

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

Minutes of January 27, 2026

Hybrid Meeting: In person at Sheridan Park Community Center with the option to “Zoom in.”

**Commissioner’s Present:** Ben Burnette, Katherine Weigel, Greg Dawson, Joan Dingfield, Alex Bellenger, David Brittingham

**Staff Present:** Tim Barker, Director of Parks & Recreation  
Brian Hauschel, Parks Operations Manager  
Colette Berna, Parks Preservation & Development Manager  
Kylie Finnell, City Attorney

**I. Meeting Called to Order** at 5:32 p.m. by Chair Burnette.

**II. Approval of Agenda.** Burnette/Weigel (M/S/U)

**III. Nomination and Election of 2026 Parks & Recreation Commission Chair and Vice Chair**

Commissioner Burnette nominated Commissioner Dawson to be Chair and Commissioner Weigel to be Vice Chair. Burnette/Dingfield (M/S/U)

**IV. Approval of the December 2nd, 2025 Meeting Minutes.** Burnette/Weigel (M/S/U)

**V. Public Comment:**

**Tim Weigel** appreciates the work the Department is doing at Forest Ridge Park.

**VI. Staff Reports & Updates:**

1. **Forest Ridge Park Update – B. Hauschel** summarized the status, including boulder placement and gate installation.
2. **PROS Plan Update – Director Barker** shared the progress and final steps that led to the PROS Plan Update adoption and RCO Approval.
3. **Kitsap Lake Park Renovation Project – Playground Selection – C. Berna** summarized that out of 11 concepts, Concept F was the most popular (66%) in the public survey, and in the open-ended questions, the top requested feature was swings. Staff worked with the playground representative to provide some options of Concept F that included swings and presented final design with color selection. **A motion to proceed** with the purchase of the playground as presented. **Burnette/Weigel (M/S/U)**
4. **Stephenson Canyon Off-Leash Area – C. Berna** summarized that at the December meeting, Commissioners reviewed survey results of developing an off-leash area at Stephenson Canyon, which received strong support. With Commissioner support, staff applied for a Department of Commerce Grant for 285k. If successful, staff would like to develop a design steering committee to help guide the design. The city has owned Stephenson Canyon for 67 years, and aside from the informal trails, it has not been formally programmed for public recreation; the open area has primarily been used as a lay-down area.

5. **Pendergast Regional Park Field Improvements Project** – **C. Berna** shared background on the 30% conceptual design, cost estimate, and status to proceed with the A/E contract to 90%, and the upcoming YAF grant application. **Director Barker** shared the Memorandum of Understanding with the Kitsap Alliance FC group to partner.

## **VI. New Business:**

1. **2026 Commission Meeting Schedule** – **Director Barker** shared standard dates and a proposal to do a park tour in the summer.
2. **OPMA Training** – **Kylie Finnel** shared the state law that added an Open Public Meeting Act training requirement and will be sending links to training options.
3. **City Council Retreat** – **Director Barker** shared the Council retreat summary, which was monitored by Uncommon Bridges, who did a great job creating cohesion. Information developed at the retreat is to be assembled and shared publicly soon.

## **VII. Commissioner's Comments:**

**Commissioner Burnette** welcomed new Commissioners and thanked Commissioner Dawson for taking on the role as Chair.

**Chair Dawson** thanked everyone for participating and used a tree analogy to illustrate how we're creating a lasting impact in our parks and community.

## **IX. Adjournment: Chair Dawson** adjourned the meeting at 6:37 pm.