

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING NOVEMBER 18, 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:** Item 80.0, written communications, will be moved to 60.3. There will be a ten-minute Executive Session at the end of the meeting for personnel.

**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 November 4, 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
11/09/21	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund 310 Land Acquisition Fund	22017-22051	106,123.96	11/09/21
11/18/21	001 General Fund	Pre-approval	79,506.92	

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 2021-09: 2022 GENERAL FUND BUDGET:** Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said this is the third time the 2022 budget has been publicly presented to the board. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: Move to approve Resolution 2021-09 the 2022 General Fund budget.** Commissioner Janow noted that she has been looking at the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center monthly user numbers and wants to congratulate staff on integrating BIRC into Park District programming so smoothly and effectively. Commissioner Kinney gave kudos to staff for bringing on the BIRC facility and figuring out how to run it in such short order.

**RESOLUTION 2021-10: 2022 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BUDGET:** Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said there has been one change to this budget since the last board meeting. Funding for Williams-Olson Park was added under donations as the project is being funded by the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation. On the proposed Capital Improvement Plan for 2023-2027 staff added a note to make it clear that it is subject to change. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: Move to approve Resolution 2021-10 the 2022 Capital Improvement Fund budget.** Commissioner Kinney noted that in the 2022 Capital Improvement Fund budget there is \$200,000 from tax funds budgeted for tennis courts. Amy Swenson said there is also \$200,000 budgeted to be received from donations for tennis courts.

**RESOLUTION 2021-11: 2022 LAND ACQUISITION FUND BUDGET:** Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said there are no changes to this budget from the prior two meetings. There is \$500,000 earmarked for the Bainbridge Island Land Trust’s purchase of the Rockaway Bluff property, hinging on the condition that the property is transferred to the Park District.

There is \$100,000 budget for miscellaneous trail easements. **MSC: DeWitt/Glosser: Move to approve Resolution 2021-11 the 2022 Land Acquisition Fund budget.**

**RESOLUTION 2021-12: 2022 TURF FIELD REPLACEMENT FUND BUDGET:** Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said this is money the Park District receives for artificial turf field rentals and sets aside for annual maintenance and eventual replacement. Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said the artificial turf field annual maintenance is a deep cleaning which sanitizes and cleans the field and makes all the fibers stand upright. When the Park District installed the field in 2008 the manufacturer said to expect to replace major parts of the carpet within eight to nine years and that has not become necessary yet. Commissioner Janow emphasized the existence of this fund and the impact it has on maximizing the lifespan of the field. Commissioner Glosser said it also underscores the relationships with the artificial turf field user groups and builds a long-term safety net in the event of larger expenses down the road. **MSC: DeWitt/Glosser: Move to approve Resolution 2021-12 the Turf Field Replacement Fund budget for 2022.**

**RESOLUTION 2021-13: 2022 SALARY SCALE:** Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said the 2022 salary scale represents a 4% cost of living adjustment for all staff in 2022. Commissioner DeWitt said the pay scale accounts for the change in the minimum wage. **MSC: DeWitt/Kinney: Move to approve Resolution 2021-13 the 2022 salary scale.**

**RESOLUTION 2021-14: 2022 REGULAR PROPERTY TAX LEVY ASSESSMENT:** Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said this resolution allows the Park District to collect property taxes in 2022. It authorizes a levy of 75 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value and includes 1% to account for any changes in assessed property value before the end of 2021. **MSC: Glosser/Swolgaard: Move to adopt Resolution 2021-14.**

**RESOLUTION 2021-15: 2022 BOND LEVY TAX ASSESSMENT:** Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said that this levy is for the 2015 voter approved bond for Sakai Park. **MSC: DeWitt/Kinney: Move to approve Resolution 2021-15 the 2022 Bond Levy Tax Assessment.**

**2022 BOARD MEETING DATES:** Executive Director Terry Lande said there are no conflicts with the regular first and third Thursday board meeting dates in 2022. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: Move to approve the regular board meeting dates for 2022.**

