

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 2, 2021
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

CALL TO ORDER: A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair Janow.

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add an item after 50.3 for Resolution 2021-05: Petty Cash and Change Funds.

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.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the August 19, 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. Commissioner DeWitt said one of the items being approved tonight is for survey work for a potential trail between Sakai Park and Marshall Suites. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said that there is yet no easement for this trail. Marshall Suites does not have complete control over the property where the trail is proposed, and it is questionable that the condo association in the same building will come to an agreement for their portion of ownership in the property. The invoice was for preliminary survey work to identify property lines.

Batch Date	Fund Number & Name	Warrant Numbers	Total Batch Amt	Pre-Approved
08/24/21	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	21742-21773	131,489.94	08/24/21
	001 General Fund (August Payroll)	EFT & 2848-2861	515,722.23	

GENERAL BUSINESS

SUSTAINABLE TRANSPORTATION PLAN UPDATE WITH CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND STAFF: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said that City of Bainbridge Island Engineering Project Manager Mark Epstein was invited to present a Sustainable Transportation Plan update tonight upon a request from the board. Mark Epstein said the STP effort is moving from the technical part of the process to the community outreach and buy in part and the Park District will be a big part of that process. The City has been working on the STP since late 2019. The STP focuses on three networks: bicycling, walking and rolling, and transit. Senior Planner Perry Barrett has been part of the technical advisory team, which includes members from agency partners. The main objective for the STP is to address climate change by reducing green house gas emissions. Other STP benefits include using resources wisely, connecting nodes, and creating healthier lives and communities. Connections to the trail system throughout the island are an important part of the plan. Community outreach efforts focused on gathering information about values. Values were narrowed down to the six main STP goals: climate action and resilience, natural systems and rural character, safety and comfort, equity and accessibility, connected and convenient, and implementation and funding. Commissioner Glosser said one of the reasons he finds this topic interesting is because Park District destinations have changed dramatically with the addition of Bainbridge Island Recreation Center and that has implications for the STP. Mark Epstein said staff is aware of that and although BIRC did not get captured in the existing facilities data, as it was not public when the data was collected, it will be considered for new projects. Commissioner Janow

asked if there has been any discussion regarding new developments and how they might fit into the goal for implementation and funding. Mark Epstein said that is being looked at in two different ways both by requiring developments to pay for new facilities and by gaining easements where possible. Gaps were identified in each of the three transportation networks. Solutions to advance the goals were identified for projects, programs, and policies. Evaluation criteria for projects and programs were developed from the plan goals. Focus areas for September and October this year include completing project scoring, developing draft project tiers, costing of first tier projects, and developing a near term action plan and a three-year implementation plan. Commissioner DeWitt said one of his concerns is that existing safety issues are addressed along Miller Road and at Bucklin Hill. He asked how much importance is being given to situations like that rather than developing new sections of the networks. Mark Epstein shared a map of the bicycle network that will be recommended, which covers both of those areas. Commissioner Glosser said he understands the imperative for all ages and abilities (AAA) facilities, but he thinks about the cost and effort associated with that. Mark Epstein shared three different types of AAA facilities that could be built. Commissioner Swolgaard asked if existing bike lanes will be widened to be six-foot AAA facilities. Mark Epstein said that because there is so much variability on existing roads, those decisions must be made on a case-by-case basis. Commissioner Janow asked if the plan is to have continuity and conformity throughout the plan so that different parts of the network are similar. Mark Epstein said that is part of the plan. Commissioner Glosser asked to what degree the School District has had a perspective and a voice in this plan. Mark Epstein said the School District has been part of the technical advisory team for the project.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER UPDATE: Executive Director Terry Lande said that as of yesterday, the Park District owns Bainbridge Island Recreation Center, previously known as Bainbridge Athletic Club. Staff has done a great job of both orchestrating the transition and merging the new staff from BAC into the Park District. Commissioner Swolgaard asked how many new employees the Park District has hired. Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said there are about 30 new employees, five of which are full-time or regular part-time. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said that staff will send out an email tomorrow to launch registration for BIRC and that the BIRC website is currently under construction. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said his focus has been on programming and integrating the new staff. He is very excited about the new employees joining the Park District and is looking forward to providing and expanding programming for the community. Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said his staff has been handling the logistics of the transition. It has been a tremendous effort and he gave kudos to Park Services Superintendent David Harry for his efforts. Terry Lande said from the staff's perspective this is an incredibly exciting time and everyone has pitched in and handled the transition very professionally. The transition has been very rewarding after seven months of working on the acquisition. Park District Attorney Hayes Gori deserves accolades for both his role in the acquisition as well as his positive attitude throughout the process. Commissioner DeWitt said he thinks it is important to note that Hayes Gori knew when to bring in outside legal help, which was key. Commissioner Swolgaard said that the spouse of an employee thanked him for giving their spouse a safe and healthy place to work. Terry Lande said it is important to get the remainder of the staff out of the administration building in Strawberry Hill Park so that everyone is working in a safe and healthy environment. Commissioner Glosser asked what will happen to the administration building once all office staff has moved to BIRC. Terry Lande said the goal is to have all office staff moved over to BIRC by November and the administration building will be evaluated at that time. Commissioner Janow gave kudos to everyone for the herculean effort and said it is very heartwarming. Terry Lande said there are some unheralded heroes working on this transition including Park Services Manager Douglas Slingerland and Park Maintenance Coordinator Mike Pratt.

