

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING April 4, 2024
 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER**

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

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

MISSION STATEMENT: 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.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Jerry Elfendahl shared that a grandson of Major Hopkins wrote a book about his life. Jerry Elfendahl said that he would like to start a conversation to get Capital Heritage funds to restore the shelters at West Port Madison Nature Preserve.

Edith Cobourn spoke as a representative of Bainbridge Community Tennis Association about getting a sign regarding pickleball players moving the pickleball nets off the shared tennis courts at Battle Point Park when they are done using them.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the March 21, 2024 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: DeWitt/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
03/12/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund 310 Land Acquisition Fund	27544-27603	485,524.27	03/12/24
03/19/24	001 General Fund	27604-27607	26,773.84	03/19/24
03/22/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	27608-27619	10,274.96	03/22/24
	001 General Fund (March Payroll)	EFT & 3273-3284	672,886.74	

Commissioner DeWitt noted that the batch dated 3/12/24 included \$9,660 in attorney’s fees directly related to public records requests. That number does not reflect the staff time related to public records requests.

GENERAL BUSINESS

POTENTIAL RAY WILLIAMSON POOL RENOVATION BOND: Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson said staff does not need a motion tonight unless the board decides to cease moving forward with seeking a bond for the Ray Williamson pool renovation. Staff met with the Park District’s bond counsel Alice Ostdiek who said staff can work on appointing the pro and con committees which would write the ‘for’ and ‘against’ statements in the voters’ pamphlet. Staff are aware of three people who are interested in serving on the pro committee. The required resolution for the potential bond could be approved and signed as late as the May 2 regular board meeting. Alice Ostdiek can attend the April 18 regular board meeting to review a draft resolution with the board. If the board decides to move forward the Park District can hold factual

informational meetings about the bond for the public, but no opinions can be shared. An estimate for what the bond could cost per household was requested. She emphasized that what she is sharing tonight is a rough estimate, and final numbers will depend on assessed values on the island and interest rates. However, a 10-million-dollar bond for 15 years, based on 6% interest, and with the current assessed values on the island is estimated to cost approximately \$60 a year for property valued at one-million-dollars. If the board decides to move forward Alice Ostdiek would encourage the Park District to hire a financial analyst to firm up the estimate. Staff have not heard a huge number of comments from the public, but the comments that have been received include: 1) a lack of understanding regarding the project, for which informational meetings might be helpful, 2) that the opportunity is now, and 3) if a bond is achieved money would not have to come out of the Capital Improvement Fund to pay back a loan. Amy Swenson cautioned that the loan payments that would come out of the Capital Improvement Fund if the Park District moves ahead with Phase II A would only come to about \$350,000 a year. Staff are working on compiling user data for the Aquatic Center. Staff are investigating alternative pool facilities for swimmers to use during the shutdown periods for the renovation as well as creative scheduling, but until a contractor is on board the shutdown details cannot be finalized.

Commissioner Goodlin said if the bond passed it would essentially save about \$350,000 a year on loan payments from the CIF. But, in addition the board elected to spend up to 2.5 million dollars from reserves on Phase I and Phase II A and he asked if that money will have to be spent if the bond passes. Amy Swenson said she believes some of that money will still have to be spent. Also, the final estimate for the construction cost of Phase II B has not been received yet.

Commissioner Janow asked when the Park District will get drawings from Stemper Architecture Collaborative of how an eight-lane pool would impact the deck and the spectator area. Senior Planner Matthew Keough said graphics are being pursued. Commissioner Janow said for the benefit of the people in the audience tonight that the board has already approved funding for Phase I and Phase II A which would repair and upgrade the pool in its existing configuration without asking the public for more money.

