

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Park Board**

7:00 PM  
January 24, 2022

**DRAFT MINUTES**

Virtual Meeting

*Board Members:*

Bradley Book  
Chris Kovac  
Ruben Nieto  
Jeremy Noble, Alternate (Absent)  
Jonathan Richardson (Excused)  
Carl Riess  
Linda Whitworth  
Danielle Wolfrom Githens  
Marlene Waxse  
Sean Fan  
Ryan Reamy  
Zack Szablewski  
Brenda Spears

*Administration/Staff:*

Brian Berntsen, Recreation Manager  
Jeff Watling, Parks Director  
Jennifer Fink, Park Planner and Project Administrator  
Milissa Ching, Operations Specialist

**CALL TO ORDER 7:00 PM**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Minutes of November 22, 2021

Book add youth reps as attendees. Approved as amended.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a) **2022 Major Workplan Items, (I), (D)**

*Presented by:*

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

Watling introduced the department's major workplan items for 2022.

- Parks Capital Projects
  - o Hillside Neighborhood Park
  - o Blackberry Park
  - o Wayfinding/Park and Trail and Facility Signage
  - o Anchor Parks Projects
  - o Citywide Sports Field Inventory and Needs Assessment
  - o Capital Financing Task Force
  - o Strategic Plan and Open Space Acquisitions
  - o Off-Leash Dog Area
- Parks Operations
  - o Recruitment and Hiring

- Street Landscaping
- Green Issaquah
- Pickering Barn
- Confluence Bridge Art Repairs
- Tennis Court Re-surfacing
- Upper Hillside Cemetery
- Recreation Services
  - Recruitment and Hiring
  - Julius Boehm Pool Feasibility Study
  - Pickering Barn HVAC
  - Community Center Fitness Equipment
  - New Portable Stage
  - Recreation Scholarship Program
  - Athletic Field and Park Rental Procedures

#### Board Members Q&A:

- Tibbetts Creek Manor, not being operated as a rental facility
- Support for the inventory. Would like to see it precede Veterans Memorial Field.
- Board education on the history of Veterans Memorial Field
- Draft surveys presented to the Board before the public
- Who will be doing the rental study - Milissa

#### Capital Taskforce Update, (I), (D)

*Presented by:*

*Jeff Watling, Parks and Community Services Director and Brad Book, Park Board Chair*

- Book provided a summary of the Capital Taskforce meeting and key points that came up including bonds, sustainable funding, levy estimates.
- Ad hoc group agreed to explore a Parks District as a future structure
- Watling thanked the Park Board members for serving on the Ad hoc group and Book for serving on the Financing Task force.
- Watling shared the presentation about a Park District that was shared with the Financing Task Force

#### Board Member Q&A:

- What time investment will be required of the Park Board
- Task Force for community engagement
  - What other Parks Districts are there?
  - What kind of governance do they employ?
  - What do their funding look like?
- PenMet (Unincorporated Pierce County)
- Githens shared support – sustainable and dependable

#### Newport Way Letter, (D), (A)

*Presented by:*

*Brad Book, Park Board Chair*

- Book introduced the letter that has been updated and emailed as part of the Park Board packet.
- The letter aligns with preceding meetings
- Additional opportunity to add comments at the end of the letter (2 bullets sent as an additional attachment to the Board packet)

#### Board Member Feedback:

- Githens shared she felt the two groups couldn't come to consensus and as a result the compromised product could use more refinement

**Motion to approve the letter: Kovac Moved to approve the letter for Bike and Pedestrian Lane. Nieto Seconded. Unanimous.**

## REPORTS

- a) Director's Report
  - Watling thanked the Board for their work on he right away considerations
  - Kudos to department staff for continued operation throughout the pandemic
  - 2022 Board applications. Watling reached out to Mayor Pauley regarding transition and turn over. She is open and available to meet regarding questions.
  
- b) Chairperson's Report
  - Issaquah Alps Trail Club, new Executive Director: Paul Winterstein
  - Kokanee Workgroup, recovery of kokanee (count is at 2,000 so far)
  - Board applications due at the end of February
  - Please notify Milissa for absences
  
- c) Youth Report
  - YAB meeting virtually
  - Harry Potter night – February 11<sup>th</sup>
  - Movie night – TBD
  - State of Mind annual mental health conference
  - Senior Center cards

## OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Watling shared that hopefully by spring we will be back to in person – pending pandemic guidance.
- Githens, question to Jeff re: rain and flooding. How did Confluence Park and Tibbetts did? No flooding at Tibbetts, minor flooding at Confluence.

**ADJOURNMENT: 8:47 pm**