RESOLUTION 2021-04: AMENDED 2021 GENERAL FUND BUDGET: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said that nothing has changed since the last board meeting when the 2021 amended General Fund budget was presented and approved by the board via motion. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: Move to approve Resolution 2021-04.** Commissioner DeWitt

said now that the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center acquisition has closed, he will no longer be recusing himself from votes regarding BIRC.

RESOLUTION 2021-05: Petty Cash and Change Funds: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said this resolution adds a change fund for the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center and updates the custodian for the Special Events petty cash fund. **MSC: Swolgaard/DeWitt: Pass Resolution 2021-05.** Commissioner DeWitt noted that while normally this item would be placed on a published agenda, this is more of a bookkeeping issue than anything else and as it is for the convenience of the public passing it tonight is the right thing to do.

PRITCHARD PARK PLANNING UPDATE: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said that tonight's discussion is to update the board on what the Dog Advisory Committee has been discussing and other proposals for the site. On the east end of the park staff has been working with a donor on accessibility improvements for both parking and the trail as well as a proposed covered seating area. The off-leash dog conversation has centered around established uses of the site and how to clean them up to protect the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial on the west end of the park which will at a minimum require dogs to always be on leash. He shared a map of the park with color coding that delineated roughly where the off-leash dog area might be. The west end of the off-leash dog area would start about where the creek would be visible if it were to be daylighted, making it an intuitive spot to demarcate the area. The ongoing superfund site clean-up efforts on the east end of the park will have to be taken into consideration, as that side of the park will periodically be closed to public access. There have been communications with the Environmental Protection Agency regarding concerns about making off-leash dog use of the site official. The EPA has concerns that will need to be addressed regarding additional use, more concentrated use, impacts to the cap, dog safety and health, aquatic mammal safety and health, and habitat. The Park District will also work with the Suquamish Tribe to address their concerns regarding site use.

Kirk Robinson said he is on the DAC but does not own a dog. His sense is that people do not use Pritchard Park because of the off-leash dog use that has been there. Pritchard Park is a superfund site, and he is familiar with it as he worked for the EPA in the superfund program in the late eighties and early nineties. He thinks the off-leash dog use of the site predates ownership of the property by the public. In 2006 or 2007 a design committee for Pritchard Park was put together and findings were presented to the City of Bainbridge Island and the Park District in March of 2008. However, the City managed Pritchard Park at that time and never made any effort to control the use of the park. He does not disagree with the proposal tonight as something to consider, but he has always thought of it as an interim solution in need of a more formal concept plan, with long-term off-leash dog use considered in addition to the other findings presented in 2008.

Dan Hamlin said that with the concerns being heard from the EPA, all agencies with an interest in the park need to come to a better understanding of each other's positions before moving forward. Staff will continue to work with the DAC as more information is shared between agencies. Tonight's presentation is a reboot of the process and serves to educate the community that it is under discussion. There is no plan being presented tonight, this proposal is what the DAC has come up with given the information available currently.

Commissioner Kinney asked for a quick update on the forthcoming expansion of the dog park at Strawberry Hill Park. Dan Hamlin said the dog park expansion has been discussed by the DAC. While the assumption is that the expansion will make the current dog park bigger, in other communities separated spaces within a larger footprint are developed to expand dog parks and mitigate issues.

