

10-26-2020 Park Board Minutes

7:00 PM

October 26, 2020

Virtual Meeting

DRAFT MINUTES**BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT***Boardmembers:*

Bradley Book
 Ruben Nieto
 Jonathan Richardson
 Linda Whitworth
 Chris Kovac (Absent)
 Carl Riess (Absent)
 Jeremy Noble (Late Arrival)
 Danielle Wolfrom Githens
 Apryle Craig (Absent)
 Marlene Waxse

Administration/Staff:

Jeff Watling
 Jennifer Fink
 Milissa Ching
 Brian Berntsen

CALL TO ORDER

- a) Membership

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of September 28, 2020
 IT WAS MOVED BY GITHENS, SECONDED BY NIETO TO:
 Approve the amended minutes of September 28, 2020.

Approved 5-0

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **CoVid recovery Update, (I)**

Presented by:

Jeff Watling, Parks and Community Services Director and Jennifer Fink, Park Planner and Project Administrator

Watling reviewed what the department has been doing in response to Covid since the last update this spring.

- Priorities of approach
- Signage/messaging
- Recreation facilities
- Moving forward

Board members engaged in questions and answers and shared feedback and suggestions to staff.

- b) **Dog Park Update, (I)**

Presented by:

Jeff Watling, Parks and Community Services Director and Jennifer Fink, Park Planner and Project Administrator

Watling provided an update on the planning and implementation plans for the temporary dog park pilot at 3 sites starting in November (Pickering Barn, south field at Squak Valley Park, former skate park location at the Community Center).

Park Board members engaged in discussion and shared their questions and concerns regarding the different pilot sites, specifically with the Squak location.

c) **Pathways for Input, (I)**

Presented by:

Jeff Watling, Parks and Community Services Director and Jennifer Fink, Park Planner and Project Administrator

Watling discussed with the board the various ways for the board to provide input and feedback to the mayor and the department.

The staff are committed to planning ahead to inform the board on what is being asked of them on certain topics.

UPDATES FROM MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL

2021 Budget

REPORTS

a) Chairperson's Report –

- Thanksgiving week meeting moved to 30th
- Coexisting with carnivores' project presentation on November 18, 6:30 PM
- FLSSP revenue impacts due to Covid but doing very well despite things. They are still working on the master planning process. Leadership transitions and 5 new board members. Nov 2-10 online auction “experience the outdoors”

b) Director's Report –

- Green Issaquah partnership with Forterra orientation meeting this week
- Harvey Manning Park Expansion acquisition project in the Urban Wildlife Habitat category for the WWRP grant funding 2.6M

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

None

ADJOURNMENT – 8:46 PM



CITY OF
ISSAQUAH
WASHINGTON

Parks and Community Services – COVID Recovery Update

Park Board
October 26, 2020

Priorities of our Approach

- The **Health and Safety** of community, customers and staff.
- Safe and responsible **access** to city parks and trails.
- **Supporting community recovery.**
- Rolling Decision Points allowing us to **be agile and make most informed decisions.**

COVID-19: Stay Safe in Your Parks and Trails



The City of Issaquah continues to follow the guidance of Public Health – Seattle & King County concerning COVID-19.



Practice physical distancing.



Avoid close contact with others.



Wash your hands and avoid touching your face.



Stay home if you are sick.

