

BREMERTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING

Minutes of June 27, 2023 (Approved)

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

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

Staff Present: Jeff Elevado, Director of Parks and Recreation
Steve Mutek, Park Operation Manager (remote)

- I. **Meeting Called to Order** at 5:30 p.m. by Chair Burnette
- II. **Approval of Agenda: A motion was made** to approve the agenda. Baker/Dawson (M/S/U)
- III. **Approval of Minutes: A motion was made** to approve minutes from the April 25th meeting. McDonald/Dawson (M/S/U). **A motion was made** to approve minutes from the May 23rd meeting. Dawson/Weigel (M/S/5-Yes/1-Abstained – Baker).
- IV. **Public Comment:** N/A
- V. **New Business:**
 1. **Sheridan Park Report and Recommendations – Commissioner Dutky** shared photos of invasive plant removal at Sheridan Park by volunteers and suggested that a Parks Volunteer Coordinator position could continue to coordinate these efforts. He recommended removal of concrete foundations in the forested area of Sheridan Park and discussed importance of site to provide a future connection to Warren Ave. Bridge. He recommended a direct connection from bridge to Juniper Street as submitted to PW by West Sound Cycling Club which would preserve trees. **Commissioner Baker** voiced concern that concept shown would reduce parking. **Commissioner Dutky** expressed need for increased funding for Parks to contract out removal of holly/ivy on steep bluff (along park’s south fence line) and showed photos of adjoining condo property w/o ivy on trees which allows for unobstructed view of water. He also recommended planting buffer to screen laydown yard from Lebo Blvd. He shared an advisory recommendation with five proposals to improve Sheridan Park and Commissioners discussed items and agreed to review again at next meeting.
 2. **Forest Ridge Trails - Commissioner Dutky** shared slideshow of development of a preliminary Forest Ridge Park Trail Map with goal to formalize trail network and name trails. He asked Commissioners if trails map should be developed further, if there are trail name suggestions, if some trails should be decommissioned w/ public input, and if some steep trails should be rerouted. **Chair Burnette** asked if there was a formal process for naming trails. **Director Elevado** stated that there is a naming ordinance for naming facilities but that there is no requirement for naming a trail. **Commissioner Weigel** agreed naming of the trails would be very beneficial (for describing areas to focus on during work parties) and that she’d be willing to help with this process. Commissioners discussed decommissioning trails by covering them up with brush and **Director Elevado** recommended using native plantings instead to reduce fire hazard. **Commissioner Dutky** showed map highlighting adjacent property which will be developed (housing) and need to re-route westside trail which he discovered is not currently on park property. **Director Elevado** shared that he was involved in the preliminary plat submittal where he expressed desire to protect the trees on park property

and recommended a fence along the proposed wall due to substantial elevation change at property line. **Commissioner McDonald** shared his experience at Illahee to close trails using brush, which worked great, and felt that plants wouldn't survive without water.

Commissioner Weigel shared that there was a place (possibly DNR land) residents could go to salvage native plants, and that she would research this further.

3. **Business License Application (Bremerton Sports Center- Pendergast) – Director Elevado** shared info on Bremerton Sports Center (indoor soccer center at Pendergast Park), who's owner recently applied for a business license to operate personal business (real estate) out of soccer center building (which he owns). Although Concession Agreement does not specifically say you can't do that, it doesn't say that you can. Legal recommends following Parks Protection Act, which requires approval from P&R Commission and City Council (including two public hearings) to approve non-recreational use at a park. More information will follow.

VI. Commissioner's Comments:

Commissioner Weigel shared that the corner of Forest Ridge Park next to Renaissance High School is frequently used by students but is left a mess. She asked if she could contact the principal there and ask them if they can adopt that corner of the park to take responsibility for it and keep it clean. **Director Elevado** shared that staff have already talk to the school about this issue and will again.

Commissioner McDonald commented that the Madrona Trails are much more user-friendly and shared that he was happy to participate in Sheridan Park brush clearing, and thanked staff for disposing of vegetation afterwards.

Commissioner Dutky asked if we could improve internet connection for people participating on zoom. **Director Elevado** said he would be contacting the City's IT Department to investigate the poor internet connection.

VII. Staff Reports & Updates:

- **Director Elevado** shared that the Bridge Blast Event was successful with two viewing locations; Evergreen Rotary Park which got between 3-4k people and Downtown Boardwalk which also had a considerable number of people. Unfortunately, traffic was backed up afterwards about an hour on Warren Ave. Bridge due to accidents and Manette Bridge being closed. More big special events to come including Rock the Dock downtown and Pacific Islander Festival at Pendergast (both in August) and Blackberry Festival in September.

VIII. Adjournment: Chair Burnette adjourned meeting at 7:02 pm.