

**BREMERTON PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION**  
**REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING**

Minutes of July 26, 2022

Virtual Meeting

**Commissioner's Present:** Ben Burnette, Tim Baker, David Hedger, Patrick Watson, Maggie Williams and Paul Dutky

**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 5:31 p.m. by Chair Burnette
- II. **Approval of Minutes:** A motion was made to approve minutes for May and June. Baker/Williams (M/S/U)
- III. **Public Comment: Jana Piering**, member of West Sound Pickleball community, thanked staff for Lions Court improvements and said she looks forward to holding tournaments there. She shared that increasing the number of pickleball courts to ten will take pressure off Manette Park and that the pickleball group has raised over \$7,500 to cover cost increases of resurfacing.
- IV. **Business Items:**
  1. **Proposed 2023 Rates & Fees**

**Director Elevado** shared that each year the city goes through an exercise of evaluating the rates and fees for participating in recreation programs, renting shelters, etc. to help keep up with increased staff and equipment costs while also keeping it affordable for the community. In the past the Consumer Pricing Index (CPI) for this area has been used as a guide. During the first year of the pandemic there were no increases in fees and last year there was a slight increase. For 2023 the CPI is projected to be between 7-8% increase but a more modest increase between 3-5% is being proposed so that we don't lose participation. For example, a basic shelter rental fee could go up about \$2 per four-hour block of time. **Chair Burnette** asked if the increased fees would be for both Bremerton residents and non-residents. **Commissioner Watson** asked if there was a fee for reserving courts for a tennis or pickleball tournament. **Director Elevado** answered yes to both and that the proposed rates and fees will be presented to City Council for review and approval.
  2. **2023 Parks & Recreation Budget Update**

**Director Elevado** summarized the budget process which includes line items for Personnel (Property Management), Recreation, Maintenance, and Facilities (Senior Center and Sheridan Park Community Center building expenses including utilities and supplies). Other line items include 1% for Arts and Golf which Columbia Hospitality provides. Also included are the Donations and Capital construction budgets. The Parks & Recreation budget averages around 3.2-3.3M not including golf and capital projects. Information Technology (IT) costs have gone up about 20k this year to cover the purchase of security equipment, and wastewater fees have been increasing about 8% per year. The Department generates between 200-250k/year in revenue and generally 100-120k is through athletic fees but that covers umpires and insurance which is expensive. The other big revenue generator is rentals (shelter and facility) which is generally 60k/year and this year there have been more shelter rentals than normal (already at 50k), and there's been a slight increase in cemetery burials. There are typically 7 seasonal maintenance positions, but due to lack of applicants there were only 4 positions filled this year. The

Department is requesting an additional full time maintenance staff person to help with increased park use and encampments.

**V. Staff Reports & Updates:**

**1) Kitsap Lake Park Improvement Project**

**Ms. Berna** shared recent feedback from National Marine Fisheries Service that they are taking a more conservative approach to evaluating the boat launch replacement. In the past if a boat launch was the same footprint and constructed with more environmentally friendly materials it was usually approved. Now it seems they are evaluating it as if it is a new boat launch and are requiring a “formal consultation” to evaluate the impact of motorized boating on steelhead habitat. This will require additional biological evaluation and consulting fees and take more time. An article in the Seattle Times recently summarized the difficulties the Port of Seattle is having getting a permit from the same agency to replace pilings.

**2) Lions Park Accessibility Improvements**

**Director Elevado** shared that the accessible sidewalk between the parking lot and courts was poured and tomorrow it will be extended to include an area for two accessible picnic tables overlooking the courts and park. Once all the concrete is done the fencing company will finish up the accessible gates. The next step is to get the courts resurfaced and restriped.

**3) Special Events**

**Director Elevado** shared success of Bridge Blast event and last weekend’s Bremerton Summer Brew Fest held on the Boardwalk. Upcoming events include: Blackberry Festival on the Boardwalk over Labor Day Weekend; Pacific Islander festivities at Pendergast; 911 SOS (Save Our Souls) event on September 11th put on to honor first responders and military personnel; 9/11 Memorial remembrance event at Evergreen; and Farmer’s Market is still going strong each week at Evergreen Rotary Park.

**VI. Commissioner’s Comments:**

**Commissioner Baker** asked about the grass at Warren Ave. Park going brown. **Mr. Mutek** said he wasn’t sure what happened, but it looks like it recovered.

**Commissioner Dutky** said he’s interested to see what City Council decides on paying off the golf loan and creating additional funding for parks.

**VII. Adjournment: Chair Burnette** adjourned meeting at 6:46 pm.