

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING March 16, 2023  
 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER**

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

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

**MISSION STATEMENT:** Chair Kinney 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**

Adam Hunt said that he has made a public records request regarding Sakai Park because he is seeking to understand the status of the Sakai Park planning process which seems to have been abandoned.

Commissioner Kinney said that in April of 2019 a capital cost summary was issued for the Sakai Park concept plan. The total cost for all the buildings was 35 million dollars, 22 million dollars of which was for the field house, site work was 4.3 million dollars. The Park District’s budget is done in the fall and there is about 1.1 million dollars allocated for capital improvement projects each year. Development at Sakai Park has not been addressed because a bond would need to be passed to fund it. Before a bond can be passed design development needs to be concluded and construction documents and permitting need to be addressed. In the fall of 2019, the board was working on the comprehensive plan and a commissioner resigned and had to be replaced in February of 2020. March 5, 2020 was the first board discussion regarding the COVID-19 pandemic, which put a stop to many projects. The opportunity to purchase the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center came up in 2021 which spoke to a lot of the needs addressed by the Sakai Park concept plan. Since then, the board has not really looked at building anything at Sakai Park. Commissioner Kinney thanked Adam Hunt for bringing the issue forward again.

Adam Hunt said he is happy to continue the dialogue and thinks that both demand and support for a bond may be being underestimated. There is already a concept plan and years of public input, and he does not want to disregard all the work that has already been done.

**BOARD CONSENT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the March 2, 2023 regular board meeting, Chair Kinney stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Janow/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
03/06/23	001 General Fund 310 Land Acquisition Fund	25020-25067	157,755.72	03/06/23
03/15/23	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	25068-25163	126,056.95	03/15/23

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND SOUND TO OLYMPICS TRAIL UPDATE:** Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin introduced City of Bainbridge Island City Engineer Peter Corelis. Peter Corelis said there will be about seven miles of the Sound to

Olympics trail on Bainbridge Island, one mile of which has been completed. The consultant firm Parametrix is working on the planning level/conceptual alignments from Madison Avenue to Agate Pass and a 20% design from the Sakai Park connector to Madison Avenue. The planning study approach is to continue where the Sustainable Transportation Plan left off. The conceptual alignments are broken up into segments by characteristics and geography. The scope for Parametrix is to develop two alignments. Challenges along the corridor include critical areas, slopes, fish barrier culverts, right-of-way easements, vegetation, and roadside buffers. Opportunities include cross island trail connectivity, transit stops, Washington State Department of Transportation projects, park lands, and attention to creating a park like experience away from highway noise. An evaluation matrix was created with categories including feasibility, user experience, environmental impacts, capital costs, maintenance, accessibility, destination, visual aesthetics, trees, critical areas, and cultural resources. As an example of alignment options, there is an area near Hidden Cove where a side road could be utilized rather than the STO following the highway. Regarding the 20% design between Sakai Park and Madison Avenue, two routes through Sakai Park have been identified and preliminary layouts on both the west and east sides of the pond have been developed. The full inventory of constraints and opportunities is still pending for further analysis. There is a high sensitivity to vegetation that is going to be disturbed and critical areas. There will be a public engagement event on March 29 to familiarize the public with the process and to identify the values and priorities of the community. An application was submitted February 28 in conjunction with other agencies on the peninsula for Puget Sound to Pacific RAISE grant project funds.

Commissioner DeWitt said the route around the west side of the Sakai Park pond goes onto property that the Sakai family owns and asked if there has been any communication yet with the Sakai family. Peter Corelis said there has not yet been communication with the Sakai family. Commissioner Janow asked if the existing trail on the west side of the pond would be changed and enlarged or if there would be an additional trail. Peter Corelis said that option would take advantage of the existing trail. Commissioner Swolgaard said there was concern about opening the park to the highway by taking trees down on the east side of the pond. Commissioner Kinney said the trees are also a noise barrier. Dan Hamlin noted the alignment on the east side of the pond is not the original alignment that was looked at and said it is laid out to preserve as many trees as possible. Commissioner Janow asked what the next steps are. Peter Corelis said public feedback will help craft future efforts and noted that COBI staff is still waiting for the full constraints and opportunities analysis. Commissioner DeWitt asked about the status of the STO along Meigs Park. Peter Corelis said that the Murden Creek bridge was planned to accommodate the STO on the west side of the highway. He understands there is quite a bit of land between that bridge and Koura Road that is owned by the Park District and progressing that design to 100% is part of the RAISE grant that has been applied for.

