

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING December 1, 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.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:** Add an executive session for real estate and potential litigation.

**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 hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the November 17, 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
11/16/22	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund 310 Land Acquisition Fund	23965-24024	79,459.05	11/16/22
11/21/22	001 General Fund 005 Aquatics Imprest Fund 310 Land Acquisition Fund	24025-24050 & 335	65,584.63	11/21/22
	001 General Fund (Nov. Payroll)	EFT & 3051-3060	591,507.59	

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**FORT WARD PLAYGROUND:** Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said that adding a playground in the Fort Ward area is in the comprehensive plan. At the July 21 board meeting the goal of a walkable neighborhood playground in Fort Ward was introduced and the board asked the neighborhood to have a community meeting and report back. At the September 15 board meeting neighbors shared what they learned after a neighborhood survey was conducted and a neighborhood meeting was held. At the November 3 board meeting Dan Hamlin reviewed the pros and cons of proposed playground sites one through four. The opposition is worried about increased traffic, limited parking, increased noise, crime, loitering, decrease in property values, having it in their backyard, and felt it was not consistent with the historic designation of the area. Proponents feel it will provide a place to take children and grandchildren, offer a place to socialize with neighbors, be a recreation option that does not require driving, and that it could make the area more welcoming to families. Location considerations surround safety, accessibility, privacy, and proximity to homes. Site one is across Fort Ward Hill Road and the biggest concern is children having to cross the road. Site two is on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds. Site two A is in the middle of the Fort Ward Parade Grounds, site two B is on the parcel adjacent to the Fort Ward Parade Grounds, site two C is on the south end of the Fort Ward Parade Grounds and site two D is on the north end of the Fort Ward Parade Grounds. Site three is on the parcel of land adjacent to the Fort Ward Parade Grounds. Site four is in upper Fort Ward Park and is not recommended by staff due to security concerns. Historical photos of the Fort Ward Parade Grounds were shared showing a

baseball field and a parking lot on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds. Other National Historic sites were looked at to compare allowed uses. Fort Stevens allows camping and all sorts of recreational opportunities including a playground. Fort Flagler has a playground. The Fort Ward historic district was added to the National Register in 1996 and according to the National Park Service, the National Register places no restrictions on what a non-federal owner may do with their property. A representative of the Washington State Department of Historic Preservation replied to a staff inquiry saying that they do not think a playground would have an adverse impact on the site. Regarding local recognition of the historic district, City of Bainbridge Island code does not address the Fort Ward Parade Grounds, in fact documentation shows the Fort Ward Parade Grounds as developed lots. The Fort Ward Parade Grounds exists because neighbors recognized development as a problem and protected it from development as open space and in recognition of historical significance. The transfer agreement from the City of Bainbridge Island, as well as the plat, allow for a playground in the park.

Commissioner Janow thanked staff for the additional research and said she read the board packet and understood the same things that have been highlighted this evening. Quite a bit of time has been spent and due diligence has been done on this topic. She said the Park District has put a significant number of resources, time, and energy into the Fort Ward Community Hall, which is a nod to the historical significance of the area. Commissioner Goodlin said that while the Fort Ward Parade Grounds was barely mentioned in the registration form for the National Register of Historic Places, that he is glad the aesthetic was maintained there of an open area. Commissioner DeWitt said he wanted to clarify that in reference to traffic concerns for site one, the City said it would be hard to install a 4-way stop at Parkview and Victorian Lane due to a bus route.

Mary Dombrowski spoke in support of a playground on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds.

Grant Morgan spoke in support of a playground on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds.

Jessica Malouf spoke in support of a playground on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds.

Charlie Olsen spoke in support of a playground on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds.

Nicole Pond spoke in support of a playground on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds.

Mike Sumsky spoke in support of a playground on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds.

JD Sumsky spoke in support of a playground in Fort Ward.

Sienna Sumsky spoke in support of a playground on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds.

Maple Lombardi spoke in support of a playground on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds.

