

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Park Board**

7:00 PM

Virtual Meeting

**MINUTES  
July 25, 2022**

**BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

The State of Washington and the City of Issaquah continue to have a declared emergency due to the COVID-19 pandemic. Under Chapter 115, Laws of 2022 (ESHB 1329), the City of Issaquah has determined that an in-person meeting cannot be held with reasonable safety. Due to these factors, this meeting is being held remotely.

**Board Members:**

Chris Kovac  
Marlene Waxse  
Zach Szablewski  
Andrew Eliquen  
David Liu  
Nicholas Lee  
Brenda Spears  
Katie Bell  
Tim Motley

**Administration/Staff:**

Mary Lou Pauly, Mayor  
Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services Director  
Tisha Gieser, City Clerk  
Jennifer Fink, Park Planner & Project Administrator  
Monica Negrila, Human Services Manager

**Alternate Members:**

Danielle Wolfrom Githens (absent, excused)  
Bradley Book  
Andrew Myers

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Szablewski called the meeting to order at 7:03pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) The minutes from the June 27, 2022 meeting were presented to the Board. With no corrections proposed, the minutes were approved as written by unanimous consent.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

No public comments were made.

**REGULAR BUSINESS****a) Welcoming New Members**

Presented by: Jeff Watling, Director- Parks & Community Services

Director Watling welcomed new members to the Park Board and lead an icebreaker group activity.

Mayor Mary Lou Pally made welcoming remarks and provided an overview of the work of the Capital Finance Community Task Force and the City Council's direction to the Park Board, to provide recommendations about a \$4 mil dollar investment into our parks. Mayor Pauly invited Board members to look for investments that are impactful, that the community can enjoy for a long time.

**b) Open Government Training (I)**

Presented by: Tisha Gieser, City Clerk

City Clerk Gieser provided a training covering the Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) & the Washington Public Records Act (PRA).

The following topics were covered under the OPMA:

- Regular meetings, special meetings, & executive sessions
- Virtual & In Person meetings (first in-person meeting scheduled for Sept. 26)
- Accessibility of meetings
- Content & format of meetings, including minutes, notices, etc.
- Quorum, communication, including email communication
- Penalties for violations
- Code of Ethics
- Role of regular members and alternate members

The following topics were covered under the PRA:

- Public records requests
- Types of public records & records retention

**c) Community Investment Strategy (D)**

Presented by: Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services Director

Director Watling provided an overview of the Community Investment Strategy task assigned by City Council including:

- Provided background of the City's Park Strategic Plan
- Reviewed the City Council's task and recommendation:
  - Evaluation and criteria for the \$4mil investments
- Invited the Board to present park projects for consideration

Park Board members provided input and comments on the criteria for evaluating the projects including ideas for prioritization, scoring, qualitative scoring, etc. and shared ideas for other projects to consider, including possible ideas from other jurisdictions.

In addition, Board members formed a subgroup/committee to work with staff and the consultant in the upcoming weeks on this project, in preparation for next month's discussion.

## REPORTS

### a) Chair's Report

Chair Szablewski talked about the City's 130<sup>th</sup> anniversary and the various events taking place around the city, the recent land acquisition, and the current community survey for ADA accessibility. In addition, Chair Szablewski shared internship opportunities with Mountains to Sounds Greenway.

### b) Youth Report

None.

### c) Director's Report

Director Watling provided an update on a few capital projects: Construction in Blackberry Park begins August 2<sup>nd</sup>. Following Hillside Park's community engagement process, the consultant is currently working on a preferred concept for that park; more information will be presented in August. City staff are also working on a mitigation plan for the wetland area in Hillside Park.

## OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENT

None.

## ADJOURNMENT: 9:06 PM

The next meeting is currently scheduled for August 22, 2022.