

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING JULY 7, 2022
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER**

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

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Remove item 100, the executive session.

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.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the June 16, 2022 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: On page four, line 8, replace "then" with "than."

GENERAL BUSINESS

REVISION OF RESOLUTION 2022-04 THE COVID-19 POLICY FOR EMPLOYEES AND VOLUNTEERS: Executive Director Terry Lande said a board member asked if this policy should be reviewed, and so it is being brought back before the board tonight. Commissioner Janow said that she thinks it is time to simplify the policy and that the weekly COVID-19 testing currently required for staff who are not vaccinated for COVID-19 could be discontinued at this time. She asked if a lot of employees test positive for COVID-19 during the weekly testing. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said there have been some positive tests, but the vast majority are negative. Commissioner Kinney said there has been an uptick in the number of people contracting COVID-19 recently and the current variant is very contagious. Commissioner DeWitt said that he talked to some hospital nurses and what they told him is that they are seeing a small uptick of people coming in with COVID-19, but people who are sick are not going into the intensive care unit and most are sent home to recuperate. Conditions are not as dire as they were even three to five months ago. He asked how many employees are currently having to test weekly for COVID-19. Staff replied that there are 8-10 employees getting tested weekly. Commissioner Janow said she was the commissioner who wanted to revisit the policy because she was asked by a staff member how long the testing will continue. Terry Lande said the testing does not solve the problem, because just as many employees who are vaccinated for COVID-19 are contracting it as are those who are unvaccinated. Commissioner Goodlin asked if there is any guidance from the Kitsap Public Health District or the state on this issue. Terry Lande said he thinks the state has stayed on the same course, which is that their staff is required to be vaccinated. Commissioner Goodlin said King County stopped the vaccine requirement for restaurants and bars. Commissioner Janow asked if there is still a mandate for the Park District that new hires be vaccinated for COVID-19. Terry Lande replied yes, to be hired into the agency at this time a person must be vaccinated. Commissioner DeWitt asked for clarification on who pays for the weekly testing. Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said that if an employee has an exemption from the vaccine requirement the Park District pays for the cost of testing. Commissioner Kinney said if those who are vaccinated and boosted against COVID-19 have the same chance of becoming sick with the virus as those who are unvaccinated, then there is no reason to have just the unvaccinated employees tested. Either all employees should be tested or none. Commissioner Swolgaard said COVID-19 is not as severe for those who have been vaccinated and Commissioner DeWitt said the numbers are showing that is true. Terry Lande said that whether a person has been vaccinated or not, they are susceptible to catching COVID-19. Commissioner Janow said whether you are vaccinated or not you can still be contagious, so testing just the unvaccinated

employees is not solving anything. Commissioner Goodlin asked if there are problems with the current policy. Terry Lande said the reason it came up is because employees who are unvaccinated are not happy that they are still getting tested.

MSC: Kinney/Janow: Modify Resolution 2022-04, section 5 regarding testing, strike it to not require tests of any employees effective immediately.

Commissioner DeWitt said Terry Lande brought up a situation regarding whether a part-time employee who is unvaccinated for COVID-19 is eligible to transfer into a full-time position. To him, that is an operations decision not a board decision. Terry Lande said the way staff has interpreted the policy is that an unvaccinated part-time employee can be promoted to a full-time position because their status as an employee was in place prior to the policy. Commissioner DeWitt said he thinks that amending this would complicate the issue. Amy Swenson said the current masking policy is to follow the CDC guidelines. Commissioner DeWitt said nothing needs to be changed related to masking. Terry Lande asked if the vaccine mandate for new employees should remain. No commissioners objected.

Commissioner DeWitt asked if the board wants to keep section two in the policy regarding time off for employees to get vaccinated. Commissioner Swolgaard said the policy does not include time off for booster shots. Commissioner Kinney said the board should think about giving time off for booster shots and mandating booster shots. Commissioner Goodlin said he thinks in principle mandating booster shots is a good idea, but he has not heard of anyone doing that in practice.

Commissioner DeWitt said what could be done is granting time off for booster shots as well as for the original vaccination.

MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: Amend section two, Cost and Time Off for Vaccination, to read, "A Worker who requests time off to get vaccinated and/or boosted shall be granted a paid half-day off for each required dose, and, if need be, up to two paid days off to recover from adverse effects of the vaccination and/or booster, which time off shall not reduce any accrued sick or vacation leave."

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Services Division: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said cabin five at Fay Bainbridge Park is under construction. Park Services lost a maintenance coordinator this week, so there are multiple open positions currently posted. Park Services is struggling to hire seasonal staff. The first session of Student Conservation Corps is underway. Trails crew is finishing up at the Bolero trail easement and will be moving to work on the farm trail next week. Park Maintenance I Nino Dosono will be retiring in November. Staff with Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance will be on site the week of July 17 to layout routes in the bike park area at Strawberry Hill Park to share with the bike park committee. Park Services has a new mower.

