

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING January 8, 2026
 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, Jay Kinney, Rachel Pritchett, Tom Swolgaard.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Move general business item 40.4 to directly after item 40.1.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE: None.

MISSION STATEMENT: Chair Goodlin read the 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 18, 2025 regular board meeting, Chair Goodlin stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Kinney/DeWitt: I have reviewed the following vouchers, warrants, and electronic payments and move that they be approved for payment.

Batch Date	Fund Number and Name	Warrant Numbers	Total Batch Amount
12/22/2025	001 General Fund	31286-31292	\$42,807.91
12/31/2025	001 General Fund (December Payroll Benefits and Taxes)	EFT and 10112-10115	\$256,028.34
12/31/2025	001 General Fund (December Payroll)	EFT and 3503-3504	\$420,118.09
1/2/2026	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	31293-31322	\$88,903.43
1/5/2026	001 General Fund	31323-31342	\$46,020.41
	300 Capital Improvement Fund	Pre-approval	\$54,217.80
	300 Capital Improvement Fund	Pre-approval	\$60,525.34

GENERAL BUSINESS

OATH OF OFFICE: Executive Services Administrator and Notary Public Helen Stone administered the oath of office for Commissioner Pritchett for Position 1 and Commissioner Swolgaard for Position 3 on the District’s board for their 2026-2031 terms of office.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN UPDATE: Urban Designer Hope Freije with the consulting firm Framework said she is here tonight to present the draft Comprehensive Plan. The purpose of the plan is to maintain eligibility for grant funding from the Recreation and Conservation Office, gather and document community feedback, measure what the park system is providing and set goals for the future, and to establish a vision and create a tool for guiding decision-making. The plan must be updated every six years to maintain eligibility for grant funding from the Recreation and Conservation Office and will be adapted to serve as the park element for the City of Bainbridge Island’s 2046 Comprehensive Plan. The next update to the District’s Comprehensive Plan will be in 2032. However, the Capital Improvement Fund project list will be updated every year, performance of park assets will be monitored, and implementation items will be enacted. The District will work on the

plan in close collaboration with its partners including Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation, Bainbridge Island Land Trust, Bainbridge Island School District, and the City of Bainbridge Island.

Demographics including age, income, and population density informed the selection of peer communities which were part of the level of service assessment and informed an understanding of needs for facilities and amenities in the future. Park land properties (defined as land that is used for recreation and/or cultural activities) that are owned by the District and partner agencies were identified in an inventory. Assets were separated into system areas which describe how park lands are used and correlate with different levels and types of development, facilities, and programming. Properties can contain multiple system areas.

Community feedback and level of service metrics (previously captured in the minutes of the November 20, 2025 board meeting) were reviewed. Level of service metrics reflected feedback received from the community which indicated a desire for more amenities, to improve existing facilities, and for better access to shoreline. The assessment included assets owned by both the District and its partners.

Level of service metrics lead to the development of roles, goals, and objectives for system areas. Objectives are how the District goes about accomplishing goals. Primary objectives lead to implementation objectives which inform the 6-year capital improvement plan which is related to 20-year implementation initiatives. Capital improvement plan implementation depends on funding. The portion of the District's budget that comes from property tax revenue has declined over time because property tax revenues have remained flat (when accounting for inflation) while revenues from fees and fines have increased to support expenses. It is projected that Capital Improvement Fund funding from the General Fund will decrease over time and competition for General Fund funding will continue to increase. The plan recommends a levy lid lift to secure additional revenue to maintain service levels. Community funding will continue to be a critical part of securing new park land and facilities.

It was noted that the District's current levy lid lift, which was passed in 2022 and raised the levy cap to the maximum of 75 cents per thousand dollars of assessed property value, allowed for the District to collect a percentage increase for five years after the lid lift that is tied to inflation rather than the statutory limit of a 1% increase. It was explained that the statutory limit of 1% means that the number of cents collected per thousand dollars of assessed property value decreases over time because it does not keep pace with increases in property value. Even in the last several years during which the District has been authorized to collect a percentage increase based on inflation the cents collected per thousand dollars of assessed property value has decreased.

Dawn Janow, who served on the Ad-Hoc Comprehensive Plan Committee as a board representative throughout 2025 and is now on the committee as a community member, spoke in support of the levy lid lift becoming cyclical so that it is predictable for taxpayers and community partners.