**IN-PERSON BOARD MEETINGS:** Executive Director Terry Lande said the goal is to move to hybrid in-person and Zoom board meetings starting January 6. Board members and staff would be expected to be present in-person unless they were out of town. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said he has done research about how hybrid board meetings will work and plans to have all the details to share at the next regular board meeting should the board want to pursue hybrid meetings. Commissioner Janow said she would be interested in hearing more about how to make sure that the in-person meeting room does not become overcrowded. Mark Benishek said the primary location staff has identified for in-person board meetings is the large exercise room at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center. If the board is expecting a large crowd the meeting can be moved to the gymnasium at BIRC. Commissioner Glosser said the optics of the board meeting in-person without the public present are not good and making sure that the Park District does not run afoul of open public meeting laws is important. Mark Benishek said staff will do research to make certain the plan adheres to open public meeting laws and will follow up on that issue at the next board meeting. Commissioner DeWitt said Park District board meeting attendance has exceeded room capacity before and that should not be a limiting factor. Commissioner Glosser said for Bainbridge Island School District board meetings members of the public must notify the School District by 4:00 pm the day of the board meeting if they want to make a public comment. If something like that is implemented the board and staff will know the volume of public comment that will be received, if not the amount of people who will be attending. Commissioner Swolgaard said that is a great idea as it would give insight regarding how long the meeting would last. Commissioner Janow said that looking into how the School District is handling public comment is a good idea and speaks to

a larger conversation regarding continuity between agencies. Commissioner Glosser said the other thing to think about is what the display looks like on the Zoom platform including who is visible.

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Administrative Division:** Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said there will be a catered holiday party for staff and commissioners on December 3 at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center.

**Park Services Division:** Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said the contractor for the Battle Point Park pond dam repair has begun work and made significant progress. The overflow pipe has been installed and backfilled and they will be sealing the bottom of the existing pipe tomorrow at which point the dam will be secure. The responses to the original request for proposals for the mountain bike trails came in higher than expected and the project will be relaunched as a request for qualifications. Four responses have been received from the request for qualifications regarding work to be done on the skate park. Horticulture staff has been busy dealing with fall leaves and rain. Work is being done on the new cabins being constructed at Fay Bainbridge Park. The City of Bainbridge Island's meeting regarding Lost Valley was well done, well attended, and seemed to be well received. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said he filed the final grant report for the Recreation and Conservation Office grant for Sakai Park. Staff has requested that RCO lift the \$100,000 retainage in this case as it is a letter of retroactivity grant.

**Recreation Division:** Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said Active Adult Program Manager Sue Barrington is in the process of submitting the 2022 Washington Recreation and Park Association grant request for half a million dollars. Community Outreach Coordinator Emily Swift is preparing for the Holiday at Fay event which will be held the second and third weeks of December. Marketing Coordinator Allie Smith has been working on the winter/spring recreation catalog which usually hits mailboxes the weekend before Christmas. Winter/spring registration will be on January 5. Aquatic Program Administrator Megan Pleli is in the process of training new lifeguard candidates. She is also interviewing for the open head guard position at the Aquatic Center. New Bainbridge Island Swim Club Head Coach Kyle Harris started work last week. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said there are now just under 1100 monthly user accounts at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center. Cycling classes are on hold until 2022 due to an instructor who is recovering from major surgery. Classes using the Pilates reformers will be starting in January. There are 217 kids signed up so far for the winter basketball program. Adult open gym restarted in the lower Bainbridge High School gym this past month. Three new pickleball nets were bought for BIRC. A session of mountain biking classes just started. A new Agents of Discovery program will be starting soon in which participants will use a cell phone app to play games. After-school chess club has 72 kids enrolled. Two new instructors have been hired for the Eagledale Pottery Studio. The gymnastics department is in the process of hiring a new coach.

