BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING February 19, 2026
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken DeWitt, Tom Goodlin, Jay Kinney, Rachel Pritchett, Tom Swolgaard.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: None

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE: None

MISSION STATEMENT: Chair DeWitt 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 February 5, 2026 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Pritchett/Kinney: 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
2/05/2026	001 General Fund	31470-31482	$36,650.72
2/11/2026	001 General Fund	31483-31518	$92,724.45
2/18/2026	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	31519-31562	$141,345.37
	300 Capital Improvement Fund	Pre-approval	$95,131.57
	300 Capital Improvement Fund	Pre-approval	$60,525.34

GENERAL BUSINESS

NATURAL RESOURCES UPDATE: Natural Resources Manager Morgan Houk listed accomplishments in the natural resources department since 2021 including 1) restoration forest thinning at Moritani Preserve and Strawberry Hill Park, 2) development of management plans for specific parks, 3) numerous trail development and maintenance projects, 4) growth of volunteer, educational, and Student Conservation Corps programming, and 5) presenting the District's award winning Neurodiverse Student Conservation Corps program at regional and national conferences. In 2026 staff are preparing for 1) restoration thinning and wildfire prevention activities in Grand Forest East, 2) community education programming, 3) planning for and removal of hazard trees at Fay Bainbridge Park, 4) moving forward with a prescribed burn of the Hilltop meadow with grant funding applied for in conjunction with the Bloedel Reserve, Bainbridge Island Fire Department, and Bainbridge Island Land Trust, 5) building boardwalks and doing tread work on the Lost Valley trail in partnership with the City of Bainbridge Island and Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation, 6) rerouting and other trail maintenance in Grand Forest West, 7) planning infrastructure projects at Meigs Park and Sakai Park, and 8) reengaging the Trails Advisory Committee. Executive Director Dan Hamlin added that the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation has a serious interest in these plans and is ready and willing to work with the District on funding.

Commissioner Goodlin said there has been discussion about wildfire prevention education at trailheads and asked if that is part of the plan. Morgan Houk said yes, she is looking into funding opportunities in support of brush removal and wildfire prevention, and education will also be done in relation to the prescribed burn planned at Hilltop. Commissioner Pritchett asked where the District and its partners on the project got the grant for the prescribed burn and Morgan Houk said it is from the Department of Natural Resources.

INTEGRATED PEST MANAGEMENT: 2026 PLAN AND REQUEST: Natural Resources Manager Morgan Houk noted that the District uses integrated pest management to manage terrestrial noxious weeds. The Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board maintains an official list of noxious weeds in Washington State. A range of practices are utilized for integrated pest management including cultural (e.g., not planting invasive species), physical (e.g., work done by Student Conservation Corps), biological (e.g., goats), and chemical. Through consistent herbicide applications over the last several years staff have successfully eliminated poison hemlock at Point White Pier and Schel Chelb Park, eliminated knotweed at Sakai Park and Ted Olson Nature Preserve, and reduced noxious weed populations in numerous other parks. In 2025 cultural practices were used in all District parks including native planting in six parks and mulching in six parks. Physical practices in 2025 included Student Conservation Corps working in 12 parks, volunteers working in 13 parks, and mowing fields in six parks. Chemical controls used in 2025 included applying Triclopyr 3A in nine parks for knotweed and hemlock, Imazapyr shells in two parks for holly, and T-Zone in one park for broadleaf weeds on ballfields. A list was shared of the District parks where noxious weeds are known to exist, species staff would like the opportunity to treat, and herbicides staff are requesting to use as appropriate and as recommended by the Washington State Noxious Weed Control Board for the targeted species. **MSC: Goodlin/Swolgaard: Move to approve application of herbicide treatments for known Washington State listed noxious weeds, species of concern, and yet to be discovered Class A & B Washington State listed noxious weeds on Park District property at (1) known locations, (2) newly discovered locations, and (3) follow up treatments as necessary through the spring and fall application seasons.**

RESOLUTION 2026-01: COMPREHENSIVE PLAN: Senior Planner Matthew Keough said the Comprehensive Plan update presented will be adopted with the board's approval. He noted that the plan's appendices are living documents that will evolve over time. **MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: Move to adopt Resolution 2026-01, adopting the 2026 update of the District's Comprehensive Plan.** Commissioner DeWitt thanked Commissioner Kinney, Dawn Janow (who served as a District commissioner through 2025), Matthew Keough, and all the staff who contributed. Commissioner Kinney thanked Matthew Keough and acknowledged him for going above and beyond.