**FORT WARD PLAYGROUND UPDATE:** Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said the project agreement with the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation is for the formation of a committee to work on fundraising and development for the Fort Ward playground project on the Fort Ward Parade Grounds. **MSC: Janow/Swolgaard: Motion to approve the project agreement between Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation and the Park District regarding the Fort Ward playground.** Commissioner DeWitt asked where staff is in the playground permitting process. Dan Hamlin said staff has developed a site plan and is preparing to submit the permit soon.

**GRAND FOREST PARKING PLAN UPDATE:** Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said before the site plan is turned in with the permit application staff wants to make sure the board understands the project. There are 11-13 trees which will have to be removed, some of the trees are substantial and will require the permitting process for tree removal. There is the possibility to piggyback this project with another tree removal project to take advantage of trading the material for at least the cost of labor if not for revenue. Dan Hamlin said a critical areas report done for the recent bathroom installation adjacent to the parking lot is being updated and amended after communication with the City of Bainbridge Island regarding the wetland buffer delineation. The parking lot project is about 280 feet from the edge of the wetland and the most

stringent buffer is 150 feet. Storm water management will have to be reviewed. Application materials will be submitted to COBI soon so that this project can be completed this year. Commissioner Janow asked how many parking spaces will be gained in the parking lot. Dan Hamlin said there will be 12 additional parking spots in the parking lot. Commissioner DeWitt asked about the extent of the wetland delineation that has to be done. Dan Hamlin said while it was in the project description, staff needed to add a line to the map marking the delineation. Commissioner Swolgaard noted that parking spots would be lost along the road south of the current parking lot and asked what the net gain is. Dan Hamlin said the net gain is eight parking spots, but the parking lot will be safer and aligned better. Commissioner DeWitt asked if the parking lot needs to be expanded again in the future if there is room for that. Dan Hamlin said yes, the grade will allow for further expansion.

**UPDATE ON CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND EMERGENCY HUB AGREEMENT:** Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said Park Services Superintendent David Harry has been doing a phenomenal job working on this agreement with the City of Bainbridge Island. David Harry said staff from both agencies have been working on this agreement for several years. Hubs provide limited gap filling emergency services during a disaster. There are 13 hubs on the island, six of which are on Park District property. Park District facilities are vital to the emergency response on the island. The Hidden Cove Park dock is a particularly important asset during a disaster as it is the newest and best dock facility on the Kitsap County side of the island. Kitsap County will be relied on for support during a disaster. In an emergency there is a land use agreement and if a hub is activated negotiated rates are activated at standard FEMA rates. Commissioner DeWitt said he did not know there were showers available at Battle Point Park. David Harry said that when the domestic water system and the irrigation system were replumbed from the water tower he plumbed in access points in the tower so that the water tower water can either be chlorinated for drinking water or used for showers. There are portable shower units in the hub storage area at Battle Point Park. He said he has been doing emergency preparedness and response since 1982 and of all the communities he has ever seen Bainbridge Island is the most prepared. Commissioner Janow said the attention to detail is amazing and it is an invaluable resource.

Commissioner Kinney asked who drafted section 3 in the agreement regarding indemnification and limitation of liability. Staff said Park District Attorney Hayes Gori and COBI staff drafted the agreement. Commissioner Kinney said he has been practicing workers compensation law for 39 years. He asked that why item 3C regarding a specific and expressed waiver of workers compensation immunity is included be clarified before the agreement is signed. Commissioner Swolgaard asked if there is an agreement for labor and equipment in an emergency. David Harry said once an emergency number is assigned to an event, anyone who is assigned to the incident becomes an incident employee and their salary is reimbursed by the incident. **MSC: Janow/DeWitt: Motion to approve the interlocal agreement between the City of Bainbridge Island and the Park District for disaster response support with the provision that item 3C is looked at by Park District Attorney Hayes Gori, Executive Director Terry Lande, and Commissioner Kinney.**

