

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING April 18, 2024  
 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER**

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

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

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:** Add item 40.8 to the end of general business for updating the memorandum of understanding with the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association.

**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**

Tom Kelly spoke in support of covered pickleball courts on Bainbridge Island.

**BOARD CONSENT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the April 4, 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
03/29/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	27620-27648	56,058.78	03/29/24
04/02/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	27649-27674	40,027.13	04/02/24
04/05/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	27675-27706	54,603.95	04/05/24
04/08/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	27707-27708	41,785.07	04/08/24
04/10/24	001 General Fund	27709-27714	27,498.19	04/10/24

**GENERAL BUSINESS**

**NEW STAFF INTRODUCTION:** Creative Services Manager Douglas Slingerland introduced Marketing Coordinator Erin Johnston. Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson introduced and welcomed back Procurement Manager Michelle Miller who has returned to full-time employment with the Park District after seven years pursuing other opportunities.

**DRAFT RESOLUTION FOR RAY WILLIAMSON POOL RENOVATION BOND:** Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson introduced Alice Ostdiek, the Park District’s bond counsel, who drafted the bond resolution. Commissioner DeWitt said the Ray Williamson pool is 54 years old so the two references to the age of the pool in the resolution should be updated. Alice Ostdiek said the draft resolution would authorize up to 10 million dollars of bonds to be issued, with a maximum maturity of no more than 20 years, for the Ray Williamson pool renovation and related capital facilities. The ballot proposition itself

would authorize both the issuance of bonds and the excess taxes to repay those bonds. Financing details would be figured out based on the terms when and if the bonds are issued.

Commissioner Janow asked when the bond will kick in or if it would be incremental. Alice Ostdiek said there is some flexibility. One option is a drawdown loan that could be refinanced after the project is complete. Another approach would be to issue amounts multiple times as needed up to the 10-million-dollar cap. There is no obligation to issue all 10 million dollars. If it is staggered, then the property taxes would come on to people's tax rolls at different times. The related capital facilities referred to in the resolution would cover various items related to the Aquatic Center facility such as the building structure, spectator stands, locker room improvements, or system improvements. That language could be adjusted for more flexibility or to be more specific. Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said Commissioner Goodlin, who could not be here tonight, asked him to bring up the idea of including other support facilities in the resolution to capture the potential for putting a cover over the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center pool in anticipation of the displacement of swimmers from the Ray Williamson pool during closures for the renovation. Commissioner Janow said she would vote not to do that; her concern is what happens if the project exceeds 10-million-dollars. The Park District could potentially be left with an incomplete pool. Commissioner Kinney said as an example, if the expansion project (Phase II B) ends up costing 12.5 million dollars, and the aquatic community is asked to raise 2.5 million dollars but are unable to, the project could revert to the renovation of the current configuration (Phase II A). Alice Ostdiek said there is nothing in the resolution that binds the board to a particular project, it is up to the board to determine the exact scope of the project.

Amy Swenson shared graphics created by Joe McRitchie, who is a member of the aquatic community and an architect, showing how the facility would look if Phase II B were completed. Phase II B includes the two additional lanes and the evening of the pool depth. Senior Planner Matthew Keough first spoke to an overhead rendering of the Ray Williamson pool after completion of Phase II B, which creates a minimal amount of deck space on the east and west sides of the pool. These areas would lose spectator space and only be functional for coaching, refereeing, and passing through. Currently the northeast and northwest corners of the pool deck have storage areas which would likely be replaced with a handicap ramp on one side and space for teams to assemble on the other. Another rendering was shared, which was done without staff expertise, highlighting how a swim meet could be run. Places where spectators could potentially gather after completion of Phase II B were noted including the potential for accordion doors opening to an outside spectator space and retractable bleachers on the north end of the pool. A third rendering showed that Phase II B would shift the pool a bit to the north as well as the proposed 6.5 foot even depth across the pool. This rendering also includes the assumption of the deck being raised up level with the last step of the current spectator seating. This option is respectful of the goal to have a relatively level elevation with the ground outside so that spectators outside would be at the level of the pool. Also, the last step is part of the foundation as it is the basis for the glulam arches. Dan Hamlin said there has been concern about the risk of excavating under the existing tank and only a little less than half of the new pool tank would need to be excavated by no more than two feet.

Orlando Boleda spoke in support of Phase II B.

Ann Marie Borys is a member of Bainbridge Aquatic Masters and spoke about the therapeutic value of the pool.

Steve Louis is a member of BAM and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Joy Archer is the co-chair of the bond campaign committee and asked for a unanimous vote from the board in support of the resolution at the next board meeting.

Ken Bennett is a member of BAM and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Eric Thompson said he is supportive of more lanes but has great concerns about the methodology of this process from an engineering standpoint and said sometimes it is easier to build something new than tear something out and rebuild it.

Bridget Young does not live on the island, but the Ray Williamson pool has been an important part of her family's life, and she supports the improvements.

