

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Park Board**

7:00 PM
April 24, 2023

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave
NW, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board Members:

Zach Szablewski, Chair
Chris Kovac
Marlene Waxse (Excused Absence)
Andrew Eliquen
David Liu (Virtual)
Nicholas Lee (Virtual, departed 8:05)
Brenda Spears (Excused Absence)
Katie Bell (Excused Absence)
Tim Motely (Absent)

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

Administration/Staff:

Hasanthi Piyasena, Department
Operations Specialist
Jennifer Fink, Park Planner and Project
Administrator
Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator
Susie Monsell, Budget Manager

Community Members/Guests:

Paul Winterstein, Executive Director
Issaquah History Museums
Cory Christensen, Community Member
Connie Marsh, Community Member
Arsheya Thakkar, Youth Representative
(Arrived 7:41)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Szablewski called the meeting to order at approx. 7:02 PM.
Roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of March 16, 2023
There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.
- b) Minutes of March 27, 2023
There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Paul Winterstein: Mr. Winterstein gave an overview of previous Ek House uses and historical context from an Ek family member that welcomes play and celebration and expressed support in partnering with the City in telling the historic story and landmarking the exterior of the building. He also acknowledged that the Ek family history is not the only history of that area, the First Nation history and the natural history is also just as important.

Connie Marsh: Ms. Marsh expressed interest that funding should be spent on the Ek House first, supported the sinuous feel for Pedestrian Park but cautioned to remember the scale for the space, and commented that the CIP prioritization chart did not reflect the reality of prioritization for the community.

Cory Christensen: Mr. Christensen commented that the Veterans Monument needs to be highlighted as part of the Senior Center Plaza project, was thankful for the progress in doing something historical for the Ek house and supported offering it as a free community meeting space.

REGULAR BUSINESS

a) **2024-2029 Draft CIP for Parks and Trails, (D)***Presented by:**Andrea Snyder, Deputy City Administrator*

Deputy City Administrator, Andrea Snyder went through the changes since the last CIP, the new prioritization criteria, near term parks and trails planned investments, CIP draft process and asked for feedback from the board on how the criteria were applied in the draft CIP (still in-progress).

Questions from the board included:

- clarification on the Long-Standing Commitment and if that could help projects get to completion (ex. Ek House)
- if nuance could be applied to the red, yellow, green to help projects move forward even if red on certain criteria
- insight into how negative impacts were considered
- clarification for environmental benefit and neutral versus negative
- a comment that strategic systems planning is missing from the criteria
- questions about phasing and sequencing projects and how that is considered or included in the CIP review

Following the discussion, the board voted to support the Deputy City Administrator drafting the Park Board feedback about the criteria application into her memo to City Council. By a show of hands, 6 supported that action.

Community Investment Strategy Project Update, re: Confluence Park Ek House, (I,D)*Presented by:**Jennifer Fink, Park Planner and Project Administrator**Mithun Consultant Team*

Jennifer Fink and the Mithun consultant team led the board through some known structural issues for the Ek House, the historic needs and priorities for the exterior of the house, a few interior visionary options, and a two-phase recommended approach to utilize ARPA funding within the 2024 boundaries for the project while honoring the history and give time to seek additional funding for the house.

Following the presentation, Danielle Githens gave her support for the proposed two-phase approach, that it is in-line with the Master Plan for Confluence Park for community use. Brad Book, offered support to Danielle's comment and questioned the cost for the house restoration and would like to see historical/interpretive elements included in the project. He also supported the phasing and understood the time limits on the ARPA funding.

Community Investment Strategy Project Update, re: Pedestrian Park and Senior Center Plaza, (D,A)*Presented by:**Jennifer Fink, Park Planner and Project Administrator**Mithun Consultant Team*

Jennifer Fink and the Mithun consultant team reviewed updates to the Pedestrian Park project that included a preferred direction for Creekside Table that has a strong environmental approach that relates to Issaquah, adds a 2% grade to the lawn and water feature to allow for accessible use, changes the natural elements to focus on valley floor inspiration and makes the water feature more tactile. They confirmed the elements are to scale for the space of the park. For the Senior Center Plaza, the team spoke about making the memorial a focal point and making sure it is featured in the design.

Following the presentation the board discussed:

- the practicalities of maintenance considered in the design
- support for the natural feel rather than an urban
- appreciation for the consultants taking care in their approach and incorporating ad-hoc group and community feedback
- confirmed that the scale and width of what is being proposed would fit
- support for the water features that have movement and sound
- cautioned on the materials used for long-term use
- the playground next to the Senior Center staying where it is
- the historic significance of the field and it's use by the community and how the current focus of the plaza project can speak to the field's future

Chair Szablewski motioned to support the preferred design for Pedestrian Park and Senior Center Plaza's and move the project's design forward into construction documents and permitting. Kovac Seconded. The motion passed unanimously with 6 votes.

REPORTS

- a) Chairperson's Report: Chair Szablewski offered a thank you and recognition to Danielle Githens for her 18 years of service to the board, 5 years as Chair. He then reminded the board that we will be nominating and voting for new chair and vice chair positions next meeting.
- b) Youth Representative's Report: Youth Rep. Thakkar announced their last and largest event, the Issy Kids Triathlon is coming up on June 4th for the IYAB.
- a) Director's Report: Jennifer Fink noted that the Hillside Park permit package submittal is slated for early May, the Dog Park will have some community engagement coming soon, the Park Strategic plan ad-hoc will meet in the coming weeks, and the Urban Forestry Management plan ad-hoc group will likely meet in the next 6-8 weeks.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:11pm.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 22, 2023.