Commissioner DeWitt asked if the trail from the east parking area at Pritchard Park to the proposed off-leash dog area is an Americans with Disabilities Act accessible trail currently. Dan Hamlin said that is not an ADA trail at this time. Commissioner DeWitt said that he thinks it is important to ease access to off-leash dog areas for dog owners who have mobility issues. Commissioner Swolgaard noted that the current trail is very flat, and Dan Hamlin said it could easily be made into an ADA

trail. Commissioner Swolgaard said it would be great if some of the parking that was removed by the City on the east end of the park can be put back. Commissioner Swolgaard asked about the feasibility of day lighting the creek. Dan Hamlin said a restoration project is probably possible although it would require thorough permitting.

Commissioner Glosser asked if it is common to have off-leash dog parks with only visual demarcation of boundaries rather than being fenced and if there is a viable enforcement mechanism aside from the goodwill of dog owners that can be implemented. Dan Hamlin said it is common to have off-leash dog parks that are unfenced, and the Park District has a contract with animal control to target identified areas, patrol them, and ticket unlawful off-leash dog use in parks. Dan Hamlin said that from his experience and research, unfenced off-leash dog parks are typically intimidating to folks who do not have the ability to recall their dogs, so they do not use them as often. Unfenced dog parks are common and are allowed by insurance companies if the area is clearly delineated and users are made aware of it. The problem with the site right now is that there is off-leash dog use that is not official and therefore in violation of City code. Off-leash dog use of the site needs to either be made official or taken away. Commissioner Glosser asked if the assumption is that if the proposed area is approved for off-leash dog use that people who do not own dogs will use it or if the basic assumption is that the space would be handed over primarily to dogs and dog owners. Dan Hamlin said because there are off-leash dogs there now, some people choose not to go, however they are allowed. Commissioner Glosser said it would formalize the disincentive for people who do not have dogs to use the site. Dan Hamlin said that park users have commented that if there was adequate signage about the off-leash dog use it would be expected and therefore they would handle it just fine.

Dan Hamlin asked what the board would like to see next after staff works with the EPA regarding their concerns and possible mitigation. Executive Director Terry Lande asked if board members have any issues with where staff is at today regarding this project. Commissioner DeWitt said that until the issues with the EPA and the Suquamish Tribe are squared away regarding off-leash dog use there is no purpose in bringing a full proposal to the board.

Commissioner Kinney said that the DAC has put a lot of work and thought into this proposal, and it would be nice to make it official. Pritchard Park has been a defacto off-leash dog area for so long that it would be difficult to reverse it even if one wanted to, and Bainbridge Island does not have a lot of off-leash dog areas. Unless the EPA or the Suquamish Tribe disallow off-leash dog use in the park, he believes the Park District should move forward with formalizing an area for off-leash dog use.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a five-minute recess at 7:30 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:35 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:35 pm.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Administrative Division: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson shared and reviewed the 2022 budget schedule with the board.

Park Services Division: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said the grand opening of the renovated KidsUp! Playground will be Saturday, with a donor event being held the night before. The upper trail at Sakai Park has been surfaced and is ready for use. The Student Conservation Corps and the trails crew have wrapped up for the season. Two of the big projects the trails crew worked on this season were rerouting the trail in Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve around the Kitsap Public Utility District's easement and resurfacing the Cave Avenue to Curtis Loop trail for accessibility under the interlocal agreement with the City of Bainbridge Island. Engineering is complete for repairing the dam for the pond at Battle Point Park and staff is now moving forward with a request for proposals to complete the repair. He met with the mountain bike park advocates and a draft request for qualifications has been developed for a consultant to design and build the trails. There was also a meeting with the interest group for Strawberry Hill Park skate park improvements and with the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation to create an agreement for this project. As directed by the board at the last board meeting, staff is

