

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 16, 2021  
ZOOM VIRTUAL MEETING**

**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, Asaph Glosser, 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.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS**

Ruth Baydo said the most recent communication to the Bainbridge Island Water Polo Club from Park District staff was that BIWPC would get 50% off their pool rental fees for the 2021-2022 season for their high school teams. However, Aquatic Program Administrator Megan Pleli communicated verbally on September 2 that their entire fee would be waived by the Park District for this season. Due to the miscommunication team families have already been refunded for pool rental fees. She asked that the board honor the September 2 verbal communication, as it would be a financial hardship for families to pay those fees after being told they would not have to.

Raelene Rossert said she is the treasurer for the Bainbridge Island Water Polo Club. She understands that the Park District has been trying to give the School District the opportunity to say BIWPC high school teams are sanctioned. There has been resistance from the School District to say that, but BIWPC does have a meeting with their board next week. It is frustrating to her that they are dealing with the School District and the Park District when all but two of the participants on their high school teams are Bainbridge High School students and they compete against other high schools in a competitive nature, which is the School District's definition of an interscholastic sport. Water polo should be a sanctioned sport by the School District's definition and the definition in the Park District's contract with the School District. Per the contract, being sanctioned would make pool use free for the high school water polo season. While the Park District may be able to make a legal argument that water polo is not a School District sanctioned team, BIWPC believes the intent of the contract is for high school students to have equitable use of the pool during their season. While BIWPC believes the School District has a responsibility to them, they also believe the Park District could just as easily make this problem go away. BIWPC is waiting for both the School District and the Park District to figure out how BIWPC can continue using the pool for free during the high school season, as they have done for over 35 years. She would like the Park District to consider what the intent of the contract is regardless of if the School District says water polo is a sanctioned sport.

Commissioner Janow thanked the BIWPC representatives for their comments and said she knows it is a tough issue that staff has spent a lot of time working on. Executive Director Terry Lande said that while BIWPC high school teams are made up of Bainbridge High School students it is a club sport which means that the School District does not sponsor, provide oversight, or cover the insurance for the program. For years the Park District has asked the School District to address the issue of club sports and in the last two years they have. They have designated water polo as a club sport not a sanctioned sport. The agreement that the Park District has with the School District is clear in that only sanctioned teams are authorized to use the Aquatic Center for free. Commissioner Kinney asked what the source of the confusion was. Ruth Baydo said that BIWPC has never in more than 35 years paid for pool use for their high school teams and yet nothing has changed from their perspective. Terry Lande said that Megan Pleli made an honest mistake by delivering the wrong message regarding the Park District granting BIWPC free use of the pool for the high school season rather than the approved 50% reduction for one year as she was permitted to do. BIWPC has been told for the last few years that this change was likely coming. Commissioner Janow asked how Park District rental fees have affected other club sports. Terry Lande said that not many other club sports use Park District facilities but if they do, they must pay rental fees. Commissioner Janow said the board has heard the

representatives from BIWPC and the issue will be given back to staff. She hopes this issue gets worked out and believes talking with the School District is the best route to go so that water polo can get sanctioned and in turn be covered by the agreement between the School District and the Park District.

**BOARD CONSENT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the September 2, 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
08/31/21	001 General Fund	21774-21798	78,179.25	08/31/21
09/09/21	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	21799-21829	43,982.30	09/09/21

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**KOURA/YUKIO TRAIL EASEMENT:** Senior Planner Perry Barrett said this connection fosters linkages mid-island between Lovgren Road and the Grand Forest by connecting to Koura Road and leading to City of Bainbridge Island trail easements to the north. This trail easement transfer comes with approximately \$17,000 in related expenses. He thanked the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation for their role in acquiring this easement. The easement has been reviewed by Park District Attorney Hayes Gori and staff recommends that the board accept the Koura/Yukio trail easement transfer from BIPF. Commissioner DeWitt inquired about details regarding the expenses related to this transfer. Perry Barrett said that expenses relate to improvements to the trail itself. Commissioner Janow noted that a detailed copy of those expenses was included in the board packet. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: Move to approve the trail easement transfer for the Koura/Yukio trail.**

Commissioner DeWitt said that BIPF worked long and hard on this relatively short trail easement.