Commissioner Janow said one of the questions she asked of staff was to look at comparable communities and how many pools per capita they have. Trust for Public Lands conducted a survey of public pools based on a population of 100,000 and Cleveland, Ohio came in first with about 9,200 residents per pool while Seattle has about 76,115 residents per pool. She noted that Bainbridge Island has three public pools so there are about 8,200 residents per pool. Bellevue has about 75,000 residents per pool. Mercer Island has about 25,000 residents per pool. She has been looking at comparable communities and their pool space in comparison to Bainbridge Island and she wanted to share that information. Commissioner Goodlin said he looked at that survey and the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center pool would not count in that survey because it is not more than four feet deep. Commissioner Janow said there could be an argument that Bainbridge Island is well served by the existing number of pools. Commissioner Goodlin said one must pay attention to what the interests are in the community. In El Segundo, California they have two pools and 16,000 people. There is a whole range, and the community needs should be paid attention to and not necessarily the population.

Maggie Hansen is a Bainbridge Aquatic Masters participant who spoke in support of Phase II B.

Katherine Fort is a user of the Aquatic Center including involvement in various teams and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Travis Crawford has kids who participate in Aquatic Center programs and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Eileen McSherry said her kids participated on the swim and water polo teams and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Joy Archer spoke in support of Phase II B and has volunteered to be a co-chair of the campaign committee.

Rist Atle is on the BAM team and is the parent of a water polo player and he spoke in support of Phase II B.

Alison Craig said her family is a heavy user of the Ray Williamson pool and she spoke in support of Phase II B.

Michael Cyger is a BAM member, his kids used the Aquatic Center, and he spoke in support of Phase II B.

Deb Flynn is a member of BAM and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Jane Stewart is a member of BAM, her kids used the Aquatic Center, and she spoke in support of Phase II B.

Lisa Claesson-Gordon is a member of BAM and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Sherry Cloutier is a Bainbridge Island Swim Club parent and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Shelley Reimer is a lifelong swimmer and she spoke in support of Phase II B.

Rita Belserene is a member of BAM and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Andrea Hunt is a member of BAM and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Chris Houseman spoke to say that Bainbridge Island's income could increase with a 50-meter pool and how much that could impact the whole community.

Gretchen Gende is a BAM swimmer and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Dennis Sawyer is a BAM member and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Tamara Tulou is a BAM member and a diving instructor and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Commissioner Kinney said when the board voted at the last board meeting to seek a bond that was not the final vote, the board will have to pass a resolution to go out for a bond. Traditionally, when user groups get together to build things on the island they bring a lot of money to the table. A bond must get 60% of the vote to pass and it is going to take work by the swimming community to convince a lot of people who do not swim to pay for this. He thinks that if the swimming community can raise a bunch of money, it could defray the costs and it will show the rest of the island that they are doing their part. Commissioner Goodlin said he has had conversations regarding that until there is a bond it is hard to know what fundraising is for. There is not a lot of interest in fundraising for the six-lane refurbishment. The board has yet to initiate a project and approach Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation to see if they would help accept fundraising for this. Currently there is no vehicle with a 501c3 element, and that needs to be set up, although he does not see it happening until there is an actual eight-lane pool project. Commissioner DeWitt emphasized that this is a one-shot deal because the Ray Williamson pool needs to be rebuilt and due to permitting requirement changes, if the construction of Phase II were to be delayed past 2025 because of a bond not passing this August, the project cost would go up by 2-2.5 million dollars. It is going to take a lot of excitement, commitment, and energy to pass a bond. The board and staff cannot be officially involved other than providing information. It will be up to the swimming community to make this happen.

Commissioner Janow thanked the public for coming and said the board hears from user groups all the time about the various needs for space. She would love to see an eight-lane pool and all the other projects happen, but the board does not traditionally go for bonds for these special projects. Her concern is that it is a slippery slope where the board could end up going out for a bond any time a user group brings an expanded project to the board. She asked how the island, as a community, can equitably distribute and share taxpayer dollars. She hopes the bond passes if that is what the board decides to do. But the board has conversations about capital projects all the time, and in her role, she tries to be equitable and is concerned for all the people on the island. She knows that \$60 a year might not be a lot for many people, but it is also not nothing to a lot of people on the island. She is mindful of the mission of recreation and trying to keep the island somewhat affordable.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a five-minute recess at 7:17 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:22 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:24 pm.

POTENTIAL BOND PRO AND CON COMMITTEE SELECTION: Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson noted that this item was covered in the previous agenda item.

