

11-27-23 Park Board Minutes

CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Park Board

7:00 PM
November 27, 2023

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave
NW, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT*Board Members:*

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

Bradley Book, Alternate (*Virtual*)
Andrew Myers, Alternate (*Absent*)
Ryan Olson, Alternate

Administration/Staff:

Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services
Director (*Virtual*)
Robin Spear, Park Planning & Development
Manager
Julie Cassata, Senior Park Planner
Brian Berntsen, Recreation Services
Manager
Hasanthy Piyasena, Department Operations
Specialist (*Virtual*)
Valerie Porter, Associate Planner
Farel Otieno, Economic Development
Coordinator

Community Members/Guests:

Brooke Hanley, NAC Consultant (*Virtual*)
Brian Love, NAC Consultant (*Virtual*)
Connie Marsh, Community Member (*Virtual*)
Arsheya Thakkar, IYAB Youth Rep
Sanvi Madan, IYAB Youth Rep

CALL TO ORDER**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Minutes of October 23, 2023.
There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Connie Marsh: Ms. Marsh gave comment on the possibility of seeking regional funding through King County or lobbying to support the Julius Boehm Pool as it has a regional use and other cities that received similar facilities from the county are doing similar studies and needing facility updates at the same time. She recommended the removal of the language “where feasible” and “applicable” within the Comprehensive Plan around the policies for the Urban Forest Management Plan. She indicated that this language does not hold the city accountable to meeting the needs of the study.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update and Park System Plan Update: Goals & Policies, (D,A)**

Presented by:

Robin Spear, Park Planning and Development Manager

Valerie Porter, Associate Planner

Park Planning and Development Manager, Robin Spear and Associate Planner, Valerie Porter led the board through updates to both the Comprehensive Plan and the Park System Plan goals and policies with emphasis on new or changed policies requested through previous board feedback. The board reviewed the language and made further suggestions and edits.

Following the presentation and discussion the board moved to take action to recommend the draft goals and policies move forward into both the comprehensive plan and park system plan updates and will return to the board as final versions within each plan document.

Brenda Spears motioned, David Liu seconded.

The motioned passed unanimously with 9 votes (all Alternates acted as Regular Members).

b) **Julius Boehm Pool Feasibility Study, (I,D)**

Presented by:

*Brian Berntsen, Recreation Services Manager
NAC Architecture, Consultant*

Recreation Services Manager, Brian Berntsen and consultants from NAC architecture led the board through the draft feasibility study that has been underway for the Julius Boehm Pool with the goal of possibly expanding water capacity on the existing site. The study utilized a grant from King County to fund the exploration.

Following the presentation the board had comment and questions around an even larger increase in capacity, telling the community the story of how little the capacity has changed with the growing population and needs, concerns of increased traffic, looking towards long term growth and other locations for expansion or a phased approach, options for flexible deck use, increased family areas, creative use of outdoor spaces, benchmarking analysis, and cost recovery metrics.

The draft study will continue through discussion with City Council and return to the board through project prioritization processes.

c) **Economic Development Action Plan, (I,D)**

Presented by:

Farel Otieno, Economic Development Coordinator

Economic Development Coordinator, Farel Otieno led the board through sections of the Economic Development Action Plan that relate to parks around outdoor recreation and partnering with businesses to reinforce Issaquah's identity as an outdoor recreation destination. He encouraged the board to think about partners that could be good stewards of this effort and to reach out directly for further feedback.

REPORTS

a) Chairperson's Report

Chair Kovac recommended the board review the Issaquah Alps Trails club calendar and the Lake Sammamish State Park calendar for upcoming volunteer and engagement opportunities. He also plugged the upcoming Polar Plunge event at Lake Sammamish State Park.

b) Youth Representative's Report

Sanvi Madan and Arsheya Thakkar updated the board on some new events IYAB are undertaking including a family movie night and career fair.

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c) Director's Report

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 9:06 PM.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for January 22, 2024.