

**CITY OF ISSAQUAH  
Park Board**

7:00 PM  
May 4, 2026

**MINUTES**

Tibbetts Manor, 750 17th Ave  
NW, Issaquah

**BOARD AND ADMINISTRATIVE PERSONNEL PRESENT**

*Board Members:*

Katie Bell - Present  
Chris Kovac - Present  
David Liu - EA  
Tim Motley - EA  
Hannah Novakovic - Present  
Ryan Olson - Present  
Diana Ren - Virtual  
Jane Takushi - Present  
Marlene Waxse - Present

*Administration/Staff:*

Jeff Watling, Director, Parks & Community Services

Laura Haas, Department Operations Specialist, Parks & Community Services

Martha Ginthner, Alternate - Present  
Leah Grimmer-Gonzalez, Alternate - Absent  
Jeffrey Newell, Alternate - Virtual

Nick Olson, Youth Representative - Present

**CALL TO ORDER**

Ryan Olson called the meeting to order at 7:02p.m.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- a) Draft minutes of March 23rd, 2026  
*Approved by Ryan Olson, no revisions or comments*

**PUBLIC COMMENTS**

- a) Steve Pereira attended virtually and provided public comment on the proposed project selections.

**REGULAR BUSINESS**

- a) **Park Bond Renewal Update, (I,D)**

*Presented by: Jeff Watling, Director of Parks and Community Services*

- The director shared the City Council requests and feedback from the April 6 Committee of the Whole meeting to the Park Board regarding:
  - Parks capital funding
  - Projects
  - Vision
  - Examples of recent park-specific measures over the last five years
- An overview on parks capital funding was shared; based on current 6-yr CIP, REET funding will be in deficit next biennium.
- History of park development projects in the last 10 years was shared, confirming that park bond funding and grants are foundational sources for park development/redevelopment projects.

- Considerations on how potential projects were chosen for proposed bond package, initial cost estimates + grant opportunities for each proposed project, and other near-term projects not in the package were discussed.
- Director shared that baseline funding through a bond renewal better positions projects for grant funding opportunities.
- Director shared other bond levy rate options and scenarios to show what package of projects could be accomplished at a given levy rate; Mayor recommends the same levy rate.

The Board asked and discussed the following:

- How long it would take to fund proposed projects through City capital funding; \$3.2M contributed to park development/redevelopment projects over 10 years, so it would take 60+ years to complete the \$20M bond renewal proposed projects.
- Changing the slide language on the bond levy rate options to “scenarios”
- Re-ordering proposed projects by listing the projects that community is the most interested in first such as school turf fields and park amenities
- The Ek House restoration what it offers the community
- Turf field improvements, including lighting, full-sized field considerations, and youth athletic needs.
- Athletic field flexibility and potential multi-sport use configurations.
- Potential pool expansion ballot measure and impacts of competing ballot measures.
- Recent King County levy and bond measures, affordability considerations, and varying tax rate approaches.

b) **Election of Chair and Vice Chair**  
*Agenda item to May 18.*

## REPORTS

- a) Director's Report
- Dog park opening – thank you and watch the video
- b) Chairperson's Report
- Voting for Chair and Vice Chair will occur at the next meeting
- c) Youth Advisory Report
- Bond Renewal is a good step in the right direction but on
  - Youth Advisor will present capstone project on Trails Standards at the next meeting

## OTHER BUSINESS / ANNOUNCEMENTS

## ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:56pm.

The next meeting is currently scheduled for May 18, 2026.