

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING JUNE 2, 2022
HYBRID MEETING**

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

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Remove agenda item 40.1, the Strawberry Hill Park Proposal from Dave Johnson.

MISSION STATEMENT: Commissioner DeWitt 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

Mary Meier, executive director of the non-profit formerly called the Bainbridge Island Parks Foundation said the non-profit is now called the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation. The name change has been made to highlight what they have been doing all along by working with the Park District to acquire and connect trails throughout the community. The BIPTF is looking forward to working with the Park District for years to come and creating a well-connected system of trails throughout the island.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the May 19, 2022 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Goodlin/Janow: 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
05/17/22	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	23060-23099	39,554.48	05/17/22
05/24/22	001 General Fund	23100-23136	99,672.44	05/24/22
	001 General Fund (May Payroll)	EFT & 2972-2979	474,274.51	

GENERAL BUSINESS

HAYASHIDA EASEMENT: Executive Director Terry Lande said that when the 10-acre addition to Strawberry Hill Park was bought by the donor who gave it to the Park District in 2021, the Hayashida property owner had to allow for an access easement to it through their property. There is an 80–100-year-old historical building on the Hayashida property that extends partially into the easement. When the 10-acre property and the easement was acquired, Terry Lande told the Hayashida property owner they did not need to tear down the building, even though it is partially in the easement. The Hayashida property owner is now asking for the easement to be vacated, as it reduces the price of their land, which they are planning on selling. When the 10-acre property was bought it was said that the board may consider reducing the size of the easement in the future. Staff does want to keep the easement in place for bicycle, pedestrian, emergency vehicle, and maintenance access. There are four options being presented to the board tonight: 1) leave the 30-foot easement as is, 2) reduce the 30-foot easement to a 15-foot easement, 3) leave the 30-foot easement but include in its entirety the historical building which currently sits partially in the easement, and 4) leave the 30-foot easement and exclude the historical building

in its entirety from the easement. The easement goes through two properties, the Hayashida property and the Woehr property. Commissioner Janow asked if the Woehr property owners are okay with the easement as is. Terry Lande said the Woehr property owners are okay with the easement. Commissioner Swolgaard asked how big the Hayashida property is. Commissioner DeWitt said it is 3.68 acres. Commissioner Goodlin asked if the historical building is outside of the 10-acre property. Terry Lande said yes that the historical building sits on the Hayashida property and is only partially in the easement. Commissioner Goodlin synopsized that a 30-foot easement would support a road and a 15-foot easement would support a trail. Commissioner Swolgaard said he does not know how the easement can be vacated, as it is public property. Commissioner DeWitt said it could not be done for free. Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation Executive Director Mary Meier said there is a donor agreement with the person that donated the 10-acre property that says that it will remain in perpetuity and not be sold. Commissioner Janow said that is an important point, the 10-acre property was donated to the Park District with that easement in place, and therefore she is not inclined to change it. Terry Lande said if the Hayashida property owner is concerned about the 30-foot easement reducing the price of their land, a 15-foot easement will likely also reduce the price of the land. Commissioner Janow said that there was a generous donor that bought the 10-acre property for the Park District and if the Park District starts changing what was donated that is not good faith on the Park District's part. Commissioner DeWitt said he would want to get an opinion from the donor. Commissioner Janow asked why the Park District would try to put together a different solution when this is here and done. Commissioner Swolgaard asked if there is access to the 10-acre property from Cherry Lane and Terry Lande said yes. Commissioner DeWitt said there is also an easement from Gregg Farm Lane. **MSC: Janow/Swolgaard: Keep the easement as it is written.** Commissioner Goodlin asked if staff has an opinion about whether there is a potential future use for the easement in question. Terry Lande said there is potential future use for the easement for bicycle and pedestrian access to Strawberry Hill Park. Commissioner Janow said the easement would be valuable for construction and maintenance of the mountain bike trails. Commissioner DeWitt said it could also be used for emergency access.