**BOLERO TRAIL EASEMENT:** Senior Planner Perry Barrett said the Bolero trail easement connects an existing subdivision to Toe Jam Hill Road and Country Club Road and adds connectivity to Blakely Harbor Park. This is a donation with no expense beyond staff time for administration. He thanked the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation for their role in acquiring this trail easement. The easement has been reviewed by Park District Attorney Hayes Gori and staff recommends board acceptance. Commissioner DeWitt said it appears a good part of this trail is on the waterline trail and asked if there is a legal connection to Bolero Road. Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said there is a right-of-way connection for about 80 feet that will be needed to connect to Bolero Road. Commissioner DeWitt asked if the Park District has a reasonable chance at getting an easement over the waterline trail to make a connection to Toe Jam Hill Road. Dan Hamlin said that specific easement is not included with the Bolero trail easement transfer. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: Move to approve the Bolero trail easement transfer.** Commissioner Janow asked Perry Barrett if a clearer definition of easement boundaries can be written into future trail easements. Perry Barrett said an exhibit can be added to future trail easement documents to make the boundaries clearer.

**RESOLUTION 2021-06: PERSONNEL POLICY UPDATE:** Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said the proposed policy manual changes are limited to employee discounts at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center. Employee discounts at BIRC are proposed to be restricted to the fitness/aquatic monthly user level. Tennis/fitness/aquatic monthly users will not be eligible for an employee discount. Commissioner DeWitt asked if it should be clarified that this discount does not apply to commissioners. Commissioner Glosser said this policy is for personnel and clarification may not be needed as

commissioners are not staff. Commissioner DeWitt said that while he does not see this as an issue with any current commissioners, a commissioner in the future may try to argue the point. He thinks the board should look at the policy and decide if it needs to be amended in the future to state that commissioners are not included. **MSC: Kinney/DeWitt: Move to approve Resolution 2021-06 to add benefits for Park District employees to use Bainbridge Island Recreation Center pursuant to the proposal.** Commissioner Janow said she thinks this is a wonderful benefit for employees and thanked staff for addressing it.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Park Services Division:** Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said that regarding the Battle Point Park pond dam repair, engineering has been completed and next week there is a scheduled video inspection and a request for proposals will be sent out. The renovated KidsUp! Playground has seen heavy use by the community since it reopened. Staff has been preparing for the rain expected this weekend. The Dog Advisory Committee met and talked about concerns recently received from the Environmental Protection Agency regarding off-leash dog use at Pritchard Park. The dog park expansion at Strawberry Hill Park was also discussed by the DAC and will be incorporated into a concept plan for the entire park that will be brought before the board. Park Services staff continues to assist with the move into the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center and with fixing issues that have been identified there. The restroom by the observatory at Battle Point Park is almost complete. New cabins at Fay Bainbridge Park are now under construction. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said work is being done on the acceptance of the Recreation and Conservation Office grant for Sakai Park. Staff is working on a grant application with City of Bainbridge Island staff for salmon restoration at Pritchard Park. The planning effort for Williams-Olson Park is underway and efforts have begun to gather information the City will be interested in. Updates to the City's Sustainable Transportation Plan have been posted on their website. Puget Sound Energy will hold meetings on a new link they are proposing to add reliability. PSE has been made aware that the Park District is interested in gaining trail easements along the link as appropriate.