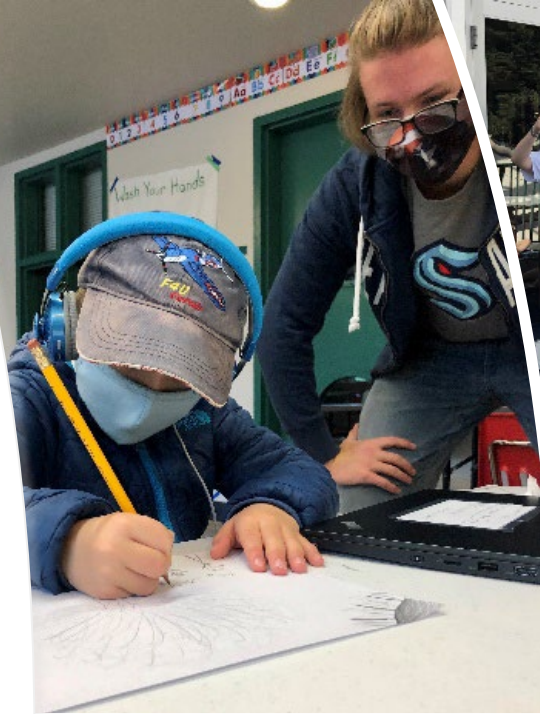


Stay informed:
issaquahwa.gov/COVID19

Community Center

- **Programming**

- Preschool Teachers sent weekly e-newsletters to families filled with activities for families to do at home.
- Issaquah Youth Advisory Board created a PSA to amplify the Issaquah Food & Clothing Bank's special needs.
- Hosted Preschool Graduation outside for one family at a time.
- Offered a modified program for both Kindercamp & Camp `Quah. Additionally, we modified our withdrawal policy to accommodate families.
- Offering "Schoolhouse Rec!" to a max of 32 children, grades K-5, per day.
- Offering a modified Preschool program which includes one day of in-person learning, weekly Zoom "show & tell", and at-home activities
- Renting courts to basketball and volleyball teams in need of practice space



Athletics

- **Programming**

- Sports summer camps were adapted and safely run over July and August. Over 50 camps were offered that served 500 participants in the parks and at the Issaquah Community Center.
- Starting in July, we modified the Gliders Track and Cross-Country programs to offer small groups classes at Confluence, Central, and Tibbett's Valley Parks. Gliders has had 110 registrations from July - October.
- Re-opened Athletic fields in late June for modified team practices in small player pods and working with users groups to ensure safe and responsible practice protocols.
- Indoor Athletics programs restarted at the ICC in September. Programs include basketball, gymnastics, cheer, and karate.
- Worked with Parks Operations to develop COVID-19 signage for parks and open spaces.
- Implemented Parks Ambassador program from late July - early September.



Aquatics

- **Programming**

- Opened for **lap swim/water walking** by reservation only on July 9th following COVID Health and Safety Plan.
- Full reservations every week.
- Resumed **renting to swim teams** on July 9th as well. They have their own procedures for COVID that they update as needed.
- September 8th, we resumed **swim lessons** in a modified format to maintain social distancing.
- Beginner swim lessons required a parent to be in water to assist with teaching so that instructors did not break social distancing.
- **Comprehensive training to staff** with every transition and/or new operational phase to best ensure a safe environment for all.



Rentals

- **Farmers Market**
 - Worked with the King County Public Health to develop an approved plan.
 - Operated a modified and safe Farmers Market every Saturday for the past 21 weeks.
 - Providing a controlled and safe environment for our local farmers to generate revenue and the community to connect.
- **Rentals & Weddings**
 - Worked with wedding renters originally scheduled to hold their event during the pandemic to reschedule or cancel
 - Transitioning to the closure of the Tibbetts Creek Manor
 - Offering business bookings and other rentals that are allowed under safe controls
 - Continually navigating changes to operation if State Safe Start phases (example Consignment and Craft events this Fall)
 - Researching new program opportunities for the future and reviewing current programming success



Senior Center

- **In-Person Programs**
 - To-go Lunch served Mon – Fri
 - Tech Help – Scheduled appointments
 - Meals-on-Wheels – Partnered program
- **Virtual Programs**
 - Mindfulness
 - Wisdom Café
 - Out Loud! A Story Time for Adults – partnership with KC Library
 - Social Worker Access
 - SAIL Fitness Classes
 - Overlake Hospital Health Seminars
 - Aging Master Program
 - Chicken Soup Brigade
 - Statewide Health Insurance Benefits Advisors (SHIBA)
 - Memoir Writing Class
 - Eastside Legal Assistance Program (ELAP)
 - Pen Pal Program



Moving Forward

- Fall and Winter Programming – Adjustments and modifications are expected to continue
- 2021 Budget – anticipating modified operations through next year
- Adjustments to outreach efforts and work plans related to Capital Projects
- Questionnaire to residents regarding their COVID recovery park and trail use
- Mayor’s Recovery Task Force – collaboration with other Boards/Commissions at November 12 meeting

COVID-19

Anyone can catch it. Anyone can spread it.

**PARK USERS:
PLEASE WEAR A FACE MASK
WHEN CLOSE TO OTHERS**



Please help keep everyone safe;
wear a cloth face covering.

#MaskUpWA



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