Brian Fort is the parent of Bainbridge Island Swim Club swimmers and the husband of a BAM swimmer and spoke in support of Phase II B.

Commissioner Janow said she is going to advocate for people not in the room. Taxpayers are already subsidizing aquatic programs to a large degree. While the Ray Williamson pool is busy during prime time, there are plenty of times during the day when the pool is not full. It can be argued that it is not adequate but there are 10 lap lanes at the Aquatic Center. She thinks a bond is a lot to ask of the community and her question is what is needed versus what is desired. The pools Stemper Architecture Collaborative has renovated in Seattle were identical in age to the Ray Williamson pool, so repairing the pool in its current configuration is consistent with other municipalities. The Park District's mission is recreation. She thinks there needs to be a voice that recognizes that this is an expensive and elite community as it is and that advocates for the people who are not able to live here. It has already been decided that the pool will be renovated in its current configuration without asking taxpayers to reach deeper into their pockets. She would love to see this, and other big-ticket projects move forward, which are not without merit. However, as an elected official who represents all islanders, she feels there needs to be a person who is going to recognize the challenges it takes to live here.

Commissioner Kinney said pools are expensive. It is going to cost approximately 5 million dollars just to keep the Ray Williamson pool going in the current configuration and another 5 million dollars for Phase II B. That is money that could be spread around on multiple other projects that will not get funded and being equitable to all citizens and not favoring any one group is a big consideration. He is leaning towards supporting the resolution. One must look at it as spreading the money out over many years. The island's population is going to increase, and this is a way to increase capacity now which will help now and in the future. He is hoping that the aquatic community not only fundraises among themselves but that they sell this idea and get donations from other members of the community. This is going to help the island for several generations, and the chance to do it is now. Commissioner DeWitt said he is leaning towards the bond because he can see more programming opportunities. Even 25 years ago there were waiting lists for swimming lessons. Living on an island, kids need to be able to learn to swim. It is important to have a pool that is more user friendly to groups like water polo. He would like to see a facility that has more utility. It will be up to the community to decide whether Phase II B is going to happen.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** to a three-minute recess at 6:59 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:02 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:02 pm.

**STRAWBERRY HILL PARK CONCEPT PLAN:** Senior Planner Matthew Keough said the public process for the Strawberry Hill Park concept plan started over two years ago. The guidelines for the concept plan were: 1) program spaces, activities, and amenities, 2) improve circulation and accessibility, and 3) coordinate infrastructure and improvements. When the plan was last presented it was noted that field three does not need to be reoriented at this time. However, there is an idea that at a future time there could be a field renovation project. The color coding is meant to show intention and position the Park District to think about future improvements. The circulation plan shown is one potential route, and the commitment is only to add circulation when needed and where it is best. There is concern about the road cutting through the central play area to provide access to Strawberry Hill Center. The sports venue is purposely vague and includes the availability of space for parking and infrastructure to support a sports venue if it were to be built at Strawberry Hill Park. There is flexibility in how a

concept plan gets interpreted, but a footprint is being reserved and it lets the community know what is being worked towards. The perimeter trail was moved further into the property and will require a specific set of development standards.

Commissioner Kinney asked if anything in the concept plan would preclude the sports venue from becoming larger. Matthew Keough said not unless by becoming larger it would preclude something else in the plan that has been committed to. **MSC: Janow/DeWitt: Motion to approve the Strawberry Hill Park concept plan.** Commissioner Kinney said he thinks it is a wonderful place to build more tennis and pickleball courts. Commissioner Janow thanked the generous donor and the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation for their work as a partner in expanding this park.

**RESOLUTION 2024-03: AMENDED 2024 CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND BUDGET:** Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson and Park Services Superintendent David Harry talked through the items in the amended 2024 Capital Improvement Fund budget. The amendment to the budget was driven by the need to accommodate funding for Phase I of the Ray Williamson pool renovation project and for the recent acquisition of the addition to Strawberry Hill Park which has been referred to as the Comcast Property. **MSC: Janow/DeWitt: Motion to approve amended 2024 Capital Improvement Fund budget.**

**PARK PLANNING UPDATE:** Senior Planner Matthew Keough said the City of Bainbridge Island's comprehensive plan update process has put three alternatives for the future of park planning in front of the community in a draft environmental impact statement. The second and third options make space for COBI's intention for park zoning either through a park zone or through park provisions within the code. The preferred alternative has not been decided. The Park District has advocated for years and now there is an expression of intent for park planning or development standards to implement the comprehensive plan vision. Comprehensive plan implementation happens through development code and programs and the Park District would like to see a commitment to outcomes. There is an awareness on behalf of COBI as to why certain things about Park District projects are not making sense. The current code and zone do not speak to parklands. Parks currently fall mostly in rural residential zoning.

