

BREMERTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of May 21, 2019
SPECIAL DATE

Commissioner's Present: Tim Baker, Ben Burnette, David Hedger, Pat Watson, Maggie Williams and Elizabeth Wrenn

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

I. Meeting Called to Order at 5:32 p.m. by Chair Baker

II. Approval of Minutes:

A **motion was made** to approve the minutes of the April 23, 2019 meeting.
Hedger/Watson (M/S/U)

III. Public Comment: Kyle Rife, a Bremerton resident since 1988, took the PROS survey and came to the meeting to express a desire for more pickleball courts. A group of pickleball players have been regularly playing at the newly renovated Manette Park sports court and the sport is rapidly growing across all age groups. The tennis courts at Lions Park are marked with pickleball lines but can only really accommodate 2 pickleball courts though Mr. Rife felt they could be painted to accommodate 6 pickleball courts on 2 tennis courts using the tennis net. Director Elevado asked Mr. Rife to email him the proposed layout to review.

Richard Nerf, Bremerton resident and former Parks and Recreation Commissioner, said he and his wife are looking to downsize and one of the issues of moving into a condo is that there isn't a place to store their kayaks where they can launch from the beach. Mr. Nerf noticed one of the comments in the PROS survey suggested kayak/boat storage and wondered if this existed. Director Elevado said there are companies that supply kayak lockers and this is being considered at our waterfront parks.

IV. Business Items:

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

Director Elevado provided an overview of the PROS Plan which is required to be updated every 6 years to maintain grant eligibility and sets a roadmap for prioritizing capital projects based on community need and input. **Ms. Berna** presented the PROS plan timeline which included updating the park system inventory (which began last fall) and soliciting public feedback in the form of a survey which generated 365 responses from January-March. The key findings from the survey results were presented and discussed.

In the open-ended comment section of the survey the issue of homelessness and encampments came up frequently. **Mayor Wheeler** commented that the City is working with the prosecuting attorney to move folks along who are camping in parks, hopefully towards housing. Right now there is a 9th District Ruling that says you can't prevent someone from camping in a public space if they don't have a home. However, if the City offers the program to get them into housing and the person squatting in the park doesn't take advantage of it then they can be moved along. The City is currently working on implementing this policy with police training. Another request that

came up frequently in the public survey was the desire for splash parks to cool off during the summer and Mayor Wheeler asked that this be considered.

Staff were pleased with the number of responses to the public survey (365) though Commissioners and Staff discussed ways to get more people to attend public meetings. The survey results, along with the Inventory chapter (which identifies management issues and improvement recommendations for each park/facility), are available for the community to review online. After the meeting a comment form was added to the website and advertised through email blasts and social media. A 2nd public open house will be held in the fall after the first draft of the PROS Plan is completed.

V. Staff Reports:

- 1) **Director Elevado** shared that 210 flower baskets just went out and we just got our new water truck in but are working on resolving some issues with the water pressure so it can be efficient during this dry spring/summer season.

- 2) **Special Events** - Parks Crew cleaned up Pacific Ave. and downtown in preparation for Armed Forces Day Parade. Harbor Festival on the boardwalk is this weekend and is expected to bring in 2,500-3,000 people. Juneteenth is next month. This year's Bridge Blast will be expanded with a carnival, concert and improved airshow, and there is a new food truck Bridge-to-Bridge fun run, all at Evergreen Rotary Park. Just about every weekend until Labor Day there are events happening in city parks. Almost all of the 8 part-time seasonal staff have been hired for Parks Maintenance and playground seasonal staff are being hired to support the Summer Playground Program, which will include the newly renovated Manette Park.

VI. Commissioner's Comments:

None.

VII. Adjournment: Chair Baker adjourned the meeting at 6:55 pm.