Executive Director Terry Lande said there is a lot going on at Strawberry Hill Park and this would be a good time to review that if the board has any questions. Commissioner Goodlin asked if construction for the bike park will start next fall. Dan Hamlin said it will start no earlier than next spring. The skate park committee will be finishing up their design soon at which time it will be brought to a public meeting. The Strawberry Hill Park request for qualifications should be wrapped up around the end of the year. Fencing for the dog park renovation should start before the end of the year. Construction on an artificial turf field would start no earlier than next spring. Commissioner Janow asked if the stakeholders for Strawberry Hill Park have been brought together yet. Dan Hamlin said staff has not yet had a meeting with all the stakeholders, but all the groups are aware of all the other work going on. The biggest impact will be between the dog park and the bike park. Terry Lande said that while the plans may be completed for different areas of Strawberry Hill Park at the same time, what is constructed first will depend heavily on which groups have completed fundraising. Commissioner Kinney asked about the plan for two new tennis courts in the park, one of which was to be paid for out of the Capital Improvement Fund budget. Dan Hamlin said the tennis community reported that their fundraising goal for the second tennis court has almost been met.

Commissioner DeWitt said the Hayashida property sold, so there are new property owners adjacent to Strawberry Hill Park. Commissioner Swolgaard asked if the new owners are aware that the Park District has an easement across that property. Commissioner DeWitt said it is in the deed. Commissioner Janow asked if anything has been done to address the horse waste problem in the Grand Forest. Dan Hamlin said he will reach out to the equestrian community and let them know about the concern. Commissioner Janow asked if garbage cans can be placed at all trail heads, as people are currently leaving bags of dog waste along the trails. Terry Lande said that people will put their household trash in the garbage cans. Dan Hamlin said Park Services is still short staffed. Commissioner Janow asked that the issue be brought to the Dog Advisory Committee. Commissioner DeWitt said it is an issue with people's behavior. Dan Hamlin said just putting a garbage can in is not a solution, a public education campaign is needed. Commissioner Janow said she thinks there could be some funny and effective signage. Terry Lande said he will guarantee that if this conversation is had in forty years there will still be these same issues with horse and dog waste. Commissioner Swolgaard said he has noticed that the manure forks in the Grand Forest are missing. Dan Hamlin said they need to be replaced and he will bring that up with the equestrian community as well. Commissioner Swolgaard said the issue should be brought up at the next Trails Advisory Committee meeting. Commissioner Goodlin said he brought up discussing trail use designations as a board a few months ago. He would still like to have that conversation and said it would be worth considering this year.

Administrative Division: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson handed out a draft budget schedule so staff can verify that there will be a quorum for the board meetings during the budget process.

Recreation Division: Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said staff is finishing the fall catalog which will be viewable online July 18 and in mailboxes around July 25. Summer social paddles started last night. The first girls only mountain bike camp starts next week. Bainbridge Island Recreation Center has two new stairmills and two new elliptical machines. There are new basketball hoops in the BIRC gym. The summer session of Walks with the Commissioners starts this Sunday. BIRC membership numbers are increasing. Summer soccer league starts this Saturday. Due to demand, staff is planning to offer private lessons for volleyball and basketball this fall and winter. Parkour and ninja camps went well and were full, as are the ones in August. Youth & Teen Program Manager Shannon Buxton's summer camps are experiencing record participation. Bryan Garoutte said he is thankful for an incredible staff. There will be a Teen Night at BIRC tomorrow night. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said fall registration will begin Saturday, August 13 at 9:30 am. Residents will have exclusive access to register for the first 24 hours. Commissioner Janow thanked staff for having registration on a Saturday, which addresses some of the concerns she has. All eight of Active Adult Program Manager Sue Barrington's programs that kicked off this week are completely full. The Ray Williamson pool closure has been extended until next Wednesday due to unanticipated issues being encountered.

Executive Services Manager Helen Stone said there have been three new public records requests in the last week from Paul Bang-Knudsen, mostly having to do with the investigation regarding Bainbridge Island Swim Club Head Coach Kyle Harris. The first two requests are extensive and are requiring input from Park District Attorney Hayes Gori. Commissioner Goodlin asked if there is a time requirement in which the Park District needs to respond to these requests or if it is as expeditiously as one reasonably can. Helen Stone said there is no specific requirement. Executive Director Terry Lande said one issue is that a requestor's idea of a reasonable timeline is hugely different than staff's idea of a reasonable timeline. Today Paul Bang-Knudsen sent in a third request for all public records requests released in the last six months as well as related correspondence. The records responsive to the requests received from Jennifer Solseng and Jonathan Baas will be released tomorrow. The next installment for Mark Hoffman's request will be released July 22. Next steps will be taken soon regarding the request from American Transparency. Terry Lande said some of these requests are taking months to fulfill and everyone wants the records they request immediately, even though at times staff is required to do third party notice and redactions when there are exemptions. Commissioner Janow asked what these requests cost the agency including staff

time. Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said staff is going to do a better job at tracking that, including attorney fees, because it is getting expensive. Commissioner Janow said unfortunately she does not think this is going to ease up at all. Terry Lande said when people are mad they go after the agency this way. Commissioner Janow said people are mad and it would be interesting to be able to share information about what public records requests cost the agency. Terry Lande said some people are looking for information and requests can vary from reasonable to extreme. Then there are the requestors who are just trying to punish the agency.

