

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Park Board**

7:00 PM
May 22, 2023

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave
NW, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board Members:

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

Bradley Book, Alternate (Virtual, Served as
Regular Member)
Andrew Myers, Alternate
Ryan Olson, Alternate

Administration/Staff:

Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services Director
Hasanthi Piyasena, Business Operations Specialist
Amy Dukes, Cultural Arts Manager (Virtual)
Kelli Diann Billips Gordon, Pickering Barn Event
Supervisor (Virtual)
Brian Berntsen, Recreation Manager

Community Member/Guests:

Christian Runge, Mithun Consultant Team (Virtual)
Charlie Able, Mithun Consultant Team (Virtual)
Amelia Jensen, Mithun Consultant Team (Virtual)
Connie Marsh, Community Member

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Szablewski called the meeting to order at approx. 7:04 PM.
Roll call was taken.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of April 24, 2023
There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Connie Marsh: Ms. Marsh gave comment about a council meeting agenda item regarding city survey responses and satisfaction with parks, advocating for park funds. She warned interpretation of positive survey results may put funding for parks at odds with public safety or transportation needs. She then spoke about the Ek House funding and asked the board to find out what can or cannot be done from the landmark preservation organization and to landmark the house first.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **Farmers Market Update, (I)**
Presented by:
Kelli Diann Billips Gordon, Pickering Barn Event Supervisor

Event Supervisor, Kelli Diann Billips Gordon gave an overview of different food access programs and information about implementing EBT and SNAP to the Issaquah Farmers Market during the 2023 season. She expanded that shoppers will be able to use scrip to shop at EBT eligible vendors and vendors will reconcile funds by check. The program will begin in July at the market and looking ahead SNAP Market Match will come for the 2024 season. She then gave updated market attendance, vendor information, and opening day sales information.

Following the presentation the board asked questions about the number of vendors that will accept EBT& SNAP, currently 65%, if there is a transaction fee for users, and if transportation to the market from old town has been considered.

NW Troll Hunt Update, (I)

Presented by:

Amy Dukes, Cultural Arts Manager

Cultural Arts Manager, Amy Dukes gave an overview and update of the art installation project coming to Issaquah as part of a cross US Troll Hunt by artist Thomas Dambo. The artist uses recycled and found objects for the pieces and tells the story of connecting place and the environment. The installation in Issaquah will start August 22nd along the Rainier Trail between the Community Center and High School. The sculpture will have it's own supports and not rely on the trees and there will be opportunities for the community to help build the troll. She also gave information about a cultural exchange with local tribes that blossomed from the project and the Snoqualmie Tribe participation in the troll in Issaquah.

The board then asked questions about educational and interpretive signage and risk mitigation for the given location.

Park Board Chair & Vice Chair Elections, (A)

Presented by:

Hasanthi Piyasena, Business Operations Specialist

Marlene Waxse nominated Chris Kovac for the chair position. Brad Book seconded. Chris asked if there was any other interest in the role.

There being no other nominations, **Chris Kovac** was confirmed as **chair** by unanimous consent.

Marlene Waxse offered to stay in the position as Vice Chair unless there was other interest, nominating herself. Chris Kovac seconded.

There being no other nominations, **Marlene Waxse** was confirmed as **vice chair** by unanimous consent.

Director, Jeff Watling then introduced the newest Alternate Member, Ryan Olson and welcomed him to the board.

Community Investment Strategy Project - Confluence Park, (D,A)

Presented by:

Jeff Watling, Director

Mithun Consultant Team

Director Watling and the Mithun Consultant team lead the board through the updated proposed phased process for the park plaza and Ek house restoration project. Director Watling recapped City Council and Mayor's feedback for the project and proposal to include the Ek House restoration and phased approach within the updated draft CIP for 24-29. Charlie Able then went through different concepts and context for the park and plaza/shelter structure. The phasing includes a design buffer around the Ek House to allow for future restoration, a temporary move to the washhouse, paving the area around the shelter and walkway, and construction of a shelter as part of phase 1. Director Watling then emphasized that this is an opportunity to set a clear vision and strategy for the Ek House while giving time to seek additional funding through grants and working with King County Preservation and the Issaquah Historical Museums as we continue this project.

Following the presentation the board asked about rain/gutter control for the shelter roof, the overall costs of phase 1, opportunities to include renewable energy sources on the shelter,

questions about the landmarking sequence, risks for phase 2, time limits for the ARPA funds, and opportunities to update City Council.

Following the discussion, Zach Szablewski motioned to **Support the preferred project phasing for Confluence Park Ek House and move the project's first phase forward into design and permitting.** Katie Bell seconded.

The motioned passed with 9 yes votes.

REPORTS

- a) Chairperson's Report – Chair Szablewski thanked the board for the opportunity to serve as chair this past year and thanked Marlene for her service and Chris for stepping in to lead.
- b) Youth Representative's Report – none.
- c) Director's Report – Director Watling reminded the board of the Title 18 Board Thank You event (5/31/23), gave an update on the Park Strategic Plan kick off and ad-hoc committee meeting, proposed a tour for the July Park Board meeting, and thanked Jennifer Fink for her contributions to the department and the City of Issaquah.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brad Book asked for an update on the Park Planning Manager position. Staff responded that a conditional offer is out and recruitment for both Park Planner positions will be open soon.

Nicholas Lee asked about Park Board review of currently policies, specifically recreation policies. Staff responded that it's not normally within the scope of the board but may be reviewed as part of the park strategic plan and there may be an opportunity to review and create park city code within the 2024 work plan.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 8:58 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for June 26, 2023.