

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Park Board**

7:00 PM
July 22, 2024

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave
NW, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board Members:

Chris Kovac, Chair
Marlene Waxse, Vice Chair
Katie Bell (Excused Absence)
Andrew Eliquen
Nicholas Lee (Absent)
David Liu
Tim Motley (Virtual)
Ryan Olson
Brenda Spears

Mari Stevens, Alternate (Arrived 7:21pm)
Paul Adair, Alternate
Martha Ginthner, Alternate

Administration/Staff:

Robin Spear, Park Planning and
Development Manager
Brian Berntsen, Recreation Manager
Jeff Watling, Director
Hasanthi Hoglund, Department Operations
Specialist
Julie Cassata, Senior Parks Planner
(Virtual)

Guests/Community Members:

Luyu Zeng, Design Workshop Consultant
(Virtual)
Anna Laybourn, Design Workshop
Consultant (Virtual)

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Kovac called the meeting to order at 7:02 PM. Roll was called.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Minutes of June 24, 2024.
There being no changes requested, the minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

None

REGULAR BUSINESS

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

Presented by:

Jeff Watling, Director

Robin Spear, Park Planning & Development Manager

Design Workshop Consultants

Park Planning and Development Manager presented a recap of the park system plan thus far and brought the board's attention to key sections of the draft document and changes proposed outside of the current 90% draft document.

Questions and discussion from the board included confusion regarding an Executive Summary and the Plan Highlight chapters, the preview of creeks to peaks map in the plan highlight lacks context and seems out of place, suggestion to use an executive summary, update language in Vibrancy to encourage not enhance, definition for Balance should strive to reach the balance as right now we are imbalanced, a desire for this value to refocus, a note this plan is big on vision but lacks detail, make active recreation a focus and priority, be more direct and clear in the value descriptions, shorten concept vision, for project what can actually be done in 6 years and what can we afford. The board is excited for the execution arm of the plan, actually doing

the projects, one new member noted they came to Issaquah for a vibrant, social, walkable community and is encouraged that is what is in the plan, support that preserving and protecting the streams, trees and natural landscape is also strong in this plan, it's fresh, current and updated and something they can lean back into as a board.

Concerns around the number of near-term projects was brought up by board members while others support having a large variety to be able to tackle. A re-evaluation of TVP LOS was requested before bringing this back to the board.

Enhancing Recreation Programs, (I, D)

Presented by:

Jeff Watling, Director

Brian Berntsen, Recreation Manager

Jeff Watling introduced the work the recreation team has been doing this year and every year as a continual process to enhance recreation programs. This presentation was a preview of the material going to the Services, Safety and Parks Committee the day after and gives the board a sense of what these look like when staff present to City Council. Recreation Manager Brian Berntsen then led the board through the presentation highlighting the team, the five business units, and the changes and enhancements each team has been making and data collected from a community survey with over 800 respondents.

Questions and discussion from the board included reviewing data over time for foot traffic in the pool, community center, and senior center, teen/middle school afterschool programs, support for a junior ranger program perhaps as a collaboration with scouts or the middle school, connecting with the Garage, connecting directly with the PTAs at the elementary schools and coming to do presentations to their board, an intramural sports sampler for teens, more art classes, how many partner vs. direct programs we hold, and a one stop resource/rental guide. Questions around the survey data included definition of the neutral/not applicable option (being high for many programs) does that indicate indifference or unfamiliarity or not applicable. Other questions about surveys asked if the city has resources for professionals to conduct and write unbiased questions and the art of asking neutral questions.

REPORTS

a) Director's Report

Director Watling reminded the board about current public outreach on a possible pool expansion project and that pop-up events are happening at the Chalk Art Festival and Resource Fair and Concerts on the Green (7/23).

b) Chairperson's Report

Chair Kovac reported seeing bears, eagles, deer and many other wildlife this time of year and encouraged others to get outdoors and enjoy our natural surroundings.

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

ADJOURNMENT

The meetings adjourned at 9:02 PM. The next meeting is currently scheduled for August 26, 2024.