**MSC: Kinney/Janow: Move to place the playground on spot D on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds.** Commissioner Janow said she has visited the site several times and site two D makes the most sense. She said the mission of Park District is parks and recreation. Commissioner Goodlin said he thinks there is consensus that a playground is needed in the region and site two D makes sense. He said it is great that the Fort Ward Parade Grounds was maintained as open space, but he does not think there is a need to be concerned about altering something historical as the Fort Ward Parade Grounds has already been changed. He has walked the Fort Ward Parade Grounds twice and both times he was drawn to the northern area with existing vegetative screening. He thinks the benefits of providing a walkable playground for the neighborhood outweigh some of the concerns of neighbors who do not want a playground in proximity. He understands the concerns with changing someone's neighborhood and sympathizes, but still thinks the project should move ahead. Commissioner Kinney said that these decisions need to be looked at on the scale of hundreds of years. This is a new neighborhood but there are neighborhoods on the island that are already over 100 years old. Where the playground is placed, it is probably going to stay for decades. The risk of having kids crossing the road to alternative sites is too high to take when there is a safer alternative

on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds. Spot two D is also very central, creating a place to congregate and create community. He understands that some people are worried about the noise, but he thinks it is a reasonable sacrifice to ask for people who live next to a public park. Commissioner DeWitt said he was originally drawn to site one. However, Fort Ward Hill Road is not a safe road for young children to be crossing. It is important to remember this is going to be a tot lot for the neighborhood. Commissioner Janow thanked everyone for their engagement in the process regardless of what side of the issue they are on. Commissioner DeWitt said extensive research has been done on this and he thanked staff for their work. Neither the City nor the state see issues with a playground on this site. Commissioner Goodlin said he heard from so many people opposing the playground on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds that he had been favoring site one. However, given the safety concerns of young children crossing a busy road he thinks it is unwise. He wanted to acknowledge the voices of the opposition and find something else, but he could not, he thinks the Fort Ward Parade Grounds meets the criteria in the best way.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** to a five-minute recess at 6:51 pm with announced time to reconvene at 6:56 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 6:57 pm.

**2023 BOARD MEETING DATES:** Executive Director Terry Lande said there are no holidays that would affect any regular board meeting dates for 2023. **MSC: Janow/Kinney: Motion to approve the 2023 board meeting dates as first and third Thursdays of each month.**

#### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

**Park Services Division:** Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said that Park Maintenance Technician Nino Dosono's retirement party went well, and he will be missed. Cabin five at Fay Bainbridge Park should be opening soon at which time staff will begin work to reopen the Blakely Harbor Park bathroom. Work is being done on installing the benches for the Rotary Club fundraiser project. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said he walked the proposed trail easement west of Blakely Harbor Park with the property owner. He is working with the City of Bainbridge Island regarding the permitting process for Williams-Olson Park. The Park District will be taking the lead on the SEPA process for Williams-Olson Park.

**Recreation Division:** Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said next Monday the winter/spring catalog will be viewable online. Registration will begin on Saturday, January 7. The Eagledale Pottery Studio is holding a pottery sale this weekend. Additional parent/child programming has been added in response to community interest. A twelve days of fitness challenge is going on this month at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center. The youth basketball league has 285 participants. Gymnastics teams start their competition season in the next several weeks. Ski bus driver interviews are underway.

Executive Director Terry Lande said the investigation report regarding Bainbridge Island Swim Club Head Coach Kyle Harris has been redacted in accordance with the applicable exemption. It will be released tomorrow to public records requestors including the two local newspapers. It is the opinion of staff that there is nothing in the report that requires further action by the Park District.

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

- Commissioner DeWitt said that he took part in the recent Trail Work Party which predominantly consisted of cub scouts from Pack 4496 and their parents and leaders, and he was amazed at the work that got done in two hours.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** to a five-minute recess at 7:22 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:27 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:27 pm.

**MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:27 pm for discussion of personnel and real estate and potential litigation with announced time to reconvene at 7:57 pm.


**MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:57 pm and **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:57 pm for continued discussion of the above items, with announced time to reconvene at 8:57 pm.

**MEETING RECONVENED** at 8:57 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 8:57 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