

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Park Board**

7:00 PM  
January 27, 2025

**MINUTES**

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave  
NW, Issaquah

**BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Board Members:*

Chris Kovac, Chair  
Marlene Waxse, Vice Chair (*Virtual*)  
Katie Bell  
Andrew Eliquen (*Excused Absence*)  
David Liu  
Tim Motley (*Virtual*)  
Ryan Olson (*Virtual*)

Mari Stevens, Alternate  
Paul Adair, Alternate  
Martha Ginthner, Alternate

*Administration/Staff:*

Jeff Watling, Director  
Robin Spear, Park Planning and  
Development Manager  
Hasanthi Piyasena, Department Operations  
Specialist

*Community Members/Guests:*

Niya Thomas, Youth Representative

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kovac called the meeting to order at 7:03pm. Roll call was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Minutes of Special Meeting on November 14, 2024  
There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

None

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a) **Park System Level of Service, (I,D)**

*Presented by:*

*Robin Spear, Park Planning and Development Manager*

Director Watling reminded the board that this is an introduction to work that began with our Park System Plan and this will be an ongoing item that will come back to the board a few times. Park Planning and Development Manager, Robin Spear then led the board through the different type of LOS systems are used, per capita or performance based. We embarked on the first performance-based LOS in the park plan and realized that further refinement will be needed to allow for addressing needs, community input and other benefits to help review and plan for improvements. She then reviewed the park classifications and examples within our system. Following the presentation the board discussed starting with community, neighborhood and linear park LOS criteria first and look at community involvement and interaction focusing on active use and the diversity of uses versus the nature park needs. Further discussion noted to prioritize where people are, what gets used the most and options for inclusion.

**Park Municipal Code Introduction, (I,D)**

*Presented by:*

*Hasanthi Hogleund, Department Operations Specialist*

Department Operations Specialist, Hasanthi Hogleund led the board through and introductory conversation around what municipal code is, how it is currently laid out in Issaquah and where park code currently exists and why upcoming changes are desired. She noted this will be a multi-year effort that will help the community have a shared understanding of approved and unapproved uses of park system spaces in order to protect this shared resource and meet the diversity of needs in the community. This will not be as comprehensive as some of the larger code sections, i.e. land use, but will address some emerging changes in use and needs for enforcement. She included a rough process that notes review and research and borrowing from other jurisdictions that already have park code and community engagement throughout the process. Following the presentation the board discussed support for this effort as it protects the system for the future to have a specific park code section in the IMC and is a great opportunity to address some conflicting language and challenges within current code that may conflict with current use. Questions included how deep the codes will go for specific park types, how changes can be proposed and if this will look at development code. The board agreed that electric scooters and bikes, off-leash dogs, and drone uses in park spaces are a good place to start. Staff will bring this item back to the board throughout the year.

### **Park Capital Project Updates, (I)**

*Presented by:*

*Robin Spear, Park Planning and Development Manager*

Park Planning and Development Manager, Robin Spear led the board through some big updates on on-going capital projects at Hillside Park and Park Pointe mitigation site as well as the start of Pedestrian Park and Senior Center and included photos of the progress. Following the presentation there was comment asking about more screening or conversation with a neighbor regarding the trail access and dog interactions and praise for the trail and the work that has happened at Hillside Park.

## **REPORTS**

### a) Director's Report

Director Watling hoped all were well following the bomb cyclone event in November and spoke of the hundreds that used the resource hubs the city was able to stand up, how the operations and public works teams have worked to clean up streets, park spaces, trails and creek areas and the work is still on-going. We estimate around 300 trees lost within active parks spaces and thousands in our open spaces. Replanting efforts will be a multi-year effort and will look at best practices on wildfire prevention within those open spaces. He also mentioned the budget adoption process in December.

### b) Chairperson's Report

No report but mentioned will not be present at next meeting and so interim chair will be needed.

## **OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

Hasanthi Hogleund reminded the board about the Mayor's strategic Task force on Safety and Civic facilities opportunity to serve.

## **ADJOURNMENT**

Meeting adjourned at 8:28pm. The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 24, 2025.