**TRAIL EASEMENTS:** Park Services Superintendent Lydia Roush said the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation has been working on trail easements in five zones. All five zones have been identified as desired for increased connectivity between parks and existing trails. She noted that none of these areas are currently open to the public.

The first zone is from West Port Madison to Dolphin Drive and goes across part of the Bloedel Reserve's property. BIPTF will build the trail and plans to work with the community to name it. **MSC: Janow/DeWitt: Motion to approve the acquisition of the West Port Madison to Dolphin Drive trail once the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation completes the build.**

The second zone is Johnson Farm to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve and will require three easements. The Park District may be responsible for building part of the trail but 2/3 of the trail already exists. Property owners are asking that bikes be restricted on the trail. Staff have been clear that while signage will be posted regarding restricting bikes, the Park District does not enforce that. **MSC: Janow/DeWitt: Motion to approve the acquisition of the three easements to complete the Johnson Farm to Gazzam Lake trail connection.**

The third zone is the Winslow ravine west of Deercliff Road. The project developer will build the trail. A goal would be to connect it to John Nelson Trail someday via a bridge across the ravine. **MSC: Janow/DeWitt: Motion to approve the acquisition of the Deercliff trail easement.**

The fourth zone is Nutes Pond north to Sunny Hill which will require two easements. While the BIPTF would permit and build the trail, the Park District would probably be responsible for building some boardwalks and a small bridge, which BIPTF plans to fund. **MSC: Janow/DeWitt: Motion to approve the acquisition of the two easements required to complete the Nutes to Sunny Hill trail connection.**

The fifth zone is Nutes Pond to Fort Ward and consists of five easements which would be transferred from BIPTF as they are secured. **MSC: Janow/DeWitt: Motion to approve the acquisition of the five easements required to complete trail connection from Nutes to Fort Ward neighborhood.**

**PUGET SOUND ENERGY EASEMENT AT SAKAI PARK:** Park Services Superintendent David Harry said the power poles at Sakai Park need to be moved to accommodate the Madison Avenue sidewalk project and so the entryway can be realigned with the entryway to the Aquatic Center. The Puget Sound Energy power pole easement is ten feet wide on each side of the proposed power pole alignment, so some site adjustments could be made. The power pole on Madison Avenue would move about 40 feet south. The second power pole would move about 25 feet further into the park to service the life estate and the remainder of the power poles would stay where they are now.

**UPDATING THE MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING WITH THE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE AMERICAN EXCLUSION MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION:** Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said that item three in the memorandum of understanding has been updated to extend the MOU between Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association and the Park District for 50 years. For grant purposes, over the last several years BIJAEMA has needed to be able to demonstrate they have at least 25 years of tenure on the site. Staff propose this extension, so the MOU does not need to be updated every year. **MSC: DeWitt/Kinney: Move to approve the amended MOU with the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association.**

#### **STAFF REPORT**

**Recreation Division:** Recreation Division Director Madison Collins said the job fair on Monday went well with 60-70 people, mostly youth, attending the event.

**Park Services Division:** Park Services Superintendent Lydia Roush said staff is gearing up for the Earth Day Expo. Moritani Preserve tree thinning will wrap up next week. The Environmental Protection Agency is getting ready to start the riprap project at the Wycoff site for which the lower parking lot at Pritchard Park will be closed.


Acting Executive Director Dan Hamlin said the Park District will have a float in the 4<sup>th</sup> of July parade. The Farmers' Market is not prioritizing non-profit or agency booths this year so whether the Park District will get booth space will be dependent on interest from priority booths. Executive Services Manager Helen Stone completed the refresher training required by the Open Government Training Act for public records officers. Comcast has signed the Stipulated Judgement and Decree of Appropriation. Once it is signed by the judge and the final payment is delivered to the court the Park District will officially own the property.

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

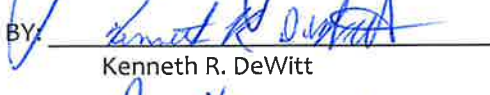
- Commissioner DeWitt said the Finance Committee met twice, once regarding the Ray Williamson pool renovation and once regarding the amended Capital Improvement Fund budget.
- Commissioner DeWitt said things are looking good at Moritani Preserve, which he checked out after seeing a logging truck in Winslow this morning,
- Commissioner Kinney said regarding the tennis/pickleball court area that might be developed at Strawberry Hill Park, at some point the pickleball group is going to want to get feedback about plans for covered courts.
- Commissioner Janow said the Park District continues to grow, and in the recent Finance Committee meetings the topic of what the tipping point is for sustainability in terms of maintenance and staffing was brought up and is something to be mindful of.

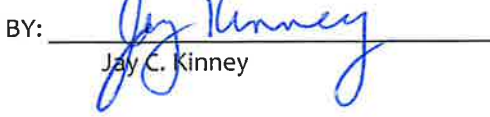
**MEETING ADJOURNED** at 8:23 pm.

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