BOARD MEETING FORMAT DISCUSSION: Executive Director Terry Lande said as of June 1, meetings subject to the Open Public Meetings Act are no longer required to be held virtually. Board meetings can now be held entirely in-person if that is preferred by the agency. Commissioner DeWitt asked what the staff recommendation is. Terry Lande said removing the virtual component will save resources as IT Manager Skye Carlson will no longer be required to attend board meetings. His opinion is if you have an issue that is important to you that you should show up to a board meeting in-person. Being on camera emboldens people, and personally he likes the idea of face-to-face communication. Commissioner Swolgaard said he prefers in-person board meetings. Commissioner Janow said she prefers in-person board meetings but if there is a huge community issue she would like the option to have the flexibility for a virtual component. **MSC: Janow/Swolgaard: Move to in-person only board meetings except in the incidence where there is large public interest, and those board meetings would be publicized.** (Nay - Goodlin). Commissioner Goodlin said he prefers to be in-person at board meetings but there are times when he cannot attend in-person, so he likes the flexibility of the virtual option. Having the virtual component also allows commissioners to attend board meetings while they are out of town. He would keep the virtual component but will go with the majority vote. Terry Lande said this would not prohibit commissioners who are out of town from participating virtually in board meetings, as arrangements could be made to facilitate that.

RENAMING OF WATERFRONT TRAIL: Commissioner DeWitt said that Charles Schmid passed away about a month ago and that he was a leading proponent for the Waterfront Trail and steadfast in his support and advocacy for that trail. Commissioner DeWitt has spoken with the City of Bainbridge Island Mayor Joe Deets and he is in favor of renaming the trail. The City Council is going to have this topic on their agenda for discussion on June 14. Linda Schmid, Charles Schmid's widow, approves of the renaming of the Waterfront Trail. **MSC: Swolgaard/Janow: Direct staff to work with the City of Bainbridge Island to develop a joint resolution to rename the Waterfront Trail the Charles Schmid Waterfront Trail.** Commissioner Swolgaard said Charles Schmid was an outstanding member of the community, a wonderful person, and he

will be sorely missed. Commissioner DeWitt said the Waterfront Trail would not be where it is if it were not for Charles Schmid. This is a great opportunity to show the Park District and the City working together on a common goal.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Administrative Division: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said that there are 1,086 paid Bainbridge Island Recreation Center memberships, which does not include all the individuals on each membership. There were 681 Silver & Fit and Silver Sneakers visits at BIRC in April.

Park Services Division: Senior Planner Perry Barrett said the City of Bainbridge Island has asked him to be part of the selection process for the consultant who will work on the Sound to Olympics trail. The Recreation and Conservation Office held non-scored presentations for grant requests. He presented the sail float replacement grant request and has received commentary back regarding that. Staff has been moving forward with permitting for the sail float replacement. Perry Barrett asked the board to give permission to Executive Director Terry Lande to sign the shoreline permit and other documents for the sail float replacement project. **MSC: Janow/Swolgaard: Authorize Executive Director Terry Lande to sign the state grant local and state permitting, papers, and documents for the sail float replacement at the Waterfront Park dock.**

Executive Director Terry Lande said recreation staff is in the middle of interviewing for summer hiring while also working on the fall program catalog. The pump track at Battle Point Park is being rebuilt by the Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance in trade for use of the mobile stage. Cabin five at Fay Bainbridge Park is now under construction. Grass is growing quickly, and staff is working hard trying to keep up with mowing. The Ray Williamson pool request for qualifications interviews have been completed. The Dog Advisory Committee meets Monday regarding the expansion of the dog park at Strawberry Hill Park. Park Services is still in the process of hiring staff for the summer. Park Services is still short a full-time construction position and a part-time construction position with retirement benefits. Several staff members are out with injuries or for surgeries. Horticulture Manager Dave Davis is doing a really good job. Natural Resources Manager Lydia Roush is wonderful and knowledgeable. Staff is working on an upcoming public relations campaign regarding healthy forests. There are three current public records requests. Commissioner DeWitt asked Terry Lande to explain why the Hilltop meadow has not been mowed. Terry Lande said staff does not mow meadows until the end of June or early July due to birds nesting in the grasses.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Goodlin said he has requested a review of trail classification by the Park District. Staff indicated at a prior meeting that all trails are multi-use because that is what the board has determined in the past. He asked that the Trails Advisory Committee or staff or some combination of the two refresh the board on what the trail classifications are that the Park District has and what other options there might be.
- Commissioner Goodlin said he met with Bainbridge Island Land Trust representatives including Executive Director Cullen Brady, Board President Sally Hewett, and Board Vice President Jenny Lange. There is recognition that the missions of the Park District and BILT are different, yet there is a lot of overlap between the groups, and he is interested in keeping good communication going with BILT. One thing that BILT has been doing over the last decade is acquiring properties and holding on to them. There has been some discussion of turning over Rockaway Bluff to the Park District. BILT is currently working internally on what kind of trails they are comfortable with having while also managing conservation on property. Commissioner Goodlin said he is keenly interested in a north/south multi-use trail to make connections through the Rockaway Bluff property. He suggested that it may be helpful to have two members of each board meet on occasion to find common ground and make progress. The BILT representatives asked if the Park District would entertain having a trail easement on a BILT property rather