BOARD RETREAT PRELIMINARY DISCUSSION: Commissioner DeWitt invited Executive Director Dan Hamlin to share his ideas for what to cover at the board retreat this spring. Dan Hamlin said he would propose a presentation at the beginning of the retreat covering 1) what staff in each division of the District are focused on including goals and priorities, 2) what the board's focus is and how to respond to the community, 3) the District budget including reserve balance, future projections, and a timeline for considering a levy lid lift, and 4) major projects and projects that could be picked up again such as planning for Sakai Park and implementing the Strawberry Hill Park concept plan. Commissioner DeWitt said the District has been so successful in expanding that it is time to take a step back and evaluate how to take care of it all. After some discussion the board retreat date and time was set for Wednesday, April 22 at 1:00 pm.

STAFF REPORT

Administrative Division: Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson said staff with the Office of the Washington State Auditor are completing their final review of the District's 2024 audit. There is additional work to be done before giving a presentation to the board on the results of the salary survey.

Recreation Division: Assistant Recreation Director Bryan Garoutte said the recent middle school dance had record breaking attendance with over 150 participants. The spring/summer recreation program catalog will be viewable online starting March 3. Recreation Division Director Madison Collins said staff have been working on planning and hiring for spring and summer programming.

Park Services Division: Park Services Division Director Lydia Roush said the Day of Remembrance Stewardship Event at the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial was today. Staff have recently spread over 600 yards of mulch in parks including Strawberry Hill Park and Battle Point Park. The mulch is from the City of Bainbridge Island and was made from trees that came down on the island over the winter.

Project and Risk Manager David Harry said he is working on capital projects including hosting a recent site visit walk-through for contractors and subcontractors interested in bidding on Phase II of the Ray Williamson pool renovation. Construction of the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Memorial visitor center continues.

Executive Director Dan Hamlin thanked Senior Planner Matthew Keough for his work on the 2026 Comprehensive Plan update. The first Sounds of Winter concert had about 60 attendees. Paul Brainerd, who was instrumental in the establishment of the Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation as one of the District's key partners, passed away last Sunday.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

- Commissioner Swolgaard said he attended the first Sounds of Winter concert, and it was a lot of fun.
- Commissioner Kinney thanked Senior Planner Matthew Keough for his work on the Comprehensive Plan update.
- Commissioner Kinney said there should be a conversation with the Bainbridge Island Swim Club nonprofit about taking a more active role in running the program. It was decided that it be a topic on a future agenda for board discussion.
- Commissioner Goodlin asked if staff have looked into water conservation in parks in the event it is necessary in the future. Executive Director Dan Hamlin said the District does not do a lot of irrigation, typically just ballfield irrigation and drip or targeted irrigation for landscape beds, but it could be a future conversation.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he attended the recent Chamber of Commerce after hours event.
- Commissioner DeWitt said he participated in the Day of Remembrance Stewardship Event at the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial. It was a great group of people, and a lot of work was accomplished.
- Commissioner DeWitt said that Washington State HB 2489, which would have restricted local governments from enforcing camping bans on public property, did not move forward ahead of yesterday's deadline.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:17 pm.

Helen Stone
Dan Hamlin
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: Kenneth R. DeWitt
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: Jay Kinney
Jay C. Kinney

BY: _____
Rachel Pritchett

BY: _____
Tom Goodlin

ATTEST: _____
John Thomas Swolgaard