

BREMERTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of April 25, 2023

Hybrid Meeting: In person at Sheridan Park Community Center w/ option to “zoom in”.

Commissioner’s Present: Ben Burnette, Tim Baker, Paul Dutky, Katherine Weigel, Jim McDonald, Greg Dawson.

Staff Present: Jeff Elevado, Director of Parks and Recreation
Steve Mutek, Park Operation Manager
Colette Berna, Park Preservation & Development Manager

- I. **Meeting Called to Order** at 5:34 p.m. by Chair Burnette
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve meetings held on March 28th, 2023. Dawson/Dutky (M/S/U)
- III. **Public Comment:** N/A
- IV. **Business Items:**
 1. **Parks Capital Construction Budget Discussion – Director Elevado** shared that the P&R Dept. has a fund balance in the capital improvement fund that helps with matching grants for projects identified in the 6 and 20-year Capital Facilities Plan. Staff shared details of typical grant timelines. **Commissioner Dawson** asked about levies and **Director Elevado** shared that since 1981, the city has attempted two levies, and both failed. He shared that many don’t realize how much labor it takes to maintain the city’s parks system, especially with the increased wear-and-tear by some users and reiterated that the Dept. has not seen a staffing increase in over 12 years. **Mr. Mutek** shared that Police can’t do anything about homelessness in parks unless people are obviously breaking the law. **Commissioner Dutky** asked about force account labor and Director Elevado explained RCW regarding public works limits.
 2. **Pendergast Regional Park Field Improvement Project – Director Elevado** and **Ms. Berna** shared slideshow describing the following: existing site conditions, project history, initial master plan, economic impact analysis, 30% design to install accessible perimeter pathways, restroom and turf fields, cost estimate, and funding opportunities.
 3. **Pendergast Regional Park Trail Recommendation (Commissioner Dutky) – Commissioner Dutky** read motion: *Whereas the Bremerton Parks Commission wishes to make advisory recommendations regarding Pendergast trails and park access to the City Council, Mayor and P&R staff; Whereas Pendergast Park is currently undergoing upgrades that do not include trails development; Whereas the Parks and Open Space Recreation Plan goals include providing a balance of paved, accessible and rustic nature trails and perimeter trails within city parks; Whereas the Parks Dept. surveys indicate Bremerton residents strongly desire additional open space and forested hiking trails; Whereas volunteers can be a major part of the initial effort to build non-ADA compliant nature trails in the park, particularly in forested areas if given permission; Whereas the trail can be upgraded and extended overtime like the volunteer trail building accomplishments at Madrona Trails Park; Whereas extensive development of surrounding private properties is imminent. Therefore, I move that the Bremerton Parks Commission approve for the record and forward the following recommendations to Parks Staff and elected Bremerton officials: a.) The City should identify an alignment for a perimeter walking trail in Pendergast Regional Park and identify those sections that can be built with volunteer*

labor; b.) The City should identify a formal access trail into Pendergast from Francis Street to Pendergast Parkway and the park entrance; and c.) The City should coordinate and collaborate with West Hills LLC to preserve neighborhood access to Pendergast Regional Park from Sinclair Way through the Wright Creek Business Park properties and protect and preserve the Wright Creek Wetlands and community access into the park via the sewer line trail. Dutky/Dawson (M/S); 4-Yes/1-No (Burnette)/1-Abstained (Baker).

4. **Sheridan Park Trail Concept Presentation (Commissioner Dutky) – Commissioner Dutky** shared slideshow of Sheridan Park property which includes invasive ivy and holly that are currently obstructing views into forest and of water. **Commissioner Dawson** shared details of volunteer clean-up effort scheduled on April 29th to remove invasives from 10-noon.

V. **Staff Reports & Updates:**

- **Kitsap Lake Park Renovation Project** – Director Elevado shared that boat dock is listing and needs repairs to the floats. If repair is not allowed due to permitting it will need to be closed. Still awaiting response from Army Corps of Engineers and National Marine Fisheries Services on construction permit.
- **Haddon Park Renovation Project** – Ms. Berna recapped that additional cultural resource fieldwork resulted in landfill area being listed on National Register of Historic Places which limits disturbance in area to 12” deep. Utility alignments are being re-routed; however the sports court needs new basketball hoops which require 4’ footings. Currently working with state agencies and archeologist to develop a Monitoring and Inadvertent Discovery Protocol (which requires additional scope for consultant) to proceed with construction of standard footings. Parks staff are also coordinating with Public Works to install sidewalks along the frontage of the park at Lafayette Ave. and 15th St. While project has missed preferred bidding window, it’s still on track to go out to bid this year.
- **Lions Park Court Resurfacing Project - Director Elevado** shared that the courts will be closed this weekend for cleaning in advance of the court resurfacing; resurfacing needs 4-5 days of dry weather with temperatures exceeding 50 degrees.
- **Kiwanis Park Playground Accessibility Upgrade** – **Director Elevado** shared that contract to purchase and install playground equipment and safety surfacing was approved by City Council. This work, along with a community build day, is expected to occur this fall.

VI. **Commissioner’s Comments:**

Commissioner Dutky made a motion that agenda includes “new business” at each meeting. **Commissioner Dawson** seconded. **Commissioner McDonald** commented that agenda has new business items already versus staff reports (old business) but thought Chair could ask if there was any new business. **Commissioner Baker** noted that meetings are already extending and that if new business items (that are not on the agenda) are brought up there would need to be a time limit. **Commissioner Dutky** suggested Commissioner Comments come before Staff Reports; and that Commission approves agenda at beginning of meeting. No vote was taken on the motion.

VII. **Adjournment:** Chair Burnette adjourned meeting at 8:00 pm.