**Recreation Division:** Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said that this was the first week of regular programming at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center and the first week of fall programming across the recreation department. Active Adult Program Manager Sue Barrington is finishing up work for the Park District to receive reimbursement for some summer programming expenses as awarded through a Washington Recreation & Park Association grant. Marketing Coordinator Allie Smith has been a tremendous asset and instrumental in getting recent publications out and launching the website for BIRC. Work will begin soon on the winter/spring recreation catalog. Community Outreach Coordinator Emily Swift wrapped up the Sounds of Summer concert series and staff is hoping to expand the length of the series next year. This year's Haunted Hayride will again be the drive-through version where all participants stay in their personal vehicles as was instituted last year due to the coronavirus pandemic. Bainbridge Island Swim Club Head Coach interviews are going well. BISC currently has 120 participants and a growing waitlist of over 40 kids. Bainbridge Aquatic Masters currently has 150 swimmers and a waitlist. Restrictions on participant numbers for both swim teams are related to facility size and not compromising other services. A lifeguard shortage has triggered a two-hour afternoon closure of the pools in the Aquatic Center. Staff is working to train and hire additional lifeguards so that the regular schedule can resume. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said it has been a busy week at BIRC and there are now over 440 monthly user accounts registered consisting of 720 individuals when considering all the individuals included with couple and family monthly user accounts. The BIRC tennis program started their weekday and weekend leagues this week. Recreation Program Specialist Marie Figgins is focusing on building community through movement and staying healthy, including the possibility of holding a boot camp class at Battle Point Park. At BIRC there are currently six personal trainers on staff and 10 group exercise instructors. Teen Center participation numbers continue to rise. Outdoor Program Manager Nick Prevo is running a shellfish class this weekend. Canine classes are growing in popularity. Most gymnastics classes are full, and participants are happy

that open play time is being offered again. Sports Program Manager Julie Miller has over 300 kids and 80 adults signed up for fall soccer leagues. Due to a lack of staff she had to cancel a lot of after-school programs. Youth & Teen Program Manager Shannon Buxton is working to organize and store summer camp supplies. The owner of Hitchcock, an island restaurant, reserved time at the Eagledale Pottery Studio for his staff to make trays and other items for the restaurant.

Executive Director Terry Lande said Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson has been busy with staff training at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center. He and Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin met with Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation Executive Director Mary Meier and Andy Maron the chairman of their board to discuss the growing list of projects being worked on. Terry Lande had lunch with City of Bainbridge Island City Manager Blair King. He said what is most important to him is that Blair King is a good person and although he has his work cut out for him, he is very capable of getting the job done. Terry Lande has had discussions with Bill Moore about the triangle piece of property at Bucklin Hill. Bill Moore mentioned some historical interpretation elements he may be willing to pay for in several areas of the island including at Cave Family Heritage Park.

Commissioner Janow took a moment to acknowledge all the work that staff has been doing with the opening of Bainbridge Island Recreation Center and said it is appreciated. Terry Lande also acknowledged the extra work staff has been doing to make the transition as smooth as possible for participants which he thinks has been accomplished and is a real tribute to staff.

#### **BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:**


- Commissioner Kinney said that Kirk Robinson, who is on the Dog Advisory Committee, is questioning whether residents are generally in favor of off-leash dog use at Pritchard Park. Kirk Robinson feels strongly about soliciting feedback from the entire community on this subject.
- Commissioner Kinney said the Battle Point Astronomical Association held a seminar last weekend taught by a PHD candidate that he knew when she played softball with his daughter. It was fun to see someone who he has known since they were in grade school teach at such a high level.
- Commissioner Kinney said he played pickleball for the first time on the courts at Battle Point Park.
- Commissioner Kinney said the attendance at tonight's meeting of representatives from the Bainbridge Island Water Polo Club brings up a complicated subject regarding the difference between a board and a staff issue. He said the Park District will have a mess on its hands if the board gets in the habit of second-guessing staff every time a group is upset about something. He encouraged the board to think about how to address this issue, which can possibly be done during the upcoming budget process. He is worried that commissioners will get pulled into the minutia of operations. Commissioner Glosser said his perception is that the board's role is to set principles and overarching ideas and that it should defer to the expertise of staff regarding how to execute them rather than advocating for a certain position on an issue. It strikes him as the board's role to step in when staff feels there is ambiguity regarding principles and overarching ideas. Commissioner Kinney agreed and said perhaps there needs to be a board policy to clarify the board's role. Commissioner Janow said that is a good point and an interesting topic of discussion because often when a group does not get the answer they want, they get upset and try to circumvent staff on operational issues by going to the board. The board needs to direct them back to staff. The board's role is to provide support and give guidance, not to solve each perceived problem. She said it is incumbent on Executive Director Terry Lande to let commissioners know if they do overstep into operational issues. Commissioner Janow said it is her understanding that determining whether Bainbridge High School water polo is sanctioned is a School District decision and the Park District will then follow suit.