Commissioner Janow said she really appreciates these reports as they help to understand the entire scope of everything that is going on around the Park District.

## **WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Commissioner Janow said there have been a lot of pro and con emails received by the commissioners recently regarding the proposed lighting of the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park. She and Executive Director Terry Lande met with Bainbridge Island School District Board President Lynn Smith and Superintendent Peter Bang-Knudsen regarding their plans for installing additional artificial turf fields at Bainbridge High School. The first step is that the School District is looking to replace the artificial turf on the football field. The second step is looking at installing artificial turf on the softball and the baseball fields. While it is known that there has been a lot of urgency surrounding the proposal for lighting the artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park, it would be prudent to wait and see what other viable options there are. Commissioner Kinney said that replacing the football field turf does not add anything and that turfing the softball and baseball areas does not add

anything usable for soccer and lacrosse groups. He asked if the School District is talking about installing artificial turf on the large area to the north of the baseball field and the east of the softball field. Terry Lande said he is suggesting that the baseball and softball fields be turfed from the backstop to the outfield fence which would make room for other sports to practice in the off season. Installing artificial turf on the field area in the northeast corner of the BHS campus would be a third phase. Commissioner Kinney asked if lighting is being considered on the potential additional artificial turf fields at BHS. Terry Lande said the School District is entertaining the idea of lights but waiting to see what will happen with the fields first. The Park District is collaborating with the School District very intensely. Commissioner Kinney said it would be better to have lighted fields at BHS than any other location on the island. He said it does not make sense to move forward with lighted artificial turf fields on any Park District properties if the School District is putting them in on the BHS campus. The Park District may even participate in the School District's endeavor. Commissioner Janow said it is important to her and the Park District for community organizations to come together to find solutions to community needs. Commissioner Swolgaard said maybe there is a way the Park District can help the School District move the process along whether that means help financially or with labor. Commissioner Glosser said that parking is not an insurmountable issue but thinking about implications on Park District programs will be important. It will also be important to meet the full needs that potentially exist between school sports, club sports, and non-profit sports groups. He asked if Park District programs need lighted artificial turf field space. Terry Lande said parking would have to be worked out, as it would be an issue around the Aquatic Center. Agreements for use of the fields would have to be worked out for November-February. Park District programs were not part of the discussion surrounding the need for lighted artificial turf fields. He stressed that initial discussions have just begun with the School District, and nothing has been formalized.

Commissioner Kinney said his favorite idea for the long-term is an artificial turf field between fields one and two at Strawberry Hill Park. While lighted artificial turf field space at BHS is option one in his mind, if it does not work out the Park District may want to look at Strawberry Hill Park. Commissioner Swolgaard said lighting at Strawberry Hill Park is limited by a conditional use permit with the City of Bainbridge Island and would have to be renegotiated with a public process. Commissioner Janow encouraged everyone to stay tuned and said it is premature to make any decisions until there is an actual proposal. Commissioner Kinney said there is a need for additional lighted artificial turf field space on the island and that it is just a matter of figuring out the best long-term solution.

Peter Murchie, President of the Bainbridge Island Football Club, said he appreciated the conversation tonight. He clarified that the proposal for lighted artificial turf fields will come from the Year-Round Fields Coalition which includes lacrosse, soccer, and ultimate frisbee groups. He said they are working very hard to make sure their message stays positive and constructive and that by having people write emails to the board they were trying to show in a productive way that folks support the issue. He said their goal is to have lighted artificial turf fields open on the island as soon as they can. They are open to alternatives to Battle Point Park, but they need them to be viable.

Commissioner DeWitt said with very few exceptions every communication, from both sides of the issue, has been very polite and sincere.

