

BREMERTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of February 23, 2021

Virtual Meeting

Commissioner's Present: Tim Baker, Ben Burnette, Pat Watson and Dave Hedger

Staff Present: Jeff Elevado, Director of Parks and Recreation
Colette Berna, Park Preservation and Development Manager
Steve Mutek, Parks Operations Manager
Scott Evans, Recreation Coordinator

I. Meeting Called to Order at 5:31 p.m. by Chair Burnette

II. Approval of Minutes: A motion was made to approve the minutes from the January 26th meeting. Hedger/Watson (M/S/U)

III. Public Comment: N/A

IV. Business Items:

1. COVID-19 Status Update

Director Elevado shared that the state recently went to Phase 2 which allows outdoor activities between 2 households and no more than 15 people. Indoor soccer games at the soccer center are now allowed and leagues can get going again. City facilities are still closed but the city is working with the Conference Center to figure out when they will be able to hold events which are allowed at 25% capacity. Parks remain open and maintenance staff are busy. Recreation staff are working hard at developing plans to be ready to restart programs safely when we move to the next phase. **Recreation Coordinator Scott Evans** is looking forward to getting the season started and is researching how other recreational facilities (e.g. The RAC in Lacey) have opened safely but they also have more staffing to manage numbers and ensure masking and social distancing.

2. Mayor's 2021 Initiatives Review

Director Elevado shared the Mayor's 2021 Initiatives which is focused on housing and commercial development which is positive for all departments because the more quality housing there is, the more revenue the city can generate from either real estate excise tax or sales tax or other types of revenue that helps the city perform their duties. Improving water quality at Kitsap Lake remains a high priority and treatment has occurred along with weed harvesting to address the algae blooms. Improving broadband expansion is important, particularly during the pandemic to help kids who are trying to log into class from home and need a good Wi-Fi connection. Park facility upgrades that are listed include the Kitsap Lake Park renovation, funding the turf field and a new restroom at Pendergast Regional Park, renovating Haddon Park and making improvements to the Cascade Course at Gold Mountain Golf Course. Other initiatives include working with the YMCA to improve public access to the city-owned pool. Under the Arts and Culture Initiative, Recreation Coordinator Cynthia Engelgau is involved in several of these projects including the utility cabinet wraps. The poet laureate program is another art initiative and diversity and inclusion are really important. Other initiatives include street and sidewalk programs, mental health support, and crime reduction.

3. City Council 2021 Goals & Priorities Review

Director Elevado shared that city staff met with City Council at a retreat to discuss their goals and priorities which included the need to support parks and secure a dedicated sustainable

funding source which is really important for us to support capital projects and operate. **Chair Burnette** mentioned the sad news that Former Councilmember Mr. Brockus passed. Director Elevado said Mr. Brockus was a strong advocate for the Manette neighborhood and that the city is working to find a way to help honor his service.

V. **Staff Reports:**

1) **Warren Ave. Park & Playfield Renovation Project Update**

Mr. Mutek shared the progress that has been made on the playground installation and that landscaping is starting the middle of next month. **Director Elevado** noted that while the playground is in a small footprint the equipment has lots of variety. **Ms. Berna** shared that Darla from the Beyond Accessible Play group was included in the design and accessibility was enhanced with activity panels that are accessible from the walkway.

2) **Kitsap Lake Park Improvement Project Update**

Director Elevado shared that Parametrix has completed 30% construction documents and that after the review some pathway alignments have been altered based on grading with the goal to make the pathways accessible without having a lot of ramps with handrails. **Ms. Berna** shared some details on the JARPA, SEPA and Shoreline permits and additional surveying needed for the DNR lease.

3) **Gold Mountain Golf Course Update**

Director Elevado shared that the master plan is underway with the consultant who has been on site multiple times watching golfers play the course and developing ideas for the improvements. The goal is to have a master plan that can be implemented over time, perhaps 1-2 holes a year for the next several years. A contract has also been approved for replacing the original (2003) carpet in the clubhouse and the Wi-Fi was also recently improved. These improvements (including the master plan) are funded through the golf reserve account, not the city's general fund. The current management agreement with Columbia Hospitality requires 4% of gross revenues collected in golf to be placed in the golf reserve account that can only be used for capital improvements to the complex. Elevado added that the current debt service payment of nearly \$500,000 per year will be paid off in approximately 8 years. Once that occurs, these funds will be available for future improvements to the complex as well as providing an additional fund for parks capital improvements.

VI. **Commissioner's Comments:**

Commissioner Watson shared that it's been nice seeing people using Manette Park.

Commissioner Baker asked when Warren Ave. Park would be open and **Director Elevado** said we haven't put a date on it yet but once the playground is complete it will be hard to keep people out. **Mr. Mutek** said the ball field was just re-seeded and needs a little more time before it can be used.

VII. **Adjournment:** **Chair Burnette** adjourned the meeting at 6:12 pm.