

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

Minutes of March 23, 2021

Virtual Meeting

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

**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 February 23rd meeting. Hedger/Baker (M/S/U)

**III. Public Comment:** N/A

**IV. Business Items:**

**1. COVID-19 Status Update**

**Director Elevado** shared the changes from Phase 2 to Phase 3 which will increase the number of people that can gather outdoors from 15 to 50 but still requires face masks and social distancing. The city has not yet opened any indoor facilities and the Dept. is not yet taking reservations for group gatherings or athletic team practice/games as we can't ensure safety measures are followed and contact tracing can occur. **Chair Burnette** asked when we might get the green light to start softball again and if the Senior Center could reopen by controlling the number of people that enter. **Director Elevado** responded that the Dept. is looking at a shorter softball season and pro-rating the cost and that the challenge with the Senior Center is it serves the highest risk population and we don't have the ability to ask people to prove whether they've been vaccinated or not.

**2. Park Memorials, Military Artifact and Naming Policy Discussion**

**Director Elevado** shared the policy regarding the naming of parks and public facilities as outlined in the Bremerton Municipal Code. Naming criteria includes: geographic location, natural features, historical events, or a significant historical figure or person who has contributed outstanding civic service to the community or has made significant land or monetary contributions to the city. Naming suggestions for parks are recorded and forwarded to the Parks and Recreation Commission for consideration and if approved are recommended to City Council for review and approval. The examples of former Councilmember Carol Arends (Carol Arends Parkway at Forest Ridge Park) as well as the legendary Police Chief Art Morken (Art Morken Police Headquarters Building) were discussed.

There are a substantial number of military artifacts and memorials in our city parks (i.e. Bataan Park, Hal's Corner, Lent Landing Park, Ivy Green Cemetery, Evergreen Rotary Park, Memorial Plaza and NAD Park) and it is an ongoing challenge finding resources to take proper care of them. **Director Elevado** wanted to make the Commission aware of what our inventory looks like now as new requests to place military artifacts occur we need to consider the impacts not only from a budget and maintenance perspective, but also how they impact overall park use.

## V. Staff Reports:

### 1) Warren Ave. Park Renovation Project Update

**Director Elevado** shared that the crew have been doing a great job getting the planting in and the turf is growing in nicely. The playground is already getting a lot of use and the kids are loving it. Overall, the community and neighborhood have received it extremely well and like how much visibility there is now. **Mr. Mutek** shared that Public Works is working on the curb, gutter and sidewalk adjacent to the parking lot and once everything is complete it's going to be amazing and that it's been rewarding to see how many different people it's attracting. **Ms. Berna** shared that finishing touches will include new park signage and an interpretive sign highlighting the history of the site. **Director Elevado** expects we'll be getting football games going there again in the fall and stated that the improvements not only benefit the Pee-Wee's but the entire community with the new restroom, playground and shelter that can be reserved for birthday parties and events.

### 2) Kitsap Lake Park Renovation Project Update

**Ms. Berna** shared that the design and permitting is still moving forward and the additional surveying needed for the DNR lease is also progressing. The cultural resource consultant is under contract to do their survey report which needs to be completed and reviewed before any ground disturbing activities (including Geotech work) take place. We've also been working on options for the playground equipment layout that could fit in the designated footprint if the funding request to Dept. of Commerce is approved. **Commissioner Watson** asked if there had been any community outreach like the other park improvements recently done. **Ms. Berna** shared that there were several public meetings during the master planning stage to get public input and determine the scope of improvements prior to submitting the grant applications. **Director Elevado** added that approximately 60 residents that live around the lake have been on an email list to get updates on the lake's water quality which have also received the park's master plan.

## VI. Commissioner's Comments:

**Chair Burnette** shared that he's lived in Bremerton his whole life and has spent a lot of time in our parks but it was only last week that he played tennis at night at Lions Park and used the token machine to turn on the lights. It worked great, his whole family had a blast and he recommended it to anybody.

## VII. Adjournment: **Chair Burnette** adjourned the meeting at 6:19 pm.