Commissioner Kinney said he is beyond impressed with the product from Framework. Commissioner Swolgaard commented that this plan is much easier to follow than it has been in the past. Executive Director Dan Hamlin gave credit to Hope Freije and Framework for listening to and applying the comments they received during the process.

BOARD OFFICERS: The board elected officers for 2026.

MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: Motion that the board elect Ken DeWitt as Chair. Commissioner DeWitt abstained.

MSC: Swolgaard/DeWitt: Propose the board elect Jay Kinney as Vice-Chair. Commissioner Kinney abstained.

MSC: Kinney/DeWitt: Nominate Rachel Pritchett as Treasurer. Commissioner Pritchett abstained.

MSC: Kinney/DeWitt: Nominate Tom Swolgaard as Secretary. Commissioner Swolgaard abstained.

MSC: Swolgaard/Pritchett: Elect Tom Goodlin as At-Large board member. Commissioner Goodlin abstained.

BOARD COMMITTEES AND LIAISONS: The board determined board committee members and liaisons for 2026.

MSC: DeWitt/Kinney: Move to approve Ken DeWitt and Jay Kinney as the Governance Committee, Rachel Pritchett and Jay Kinney as the Budget and Finance Committee, and Ken DeWitt and Tom Goodlin as the Personnel Committee.

MSC: DeWitt/Pritchett: Move to approve Jay Kinney and Tom Swolgaard as the ad-hoc committee for the Comprehensive Plan.

MSC: DeWitt/Kinney: Nominate Tom Goodlin and Rachel Pritchett for liaisons to the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation.

MSC: Kinney/Pritchett: Nominate Ken DeWitt and Tom Swolgaard for liaisons to the Trails Advisory Committee.

STAFF REPORT

Administrative Division: Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson said staff are working on the 2024 audit and finishing the salary study.

Park Services Division: Park Services Division Director Lydia Roush said the Martin Luther King Jr Day volunteer event is coming up soon. Staff are busy with pruning and landscape maintenance in parks. Quite a few applications have been received from community members interested in serving on the Trails Advisory Committee. The grand opening ceremony for the trail from Vincent Road to Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve is planned for January 22. Assistant Park Services Director David Harry said the sea level rise forecast structure at Fay Bainbridge Park, funded by EcoAdapt, is complete. Outdoor lighting upgrades are underway in Strawberry Hill Park. Capital improvement projects are being worked on as weather permits.

Recreation Division: Recreation Division Director Madison Collins said winter quarter recreation programs have begun. Registration for spring and summer recreation programs will begin on March 17. There was a tragic incident at the Aquatic Center on December 22. She is proud of the response by District staff to the patron's medical event. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said it was impressive to see the staff putting into action the training they receive on a regular basis. Staff did an incredible job and counseling and other ongoing support is available for staff involved with the tragic incident.

Executive Director Dan Hamlin said that Senior Planner Matthew Keough has put in an incredible effort on the Comprehensive Plan update.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

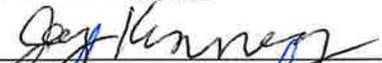
- Commissioner Kinney said Happy New Year and congratulations to the recently elected officials.
- Commissioner Pritchett said she is pleased to be on the board. It is a dream come true to be able to give back to the community. She thanked Executive Director Dan Hamlin for making the transition so welcoming. Working with the staff and the public brings her a lot of joy and energy.
- Commissioner DeWitt welcomed Commissioner Pritchett to the board.
- Commissioner DeWitt attended the entrance interview for the state's 2024 audit of the District.
- Commissioner DeWitt reminded board members to file their Financial Affairs Disclosure Statement by April 15.
- Commissioner Swolgaard thanked Commissioner Goodlin for his work this past year as the board chair.
- Commissioner Goodlin said he has heard from residents near Nute's Pond about the need for parking so that park visitors are not parking on the road shoulder. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said staff will look into it.

- Commissioner Goodlin mentioned a recent communication from a member of the public about placing a safety flotation device on Point White Pier. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said staff will discuss this request with the District's insurance representative and attorney.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:31 pm.

Helen Stone
Dan Hamlin
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

BY: 
Rachel Pritchett

BY: 
Tom Goodlin

ATTEST: 
John Thomas Swolgaard