working on proposals for additional tennis court options and will be discussing them as part of the Capital Improvement Fund budget in the 2022 budget cycle. There is a lot going on around the Park District and staff is doing a phenomenal job. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said that the dive study for the Eagle Harbor sail float replacement is on track. Work is being done to follow up with stakeholder agencies for the possible off-leash dog area at Pritchard Park. Trail easement connections to the west of Blakely Harbor Park are being worked on. Sampling is in progress under the agreed order at Blakely Harbor Park and the Department of Ecology is monitoring and sharing statistics regarding public engagement with the project's webpage.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said that recreation staff has been busy preparing for the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center transition, developing budgets for 2022, and working on fall programming. The Sounds of Summer concert series has continued to draw great crowds. Planning is underway for the Haunted Hayride and the Holiday at Fay events. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said that with school back in session, attendance at the Teen Center is up. Outdoor Program Manager Nick Prevo ordered 12 new kayaks so that paddling programs can be offered in two locations. Parker's Critter Club ran for the first time this summer and program offerings are being expanded. All the summer camps offered by the gymnastics department were full this summer. Gymnastics team members are currently competing at higher levels than they have in years. This fall there will be a modified version of open play time offered at the Transmitter Building for which people must preregister rather than drop in. Sports Program Manager Julie Miller is working with staff on launching programming at BIRC. There are 275 kids registered for fall soccer. Youth & Teen Program Manager Shannon Buxton's All-Day Explorer Camp this summer experienced the highest registration rates that the program has ever had.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:


- Commissioner Kinney said that he has been reflecting on the last board meeting when there was one member of the public who kept asking about a business plan to see how the Park District will pay for the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center. One of the advantages of the public acquiring BIRC is that while it may pay for itself or even be profitable, it is a false premise that BIRC must be profitable. Battle Point Park, Grand Forest, and the Aquatic Center do not make any profits, but the Park District is not a private business that needs to make money. The Park District exists as an agency to provide recreation services for the community. Even if BIRC never pays for itself, that does not mean it was a bad idea. Putting out closer to 50 million dollars for a recreation center was being considered at Sakai Park. The cost of acquiring BIRC was a screaming deal. He has great faith in staff and knows that BIRC will be well run, and the community will be happy. Even if someone cranky shows up in ten years, and even if BIRC has not been paid off or turned a big profit, that will not mean it was a bad idea or a failure. The Park District exists to make people happy. He advised everyone to not be put on the defense by anyone with this attitude. BIRC is being run for the benefit of the community, not as a private business. If the facility makes less money that is just fine, as long as the way it is run is consistent with the agency's mission.
- Commissioner Glosser said he got an email from the Battle Point Astronomical Association and will be meeting with them and the Battle Point Night Skies Alliance on September 15 to discuss their opposition to the proposed lighting of the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park. He also reached out to the Bainbridge Island Football Club and met with them to hear their perspective on supporting the proposal. He noted that there is a potential inefficiency in holding these meetings separately with the commissioners. Commissioner Janow said that Commissioner DeWitt and Commissioner Kinney will be meeting with the opposition group, as they are on the Capital Facilities committee. She believes these smaller meetings can be quite helpful if the groups do not try to play the commissioners against each other. Commissioner Glosser shared that while it is probably naive on his part, he did

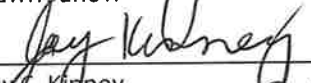
convey at the first meeting and will at the second that the extent to which the groups make an honest attempt to hear one another and compromise to find a solution that works for the most user groups will be to their benefit.

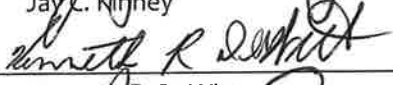
- Commissioner Glosser said he will be at the KidsUp! Playground event on Friday evening and staffing the Park District's Farmers' Market booth on Saturday.
- Commissioner Glosser commented that he is astounded at staff's ability to handle the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center transition while keeping up with their regular work loads.
- Commissioner DeWitt said that Executive Director Terry Lande celebrated his eighteenth anniversary with the Park District last month.
- Commissioner Janow said it is an honor to work with her fellow commissioners and the staff.
- Commissioner Janow said she will be at both the Friday evening and Saturday events for the grand opening of the renovated KidsUp! Playground.
- Commissioner Janow noted that at a board meeting commissioners need to hear from their constituents. However, it is not a question-and-answer time and she intends to return to the traditional format of sticking to a three-minute public comment period moving forward.

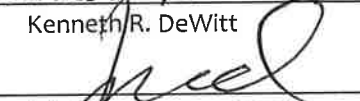
MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:05 pm.

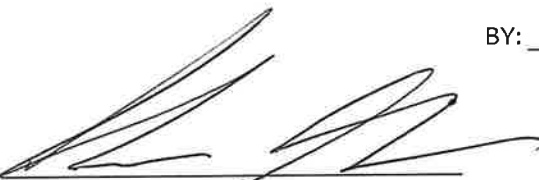
Helen M. Stone
Terry M. Lande
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
Dawn Janow

BY: 
Jay C. Kirney

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard

ATTEST: 
Asaph Glosser