

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING January 2, 2025
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, Tom Goodlin, Dawn Janow, Jay Kinney, Tom Swolgaard.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Move item 40.4 to the beginning of general business.

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.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the December 19, 2024 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

GENERAL BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2025-01: RENAMING THE BAINBRIDGE ISLAND RECREATION CENTER IN HONOR OF TERRY LANDE:

Commissioner Kinney said this topic was on the agenda last fall and very little public comment was received. It has now been picked up again and public comment has been received asking for additional community involvement. The point of the effort is to honor Terry Lande, this is not a situation where there is a problem with the current name of the building. **MSC: Kinney/DeWitt: Move to table the resolution and direct the executive director to appoint a committee to evaluate possible ways to honor Terry Lande including but not limited to possibly naming a facility such as the BIRC after him and that the committee be directed to report back to the board at the conclusion of its evaluation and if at that time the first option is to name a park, trail, or park facility after Terry Lande that at that time the committee is given further direction in keeping with policy 3100 before bringing a resolution to the board for action.** Commissioner Kinney noted that members of the public have suggested that the Park District adopt the City of Bainbridge Island's naming policy, but the Park District has its own which he finds to be just as good. Commissioner Goodlin said that he supported a committee being formed to evaluate the naming the first time it was brought up. Commissioner Janow said she is in favor of adopting the COBI policy. Commissioner DeWitt said that maybe the Naming Parks and Park Facilities policy should be reviewed but this process should move forward on a separate track.

Lisa Lewis spoke against renaming the BIRC.

Lisa Macchio said she is pleased with the direction the board is now taking and spoke about community outreach.

Ron Peltier spoke in support of a renaming process.

Kevin Knight spoke against renaming the BIRC.

Lisa Neal spoke to say the Park District should look into whether it is allowed to have policies, resolutions, guidelines, or laws that conflict with what the City of Bainbridge Island does.

Mike Schwank said that Bainbridge Island has multiple taxing agencies which can make it difficult for the public to keep track of what is going on.

Theresa Starkman spoke against renaming the BIRC.

Commissioner Goodlin asked when criterion six in the naming policy, which indicates that the use of names of living persons is not preferred, will be addressed. Commissioner Kinney said the policy says it is not preferred, not that it is banned. Commissioner Kinney added that he thinks if you are going to honor someone it is nice to do it while they are still alive to receive the gratitude and enjoy it. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said part of this process will include sharing with the community why this ever became a topic. Terry Lande is an incredible human being and did an incredible job developing the Park District into what it is today.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a two-minute recess at 6:36 pm with announced time to reconvene at 6:38 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 6:38 pm.

BOARD OFFICERS:

MSC: Kinney/DeWitt: Nominate Commissioner Goodlin as Chair.

MSC: DeWitt/Kinney: Nominate Commissioner Janow for Vice-Chair.

MSC: Goodlin/Kinney: Nominate Commissioner DeWitt as Secretary.

MSC: DeWitt/Goodlin: Commissioner Kinney for Treasurer.

MSC: Kinney/Goodlin: Commissioner Swolgaard for At-Large board member.

BOARD COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS:

MSC: DeWitt/Kinney: Move that Tom Goodlin and Dawn Janow be the Governance Committee, that Jay Kinney and Ken DeWitt be the Budget and Finance Committee, and that Tom Goodlin and Tom Swolgaard be the Personnel Committee.

MSC: DeWitt/Kinney: Move to create an ad hoc committee for the comprehensive plan update.

BOARD MEETING SCHEDULE:

MSC: DeWitt/Janow: Move to amend the board meeting schedule to eliminate the July 3 meeting and move the June 19 meeting to June 26.

BOARD POLICIES DISCUSSION: Executive Director Dan Hamlin said a draft version of updated board policies was provided to the commissioners. After discussion and input from the board, Dan Hamlin said he would incorporate it all into a final version. The policies will be brought back for approval at the next board meeting.

STAFF REPORT

Administrative Division: Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson said the administration staff has moved to the new administration building in Strawberry Hill Park.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Madison Collins said winter recreation programs start Monday. Betsy Schairer, who was recently hired for the position of Recreation Program Manager – Art and Enrichment, started work today. So far there are 136 people registered for the first annual indoor pickleball tournament being held in March at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

- Commissioner Janow said that she visited the new administration office at Strawberry Hill Park today.
- Commissioner Janow said she is concerned about the new wide entrance to Sakai Park and Executive Director Dan Hamlin said staff will look into it.

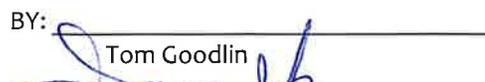
- Commissioner Goodlin noted that at the top entrance to Fort Ward Park there are a lot of cut trees that have been laying there for a while and on the bluff trail there are some blackened ferns that may be diseased. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said he will have staff look into it.
- Commissioner Kinney said he thinks the board should form a committee to investigate possible new names for Strawberry Hill Park. Commissioner Janow asked about updating the Park District's Naming Parks and Park Facilities policy before moving forward and Commissioner Kinney said that is a good idea. Commissioner Janow volunteered to work with Executive Director Dan Hamlin to update that policy prior to review by the board. Commissioner Kinney said most of the comments from the public regarding renaming the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center in honor of Terry Lande were asking for more process. Dan Hamlin said staff think very highly of Terry Lande and what he did for the Park District which was above and beyond. He is not opposed to the process that is moving forward, but Terry Lande's legacy needs to be protected and aggressively defended throughout this process because it is significant. Some of the public comments that have been made are uninformed and flat out mean. Commissioner DeWitt agreed that some comments were not just mean but full of falsehoods and that bothers him because he is aware of what really happened in those instances which were misrepresented. Without Terry Lande's leadership during the purchase of the BIRC it might have stayed a private club, instead it is available for the community to access and is now a key hub for the island's emergency plan.
- Commissioner Swolgaard asked about the status of the Vincent to Gazzam trail. Senior Planner Matthew Keough said a permit packet is in for review.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said one thing that came up tonight is perception of the Park District. People still do not understand that the Park District is not part of the City of Bainbridge Island. There was some discussion about regular communications to everyone in the Park District's database. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said staff are always looking for ways to improve and can do more but noted that nothing is going to cure all the complaints when the Park District does something that someone does not like.
- Commissioner Swolgaard thanked everyone for their support during the last year as he served as chair.

MEETING ADJOURNED to a five-minute recess at 7:46 pm with announced time to reconvene at 7:51 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:51 pm.

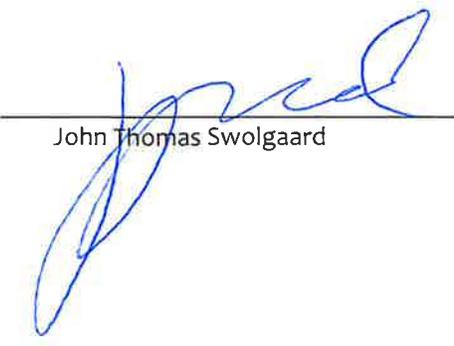
MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:51 pm for discussion regarding consideration of site selection or acquisition of real estate if likelihood that disclosure would increase price per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) with announced time to reconvene at 8:01 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 8:01 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 8:01 pm.

Helen Stone
 Dan Hamlin
 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
 PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
 Tom Goodlin
 BY: 
 Dawn Janow
 BY: 
 Jay C. Kinney

BY:



John Thomas Swolgaard

ATTEST:

Kenneth R. DeWitt