  
Kenneth R. DeWitt
ATTEST:  
Jay C. Kinney

BY:  
John Thomas Swolgaard