

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING August 3, 2023
 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER**

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

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add an executive session for litigation for twenty minutes.

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.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the July 20, 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
06/02/23	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	25760-25832	89,765.42	06/02/23
06/06/23	001 General Fund	25833	44,090.24	06/06/23
06/09/23	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	25834-25863	91,567.41	06/09/23
06/14/23	001 General Fund	25864-25898	30,548.16	06/14/23
06/16/23	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	25899-25923	69,093.82	06/16/23
06/21/23	001 General Fund	25924-25960	32,087.55	06/21/23
06/28/23	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	25961-26016	143,900.03	06/28/23
06/30/23	001 General Fund	26017-26021	837.04	06/30/23
	001 General Fund (June Payroll)	EFT & 3128-3139	673,818.53	

GENERAL BUSINESS

GAZZAM LAKE NATURE PRESERVE TO VINCENT ROAD TRAIL STATUS: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said the Park District has obtained easements through the efforts of the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation and through the City of Bainbridge Island to connect Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve through Vincent Road to the end of Kojima Avenue. Kojima Avenue is where the trails that come out of Lost Valley connect. The Vincent Road to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve trail connection is a key portion of the Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve to Winslow trail. Most of the Vincent Road trail connection is not within Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve. There are about 200 feet of new trail that would be within Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve to connect to the Opal Ridge trail. In the 1995 conservation easement on Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve there is language about reserved rights which include trails and viewpoints. The 1996 master plan public process

included a 22-member committee which met 17 times between December 1995 and July 1996. A SEPA was filed on the master plan. The master plan mission statement and the goals and objectives reflect a desire to make sure there was appropriate public use of the site. The Opal Ridge trail was included in the Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve master plan as an existing trail. The committee's notes recommend the Opal Ridge trail extend to connect to the landfill property, which is now referred to as Vincent Road. The wildlife review of the master plan said the proposal provided an appropriate balance between conservation and recreation. The Park District received a grant for the purchase of Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve through IAC, now known as the Recreation and Conservation Office. The grant application included the possibility of a trail connection from the Opal Ridge trail to Vincent Road. Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve has grown significantly since 1995 and the property additions add to the conservation value of the property. The Bainbridge Island Land Trust agrees that the Park District is working within the bounds of the conservation easement and has the right to build this trail. A wildlife study was done on this trail connection plan and there was no evidence the trail would increase adverse effects to wildlife. The trail connection would not violate either grant or conservation easement restrictions.

Commissioner Janow said the proposed trail connection within Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve to the Opal Ridge trail seems to be as short as possible. Dan Hamlin said yes. Potential future actions include a master plan update and formal approval. Multi agency education campaigns are underway for off-leash dog education and responsible recreation. Tonight, staff are seeking approval to move forward with permitting the Vincent Road to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve connection. Commissioner Kinney asked how this trail connects to the trail to Winslow. Dan Hamlin said it connects to Kojima Avenue which connects down to Fletcher Bay Road, and then into Lost Valley, and up to the Charles Schmid Waterfront Trail. Commissioner Janow asked if more than 200 feet of social trails are being closed in Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve. Dan Hamlin said yes. Commissioner Swolgaard said having people on this trail will get people off the roads, so it is good for the public. Commissioner DeWitt asked if Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve was ever officially named. Dan Hamlin said it was not officially named. Commissioner DeWitt said that the opponents to this trail connection have said that it violates the conservation easement. Dan Hamlin said the Land Trust has acknowledged that the trail does not violate the conservation easement.

Mary Meier, executive director of the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation spoke on behalf of BIPTF to support the trail connection.

Steve Matthews spoke in support of the Vincent Road to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve trail connection.

Dave Shorett spoke in support of the Vincent Road to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve trail connection.

MSC: Janow/Swolgaard: Motion to direct staff to apply for all permits necessary for the Vincent Road to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve trail. Commissioner Janow said this trail connection has been in the works for more than thirty years. Many people have been working diligently to provide this opportunity to the community. It has been a long-standing goal for multiple generations on the island. She thanked the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation for helping to make this happen. Commissioner Kinney thanked everyone for their hard work.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a five-minute recess at 6:38 pm with announced time to reconvene at 6:43 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 6:43 pm.

