

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Park Board**

7:00 PM
January 22, 2024

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave
NW, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board Members:

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

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

Administration/Staff:

Robin Spear, Park Planning and
Development Manager
Brian Berntsen, Recreation Services
Manager
Hasanthi Piyasena, Department Operations
Specialist, Parks & Community Services

Community Members/ Guests
Connie Marsh, Community Member
Steve Pereira, Community Member

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Connie Marsh: Ms. Marsh called the boards attention to the Environmental chapter of the Comprehensive Plan and asked what the overarching authority for the parks department is when it comes to the city-wide policies and plans that impact parks.

Steve Pereira: Mr. Pereira reiterated his request for legal protections for culturally modified trees, feels green necklace connectivity has not been prioritized and is worried about funding and priorities in relation to the recent pool study and to focus on other park needs.

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **Park System Plan Update - Public Survey Summary, (I,D)**

Presented by:

Robin Spear, Park Planning and Development Manager

Park Planning and Development Manager, Robin Spear led the board through the survey results from the Park System Plan update survey that was open to the community Oct - Nov 2023. She also went through some themes that have arisen through engagement and will refine for next meetings based on feedback.

Throughout the presentation the board had questions and discussion around:

-reviewing the demographics of the respondents and remembering the context within the larger community, skewed older

-lots of family involvement, lots of sports involvement, still meeting env. goals

- very positive perception of the park system from many members, well used, clean, well maintained, reflected in the survey
- had questions about the indoor facilities that could use updates
- need for connection, driving distances vs. walking connections, elevations and access to neighborhood parks, understanding sidewalk access and talking with Public Works on their plans
- adding more variety of amenities within parks, “things to do” and modernize infrastructure
- cultural preservation, arts, music, culture and where within the system
- question about comparable King County cities, maybe not in budget but in size, projects, amenities
- prioritize to “level up” what we have, focus on TVP and VMF to same use as CP, partnerships with schools, lighting
- public wifi in parks
- Look at drainage, turf, lights at TVP and VMF, really prioritize TVP master planning and anchor parks

Recreation Services Update and Highlights, (I,D)

Presented by:

Brian Berntsen, Recreation Services Manager

Due to time constraints this presentation will come back to the board at another time.

REPORTS

- a) Youth Representative's Report - none
- b) Director's Report
Review of work plans for both P&CS full department workplan and then Park Board specific work plan that comes from the dept. plan but focuses on park planning, recreation and operations. Reviewed new template for board workplan that has more detail and options for flexibility on schedule.
- c) Chairperson's Report
Chair Kovac notified the board to review the Issaquah Alps Trails Club calendar and the Friends of Lake Sammamish Park calendar for great upcoming events like a geology hike, coal mine history hike, bird count, and painting in the park.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Brad Book brought the boards attention to the Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership with Trout Unlimited that also has some great events and resources and could maybe bring them to a meeting.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:54 pm.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 26, 2024.