than having the property transferred to the Park District. Cullen Brady said he is trying to do more outreach and would be interested in working with the Park District on that. It was a good meeting, and Commissioner Goodlin hopes that an arrangement can be made to meet with BILT board members. Executive Director Terry Lande asked if BILT felt there were deficiencies in communication with the Park District. Commissioner Goodlin said he does not think there is any concern there, but they would embrace improving communication to the extent possible. He encouraged the Park District to do what it can as there are a lot of overlapping areas of interest between the two organizations.

- Commissioner Janow said she took a field trip with staff to Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park where they walked the new mountain bike trails. They saw the construction and the care that Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance takes from both an environmental standpoint and a user standpoint. She was very impressed and cannot wait to see what they come up with for Strawberry Hill Park. Executive Director Terry Lande said what was impressive to him was how aware Evergreen is of the environment and how many people were enjoying the mountain bike trails mid-day on a weekday. Commissioner Janow said there are both machine-built and hand-built trails. When mountain bike trails were being talked about in Grand Forest North there was some concern about removing trees, which could not be further from the truth. The hand-built trails are maybe three feet wide; they weave around trees and do not even disrupt the roots. It will be helpful to be able to talk to the community about what these trails look like, how they are used, and how they are constructed to improve drainage and runoff.
- Commissioner Janow said she is excited about the next phase and the direction of the newly renamed Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation.
- Commissioner Janow said the Walks with Commissioners program is starting again soon. This program offers community members an opportunity once a month to walk and speak with commissioners one-on-one in an informal setting.
- Commissioner Janow asked what staff is doing regarding preparing for a mass shooting incident given the events of the last couple of weeks. She said the Park District would be remiss to not prepare for a situation in one of its buildings.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said that preparing for a mass shooting is a tough issue, but it is a big concern, and he agrees with Commissioner Janow.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said he went for a hike in Grand Forest West recently and could not see very well when he was trying to turn back onto the road due to vegetation growth along the road. Executive Director Terry Lande said staff will look and trim back the vegetation as needed.
- Commissioner DeWitt said that he attended Charles Schmid's memorial. It was well attended, and people are looking forward to getting the Waterfront Trail renamed in his honor.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a six-minute recess at 7:09 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:15 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:15 pm.

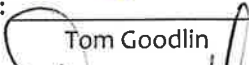
MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:15 pm for discussion of real estate with announced time to reconvene at 7:35 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 7:35 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 7:35 pm.

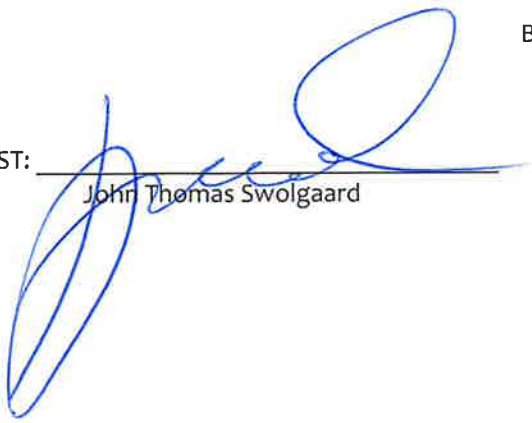
Helen M. Stone
Terry M. Lande
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

BY: 
Tom Goodlin

BY: 
Dawn Janow

ATTEST: 
John Thomas Swolgaard