

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING February 20, 2025
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER

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

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add item 40.8 under general business for surplus property.

MISSION STATEMENT: Chair Goodlin 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 February 6, 2025 regular board meeting, Chair Goodlin stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Kinney/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
01/31/25	001 General Fund	29357	52,052.38	01/31/25
02/11/25	001 General Fund	29375-29401	35,397.94	02/11/25
02/13/25	001 General Fund	29402	195.57	02/13/25
02/20/25	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	29406-29456	445,776.05	02/20/25
	001 General Fund (Jan. Payroll)	EFT & 3412-3413	370,617.31	
	001 General Fund (Jan. Payroll Benefits and Taxes)	EFT & 10057-10062	199,190.20	

GENERAL BUSINESS

STAFF INTRODUCTIONS: Park Services Division Director Lydia Roush introduced John Eckert, who has been promoted to grounds program manager and Sierra Kross, who was recently hired as volunteer program manager. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte introduced Betsy Schairer, who was recently hired as art and enrichment program manager.

RAY WILLIAMSON POOL RENOVATION CLOSURE UPDATE: Facilities Maintenance Manager Mike Omans said Phase I of the Ray Williamson pool renovation project is on track and on budget. He gave an update on the work currently being done and said about 6% of the project's contingency budget has been used. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said staff anticipate that the pool closure for the next part of the Phase I project could last through August. Staff are checking with the Washington State Department of Health to see if they will grant permission to reopen the pool between Phase I and Phase II. If not, staff plan to move directly into Phase II. If permission is granted to reopen before Phase II staff are considering proposing to the board that the pool reopen after Phase I and that the Phase II closure begin in May of 2026. This would allow staff to take advantage of the drier months, which would save money on the cost of dewatering. The lower cost of dewatering in the drier months is projected to offset the rise in inflation and would work better for programming. Aquatic Program Administrator Jenette Reneau said staff are prepared to move from Phase I to Phase II but from a programming standpoint

it would be preferable to reopen the pool for fall and winter, which is the busiest time of the year for aquatic programming. Dan Hamlin said Stemper Architecture Collaborative, which is doing the design work, has been instructed to continue to work on project documents as if Phase II is moving forward this year while staff wait for the answer about reopening between phases. Commissioner Goodlin asked if any items require a long lead time for Phase II and Park Services Superintendent David Harry said there are no concerns on lead time for Phase II equipment.

SCHEDULE FOR COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE: Senior Planner Matthew Keough said staff and Framework, the contracted company working on the comprehensive plan update, have developed a general schedule for the project which is currently being refined. Next is the public engagement plan which will define outreach techniques and roles. The process will be highly engaging throughout with the first three months particularly focused on listening. Then the analysis stage will begin, followed by the drafting stage which should wrap up around November. Commissioner Janow talked about inventorying what the Park District does and assessing whether those efforts are being duplicated elsewhere in the community. This is an opportunity to educate the community about what the Park District does. It is also an opportunity to reach those populations that are not currently being reached and get engagement from them. Commissioner Kinney said he thinks the Park District is in good hands with the Framework team, which has demonstrated an ability to listen and will help with public outreach. Commissioner Swolgaard emphasized the importance of the comprehensive plan update and the need for input from the community regarding the direction of the agency. Commissioner DeWitt said he is excited about the approach being taken which is based on engaging the public to assess needs and see if they are being met rather than focusing on static comparisons to other agencies.

RESOLUTION 2025-03: CITIZEN ADVISORY COMMITTEE POLICY: Executive Director Dan Hamlin said the last time the board discussed the development of this policy there was input regarding specifying the number of citizens required on a citizen advisory committee. It was suggested that the policy be updated to say the committee must be an odd number not less than five members, to allow for flexibility for larger committees when and if the board determines that to be appropriate.

MSC: Janow/DeWitt: Motion to pass Resolution 2025-03 adopting the citizen advisory committee policy for the District's policy manual with the amendment discussed adding "not less than five" to the citizen number.

RECOGNITION COMMITTEE: Executive Director Dan Hamlin said 11 people applied to be on the committee to recognize Terry Lande and he has selected seven of them to recommend tonight. On January 17 staff began soliciting committee membership via an email to the Park District's entire email list. The opportunity was also posted on the website, posted on reader boards at the Aquatic Center and the Bainbridge Island Recreation Center, and included in the recent newsletter. Dan Hamlin shared a long list of Terry Lande's accomplishments during his tenure as executive director. Throughout his career Terry Lande went above and beyond. Dan Hamlin listed the seven people he selected to recommend for the committee, how they worked with Terry Lande, and their unique connections with the Park District over the years of his tenure. **MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: Move to approve Patricia Bell, Andrew Maron, David Harrison, Tom McCloskey, Jim Parsons, Ryan Vancil, and Jack Visco for the Terry Lande recognition committee.** Dan Hamlin will serve as the non-voting staff member and Commissioner DeWitt and Commissioner Swolgaard will serve as board liaisons.

DOCK EXTENSION/SAIL FLOAT UPDATE: Senior Planner Matthew Keough said staff have determined that the Park District has 12 more months to pay for the mitigation credits at the current rate under the current permits for this project. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said staff will be engaging with the sailing community and assessing all possible solutions for a replacement for the sail float including various locations. Commissioner Goodlin asked if other user groups would want to share in finding a solution with the Park District and Dan Hamlin said all options are on the table and that will be part of the conversation. Commissioner DeWitt said the comprehensive plan update process is coming along at a perfect time for this as there will be a lot of opportunities for public input.

