

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING October 17, 2024
 STRAWBERRY HILL 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, Tom Swolgaard.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Remove agenda item 40.2 and add to board consent the approval of the October 3, 2024 work session minutes.

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

Adam Hunt spoke about the legal process resulting from the recall charges he filed in May of 2023.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the October 3, 2024 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the October 3, 2024 work session, 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
10/01/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund 310 Land Acquisition Fund	28744-28779	424,834.94	10/01/24
10/09/24	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund 990 Pooled Cash – Kitsap County	28780-28818	91,289.95	10/09/24
10/14/24	001 General Fund	28819-28824	21,156.85	10/14/24

GENERAL BUSINESS

PROPOSAL FOR STRAWBERRY HILL PARK FROM BAINBRIDGE ISLAND PICKLEBALL CLUB: Executive Director Dan Hamlin said after Bainbridge Island Pickleball Club’s presentation at the June 6, 2024 board meeting proposing a covered pickleball facility at either Battle Point Park or Strawberry Hill Park, BIPC has decided they prefer Strawberry Hill Park. Staff sent notification to Strawberry Hill Park neighbors that this proposal was on the agenda tonight. Melissa Bang-Knudsen, who is the chair of BIPC, said year-round play is a goal for BIPC. Wet conditions in the winter and heat in the summer both affect levels of play. Strawberry Hill Park is a desirable location due to its proximity to schools, it is accessible to visitors, there are current permits for nighttime lighting in the park, and the park has space for future growth. Jonathan Thwaites talked about high level concept design for the pickleball courts which would be in a covered open-air facility with lighting. The idea is to integrate sustainable principles and regional design.

The proposed location for the facility is the south end of Strawberry Hill Park on the east side of the current entrance. The area is relatively flat, close to existing infrastructure on the site, would keep vehicular traffic from going very far into the park, and would create the least impact from an acoustical perspective. Commissioner Janow asked what kind of trees are in the area currently. Park Services Superintendent Lydia Roush said the forest in that area of the park is overstocked, 98% douglas fir, and in very poor condition. The area needs thinning and replanting as part of a restoration effort. Dan Hamlin noted that whether this project moves forward or not, the forest in that area will need to have forest management practices put in place.

A woman in the audience noted that pickleball is noisy. Melissa Bang-Knudsen agreed and said the pickleball community is aware and there are efforts being made to help mitigate noise including with the design of the paddles and the balls.

Melissa Bang-Knudsen said BIPC is actively seeking a year-round location and is genuinely interested in what the community has to say and wants to secure a venue that the community supports. Commissioner Janow asked what BIPC is envisioning in terms of financial commitment from the Park District. Melissa Bang-Knudsen said BIPC is under the impression they will be doing the fundraising themselves; they would take any support offered such as through grant opportunities. Commissioner Janow asked how an additional covered facility will affect the pickleball courts at Battle Point Park. Melissa Bang-Knudsen said she thinks the shade will be important in the summer and with the growth of pickleball both facilities will be needed.

Jean Sargent said probably sometime in the next decade, after they pass away, their sons will probably sell their 25 acres to a developer and the park will have more neighbors and that should be taken into consideration.

Jack Sargent said he thinks lighting under the roof is a good idea as you can reduce the amount of excess light.

Commissioner Janow said she is on board with the proposition and as the birthplace of pickleball she likes the idea of being on the forefront of providing a cool and environmentally sound building.

Staff will begin to work with BIPC regarding logistics then bring back additional information to the board and keep neighbors informed. Commissioner Swolgaard noted that this will be a long process.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a five-minute recess at 6:57 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:02 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:02 pm.

STAFF REPORT

Park Services Division: Park Services Superintendent Lydia Roush said staff have been busy with Haunted Hayride. Senior Planner Matthew Keough said the leadership team is planning the 2026 comprehensive plan update and staff will soon begin the process of finding a consultant to assist.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Madison Collins said blended lines for two pickleball courts are being added on tennis court four at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center. They will only be used for scheduled programming to support a robust community. Staff will be hosting an indoor pickleball tournament at BIRC in March for which reservations will go live on November 1. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said staff have applied for a grant from Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation for an adaptive pottery wheel. A middle school dance is scheduled for November 2 and is already half full. Winter/spring registration is happening earlier this year, it will be starting December 7.

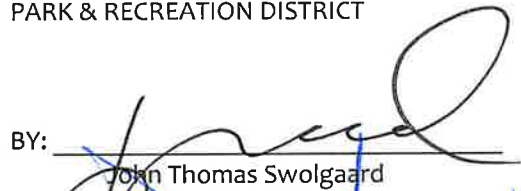
Executive Director Dan Hamlin said it is fun to see the whole staff pull together for the Haunted Hayride. There was a meeting with the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association to talk about the cooperative management agreement with the National Park Service and the interpretive services agreement with BIJAEMA.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

- Commissioner Janow gave kudos to everyone for the Haunted Hayride.
- Commissioner Janow asked about the new Battle Point Park restrooms. Park Services Superintendent David Harry said staff are waiting for the Kitsap County Health District to approve the plans. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said the City of Bainbridge Island will not review the permit application until the KCHD approves the plans.
- Commissioner Janow asked about the status of the west Grand Forest parking lot. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said staff are still assessing alternative sites.
- Commissioner Janow asked about the status of the bike park at Strawberry Hill Park. Park Services Superintendent Lydia Roush said the building permit is approved so work is being done on bid documents and fundraising. A phased build will probably be proposed, and staff are within a month or two of getting the bid out.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said the Personnel Committee is working on updating the job description for the executive director.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:19 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