

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING September 21, 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, Tom Goodlin, Dawn Janow, Jay Kinney, Tom Swolgaard.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:** Add an executive session for real estate and 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 September 7, 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
08/04/23	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	26205-26241	106,451.77	08/04/23
08/10/23	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	26242-26297	45,841.43	08/10/23
08/17/23	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	26298-26367	181,536.16	08/17/23
08/24/23	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	26368-26447	98,508.96	08/24/23
08/31/23	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	26448-26496	124,584.91	08/31/23
09/21/23	001 General Fund	Pre-approval	77,778.34	

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**2023 STUDENT CONSERVATION CORPS RECAP:** Volunteer Program Manager Morgan Houk said 2023 was the 13<sup>th</sup> season of hosting Student Conservation Corps and the largest SCoCo crew the Park District has ever had. Over three sessions 40 teens were hired and three leadership staff. Each session consisted of 18 teens with ten or more teens on the waitlist for each session. SCoCo spent 3,200 hours working in ten parks over nine weeks. More than 175 yards of invasive species were removed, and more than 35 yards of mulch were spread. Two new boot brush stations, which allow park users to remove dirt and invasive weed seeds from their shoes, were installed thanks to a grant from Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation. Boot brush stations prevent the spread of invasive species, which is the most cost-effective way to manage them. There were 21 educational speakers throughout the season which exposed students to various career paths. SCoCo 2024 is going to look a lot like this year with three sessions. Staff recently got word that the Park District received a grant from the Recreation and Conservation Office outdoor learning grant program to fund neurodiverse SCoCo in 2024. The grant includes funds for tools, a tool trailer, and compensation for eight neurodiverse participants and eight peer mentors.

Morgan Houk thanked the two SCoCo financial supporters: BIPTF and the Bainbridge Island Land Trust. Commissioner Swolgaard asked about the waiting list and how it can be resolved for next year. Morgan Houk said the sessions are currently maxed out with how many people can be in a park at a time, but she is brainstorming ideas for additional opportunities, such as the peer mentorship opportunity in connection with the neurodiverse program.

**UPDATE ON FOREST MANAGEMENT PLAN:** Natural Resources Manager Lydia Roush said she has been focusing on getting thinning operations going, working on hazard tree assessments and mitigation, and education. For almost two years staff have been pushing material out to the public about why the Park District is going to be thinning trees and why it is healthy. Timber cruises have been completed at Strawberry Hill Park and Moritani Preserve by Silva Solutions. A logging bid has been prepared with the goal of having one logger for both the Strawberry Hill Park and the Moritani Preserve projects to create a volume that logging companies will be interested in. The plan is to have the logging complete in 2023. The Tolo parcel just across from Grand Forest East has several pockets of laminated root rot; staff has plans to thin that parcel and bring down hazard trees. At Blakely Harbor Park there are trees of concern that staff would like to remove that will require shoreline permits. Hazard tree removals have been completed at Hidden Cove Park and Grand Forest East. Trees have been snagged at Aaron Tot Lot and Pritchard Park. Plans are currently being determined for Madison Tot Lot and the Tolo parcel. The need for hazard tree removal comes with having trees. Snagging trees by cutting them to 20-50 feet and allowing them to rot naturally, is a great option for dead trees to fulfill an ecological purpose. Some of the issues seen in hazard trees in parks include fungus, cankers, and bacterial infections. Laminated root rot is a natural fungus that belongs in Washington State, and it helps to cull over dense forests. Part of the way to alleviate and reduce laminated root rot is by thinning forests to create healthier trees. It is not ideal to have to take down hazardous trees like the ones at Hidden Cove Park, however the trees were milled locally and will be used to build boardwalks. The Suquamish Tribe also got several logs to use for cultural activities. Education has consisted of social media campaigns, posting information on the website, educational talks, banners in parks, and a forestry education breakout session at the Bainbridge Island Environmental Conference. All these opportunities have allowed the Park District to connect with the public and continue to tell the story of what staff are doing, what the goals are, and that the Park District is acting for the ecological health and wellness of parks. Commissioner Goodlin said tagging the trees in advance allows people to recognize something is happening and gives them warning. Lydia Roush said that when staff are working on tree issues, they try to put informational signage in the park and post it on social media.

