

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Park Board and Arts Commission Joint Meeting**

7:00 PM  
May 19th, 2025

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave  
NW, Issaquah

**MINUTES**

**BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

<i>Park Board Members</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Community Members/Guests</i>
Chris Kovac, Chair	In person	David Kapplar- in person
Marlene Waxse, Vice Chair	Unexcused Absence	Connie Marsh- virtual
Jane Takushi	Excused Absence	
Katie Bell	Unexcused Absence	
Tim Motley	Virtual	
Ryan Olson	In person	
David Liu	In person	
Diana Ren	In person	
Hannah Novakovic	In person	
Martha Ginthner	Excused Absence	
Paul Adair	In person	
Jeffrey Newell	In person	
<i>Administration / Staff</i>		
Jeff Watling, P&CS Director	In person	
Robin Spear, Park planning & Development Manager	In person	
Hasanthi Hoglund, P&CS Operations Specialist	Excused Absence	

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Kovac called the meeting to order at 7:00pm. Roll call was taken.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Minutes of April 28, 2025.  
There being no corrections, the minutes were approved as presented by Park Board.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

David Kappler- Commenting on the soccer fields proposed for Lake Sammamish State Park; working with Friends of Lake Sammamish on grants for ADA trails throughout the park. Trails currently don't extend through the soccer fields and would like to know how a trail could connect through the fields to the beach.

Connie Marsh- Commenting that the proposed soccer fields are in a wet area and wetlands. Would like to see them used wet and don't spend money on draining the fields like agricultural tiling.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a) **Park Board Chair and Vice Chair Elections, (A)**  
*Presented by:*  
*Jeff Watling, Parks and Community Services*

Election results:

Ryan Olson elected chair (David 2<sup>nd</sup> motion, unanimous)

David Liu elected vice chair (Ryan 2<sup>nd</sup> motion, unanimous)

**b) Lake Sammamish State Park Sports Fields, (D,A)**

*Presented by:*

*Jeff Watling, Parks and Community Services*

Review of the proposed maintenance and management plan for the Lake Sammamish State Park (LSSP) athletic fields located across from IHOP on NW Sammamish Rd. Multi-use is recommended to maximize use and club availability. Several clubs (Lacrosse, Cricket, etc.) have expressed interest in renting the fields. Goal will be to have revenue to cover expenses in interim period of maintenance and management. Potential for a long-term plan if approved in the State's management plan which is under development.

*Questions and Comments:*

- Why is the state cancelling existing agreements? (Issaquah soccer split off into another league)
- Is City still in touch with IFC and east side clubs? (yes, still in communication with other soccer clubs)
- What will happen with the other existing fields? (LSSP has expressed that they will not be maintaining the other fields)
- Will the rentals provide new revenue? (yes, estimated \$70-80k)
- Will the rentals pull programming from other Issaquah fields? (yes, relieves the pressure on the system during heavier use months)
- Will the rates be competitive with the field rates outside of Issaquah? (field rental rates will be competitive with other grass field rates)
- IFC had 2000-3000 kids in the summer & fall leagues, is there still the volume? (still comparable and would rather rent, participation isn't changing)
- Where are budget resources being pulled from? (Park Operations existing budget, no budget amendment needed)
- What is the revenue of the fields? (@\$400k, 50% into turf replacement fund and 50% into operations)
- Who will be maintain the parking area and do you still need a Discover Pass? (LSSP will be maintaining parking and yes a Discover Pass will be required)
- For multi-use fields are upcoming sports more in demand? (the 4 existing synthetic turf fields are in demand and can accommodate new sports)

*Motion:* Support the maintenance and management of the LSSP fields and recommend it to City Council

Ryan Olson- 2<sup>nd</sup> motion

Unanimous approval

**c) Level of Service, (I,D)**

*Presented by:*

*Robin Spear, Park Planning and Development Manager*

Review of the need for Level of Service within Issaquah's park system and the need to use a qualitative (performance based) metrics instead of quantity. Sets the standards for the quality of our parks based on the different classifications. Focus on Community Parks, Neighborhood Parks, Linear Parks:

**Metrics for Community Parks:**

- Children's age groups
- What neighborhoods are using the park?
- What's getting used the most in the park? Is it being used in multiple different ways?
- Is it reflecting the demographics of the community?
- Can seniors use it? Is the park accessible?
- Age of an amenity in the park
- How quickly is the amenity wearing out from use? Lifecycle.

**Metrics for Neighborhood Parks:**

- Quality of the amenity in the park
- Is there shade and comfort available in the park?
- Is it safe and comfortable to meet in the park?
- Is the park walkable and bikeable?
- Ecotypes available that showcase different plant species?

**Metrics for Linear Parks:**

- How many pathway amenities are available?
- Are there diverse seating options available?
- Creeks to Peaks- is it connecting multiple public spaces?
- Safety perception- is there a sense of safety.

**d) Park Board Tour Planning, (D)**

*Presented by:*

*Jeff Watling, Parks and Community Services Director*

Reviewed the Park Board Planning tour and discussed what parks would the board want to prioritize seeing to gain more familiarity with the system in July.

Options discussed: Parks that were in the C.I.P. such as Tibbetts Valley Park, Central Park Pad #2, East Sunset Trailhead, and Kelkari. Recommendation by Robin to tour one of each classification.

**REPORTS**

## a) Director's Report

No report from Jeff-

## c) Chairperson's Report

No report but question of when the Heritage Tree Program will be coming back to the board.

**OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No other business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15 pm. The next meeting is currently scheduled for June 23rd, 2025.