

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Park Board**

7:00 PM
January 26, 2026

MINUTES

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave
NW, Issaquah

BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT

Board Members:

Ryan Olson, Chair
David Liu, Vice Chair
Jane Takushi
Katie Bell
Tim Motley
Chris Kovac
Marlene Waxse
Diana Ren
Hannah Novakivic

Administration/Staff:

Jeff Watling, Director, Parks & Community
Services
Robin Spear, Park Planning & Development
Manager

Paul Adair, Alternate
Martha Ginthner, Alternate
Jeffrey Newell, Alternate

You may join the meeting in-person at the address above, or virtually using the following options:

Join by Computer

- Teams Meeting [attendee meeting link](#)
- If needed, meeting ID is 230 216 720 904 and passcode is HB9Gj3Af

Join by Phone

- Call 1-206-485-0299, enter phone conference ID 732 733 4#

If planning to make verbal comments, please email jeffw@issaquahwa.gov. Submit written comments to parkboard@issaquahwa.gov.

A recording of the meeting will be posted to the City's YouTube channel: [issaquahwa.gov/youtube](https://www.issaquahwa.gov/youtube).

CALL TO ORDER

Ryan called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m.

GOOD OF THE ORDER

- a) Congratulations to Paul Adair for his new position on City Council. Paul offered his resignation to the Park Board and an "open door" policy for discussion regarding city concerns or projects. Good luck Paul, we've enjoyed your feedback and recommendations and appreciate all your work on the Park Board.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Park Board Minutes of November 24th, 2025- approved

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) N/A

REGULAR BUSINESS

- a) **Issaquah School District Interagency Agreement Update, (I)**

Presented by: Jeff Watling and Jason Morse

Review of key points of the interagency agreement:

- *Primary emphasis on scheduling and community access for different types of infrastructure. Lays out a framework for future employees at the City and school district to follow.*
- *Process for looking at possible joint capital projects from an investment and operational perspective and process. Introduces opportunities (projects and programs) with an addendum to the agreement.*
- *Provides an ongoing benefit of increased communication and connections between the city and the school district.*

Questions:

- *What portions of the existing fields, courts, and gyms are open to the public? Facilities are scheduled for school events first, open times after that are available for groups or individuals at no cost but depending on the size of the event clean up/trash/etc. may be charged. At the middle schools a key can be checked out for a fee to families to access covered basketball areas, tennis courts at the high schools. High school stadiums are regularly scheduled and typically not available for public use due to cost of replacement if items are damaged. Jeff recommended adding that information on public access to the joint use agreement.*
- *Does the City pay more to cover maintenance and operations? Typically no, unless the event uses additional lighting or custodial needs then a fee will be applied, otherwise the City does their own cleanup.*

- b) **2026 Workplans and Priorities (I)**

Presented by: Jeff Watling

- *Mayor's Priorities*
- *Department Workplan Priorities*
- *Park Board Workplan Priorities*

Review of Mayor's priorities- see attachment

Review of Parks & Community Services 2026 priorities- see attachment

Review of Park Board workplan- see attachment.

REPORTS

- a) Director's Report

- *Currently interviews are in progress for the Department Operations position and should be filled by early February. 18 candidates applied, several qualified.*
- *Dog Park construction started on January 12th, utilities will be completed early February and grading is currently happening on site.*

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- b) Chairperson's Report
N/A- but go Hawks!

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

- a) Nick Olson, our new Youth Advisor joined this meeting. Happy to have him join the Park Board and looking forward to his insight and recommendations.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 7:56 p.m.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for February 23rd, 2026.

INQUIRIES



Get Around Town Safely And Easily

Make smart investments in traffic improvements.



Protect Issaquah

Support police, fire, and emergency preparedness efforts.



Increase Affordability

Remove unnecessary barriers that drive up the cost of building things we need to build.



Enjoy Our Natural Beauty

Protect and enhance local parks, trails, and open space.



Deliver Exceptional Customer Service

Respond quickly and effectively to our community's needs.

