

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Park Board**

7:00 PM  
April 29, 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 (Virtual)  
Andrew Eliquen  
David Liu  
Nicholas Lee (Virtual)  
Brenda Spears  
Katie Bell  
Tim Motely (Virtual)  
  
Ryan Olson, Alternate  
Bradley Book, Alternate (Excused Absence)  
Andrew Myers, Alternate

*Administration/Staff:*

Jeff Watling, Parks & Community Services  
Director  
Hasanthi Hoglund, Department Operations  
Specialist  
Dan Hintz, Urban Forest Supervisor  
Amy Dukes, Cultural Arts Manager

*Community Members / Guests*

Arsheya Thakkar, Youth Representative  
(Virtual)  
Sanvi Madan, Youth Representative  
(Virtual)  
Connie Marsh

**SPECIAL MEETING**

*Please note, this agenda also serves as the special meeting notice pursuant to RCW 42.30.080*

**CALL TO ORDER**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Minutes of Special Meeting March 26, 2024.  
There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.
- b) Minutes of Special Joint Meeting February 26, 2024  
There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

**Connie Marsh:** Ms. Marsh mentioned her application for Heritage Tree Nomination for London Plane Trees to protect them from any road widening projects on Newport, would like protection for these trees in terms or environment and sense of place. She asked what trees the community thinks are the most important, the need for education on what trees to keep, single trees are not really what makes Issaquah, Issaquah and is in favor for the grove nomination option.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a) **Heritage Tree Program and Urban Forest Team Update, (D,I)**  
*Presented by:*  
*Dan Hintz, Urban Forest Supervisor*

Dan Hintz, Urban Forest Supervisor reviewed what Heritage Tree programs are and the current form/process for the City of Issaquah. He then led the board through some proposed changes based on feedback from the board, ad-hoc committee and other community engagement. Some proposed changes include a change in the timeline for review, staff review and assessment, longevity for location, and memo to Park Board for nominations on public lands.

Questions and discussion from the board included if restrictions the number of nominations is needed, the subjectiveness of aesthetic criteria, the level of protection status, support for unique groves/collections, environmental/ecosystem benefits, understory benefits, public interface upgrades needed, selection diversity, and questions around public vs private nominations and protection levels.

Hintz also gave an update on other Urban Forestry work through the Park Ranger program and Green Issaquah events. There was a suggestion to partner with the middle school on a backyard forest program through the schools.

### **Public Art Update: Pedestrian Park, Senior Center Plazas, (D,I)**

*Presented by:*

*Amy Dukes, Cultural Arts Manager*

Cultural Arts Manager Amy Dukes led the board through some artist renderings for the public art that will be installed during the Pedestrian Park Senior Center Plaza project. She mentioned that the artist was chosen through a public call for art with the Arts Commission and grant funding was procured for this project. The artist chosen is June Sekiguchi, a long-time previous resident of Issaquah who did thorough research on Issaquah history including meeting with the Snoqualmie Tribe. The sculptural art takes it's inspiration from the Wester Red Cedar and will be made from steel.

The board had questions about the timing of the installation and thanked Dukes for her work in helping bring art into the community and the sense of place it creates here in Issaquah. Dukes promoted the use of STQRY, an app that catalogs the public art in Issaquah and allows for storytelling to be virtual.

## **REPORTS**

### a) Youth Representative's Report

Sanvi Madan and Arsheya Thakkar gave an update on upcoming IYAB events including a Hackathon (6/1) for teens and Art in the Park (5/31) for elementary aged kids. They also recapped the Middle School Dodgeball Tournament that was a cross community event that was very well attended. They reminded the board that IYAB member applications are now open through May 7.

### b) Director's Report

Jeff Watling gave a thank you to board members that are rotating off the Park Board, Andrew, Zach, and Brad. Watling gave a big thank you and shout out to Brad Book who served on the board for 12 years and was chair for 6 years and the appreciation for his collaboration with staff through his work on the board. Reminded the board that Farmers Market season kicks off this weekend, park system plan survey and map is open for feedback through May 7, April 18 public meeting that kicked off the Creeks to Peaks concept that expands the Green Necklace and more details will be coming at the next meeting. He also talked about the continued collaboration with IDS on joint use agreements and athletic fields.

### c) Chairperson's Report

04-29-24 Park Board Minutes

Page [0000]

Chris Kovac gave another thank you to Brad Book for his role when Chris first joined FLSSP and his guidance in that role and more appreciation for his leadership and guidance. Kovac also thanked Zach and Andrew for their participation.

**OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Hasanthi reminded the board that new members will be joining at next month's meeting, Ryan Olson will be transitioning to a Regular Board member position and three alternate members have been appointed and will join in May. Reminder that next meeting Chair and Vice Chair nominations and voting will happen and to reach out if there is interest.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at approx. 8:52 PM.  
The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 30, 2024.



