

BREMERTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING
Minutes of May 24, 2022 – Revised
Virtual Meeting

Commissioner’s Present: Ben Burnette, Tim Baker, Maggie Williams and Paul Dutky

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

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

II. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the March 22nd meeting. Dutky/Baker (M/S/U)

III. Public Comment:

Resident Jana Piering from pickleball group inquired about status of Lions Park resurfacing and asked about maintenance for Manette Park sports court.

Councilmember Denise Frey introduced herself and expressed her support for parks and need for parks in her district as residential density increases.

IV. Business Items:

- 1. Parks & Recreation Commission Responsibilities Discussion – Increase funding for Bremerton Parks? (Commissioner Paul Dutky)** Commissioner Dutky discussed Parks & Recreation Commission roles and read statement regarding recommendation to City Council and Mayor for increased funding. (A copy of this statement has been included in the archive packet.) He stated that he suspects the Department’s staffing and funding lag well behind the city’s population growth and expansion of responsibilities. He recommended that the Commission collect supporting data to make this recommendation. **Commissioner Williams** agreed that the Department is probably underfunded, like a lot of other parts of city government and asked what position Commissioner Dutky had in mind if there was money to hire more staff. **Commissioner Dutky** felt capital projects needed to move faster and needed more staff to streamline that effort and wanted to see data of what other Parks & Recreation Departments have in terms of staff and acreage to maintain, as well as demographics and budget/staffing levels over time. **Director Elevado** shared that capital projects take time due to funding grant cycles and that the National Recreation & Park Association (NRPA) provides budget and staff data which is included in the PROS Plan. **Mr. Mutek** shared that as parks are renovated maintenance hours increase due to increased usage.
- 2. Open Public Meeting Act Update (Jeff Elevado, Parks & Recreation Director)** **Director Elevado** shared that effective June 1st the emergency proclamation to not meet in person will be lifted, however, the Department is following the lead of the local health department and

City Council which have delayed meeting in person. The Department currently does not have all the infrastructure in place needed to conduct a hybrid meeting, where people can join virtually while others meet in person.

2. Seasonal Park Maintenance Update

Mr. Mutek recommended Commissioners watch 12-minute heartwarming video from Inside Bremerton on Flower Program. He shared that hiring seasonal staff has been difficult this year due to lack of applicants, the increase in homelessness continues to add work and safety concerns, and that staff are gearing up for upcoming special events. Keeping on top of all these items as well as ongoing maintenance has been challenging, especially without all the seasonal positions filled.

3. Kiwanis Park Accessible Playground Improvement Concept Review

Ms. Berna shared that the preferred concept is not quite ready, and that the review will be postponed for an upcoming meeting.

V. Staff Reports & Updates:

1) Kitsap Lake Park Project Update

Director Elevado shared that we are ready to go to bid but are still waiting for the Army Corps of Engineers Permit to be issued. The permit was applied for in December 2020. **Ms. Berna** added that it is taking other projects 18-24 months to get this permit.

2) Pendergast Soccer Field Project

Director Elevado shared staff went through a Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process, received three submittals and Bruce Dees and Associations was selected as the most qualified firm to prepare the documents for converting the dirt soccer fields into artificial turf and locating a new restroom and accessible pathways. This portion of the design phase (30%) will be funded by a 49k Department of Commerce grant and additional grants (that match each other) are being explored for final design and construction.

3) Haddon Park Improvement Project

Ms. Berna shared that the Department received a 850k state grant for renovating the park and went through the Request for Qualifications (RFQ) process. Two submittals were received and Parametrix was selected as the most qualified firm to perform the topographic survey, civil, structural, and geotechnical engineering services. This project is also being funded by a 132k Community Development Block grant.

VI. Commissioner's Comments:

Commissioner Dutky shared that the Bremerton Pump Track project is a quarter of the way towards its 10k goal to fund the design and that more information can be found on its Facebook page.

Chair Burnette let Mr. Mutek know about a tree blocking the lights on the Lions Park tennis courts.

VII. Adjournment: Chair Burnette adjourned meeting at 6:58 pm.