Executive Director Terry Lande said last night was the first Sounds of Summer concert at Battle Point Park and there were at least 1,200 people in attendance.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Janow said the Walks with the Commissioners program resumes on Sunday.
- Commissioner Janow said that the music at the Sounds of Summer concert last night was great, and staff did a fantastic job. She said the whole park was busy if you go to Battle Point Park you cannot help but smile and be amazed.
- Commissioner Janow said she and Commissioner DeWitt met with Bainbridge Island Land Trust President Sally Hewett and Vice President Jenny Lange to continue the positive communication between the two agencies. They communicated to BILT that any further conversations about the Rockaway Bluff property will be with the board's Capital Facilities Committee.
- Commissioner Goodlin said that while he missed the last board meeting, after reading the minutes for that meeting he reflected that the focus on natural resources is a great addition to the Park District. He said that discussions, such as the one had at that board meeting, are important.
- Commissioner Goodlin said he recently spent a Saturday morning with staff at the Park District's booth at the Farmers' Market. He handed out trail maps and said that people dropped by with some frequency to say what a good job the Park District does maintaining trails. One person stopped by the booth to say that the Ray Williamson pool at the Aquatic Center really needs to be replaced.
- Commissioner Goodlin said he has been approached by parents on both sides of the issue of the investigation regarding Bainbridge Island Swim Team Head Coach Kyle Harris. He spoke with Executive Director Terry Lande and feels confident that the investigation was both quick and in depth. He appreciated that this issue got the highest level of attention from staff and said it is important to maintain trust and confidence from people who are participating in programming with the Park District.
- Commissioner Goodlin said he was at the 4th of July parade and staff did a fantastic job. Marketing and Communications Manager Douglas Slingerland did a great job with the tree he made for the parade float. After the parade he encouraged Douglas Slingerland to put the tree on display somewhere to help promote the healthy forests campaign. He also liked that seed packets were handed out to spectators along the parade route.
- Commissioner Kinney thoroughly enjoyed the 4th of July parade and said that the Park District float and the seed packets that were handed out were great.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said it was fun during the 4th of July parade when the Park District float went by the announcer's booth, and he thanked staff for their contributions.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said he understands that the North Kitsap School District has closed their pool to the public and asked if that has had any impact on the Park District's pools. His understanding is the City of Poulsbo is planning to build a new recreation facility by Home Depot. Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said there is no pool included in the plan for that facility. Aquatic Program Administrator Megan Pleli said the North Kitsap pool

closure does have an impact on the Park District's pools. Commissioner DeWitt said that sources have told him they are slowly opening the North Kitsap pool back up to the public.

- Commissioner DeWitt complimented staff on the first Sounds of Summer concert last night at Battle Point Park and said it was amazing.
- Commissioner DeWitt said the 4th of July parade was a blast. He thinks the celebration was even bigger than at the last parade which was three years ago.
- Commissioner DeWitt said Pete Saloutos has volunteered to allow the Park District to use of a bunch of his photography portfolios.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS


Commissioner DeWitt said an email was received from the president of the High School Water Polo Club who wants to talk about pool rental fees again. Water polo is a club sport, meaning it is not sponsored by the Bainbridge Island School District and must therefore be treated like any other group renting a Park District facility. Commissioner Kinney said that the president of the High School Water Polo Club wants to go over the issue individually with commissioners. His opinion is that the club has been given plenty of notice, and the board has already decided on this issue, so he will not be meeting with her. Commissioner Janow said she agrees with Commissioner Kinney that the board has listened and given the club plenty of notice. Executive Director Terry Lande said the club has been given one more year of reduced rental rates three or four times.


MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:31 pm.

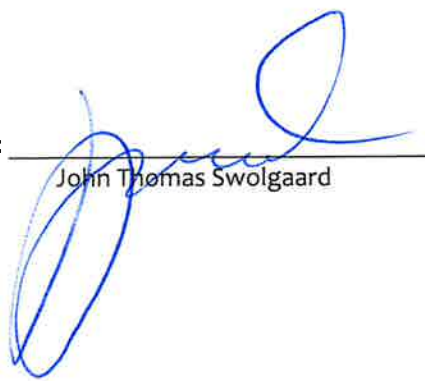
Helen M. Stone
Terry M. Lande
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

BY: 
Tom Goodlin

BY: 
Dawn Janow

ATTEST: 
John Thomas Swolgaard