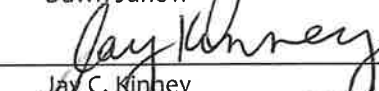
- Commissioner Glosser said that at a recent Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation meeting one area of focus was on getting agreements in place for upcoming projects with the Park District. He was encouraged that those agreements are being put in place and by how they will affect next steps for the skate park, dog park and mountain bike trails planned at Strawberry Hill Park and on the adjoining 10-acre property that was donated.
- Commissioner Glosser said he attended the Labor Day picnic at the Moritani Preserve hosted by the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation and his read is that BIPF staff is operating on all cylinders just as Park District staff has been.
- Commissioner Glosser spent last Saturday at the Park District booth at the Farmers' Market which was a fulfilling and positive experience.
- Commissioner Glosser met last night with members of the Battle Point Astronomical Association and the Battle Point Night Skies Alliance regarding their opposition to the proposed lighting of the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park. He conveyed to them his understanding of their concerns as well as his understanding of the concerns of members of the Bainbridge Island Football Club who support the proposal. They asked him how his fellow board members felt about the issue, and he told them he does not know as he is precluded from having those conversations by public meeting laws. He let them know that from his perspective, no matter what happens, one side will be upset given the requests that are likely going to be made. The board wants people to feel like they are being heard and he noted the difference between being disappointed in an outcome versus being angry about it. For some of the people involved the conversations that were had when the artificial turf fields were originally built are still highly salient and he hopes that the conversations happening now are a more fulfilling experience.
- Commissioner Glosser said that he is the only one in his family not currently enrolled in a Park District program.
- Commissioner DeWitt said that the renovated KidsUp! Playground has been a success for the community and has been very popular since its reopening.
- Commissioner DeWitt said that tomorrow is the 30-year anniversary of the vote to purchase the Department of Natural Resources property that is known as the Grand Forest. 83% of residents voted in favor of the purchase which is still the highest approval rate recorded for a vote regarding the Park District.
- Commissioner Janow said that she attended the City of Bainbridge Island's Planning Commission meeting regarding a proposed affordable housing development last week. She thinks it might be interesting for the board to weigh in on political topics that impact the Park District and asked what that might mean for the Park District. She will be meeting with School District Board President Lynn Smith regarding the need for affordable housing on Bainbridge Island for employees. Executive Services Manager Helen Stone spoke eloquently at the recent Planning Commission meeting as a resident from the human perspective of what it means to be able to live on the island. Commissioner Janow said this is not an issue where the Park District should sit on the sidelines. She is not sure how the Park District would approach weighing in on this topic but personally it is important to her as well as to the viability of the island and to the Park District in terms of staffing. Three finalists for the Bainbridge Island Swim Club Head Coach position turned it down because the salary does not enable employees to live on the island, and she knows the School District has had similar issues. There will be another Planning Commission meeting next week on the proposal and she encouraged people to weigh in and have their voices heard to help make the island viable, sustainable, and accessible to people with various income levels.
- Commissioner Janow has been talking with Bob Ross about an opportunity for doing a monthly What's Up Bainbridge podcast with Executive Director Terry Lande.

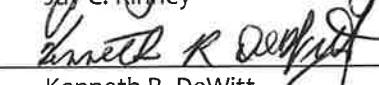
- Commissioner Janow said that after the Trails Advisory Committee meeting was canceled this month she got an email from one member of the TAC suggesting that they continue to meet even if there are no pressing agenda topics to have more global conversations about trails.

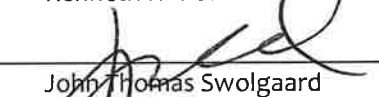
MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:34 pm.


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

BY:   
Dawn Janow

BY:   
Jay C. Kinney

BY:   
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY:   
John Thomas Swolgaard

ATTEST:   
Asaph Glosser