GRAND FOREST EAST SCHOOL DISTRICT SURPLUS PROPERTY: Executive Director Dan Hamlin shared a map showing the area of the Grand Forest East that is owned by the Bainbridge Island School District. In the late 1980's the Department of Natural Resources announced they were going to sell their property on the island. Through a huge community effort, 240 acres were acquired by the Park District. The School District acquired 39 acres to build a school sometime in the future. Since that time the School District property has been managed by the Park District as part of the Grand Forest East. Most members of the public do not realize that portion is not owned by the Park District. When the School District recently determined it no longer needed the property, a resolution was passed to surplus it and the School District can now engage in selling it. On January 10 the Bainbridge Island Land Trust and the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation acknowledged that the property has been placed on the surplus list and announced their intention to permanently protect it. Since then, the Park District has received inquiries from all three organizations regarding whether it is interested in owning the property. The question before the board tonight is whether to work with BILT and BIPTF to purchase the property through their fundraising efforts. Commissioner Swolgaard asked if the property would stay the same as it is currently. Dan Hamlin said that it will be up for discussion with the various parties involved but that is the intent. Commissioner Janow said her concern would be any easements that might be placed by the other parties on the property that would conflict with existing use. Staff are interested in protecting the existing trails and access to them, possibly increasing parking, and access to the east/west wildlife corridor. There are easements on the property that staff are aware of for the water tower and the communications antenna. Commissioner Janow said it is important for the Park District to be able to perform forest management. Commissioner Goodlin asked what the risk is of the Park District not acquiring the property. Dan Hamlin said the risk is that BILT could become the owner and place a conservation easement without the ability to protect Park District terms for public access or it could potentially even be subject to private development. **MSC: Janow/DeWitt: Motion to approve initiating work with the partners for this acquisition of the Grand Forest East.**

SURPLUS PROPERTY: Executive Director Dan Hamlin said the board is required to approve the surplus of anything the Park District owns with an estimated value of over \$2,500. Tonight, staff are asking for permission to surplus two trucks, a 1995 Ford F-350 and a 1997 Ford F-350, each with an estimated value of \$3,000 or more. **MSC: DeWitt/Janow: Motion to approve staff putting on surplus truck #28 and truck #8 out of the park services fleet for sale of those vehicles.**

STAFF REPORT

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Madison Collins said the transition to Active Net software is still consuming a lot of time. Recreation Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said work on the summer recreation catalog continues.

Park Services Division: Park Services Superintendent David Harry said the crew has been working on the batting cage at Strawberry Hill Park. He is working with Kitsap County Health District on an audit of the Park District's water systems, which happens every two years. Park Services Division Director Lydia Roush said Puget Sound Energy's tap project at the Grand Forest East has started with the corridor along the border of Park District property being cleared, mitigation trees will be purchased to replant there. The Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Day of Service in partnership with the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation was yesterday and there were 60 participants. The bid for building the Strawberry Hill Park bike park is out and there has been a lot of interest. With the City of Bainbridge Island's Madison Avenue improvement project wrapping up staff are focused on getting Sakai Park spruced up. The expanded parking lot at the Deerpath Lane entrance to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve is almost finished. Senior Planner Matthew Keough said the comment period closes tomorrow for the Vincent Road to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve trail and then the City of Bainbridge Island will make a SEPA determination which is a 30-day process.

Executive Director Dan Hamlin said the recent Park District newsletter went out to over 19,500 people and had a 56.7% open rate. The most clicked links were the wildfire mitigation article and the Aquatic Center schedule.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:


- Commissioner Janow said she visited the new parking lot at the Deerpath Lane entrance to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve and it looks nice.
- Commissioner Janow noted that Natural Resources Manager Morgan Houk was recently recognized with an award for all the work she has done.
- Commissioner Janow advised keeping a close eye on what is happening with federal agencies currently as it relates to the National Park Service and in turn the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial.
- Commissioner Janow said after being out of the country for a month she wants to take a moment to acknowledge how fortunate islanders are to have this great Park District and this beautiful place to live and steward.
- Commissioner DeWitt said the recent Chuck Field Memorial Loop Trail dedication in the Grand Forest East had over 20 attendees and it meant a lot to Jane Field, Chuck Field's widow.
- Commissioner DeWitt asked when the board will be getting more information on the ADA transition plan. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said staff are reviewing reports from the pilot sights and giving feedback to establish a template for the evaluations of subsequent sites.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he saw the Kitsap Public Utility District project site at Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve and that it is nice to have additional parking at the Deerpath Lane entrance.
- Commissioner Goodlin said he attended a recent tour of the Ray Williamson pool renovation. It was interesting to see everything that staff does to keep the Aquatic Center running and he appreciates how much work it is.
- Commissioner Goodlin said a member of the community told him how impressed they were at the smooth handling of a recent well pump issue during which staff ensured that programming at the Eagledale Pottery Studio was not interrupted. Another citizen told him how important they think it is to have all the classes and programs that are offered to the community by the Park District.
- Commissioner Goodlin said he recently did an environmental due diligence review for the Bainbridge Island Land Trust of the heron rookery property in Winslow.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:34 pm.

Helen Stone
Dan Hamlin
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
Tom Goodlin

BY: 
Dawn Janow

BY: 
Jay Kinney

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard

ATTEST: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt