

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH**  
**Park Board Meeting**

7:00 PM  
October, 2025

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17<sup>th</sup> Ave  
N.W., Issaquah

**MINUTES**

**BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

<i>Park Board Members</i>	<i>Attendance</i>	<i>Community Members/Guests</i>
Ryan Olson, Chair	In person	Connie Marsh- email & online
David Liu., Vice Chair	In person	Steven Pereria- email
Chris Kovac	Online	David Waggoner & Veterans- in person
Jane Takushi	In person	Steve Murphy- in person
Katie Bell	Excused	
Tim Motley	In person	
Diana Ren	Online	
Hannah Novakovic	Online	
Martha Ginthner	Excused	
Paul Adair	Excused	
Jeffrey Newell	Excused	
Marlene Waxse	In person	
<i>Administration / Staff</i>		
Jeff Watling, P&CS Director	In person	
Robin Spear, Park planning & Development Manager	In person	

**CALL TO ORDER**

Meeting called to order at 7:01 pm

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a.) Park Board Minutes of September 25<sup>th</sup> (Special Meeting)- approved by Marlene

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a.) Connie Marsh- via online: City has typically done a master site plan process, not a master plan process. Need to describe what a master plan is. No one is for the natural environment- changes in the ICAP have no one implementing them- plans such as the tree plan have no regulations or implementation. Parks dept. acts like a developer and threads the code needle. Dog park- should be a stream determination and stormwater plan does not address the waste going into the ditches. *Also see attached email*
- b.) David Waggoner: On behalf of the Veterans they appreciate saving the monument at the Senior Center and working with staff on making sure it is preserved. Originally donated to the city in 1947. 8000 flags have been retired in the flag box.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a.) Tibbetts Valley Park Master Planning Process (I): overview of what a master plan is, why it is important to do, and the typical process for developing a master plan. Overview of community outreach and what to expect for the concept development phase. TVP will have two components; a feasibility study and a conceptual design process that will become the Master Plan. RFQ will go out in early November and anticipate contracting with a consultant by February.

Board questions:

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- Will the previous ideas discussed be incorporated into the process? *Yes, the previous work done will be available to the consultants and incorporated into the feasibility study.*
- Will wildlife like the existing osprey nest on the pole be studied or factored in? *Yes, there will be a biological study done with the feasibility study and integrated into the plan.*
- Can the plan be adaptable in the future? *Yes, major elements and priorities will remain, but will be refined during the development of each phase which requires more detail.*
- Can the plan be revised? *Yes, for larger changes an amendment can be done to the plan, but each phase will have its own additional outreach for the design.*
- Expect input from surrounding neighborhoods, but will there be public input from people who don't live near the park? *Yes, our goal is to have a robust engagement strategy that will pull feedback from the entire community.*
- Will staff keep in mind what the total park system needs and put strong parameters on the use of the space? *We will reiterate during the engagement process what the system has and is lacking and what the site is capable of holding.*
- Will the plan have SMART goals? *Yes, we will be clear about the needs are and what we are going to do within the design of the plan. Metrics will show what the park looks like when scheduled and not scheduled, vs. what it could be capable of year-round.*
- Did artificial turf come up in prior discussion? *Yes, it has in how to provide year-round field capacity.*
- Will there be guidance on feedback? What is the protocol for answering questions from the community? *Staff and consultants will be recording feedback and comments and will address common themes and specific questions during public meetings.*

- b.) Issaquah Climate Action Plan Update (I), Presented by Stacy Vynne McKinstry: Overview of the progress on the ICAP implementation, 2026 approach, and review of the six proposed new committee recommendations.

## Board questions:

- Increasing tree canopy will increase fuel load which is a concern now east of the cascades. *That has been discussed and will be integrated into the canopy target goal. Right tree in the right place to improve defensible spaces.*
- Homeowner requirements for removing or preserving trees? *Seeing a shift in focus or thinking on private property tree requirements and will be updated in the tree code for 2026.*
- How are we conserving water? *Reduction in irrigation use, drought tolerant planting, LID design philosophy.*
- Improving stream health? *We've been focused on improving the streams themselves and revitalizing bank and riparian areas.*
- *Recommendation of a joint meeting with park board and enviro board for more in depth discussion on proposed actions and updates.*

**REPORTS**

- a) Director's Report- Hasanthi will be back on November 3<sup>rd</sup>.
- b) Chairperson's Report- tomorrow is the last day to sign up for a free tree with planting seminar on November 1<sup>st</sup> with the Urban Forester.
- 3-trails asphalt art project phase 1 has been completed.
  - Hillside drainage is doing well in the field.
- c) Youth Report  
n/a

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**OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS**

No other business.

**ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting adjourned at 9:01 pm. The next meeting is currently scheduled for November 24th, 2025. No meeting in December.



**Robin Spear**

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**From:** Steve Pereira <smpereira@yahoo.com>  
**Sent:** Monday, October 27, 2025 3:44 PM  
**To:** Park Board; City Council  
**Subject:** 10/27/2025 Issaquah Parks Board

[Some people who received this message don't often get email from smpereira@yahoo.com. Learn why this is important at <https://aka.ms/LearnAboutSenderIdentification> ]

Hi All,

Tibbetts Valley Master Plan:

I disagree at the goal is or should be to find “balance” between not just variables, but sometimes conflicting interests. It is better to define items, including scope, parameters, cost, intended outcome, intended Level Of Service (LOS), expected demand/usage to warrant construction and ongoing maintenance, what level of ongoing operational costs could/would be associated with maintaining these facilities, consideration of whether these cost would be prioritized from existing City budget, or part of a proposed/planned future City Parks Bond measure. Ask whether these or other factors be considered and decided prior to the start of a Master Plan. All of these are important considerations, some level of cost approximation should be known before, and considered PRIOR to entering into such a study. Otherwise, it becomes something of a wish list of what people want, it falsely raises expectations, and over promises results. It becomes the start of a public sales pitch, amidst already limited and competing public dollars.

I do have concerns with using artificial turf for the site, mostly that portions of the site are prone to flooding, and that truth is not permeable, so natural filtration along or adjacent to creek or creekside property would be lost.

Tibbetts Creek Manor seems largely used to host City boards/commissions (Extra opportunity to say Thanks to you for your efforts to positively contribute to our City), and think I have heard as storage. Tibbetts Manor itself, though does not seem within the scope of City need and should be disposed of.

Issaquah Climate Action Plan (ICAP):

Admit that I do not know much beyond the scope of the Dark Skies plan, so I do believe it should be considered, as it came up in the Title 18 implementation two years ago, where believe it was included as a future item.

Though not specifically called out in the material, I am taking the opportunity to again seek City support for any possible legal protections of what are known as historical or culturally significant trees. These would largely be those trees they may have been marked or used by Native or First Nations peoples or tribes. While I am appreciative of the cities ongoing work with local tribes on this topic, believe we should proactively prepare to include such protections.

We really need to go beyond encourage/incentivize to achieve needed ICAP goals. While both individual and worldwide actions are needed, Issaquah must do more to City Building Code to require LEED level standards be implemented, and for a greater/larger number of building size/type, and size sooner rather than later. Yes, indicate they see also lobby for this at higher level government jurisdictions, but implement at whatever the highest level possible at local jurisdiction.

Sending this to the ethernet now.

Thanks to all of you for your service.

Steve Pereira  
 Olde Town, Issaquah



**Robin Spear**

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**From:** Connie Marsh <auntgrumpy@comcast.net>  
**Sent:** Friday, October 24, 2025 12:55 PM  
**To:** Park Board  
**Cc:** David Kappler; Cory Christensen; Danielle Githens; Bradley Book; Al Erickson  
**Subject:** TVP Master Plan at next Park Board

Hi all,

TVP has an existing Master Plan.

A review of this plan and a discussion of successes and failures of this plan (including \$\$) is necessary as a first step.

The Parks department began a “new” Master Plan project for TVP some years ago. This is a batch of information that should also be provided initially.

Critical area studies have been created that describe the constraints of the Park. While they will need to be updated, they do provide basic information. This is not another “imagine the possibilities moment”. This is a conversation about what can happen within the constraints of funding AND environmental protection.

(Hint: Parks is going to try to say that TVP can be drained...but its own studies show that much of TVP is “in” the groundwater. Good luck draining ground water.)

A comment about all of the words in all of these slides...too many words...they make my word loving brain go numb and run screaming. Is this the intent?

Thanks,

Connie Marsh