STAFF REPORT

Park Services Division: Park Services Superintendent David Harry said work is being done on the stabilization of the building formerly known as the Comcast building and on the Enterprise fleet lease. A septic system replacement bid is out currently for Prue's House and work is being done for a new septic system at Battle Point Park in anticipation of the new bathroom building. The plaques are now installed on the memorial bench at Pritchard Park. Work is needed to move or expand the easement with Puget Sound Energy at Sakai Park for power poles to accommodate the new entrance. Park Services Superintendent Lydia Roush hosted several forestry walks in partnership with Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation over the last several weeks. Tree thinning at Moritani Preserve will begin Monday and is expected to last 1-2 weeks. The Dog Advisory Committee's dog owner education signs are being posted. She is meeting next week with Kitsap Public Utility District regarding power line maintenance and to discuss tree removal and thinning at Grand Forest East. Staff are in discussion with the Bainbridge Island Fire Department regarding a new interlocal agreement for landscaping. Senior Planner Matthew Keough said the Ray Williamson pool renovation permits are in and the bid package is being put together. BIPTF will be taking the lead on a grant for skate park funding from the state.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Madison Collins said the summer catalog will be posted online tomorrow. A job fair will be held on April 15. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said the outdoor department is working to expand programming opportunities for fishing. Open gyms have been popular this year and adult participation is up further than expected. The Eagledale Pottery Studio will have a surplus sale in May. The pool at the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center will be opening on a limited schedule on Monday, April 29.

Administrative Division: Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson said the Park District has not been able to pay the last \$260,000 for the Comcast Property because the attorney for Comcast is waiting for communication from Comcast. However, according to attorneys working for the Park District the property belongs to the Park District and the Park District can do what it wants there. Staff plans to do a press release next week with the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation regarding the Comcast Property. The Comcast building is going to be a nice office building once some work is done and the timing will be dependent on funding availability.


BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

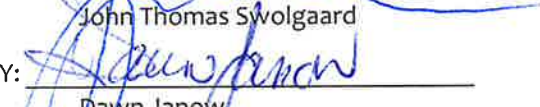
- Commissioner Goodlin said he and Commissioner Janow attended a Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation meeting this week.
- Commissioner Kinney asked if the Comcast building was assessed for mold and other problems. Park Services Superintendent David Harry said when the building was inspected there was no indication of mold and staff have seen no sign of mold. The issue of water in the crawl space is being mitigated. Commissioner Kinney asked what the cost will be to remove the junk from the enclosure where the tower is. David Harry said he has gotten a bid, but it could also be mostly done in house. Commissioner Kinney asked if trees would need to be taken out to remove the tower. David Harry said not necessarily, it can be taken out in pieces or felled like a tree. Commissioner Kinney said the Park District needs to rename the building after somebody or something.
- Commissioner Janow said the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation is now fully staffed, and they are doing a lot to bring up awareness about what they do.
- Commissioner Janow said Stefan Goldby resigned as CEO of the Bainbridge Island Chamber of Commerce.
- Commissioner Janow said the Walks with Commissioners program will begin again in June.


- Commissioner DeWitt said he attended the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation bike park fundraising event at Strawberry Hill Park and it was exciting to see so many families in attendance.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he attended the Chamber After Hours event at the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum. Community Outreach Manager Stephanie Bugas will be reaching out to other commissioners about attending these events over the next several months.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he attended the Commemoration of the 82nd Anniversary of Forced Removal at the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial.
- Commissioner DeWitt clarified that in his comment at the last board meeting he said park zone, but he was referring to park zoning.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said he read some interesting articles in the National Recreation and Park Association magazine. One article was about synthetic fields, and one was about firearm regulation and supports what the Park District has in place.
- Commissioner Swolgaard asked staff to pass on information about participating in the 4th of July parade float and staffing the Park District booth at the Farmers' Market this year.


MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:03 pm.

Helen Stone
 Dan Hamlin
 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
 PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
 John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: 
 Dawn Janow

BY: 
 Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
 Jay C. Kinney

ATTEST: _____
 Tom Goodlin