**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT REVIEW:** Natural Resources Manager Lydia Roush said staff were able to maintain weeds in 21 parks in 2023. The four types of controls for invasive species management are cultural, mechanical/physical, biological, and chemical. The newly installed boot brush stations are an example of a cultural control to reduce the spread of seeds. Other cultural controls used by staff include planting native plants so invasive species cannot take hold and mulching to smother weeds and build up the soil. This year manual removal of invasive species was done by staff, Student Conservation Corps, Earth Corps, and volunteers. Mechanical removal was accomplished by mowing. Biological control was done utilizing goats at Blakely Harbor Park. Chemical applications occurred in ten parks in 2023. Staff tried to bring in more organic products this year with mixed success. Integrated pest management was performed in 21 parks and 16.15 gallons of herbicide and 251 imazapyr shells were used on 3.4 acres of parkland in ten parks. That is less than .01% of parkland that was treated with herbicide in 2023. The imazapyr shells are contained and shot directly into the plant leaving no way for it to come into contact with park users or translocate. To date in 2023, volunteers have donated over 2,000 hours of time to remove invasive species in parks and there are 31 projects left until the end of the year. Having volunteers, contractors, SCoCo, and Earth Corps expands the scope of what staff can do to accomplish goals. There were 18 invasive species targeted this year and there is still an upcoming fall application. Compared to 2022, in 2023 10 additional parks were worked in and three additional invasive species were controlled. Additional cultural, biological, manual, and organic/contained chemical controls were used and follow up treatments were done which helped significantly. Commissioner Swolgaard said

he had a constituent talk to him about how important dandelions are to bees in the spring and that they need to be left alone. Lydia Roush said dandelions are very important to bees in the spring and the Park District does not spray them.

**INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT APPLICATION PROPOSAL:** Natural Resources Manager Lydia Roush said the 2024 integrated pest management proposal is to continue to expand the program to additional parks, to leverage staff, volunteer, and contractor resources, and to monitor for new populations and species. The staff is also focusing on weeds of concern, which are plants that act like invasive species but are technically not listed as such, an example is rocky mountain maples. **MSC: DeWitt/Janow: Move to approve the staff request to apply herbicide treatments for noxious weeds, broadleaf weeds, and species of concern on District properties at 1) known locations, 2) newly discovered locations, 3) sports fields and 4) follow up treatments as necessary through the spring and fall application seasons.** Commissioner DeWitt said he thinks it is great and as a reminder the Park District was the very first agency in Kitsap County to adopt an integrated pest management plan back in 1986.

**FUELS REDUCTION GRANT PARTNERSHIP WITH BAINBRIDGE ISLAND FIRE DEPARTMENT:** Natural Resources Manager Lydia Roush said Bainbridge Island Fire Department approached her to ask if the Park District would co-submit the Ready, Set, Go! Wildfire Grant with them. There is a \$20,000 maximum award and the grant as written is asking for \$18,600 to have Washington Conservation Corps spend three weeks doing fire mitigation projects in parks. There is a 25% match required which BIFD said they would split with the Park District. The plan is for fuel reduction at high use parking areas such as Grand Forest, Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve, Fort Ward Park, and Ted Olson Nature Preserve. The goal is not to clear out all the vegetative material but rather to mitigate the areas where there is the most contact with the public and especially where the public is stationary. Staff are already working to create buffers around every park by thinning things out to create some discontinuity between fuel materials. Commissioner Goodlin asked if chainsaw work is limited or prohibited during the burn ban season in the summer. Lydia Roush said no, but staff try not to do tree work during that season due to the temperature and because of bees. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: Move to approve the fuels reduction grant partnership with Bainbridge Island Fire Department.** Commissioner DeWitt said it is wonderful that the Park District is getting going with this and asked if the City of Bainbridge Island is going to be involved at all. Lydia Roush said she is not sure what COBI is doing for parkland or open areas on this issue. Commissioner DeWitt said it needs to be an effort of all three agencies working together. Commissioner Goodlin said he thinks it is great, but he worries most about fireworks. Lydia Roush said that staff always try to have all the meadows mowed by the 4<sup>th</sup> of July for that reason.

#### **STAFF REPORT**

**Recreation Division:** Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center's 2<sup>nd</sup> birthday bash went well. Fall soccer at Battle Point Park starts this Saturday. Glass fusing classes have been very popular.

Executive Director Terry Lande said a new head coach with 37 years of experience has been hired for Bainbridge Island Swim Club. The pool liner mediation came to a settlement for \$300,000 after failure of the product and the application. Cody Ogren has been hired full time as an adaptive recreation coordinator.

#### **BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:**

- Commissioner Janow said that she noticed the Schel Chelb Park boardwalk has been completed.
- Commissioner Janow said fall recreation program registration went well and gave kudos to staff.
- Commissioner Janow said it would be fantastic for staff to give the presentations they gave tonight at the library for the community.
- Commissioner Goodlin said that he visited the Pritchard Park memorial bench.
- Commissioner Goodlin said he attended a work party at Strawberry Hill Park.

- Commissioner DeWitt asked about the status of the expansion of the parking lot for the Grand Forest West. Executive Director Terry Lande said permitting is underway.
- Commissioner Kinney said the Comcast Property appraisals were exchanged.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** to a five-minute recess at 7:23 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:28 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:28 pm.


**MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:28 pm for discussion of real estate and litigation with announced time to reconvene at 7:48 pm.


**MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:48 pm and **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