**RESOLUTION 2023-03: HONORING PERRY BARRETT: MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: Move to approve resolution 2023-03.** Commissioner DeWitt read resolution 2023-03 aloud. Commissioner Janow thanked Senior Planner Perry Barrett for all he has done and said he will be missed. Commissioner Swolgaard said he remembers when he first attended a Trails Advisory Committee meeting with Perry Barrett and how much fun it was and noted Perry Barrett's enthusiasm. He thanked Perry Barrett for his friendship. Commissioner DeWitt said he remembers the first Trails Advisory Committee meeting that Perry Barrett attended in 1994 and noted that Perry Barrett brought brownies and other treats. Commissioner Kinney said the whole community owes Perry Barrett a great debt. Not only has he been a joy to work with, but his efforts have advanced Park District priorities, and a lot of things could not have been done without his efforts and skill. Perry Barrett said the board members provide spokes to a wheel that moves everyone in the same direction and the synergistic effort has been amazing.

## **STAFF REPORT**

**Recreation Division:** Recreation Division Director Mark Benishek said that All-Day Explorer Camp for spring break is full. The most recent pottery sale generated \$730 in revenue. Aquatic Program Administrator Megan Pleli has resigned, her last day with the Park District will be April 8. There are four lifeguard candidates enrolled in an upcoming lifeguard class. In two weeks, the Aquatic Center is hosting the American Red Cross for their instructor training academy. Aquatic Program Manager Marjorie LeMaster will be finishing her certification for training lifeguards. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said tomorrow is teen night at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center. There are 89 kids and 64 tiny tots signed up for winter soccer. The summer recreation catalog will be viewable online March 31 and summer registration will start Saturday, April 29 at 9:30 am.

**Administrative Division:** Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said the online application and onboarding system is going live soon.

**Park Services Division:** Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said that the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation has been working on a trail easement with Bloedel Reserve. BIPTF Executive Director Mary Meier said one of the Bloedel Reserve's conditions was community engagement and there was overwhelming positive support from the public. The board did not express any reservations concerning the future acceptance of the trail which would connect West Port Madison Road to Dolphin Drive. Commissioner DeWitt said this proposal was on one of the early Trails Advisory Committee plans in 1994 and that sometimes it takes a long time and the right people to get things moving. Dan Hamlin said the BIPTF has done a yeoman's effort for the community. Dan Hamlin said the hazardous trees at Hidden Cove Park, which were identified by two different arborists, have been taken down. Some of the wood is being milled and some is being used for split rail fencing. Executive Director Terry Lande said the Hidden Cove Park neighbors were notified of the tree removal. The trees that were removed were topped 40 years ago which caused them to grow multiple tops, once they were felled the arborist confirmed there was rot in all of them. Dan Hamlin said the new stage truck has arrived and is being prepared for service. Park Services Superintendent David Harry said staff has a permit for the Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve restroom, and he is working on the logistics for installation. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said the public comment period for Strawberry Hill Park has begun. Negotiations continue with the McKeon property owners for a boundary line adjustment to be purchased at appraised value. The Waterfront Park dock extension permit is with the Corps of Engineers and a determination of non-significance has been issued.

## **BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:**

- Commissioner DeWitt attended the recent Trails Advisory Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Janow attended the recent Dog Advisory Committee meeting.
- Commissioner Janow said the Environmental Conference at Islandwood is March 25.
- Commissioner Kinney said the pickleball community is using the multipurpose tennis courts at Battle Point Park quite a bit. The tennis community has been asking for two tennis courts at Sakai Park since about 2018. He is now in favor of two tennis courts being built at Sakai Park. He thinks staff should investigate the possibility of building two tennis courts at Sakai Park including doing outreach with the community and those involved in the Sakai Park planning process. Commissioner DeWitt said it is good timing because there has been talk about reactivating the planning for Sakai Park. Commissioner Janow said she agrees but said there needs to be a comprehensive look at the park before a parcel is committed and that community engagement is important.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** at 7:48 pm.

Helen M. Stone  
Terry M. Lande

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN  
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Jay C. Kinney

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dawn Janow

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kenneth R. DeWitt

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
Tom Goodlin