

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH
Park Board**

7:00 PM
March 23, 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

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 256 165 810 436 33 and passcode is mX3Tp2qu

Join by Phone

- Call 1-206-485-0299, enter phone conference ID 751 662 439#

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 Olson to call the meeting to order at 7:01p.m.

Martha Ginthner, absent

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- a) Draft minutes of February 24th, 2026
Approved by Ryan Olson, no revisions or comments

PUBLIC COMMENTS

- a) 03-21-26 Email from Steve Pereira, attached.

REGULAR BUSINESSa) **Park Bond Renewal, (D, A)**

Presented by: Jeff Watling

The director presented an overview of a potential park bond renewal and the opportunity to maintain the same levy rate of the expiring bond to fund new investments into the parks system. The City's history of park bonds in 2006 and 2013, and what they were used for was shared. Presentation items included:

- *Proposed timeline*
- *Preliminary revenue and funding*
- *Project prioritization and potential projects*

The Board asked and discussed the following:

- *The Board discussed whether additional projects should be considered for inclusion, including potential pool renovations and synthetic turf at Tibbetts Valley Park.*
- *Questions were raised about environmental review for turf installations, and staff confirmed that all projects would undergo required permitting and environmental review processes.*
- *The Board discussed how the proposed park bond aligns with broader City funding considerations, including other potential capital needs. The April 6 Committee of the Whole meeting will include discussion of both facilities capital and park bond funding to support a coordinated approach.*
- *Board members shared community feedback highlighting limited access to lap swimming and interest in pool improvements.*
- *The Board discussed potential community engagement approaches, including the use of surveys to gather input on project priorities, while noting the importance of ensuring results are representative.*
- *The potential need for a designated dog park at Tibbetts Valley Park was also discussed, including its role in reducing off-leash activity in shared spaces.*

REPORTS

a) Director's Report

- Park Rule Update - engaging community through survey to inform 1st draft
- Partnership with Issaquah School District - joint use agreement draft in final review

b) Chairperson's Report

- Solar panel ribbon cutting event at Pickering Barn, April 7 at 2 p.m.

c) Youth Advisory Report N/A

OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

Park board meeting on April 27, 2026 may be moved.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:52 p.m.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for April 27th.

03-23-26 Park Board Minutes

INQUIRIES

N/A

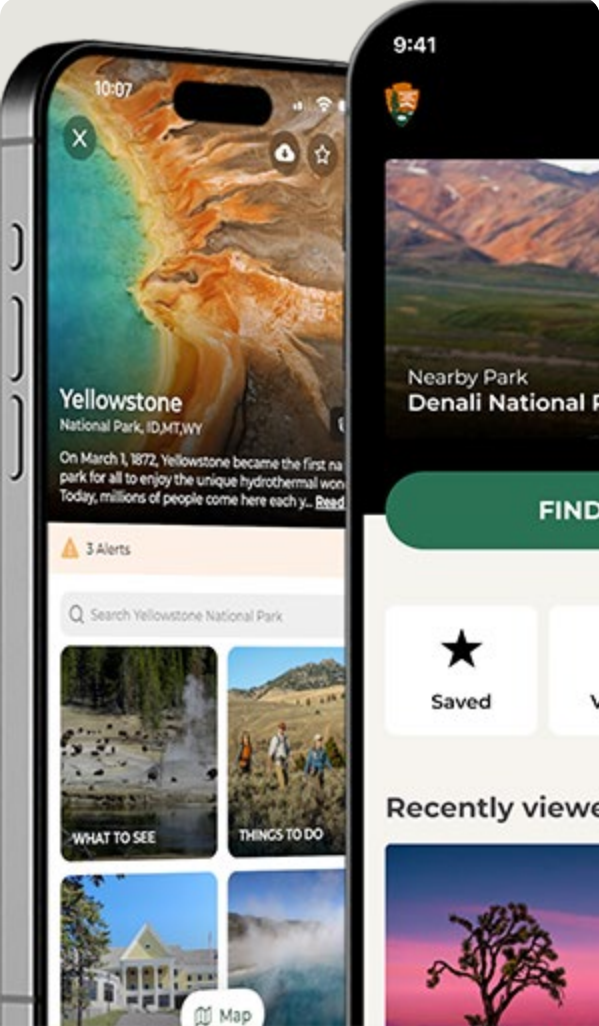
From: [Steve Pereira](#)
To: [Park Board](#)
Cc: [City Council](#)
Subject: 03/23/2026 Issaquah Park Board
Date: Saturday, March 21, 2026 1:22:01 AM
Attachments: [app-promo-phones.png](#)

Some people who received this message don't often get email from smpereira@yahoo.com. [Learn why this is important](#)

Hi,
Offer the following:

Miscellaneous:

- 1. Yes, Issaquah should be able to preserve 'stroads' (groups or stands of trees) for preservation. The first and best example is in Rainier National Park, the Grove of the Patriarchs (definitely worth a visit):



Grove of the Patriarchs Trailhead (U.S. National Park Service)
nps.gov

2. I was disappointed in the Park Board decision not to support protections for what are known as 'Culturally Modified/Significant Trees' (CMT/CST), in general, those trees that historically were modified by First Nations Peoples for cultural, religious, or way-finding purposes. I do understand and support these group's desire to preserve in anonymity, had hoped legal protections could be extended to them.

Regular Business:

Park Bond Renewal:

1. Confluence Park Ek House:

I supported the work of this project (Including think building/site Historical Recognition) when it was most recently before the Issaquah City Council. I was at best crestfallen though when the then-sitting City Council voted to pull this projects proposed funding and allocate instead to the recent overall existing Olde Town area.

Point: I believe the City made and has a commitment and duty to fund this project from existing City revenues, NOT only if/when City residents vote for additional taxes.

2. East Sunset Trailhead:

Support the idea of this project, though inclined against funding for bathrooms and/or paved parking. These items seem beyond needed outcome or scope.

3. Harvey Manning - Cougar Mountain Trail Connection:

I don't know now yet, so no opinion. Inclined though against supporting additional trails when existing City funds are already constrained, including for future needed maintenance costs.

4. Kelkari-Weymouth-Squak Mountain Trail Corridor:

Don't know enough yet, so no opinion. Inclined against expanded trails when the City is dealing with limited revenue, including needed future needed ongoing maintenance.

5. Issaquah school District (ISD) Athletic Fields:

STRONGLY OPPOSED.

As the titled primary benefit is the ISD, they should be contributing significantly more financially for initial installation, maintenance, and ongoing field scheduling. There is NOT significant City resident demand/need for this, it is again the City filling and paying for a ofRegional need.

Also, remain concerned with replacing natural field with artificial turf (this is what I have seen proposed in current City plans), as natural SEfield provides natural stormwater percolation, and flood mitigation.

6. Tibbetts Valley Park - All Inclusive Park:

Inclined against. Not seeing a current need, or that this would be a driver for the presumed Oaudience hoped to attract to move to this area.

7. Tibbetts Valley Park - Dog Park:

STRONGLY OPPOSED. Opposed the 1st dog park, there are park needs for people that I prioritize ahead of dogs. This is doubly so for this seemingly proposed 2nd dog park.

8. Suggestions:

Preserve open space or critical area's?

Thanks,
Steve Pereira
Olde Town, Issae

Sent from my iPhone