## Issaquah Park Board

### Upcoming Events, May 2024

Event	Day	Date	Time	Location	Sponsor	Link
Historically Hip Open Mic	Wed	5/1	6:30pm to 9:00pm	Train Depot	Downtown Issaquah Association	<a href="https://downtownissaquah.com/events/open-mic-the-train-depot/">https://downtownissaquah.com/events/open-mic-the-train-depot/</a>
Squak East Ridge "Get to Know Your Plant Friends" Hike	Fri	5/3	1:00pm to 9:00pm	Squak Mountain Access Trail @ Sunrise Place	Issaquah Alps and Trails Club	<a href="#">Squak East Ridge "Get to Know Your Plant Friends" Hike — Issaquah Alps Trails Club</a>
Issaquah Farmers Market	Sat	5/4	9:00am to 2:00pm	Pickering Barn	City of Issaquah	<a href="#">Calendar • First of the Season: Farmers Market (issaquahwa.gov)</a>
Walk n Wag	Sat	5/4	10:00am to 2:00pm	Lake Sammamish State Park	FLSSP	<a href="#">Walk n Wag — Friends of Lake Sammamish State Park Website   Support, Enhance and Promote Lake Sammamish State Park (lakesammamishfriends.org)</a>
Issaquah Farmers Market	Sat	5/11	9:00am to 2:00pm	Pickering Barn	City of Issaquah	<a href="#">Calendar • Issaquah Farmers Market (issaquahwa.gov)</a>
Guided Forest Bathing with Cascadia Forest Therapy	Sat	5/11	10:00am to 12:00pm	Timberlake Park	Green Issaquah and Cascadia Forst Therapy	<a href="#">Calendar • Guided Forest Bathing with Cascadia Forest Therap (issaquahwa.gov)</a>
Stewardship Saturday with Trout Unlimited	Sat	5/11	10:00am to 12:00pm	Anthology Open Space	Trout Unlimited & Lake Sammamish Urban Wildlife Refuge Partnership	<a href="#">Stewardship Saturday - May 11th Tickets, Sat, May 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM   Eventbrite</a>
Watershed Family Field Trip	Sat	5/11	10:00am to 12:00pm	Confluence Park	Nature Vision	<a href="#">Watershed Family Field Trip Issaquah Tickets, Sat, May 11, 2024 at 10:00 AM   Eventbrite</a>
Downtown Issaquah Discovery Walk	Sat	5/11	3:00pm to 4:30pm	Historic Shell Station	Downtown Issaquah Association	<a href="#">Downtown Issaquah Discovery Walk – Downtown Issaquah</a>
Fresh Flower Market	Sun	5/12	9:00am to 2:00pm	Historic Shell Station	Downtown Issaquah Association	<a href="#">Fresh Flower Market – Downtown Issaquah</a>
Spring Swim II Resident Registration	Wed	5/15	11:00am	online	City of Issaquah	<a href="#">Parks and Community Services Start Page (perfectmind.com)</a>
Bike Everywhere Day	Fri	5/17	All-Day	East Lake Sammamish Trail	Cascade Bicycle Club	<a href="#">Calendar • Bike Everywhere Day (issaquahwa.gov)</a>
Spring Swim II Resident Registration	Fri	5/17	11:00am	online	City of Issaquah	<a href="#">Parks and Community Services Start Page (perfectmind.com)</a>

## Issaquah Park Board

### Upcoming Events, May 2024

Event	Day	Date	Time	Location	Sponsor	Link
Asian American & Pacific Islander Celebration	Sat	5/18	4:00pm to 6:00pm	Issaquah Community Center	City of Issaquah and The Circle	<a href="#">Calendar • Asian American &amp; Pacific Islander Celebration (issaquahwa.gov)</a>
Issaquah Farmers Market	Sat	5/18	9:00am to 2:00pm	Pickering Barn	City of Issaquah	<a href="#">Calendar • Issaquah Farmers Market (issaquahwa.gov)</a>
High Point Logging History Hike	Sat	5/18	9:00am to 2:00pm	Intersection of SE 79th and 270th Ave	Tom Anderson	<a href="#">Calendar • High Point Logging History Hike (issaquahwa.gov)</a>
Restoration Work Party at Park Pointe	Sat	5/18	9:00am to 12:00pm	Parke Pointe	Issaquah Alps and Trails Club	<a href="#">Green Issaquah: Restoration Work Party at Park Pointe — Issaquah Alps Trails Club</a>
Downtown Issaquah Wine & Artwalk – Spring	Sat	5/18	6:00pm to 9:00pm	Historic Shell Station	Downtown Issaquah Association	<a href="#">Downtown Issaquah Wine &amp; Art Walk in Issaquah at Downtown Issaquah (tickettomato.com)</a>
Bird-A-Thon Field Trip - Lake Sammamish State Park	Mon	5/20	8:00am to 11:00am	Lake Sammamish State Park	Eastside Audubon Society	<a href="#">Bird Walk at Lake Sammamish State Park — Eastside Audubon Society</a>
Issaquah Farmers Market	Sat	5/25	9:00am to 2:00pm	Pickering Barn	City of Issaquah	<a href="#">Calendar • Issaquah Farmers Market (issaquahwa.gov)</a>