

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
SPECIAL BOARD MEETING September 28, 2023
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Tom Goodlin, Dawn Janow, Tom Swolgaard.

MISSION STATEMENT: Vice Chair Swolgaard 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.

GENERAL BUSINESS

2024 BUDGET GOALS: Administrative Division Director Amy Swenson said that 2023 successes include: 1) moving forward with the Ray Williamson pool renovations, 2) settling the Don Nakata pool lining lawsuit, 3) the ADA transition plan is moving forward with more accessibility added for concerts, 4) the minimum suggested reserves are still being met, 5) natural resources program has expanded, 6) Student Conservation Corps has expanded, 7) Bainbridge Island Recreation Center has seen record levels of participation, and 8) the Comcast Property acquisition is moving forward. Commissioner Goodlin asked about the ADA transition plan. Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said that although a few items have been addressed in 2023, the ADA transition plan will be focused on next year. Staff have been working on the plan internally and the board will get a chance to weigh in on it. All Park District properties and facilities will be assessed for accessibility and then prioritized for future Capital Improvement Fund projects. Challenges dealt with in 2023 include: 1) the recall, 2) the cost of utilities and fuel, 3) substantial class cancellations as compared to other years, 4) Bainbridge Island Swim Club issues, and 5) key staff positions needed to be filled. Commissioner Janow asked if there was a particular group of classes that were canceled. Amy Swenson said it was a lot of niche camps. Staff think there are too many camps overlapping and competing and perhaps people are more interested in a generalized recreation experience. Cancellations create a huge amount of administrative work. Commissioner Janow asked about all the household balance refunds that were done this year. Amy Swenson said that part of the reason for all the refunds was changes in Washington State rules regarding holding other people's property. One of the things staff did that is helping was set up the recreation software to automatically pull payments from household credits. Commissioner Goodlin asked if it is true that overall recreation program participation is up. Amy Swenson said yes. Commissioner Goodlin asked if adult classes have had the same cancellation issues. Amy Swenson said other than art classes, adult recreation classes have not had strong participation for a while.

In 2024 Park District tax revenue is going to increase approximately \$441,215. Public Employee Retirement System rates went down by approximately \$30,000. Leadership is planning a 4.5% cost of living increase for full-time and regular part-time staff. Health insurance rates came in at 4.5% above last year.

Staff has numerous goals for 2024. Starting the renovations for the Ray Williamson pool is a priority. Permits are currently being worked on and planning for the shutdown is underway. Staff are researching a bubble for the BIRC pool and whether other pools could be rented to help accommodate programming needs. The Don Nakata pool liner replacement project will require a shutdown of the Don Nakata pool. Staff are currently planning for an adaptive recreation position and that person will assist in coordination of the ADA transition plan. Conversations have begun for a diversity, equity, and inclusion plan. Sustainability is a priority with plans for more electric equipment, environmental education programs, increased efficiency vehicles, and possibly a paperless recreation guide or a smaller version of the paper copy. Other goals include: 1) refine BIRC budget and efficiencies, 2) update the Sakai Park plan, and 3) Battle Point Park artificial turf field replacement. Amy

Swenson said Senior Planner Matthew Keough is researching a grant for the artificial field turf replacement. Commissioner Goodlin asked staff for an estimate of the cost of replacing the artificial turf fields. Dan Hamlin said the cost estimate is 1.2 million dollars. Work will also be done to streamline recreation programming to decrease cancellations and internal competition.


Major Capital Improvement Fund projects planned for 2024 include: 1) construction of Sakai Park tennis courts, 2) replacement of Battle Point Park bathrooms, 3) Eagle Harbor dock extension, 4) Fay Bainbridge Park bathroom/shower replacement, 5) Grand Forest West parking lot expansion, 6) Meigs Park trail construction, 7) Strawberry Hill Park bike area project, and 8) Strawberry Hill Park skate park improvements. Staff are pursuing grants in 2024 for the following projects: 1) Eagle Harbor dock extension, 2) deferred maintenance, 3) artificial turf field replacement, 4) solar energy and sustainability upgrades, 5) HVAC system, and 6) electric vehicle charging stations. An outdoor learning grant has already been received for 2024.

Commissioner Goodlin asked how staff arrived at the proposed 4.5% COLA. Amy Swenson said it is based on the Seattle-Bremerton consumer price index as of June. Commissioner Janow said it is important to her to make sure the Park District has enough infrastructure and people power to continue to serve the community well. Commissioner Goodlin said there has been talk about possible land acquisitions and asked if there is money in the budget for purchasing land. Amy Swenson said the plan is to continue to budget money for trail easement acquisitions. Dan Hamlin said if a land acquisition is decided upon the board can amend the budget. Commissioner Janow said every year she asks for 0.5% of revenue for art in the parks.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 6:43 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