2026 Priorities



CITY OF
ISSAQUAH
WASHINGTON

Issaquah Parks and Community Services 2026 Work Plan PRIORITIES

Parks Admin and Park Planning/Development

- Park Rules update to Issaquah Municipal Code (IMC) – Council adoption
- Rainier Trail Dog Park – completion
- Tibbetts Valley Park – Revisioning kick off in Q1
- Lake Sammamish State Park Athletic Fields – long-term agreement
- Strategic Acquisitions
- Central Park Pad #2 – Revisioning kick off in Q4
- Continued exploration of Capital Funding strategies
- Creeks to Peaks branding
- 3-trails asphalt art- Striping of intersection crossings

Park Operations

- Pedestrian Park Plaza expansion – in-house collaboration with Park Planning
- Tradition Plateau Forest Management Plan - complete
- Installation of Park and Trail Signs – Phase 2 completion
- Complete 2026 Capital Programs – Park Assets, Playgrounds, Trails and Irrigation

Human Services

- 2027/2028 Grant application process – review and recommendations.
- Grant funding level – filling the annual gap due to depletion of one-time opioid settlement funds
- King County Crisis Center (East Region) – tracking County planning and continued regional collaboration
- Explore transitional/bridge housing feasibility

Recreation

- Adoption of updated Interlocal / Joint Use Agreement with Issaquah School District
- Expanded partnerships and collaboration with the Issaquah Library and KCLS
- Scholarship Program review and updates
- Registration Software - collaborate with IT on current issues and future solutions

Arts

- Launch Bloomberg Connects Public Art App
- Advance the Creative District program goals related to placemaking, creative workforce development and tourism
- Paragliding Festival 2026 – facilitate the launch of new community event
- Issaquah 250 Art project

- Action/ Recommendation
- Proposed Meeting Schedule
- Tentative Timeframe

Applicable Strategic Plan Goal Areas
(check all that apply)

Mobility
 Social & Economic Vitality
 Growth & Development
 City Leadership & Services
 Environ. Stewardship
 Infrastructure

2026 WORKPLAN [WORKING] PARK BOARD

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	1 st Qtr.			2 nd Qtr.			3 rd Qtr.			4 th Qtr.			
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D	
GENERAL WORK PLAN ITEMS														
Joint Use Agreement – Issaquah School District (ISD)	Discussion of goals and timeline with ISD staff and Parks staff													
Creeks to Peaks	Provide input on iconography branding options and identification for new Park System concept. Review development of wayfinding elements including bollards, signs, plaques, etc.													
Tibbetts Valley Park Revisioning Plans	Provide input for Park Planning													
• Feasibility Studies	Review of feasibility study results relative to programming options													
Tradition Plateau Forest Plan	Informational update on plan documents													
Lake Sammamish State Park Field Use Pilot Review	Review of the pilot management of field use and maintenance and discussion on long-term management agreement													
Heritage Tree Program Nominations	Review Heritage Tree Nominations and Recommendations													
Central Park – Pad 2 Field Improvements – Feasibility Study	Provide input for Park Planning. Review of feasibility study results and programming options													
Issaquah Municipal Code – Addition of Park Rules and Regulations	Review and provide input on the additions and modifications within proposed IMC Park Rules and Regulations section													
Park Capital Projects and Programs updates	Informational updates on the status of capital work including the construction of the Rainier Trail Dog Park													
Trail Standards														

ITEM	DESCRIPTION	1 st Qtr.			2 nd Qtr.			3 rd Qtr.			4 th Qtr.		
		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Issaquah Climate Action Plan - Update													
ADMINISTRATIVE ITEMS		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D
Election of Officers	Elect Chair and Vice Chair in May												
Work Plan Working Document	Quarterly review of work plan working document												
Recreation Division Update	Receive update from Recreation Division												
Park Operations Division Update	Receive update from Park Operations Division												
Summer Park Tour	Discuss options and tour upcoming park project areas												
FUTURE/POTENTIAL WORK PLAN ITEMS		J	F	M	A	M	J	J	A	S	O	N	D