

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Environmental & Parks Boards Special Meeting

6:30 PM
 Mar 16, 2023

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave.
 NW, Issaquah

MINUTES

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board members:

Environmental Board

Jamie Finch, Chair (Present)
 Don McQuilliams, Vice Chair (Present)
 Nancy Davidson (Present)
 Ashwin Manoharan* (Present)
 Rishi Hazra* (Excused Absence)
 Lara Lebeiko (Present)
 Anne Newcomb (Present)
 Dan Hintz (Present)

Janet Wall, Alternate (Present)
 Tom Anderson, Alternate (Absent)

*Youth/young adult members.

Administration/Staff:

Stacy Vynne McKinstry, Sustainability
 Manager
 David Reedy, Sustainability Coordinator
 Billy Almanza, Sustainability Intern

Parks Board

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

Danielle Githens, Alternate, (Present)
 Brad Book, Alternate (Virtual)
 Andrew Myers, Alternate (Excused Absence)

Administration/Staff:

Jeff Watling, Director of Park and Community
 Services
 Hasanthi Piyasena, Department Operations
 Specialist for Parks and Community Services

CALL TO ORDER

Jamie Finch called the meeting to order at 6:30 PM.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Connie Marsh: Resident, provided comments and concerns about projects relating to Sammamish Cove Park and the Schneider Creek project by the Washington State Department of Transportation.

David Kappler: Resident commended the city on the varied public spaces within city limits and hopes for more interagency collaboration in their stewardship. He praised the Park and Environmental boards for their roles in maintaining and improving our city natural spaces.

AGENDA ITEMS

a) **Flood Hazard Management Plan and Flood Hazard Mapping Studies**

Presented by:

Judi Radloff, Chrys Bertolotto and Tracy Winjum, King County

ALLEN QUINN introduced the King County Flood Management Team who presented the King County Flood Management Plan. The members of both the Environmental Board and the Parks

Board asked questions and provided feedback on the presentation. The Boards asked if the flood plan was currently still in the development process and if there was a timeline for when the plan would be brought to county council within the year. Questions were asked about how to balance ecological habitats and flood management strategies. As it relates to Issaquah, the boards asked questions of how King County would identify future floodplains within the city and the financial incentives to offset the purchasing of land. The Boards recommended areas previously impacted within the community and organizations to focus outreach on by King County. They urged the presenters to improve communication strategies to wider audiences through various outlets available within the city as a means to empower citizens. Questions were asked about how the updated flood information from these studies and the related maps would be disseminated: specific outlets Board members mentioned were iMap and FEMA. Questions were also asked about ground water changes and a suggestion was made to include tributary data on maps. The Boards asked if there was additional data being collected and documented on soils and bank materials along the floodplains for future use by the city.

b) **Parks Programs Update**

Presented by:

Jeff Watling, Director of Parks and Community Services

Jeff Watling provided the parks program update. Watling mentioned City Council and budget support for new Urban Forest and natural resources team within Park Operations, headed by a new Urban Forest Supervisor, Dan Hintz (current Environmental Board member) and expanded on the new team structure. An Urban Forest Management Plan will be undertaken by Dan and include community engagement with both the Environmental Board and the Park Board ad-hoc group on Urban Forestry. Watling also spoke about updating the Heritage Tree Program, the Green Issaquah Volunteer Coordinator position, the Park Strategic Plan update for 2024 and Park Operations goals of being 80% electric on handheld tools by this spring/summer and working with Fleet Division to electrify larger equipment.

Watling then addressed the public comment about the proposed private stormwater system (Hyla) and its proximity within Sammamish Cove Park. Board members asked follow up questions clarifying the purpose of the vault and the usage of it by private businesses.

REPORTS - none

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:27 PM.