

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Park Board**

7:00 PM
January 23, 2023

MINUTES

Tibbetts Creek Manor, 750 17th
Ave. NW, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board Members:

Zach Szablewski, Chair
Marlene Waxse, (Excused Absence)
Chris Kovac
Andrew Eliquen
David Liu (Excused Absence)
Nicholas Lee (Absent)
Brenda Spears
Katie Bell
Tim Motely (Virtual Attendee)

Danielle Wolfrom Githens, Alternate
(Serving as Regular Member)
Bradley Book, Alternate (Serving as
Regular Member, Virtual Attendee)
Andrew Myers, Alternate (Serving as
Regular Member, Virtual Attendee)

Administration/Staff:

Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services
Director
Jennifer Fink, Park Planner and Project
Administrator
Stephen Padua, Long Range Planning
Manager
Christian Geitz, Planning Manager (Virtual)
Minnie Dhaliwal, Community Planning &
Development Director (Virtual)
Brian Berntsen, Recreation Manager
Hasanthi Piyasena, Business Operations
Specialist

Community Members/Guests:

Shivani Gupta, Youth Board Representative
Connie Marsh, Community Member

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Szablewski called the meeting to order at approx. 7:08 PM
Roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of November 28, 2022
There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Connie Marsh: Ms. Marsh spoke about the proposed changes to Title 18 in relation to parks, master plans, phases, major and minor changes and asked how parks are going to be planned under the new regulations.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **Title 18 Update, (I)**

Presented by:

*Stephen Padua, Long Range Planning Manager
Christian Geitz, Planning Manager*

Long Range Planning Manager, Stephen Padua presented updates to the board on the land use code changes around community space and the green necklace, trees, and landscaping as they relate to parks and park projects. Planning Director, Minnie Dhaliwal, and Planning Manager, Christian Geitz answered questions and provided details on specific code sections based on board feedback.

Throughout the presentation the board asked questions around:

- Irrigation requirements, refer to 18.606.060 Irrigation & Water Standards
- Maximum tree removal, refer to 18.812 Tree Preservation
- Removing Master Plan Permit code requirement, refer to CCP permit section

Park Director, Jeff Watling and Park Planner and Project Administrator, Jennifer Fink assured the board that visioning and community outreach and input on park development will still occur as part of the planning phases but the formal master plan permit process that requires significant funding and time has been updated as part of Title 18 revisions.

b) **Recreation Program Bi-Annual Review, (I)**

Presented by:

Brian Berntsen, Recreation Manager

Recreation Manager, Brian Berntsen gave a presentation highlighting events and activities from the Recreation division from 2022.

Following the presentation, the board raised questions around coin operated lockers at the pool, program offering decisions, staffing, and current demand compared to pre-pandemic.

c) **2023 Park Board Workplan Items, (D), (A)**

Presented by:

Jeff Watling, Park and Community Services Director

Park Director, Jeff Watling showcased major work plans and possible working calendar for the park board for 2023.

Following the discussion, Zach Sablewski moved to:

Create two new ad-hoc committees on Urban Forestry and an ad-hoc committee for the Park Strategic Plan.

The motion was seconded. By a vote of 9-0, the motion was adopted.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Park Strategic Plan membership: Brenda Spears, Tim Motely, Danielle Githens, Andrew Myers.

Ad-Hoc Committee on Urban Forestry membership: Zach Szablewski, Andrew Eliquen, Katie Bell, and Bradley Book.

REPORTS

a) Chairperson's Report

Chair Sablewski noted the Sustainability Open House (1/30/23), a volunteer event at Berntsen Park (2/18/23) the public hearing for Title 18 (2/2/23), and a nursery event at Lake Sammamish State Park (2/4/23).

b) Youth Representative's Report

Shivani Gupta announced upcoming IYAB events, Youth Civic Engagement Forum (2/4/23), State of Mind (3/18/23), and that volunteers are needed for the Issy Kids Triathlon (6/5/23).

c) Director's Report

Director Watling announced the hiring process for the Planning Manager and Urban Forest Supervisor roles are underway, the design contract for the Ped Park/Snr Center Plaza project was approved by City Council, and King County Preservation staff met the design team regarding the Ek House project. He also announced a joint meeting with other boards on February 16 (6:30-8:30pm) regarding the 6-year CIP with more information to come by email.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS - none

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:59 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 27, 2023.