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

- Commissioner Glosser said his sense is that a few meetings ago the board directed staff to present two different options for a COVID-19 vaccination policy for employees. One of the options was to include the opportunity for employees to opt for weekly COVID-19 testing in lieu of being vaccinated. His read is that there are a few ways to move forward. One option is for the board to do nothing and if the Occupational Health and Safety Administration's emergency temporary standard (ETS) is not blocked by the courts the Park District will implement that, in which case the Park district does not take the flack for implementing a policy. Another option is to look at the ETS and implement something similar now without waiting for the ETS, which is currently held up in the court

system. Yet another option is to implement the policy originally presented to the board, which at the time seemed to reflect his crude understanding of the sentiment of the board members. His preference is for the Park District to decide based on both what it thinks the community wants and what is safest for the community. Commissioner Kinney said that before adopting any policy he would like to confirm that there is a scientific consensus that vaccinated people are in fact less likely to spread COVID-19 than unvaccinated people. Terry Lande said on the agenda for the December 2 regular board meeting the intent is to present to the board two options, one with a COVID-19 vaccination mandate for employees and one with a COVID-19 vaccination mandate and an option for weekly COVID-19 testing for unvaccinated staff. Both options would have medical and religious exemptions. Commissioner Glosser said that regarding the possibility of a vaccine mandate for participants, it would be important to implement it before the next registration opens and to centralize responsibility and not make individual frontline staff members responsible for enforcement of that policy on a day-to-day basis. It may be beneficial to invite a public health official to the next board meeting to talk about COVID-19 including how vaccination for COVID-19 affects transmission.

- Commissioner Glosser said his ten-year-old child finished swim lessons this afternoon and it is great to be back in the Aquatic Center.
- Commissioner Glosser said he was out jogging in the Grand Forest and heard screams of delight from the children in the mountain bike class.
- Commissioner DeWitt said that a few board meetings ago he mentioned the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the vote to buy the Department of Natural Resources land that is now the Grand Forest. This Saturday, November 20, is the 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the dedication of the Grand Forest.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he attended the City of Bainbridge Island's recent Lost Valley presentation. It was a good discussion opener but there is a lot of work left to do.
- Commissioner DeWitt congratulated the Bainbridge Island Water Polo Club's high school boys' team for winning the Washington State championship.
- Commissioner DeWitt congratulated the Bainbridge High School girls' swim team for winning the Washington State championship.
- Commissioner DeWitt congratulated the Bainbridge High School girls' swim team head coach and former Park District commissioner Kristine Cox on the team's win.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said Connie Mahnken passed away this morning. He was a great guy, and a friend of the Park District.
- Commissioner Swolgaard asked about the request for qualifications process for the Strawberry Hill Park concept plan. Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said staff is waiting until there is more information available regarding the skate park renovations and mountain bike park construction so that information is on hand to work with.
- Commissioner Janow said she was at the Park District booth for the last Farmers' Market of the season, and it was an awesome opportunity to engage with the community.
- Commissioner Janow said she sent everyone a link to the most recent podcast regarding the Park District and encouraged everyone to listen if they do not already know how integral the Park District is to Bainbridge Prepares. She highlighted the relationship between the Park District and Bainbridge Prepares as it both fosters and strengthens the health of the community.
- Commissioner Janow encouraged other board members to join her in volunteering at Holiday at Fay.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** to a two-minute recess at 7:48 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:50 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:50 pm


**MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:50 pm for discussion of personnel with announced time to reconvene at 8:00 pm.

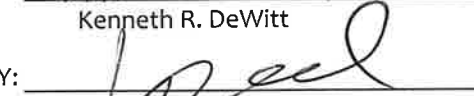
**MEETING RECONVENED** at 8:03 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 8:03 pm.

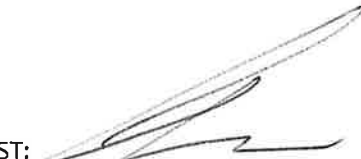
Helen M. Stone  
Terry M. Lande  
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN  
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY:   
Dawn Janow

BY:   
Jay C. Kinney

BY:   
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY:   
John Thomas Swolgaard

ATTEST:   
Asaph Glosser