

BREMERTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of February 26, 2019

Commissioner's Present: Tim Baker, Ben Burnette, Maggie Williams and Pat Watson

Staff Present: Jeff Elevado, Department of Parks & Recreation Director
Colette Berna, Parks Preservation & Development Manager
Steve Mutek, Parks Operation Manager

I. Meeting Called to Order at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Baker

II. Approval of Minutes:

A motion was made to approve the minutes of the January 22, 2019 meeting.
Watson/Burnette (M/S/U)

III. Public Comment: N/A

IV. Business Items:

1) Integrated Program Management Discussion

Mr. Mutek provided overview of current Integrated Program (formally "Pest") Management (IPM) practices including training, control methods (e.g., chemical/preventative/cultural/biological/mechanical), equipment and safety. Most parks maintenance employees have had training in chemical application and four employees are currently licensed by Washington State Department of Agriculture (WSDA) which requires passing an exam and continuing education. Licensed staff also participate in a 12-hour annual training to keep up-to-date with industry standards. Parks maintenance staff typically apply herbicides (i.e. Roundup) to kill weeds in planting beds, along fence lines, cracks in hardscapes, etc. and very rarely use pesticides (has only been used a couple times to kill crane fly larva in lawn). He also discussed IPM's preventative weed control methods including maintaining good soil fertility and making sure turf equipment is clean to avoid transporting fungus (e.g., Red thread, Snow mold) from one stand of grass to another. Fungicides were used in the past but are not used anymore. Each time an area is sprayed with herbicide it needs to be posted with a 3x5 notification card with a number to call if the public has questions.

Mr. Mutek explained that the approach moving forward is to use less chemicals and achieve an acceptable level of control (which requires more tolerance of weeds in the landscape) rather than total eradication. The City of Seattle is restricting use of glyphosate (so it's only being used in limited areas) and they are changing the design of their parks to include less planting areas and more lawn where possible. **Ms. Berna** shared that recent Bremerton park renovations have taken a similar approach to limit planting to small areas and/or steep slopes that can't be mowed (with the exception of wetlands and shorelines which need to be planted). **Director Elevado** added that not only are chemicals expensive but that we have a greater responsibility to the environment to not use as much. **Mr. Mutek** said we also rely on volunteer groups such as the Washington Youth Academy, Kiwanis Club, etc. to help with mechanical control/weeding.

2) Parks, Recreation and Open Space (PROS) Comprehensive Plan

Ms. Berna thanked Commissioners for providing comments on the Inventory chapter of the PROS Plan and asked if there were any more questions. **Commissioner Watson** asked about the proposed Quincy Square on 4th Street which **Director Elevado** discussed. The PROS survey has received 242 responses to date and another advertisement will go out to invite/remind people to take the survey.

V. Staff Reports:

- 1) **Storm Damage - Director Elevado** shared that heavy wet snow caused significant tree damage at various park sites which required a lot of clean up. At Pendergast Regional Park the netting at the softball fields was damaged by snow and the soccer fields and lawn between them was torn up by a vandal driving on it which will cost between \$3-4k in materials and staff time to repair.
- 2) **Kitsap Lake Boat Launch - Ms. Berna** shared that the grant presentation in Olympia was postponed due to the snow storm.
- 3) **Manette Park - Ms. Berna** shared that the slopes will be planted next week followed by the bark being blown in. **Director Elevado** said that the park is getting a ton of use and that the City Council recently took their new group photo there. **Vice Chair Burnette** noted that he visited the park after a heavy rain the previous night and that the tennis court was playable. **Commissioner Watson** asked about the pickleball nets and **Director Elevado** said he is working on figuring out a system so nets can be checked out on the weekend.
- 4) **Misc. Summer Programs – Director Elevado** shared that the Bremerton Garden Club donated \$3k for soil and will be helping to plant the flower baskets soon. The new water truck is currently being built. Softball planning meetings are being held. Picnic shelter rentals are coming in along with special event applications including a larger Bridge Blast event. P-patch gardens registration is coming along with just 5-8 spots left (out of 65).

VI. Commissioner's Comments:

Vice Chair Burnette reported Daddy Daughter Dance was a great event, is looking forward to softball season, and has been spending a lot of time at Manette Park and Lions Park. He asked if Manette Park will be used as a Summer Playground Program site. **Director Elevado** responded yes and he expects it to be very popular.

Commissioner Watson reiterated that Manette Park is looking great.

Chair Baker noted that he and his grandkid recently visited a bunch of city parks, prompted by his grandkid seeing photos in PROS Plan.

VII. Adjournment: **Chair Baker** adjourned the meeting at 6:42 pm.