BUDGET PROCESS TIMELINE: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said the budget process timeline was included in the board packet and asked if there would be quorums for the upcoming board meetings dealing with the budget. After some discussion, the board decided to hold a special board meeting on September 28 for budget goals.

STAFF REPORT

Park Services Division: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said Student Conservation Corps wrapped up their second session and will start their third and last session soon. Trails crew rerouted the Hawley Cove Park trail and constructed the Island School trail. Fay Bainbridge Park campground has been full. The donor of the Pritchard Park memorial bench was blown away by the craftsmanship, which is a testament to Park District staff. Staff continue to work on obtaining various permits from the City of Bainbridge Island. Staff are looking to start construction of the Fort Ward Parade Grounds playground in the next couple of weeks.

Executive Director Terry Lande said that since the last board meeting an email has been received from Bainbridge Community Tennis Association stating:

“BCTA board met this weekend to discuss the outcome of the joint pickleball/tennis parks committee meeting on 7/19. We have decided given the clear choice of either sharing the courts at Battle Point Park or building new dedicated tennis courts at Sakai Park that it is in the best interest of the organization that we build new courts at Sakai Park. We understand from Terry’s statement that the Bainbridge parks will continue to support the shared use of the Battle Point Park multi-use courts by both the tennis and the pickleball communities until the courts at Sakai Park are constructed. We believe that this is essential for those members of our community that rely on those courts.”

Terry Lande said that Aquatic Program Administrator Jenette Reneau is in the process of hiring a swim coach for Bainbridge Island Swim Club. The open recreation division director position has been posted for a month and there have been two in-person interviews. Bainbridge Island Recreation Center had 1,661 members at the end of July. Last night was probably the largest crowd ever at a Sounds of Summer concert.

UPCOMING MEETINGS:

A special board meeting is scheduled for September 28.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

- Commissioner Swolgaard said he was approached by a friend who asked why there is no restroom at Pritchard Park.
- Commissioner DeWitt said the Recreation and Conservation Office recently put out a report of survey results for outdoor recreation. Non-motorized access is the number one priority mentioned by people in Washington State. He thinks the Park District is on the right path approving the Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve to Vincent Road trail connection.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he was at the Park District booth at the Farmers’ Market last week.
- Commissioner DeWitt said the Sounds of Summer concert last night was amazing. People were having a great time. As he was leaving, he saw Governor Inslee walk by.
- Commissioner Janow said she attended the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation’s meeting last week.
- Commissioner Janow said she loves the new pictures by Pete Saloutos at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center.
- Commissioner Janow said the Park District is the site partner in bringing the troll to Bainbridge Island. The installation is happening in the next couple of weeks and there should be a troll on the island by the end of the month, if not sooner. The Chamber of Commerce will be sending out a ribbon cutting ceremony invitation.
- Commissioner Kinney said that he heard there is a possibility of a private organization building a fieldhouse and maybe a pool on the island. It is great news. Having extra recreation facilities on the island would be wonderful.

- Commissioner Kinney said next week is the Founders Tournament. There are about 435 people signed up to play pickleball and Battle Point Park is going to be busy as a result. The Park District should keep an eye on this, as pickleball may be outgrowing Battle Point Park. He has thought for a while that at some point pickleball may need to move to Strawberry Hill Park because there is too big of an impact at Battle Point Park. He is curious to see how the summer goes both for this tournament and in general.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a two-minute recess at 7:03 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:05 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:05 pm.

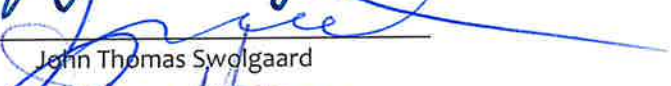
MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:05 pm for discussion of litigation with announced time to reconvene at 7:25 pm.


MEETING RECONVENED at 7:25 pm and **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:25 pm for continued discussion of the above item, with announced time to reconvene at 7:40 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 7:40 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 7:40 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