

KITSAP COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

November 15, 2023 corrected

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 PM by the Parks Advisory Board Vice-Chair, Lisa Hurt
Guidelines of the hybrid Advisory Board Meeting were read.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES | ACTION: *Linda Berry-Maraist brought to attention a correction needed in Natural Resources Supervisor title. Larry Walker motioned to adopt October 15, 2023, meeting minutes with correction. Linda Berry-Maraist seconded the motion. Minutes approved.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Sam Huff –West Sound Disc Golf Association and Stewardship Group.
 - Volunteer work parties throughout Kitsap at Parks to help maintain trails.
 - Actively looking for new location in Kitsap for one or two more courses. Square Lake location is ideal.
 - Carol Price – Volunteer for Kitsap Parks, Trails, and Open Spaces (KPTOS)
 - Request to add the KPTOS meeting dates and work parties' events to the Kitsap County Parks volunteer's calendar.
 - Questions
 1. Why Parks Stewards aren't members of the Parks Advisory Board?
 - I. Nancy Whitaker, Larry Walker, Amy Lawrence and Linda Berry-Maraist are Parks Stewards.
 2. Are members of KPTOS considered to be Parks Stewards and part of the Kitsap County system?
 - KC Patton – Kitsap Aircraft Radio Control Society (KARCS)
 - Follow up to previous comment. Stewards are required to complete Kitsap County Stewardship training to qualify as stewards. Members of KARCS are volunteers.
- Discussion regarding qualifications for Steward status.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS- NONE

POSITION ELECTIONS

Nominating Committee – Jon Pearson, Larry Walker, and Linda Berry-Maraist.

Elections for Chair and Vice Chair will occur in January 2024

Reappointments for Larry Walker, Nancy Whitaker, and Lisa Hurt.

Nominating Committee reports that they have not met yet. Request confirmation of current PAB terms.

Larry and Jon confirmed Jon Pearson is the only person not eligible for chair and vice-chair position.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Introduction to the new Natural Resources Supervisor – Irene Weber
- Staffing Update –
 - Parks Planner and Capital Project Specialist positions remains open. New YouTube ad posted to cast broad net.
 - Capital Project Specialist interviews concluded. Candidate identified and offer letter sent. candidate declined due to taking another position elsewhere.
 - Forester position select candidates will go through phone screening the week after Thanksgiving. In person interviews happening shortly after. Expect to fill position by end of year or early January.
 - Two M&O worker positions recently opened.
- Maintenance and Operations Program– Brian Hauschel shared updates on current projects-

- Point No Point Beach Rehabilitation – Phase 1 proceeding forward as planned. Permitting should be completed by end of November. Working with contractor availability. Strategies in place to address forecasted King Tides in late November.
- Building Demolitions – Log Cabin at Fairgrounds, house at Long Lake Park, house at Nick’s Lagoon Park and house at Anna Smith Park. Request for Bid solicitation process completed. Contract awarded and being drafted.
- Parks developing a Piggyback contract with Carrier Corporation for HVAC system replacements at Parks office and Eagle’s Nest. BoCC to review on November 27.
- Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park – Stottlemeyer Trailhead Parking Lot. Request for Bid posted until November 28.
- Natural Resources Program - Irene Weber shared some highlights from the Parks Volunteer Appreciation Event held on October 28. Shout out to the three Natural Resources Coordinators, Aaron, Sierra and Victoria, for their work in preparing and hosting this successful event. Approximately 80 people attended. Eight awards were presented to outstanding volunteers.
 - Nancy Whitaker attended as a Parks Steward. Recommends PAB attend this event in the future.

ACTION - Nancy Whitaker requests Washington Trails Association (WTA) be added to the “Partners worked with this period” in the Director’s Report under the Natural Resources Program.

- Parks Open Space Plan – Chuck Cuzzetto provided an update on the PROS Plan. Currently in the Public Engagement Information Collection phase. Completed four (4) Open Houses, one in each district and one Parks staff event. Format of these meeting was to provide an opportunity for in-person feedback regarding community vision for Kitsap Parks. Approximately 100 total attendees combined. Current survey is Phase Two – Visioning Survey. Approximately 1,800 comments received so far. Survey open until the first week of December. Next Phase is the Prioritization Survey. School District approved for Parks to have tabling events in December at several schools to gather youth opinions. PAB feedback –

ACTION - Lisa Hurt requests a list of the names of groups that Parks reached out to for PROS Plan feedback. Larry Walker and Jon Pearson shared their experience at the Open Houses.

SUB COMMITTEE REPORTS – NONE

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

OLD BUSINESS –

- Request for additional information regarding the beaver situation discussed at the October PAB meeting. Irene is reaching out to DCD to figure out what policies Kitsap may have and WDFW is evaluating and will provide recommendations. Nancy shared information regarding the Newberry Hill Heritage Park Pond status since the removal of the beavers.
- Port Gamble Stewards met at in early November. The group is working on an array of projects but still waiting on feedback. Current projects are on hold and group is doing basic maintenance in the meantime. Would like clarification on what projects are approved. A suggestion from group to provide bells for bikes to increase trail sharing and safety.
- Concerns regarding PGFHP becoming a bike centric park. Her conversations with pedestrians and equestrians are highlighting the safety concerns. Can Parks add more signs with Park rules?
- Park Code states all trails are multi-use. This is not accurate as some trails are not suitable for all users.
- Class 3 bikes are also an issue.

NEW BUSINESS –

- Question regarding December PAB meeting occurring or not.
- Lawsuit/Hearing regarding Alderwood Housing development in North Kitsap. Parks Stewards, volunteers, and concerned citizens are trying to protect the wetlands. Is Parks Department aware of this hearing?
- Banner Forest recent work party was canceled due to fowl weather.
- Newberry Hill Heritage Park will host a Turkey Trot Run on Thanksgiving Day. This event is a joint effort

by Silverdale Rotary, KC Parks, Stewardship Group, Kitsap Amateur Radio Club. Third year the event has been held at NHHP.

- Kitsap Mountaineers Club hosting hike at NHHP on Black Friday. Naturalist will provide educational outreach on forest thinning during the event.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Carol Price – multiuse trails are an issue worldwide. Concerns that this statement is a slippery slope. Could lead to more motorized vehicles on trails. PGFHP should have designated walking trails.
- Newberry Hill Heritage Park has “Foot Traffic Only” signs.
- Ranger trail should not be a bike only trail.
- Joe Lubischer –
 - Request that Parks make a final decision regarding where the PAB zoom link and agenda will be posted online. Also request to have these items posted sooner.
 - North Kitsap Heritage Park beaver issue. Offer to demonstrate beaver control devices.
 - Reaction to bells on bikes. Please consider the hard of hearing community.
 - Multiuse trails are an issue that Parks needs to address. There are multiple weaknesses to a multiuse concept.
 - Kitsap County Code states Parks are non-motorized. Parks Director stated that State Parks rules allow Class One and Three bikes is allowed. This was outside his authority. County is not indemnified, consider liability.
 - Request for a budget breakdown for the 1.9 million CIP item. Concerns that this information is not being shared.

Adjournment | **ACTION:** *Larry Walker moved to adjourn the meeting. Nancy Whitaker seconded the motion. Motioned carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:31PM.*

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD ATTENDANCE

PAB MEMBERS	STAFF	PUBLIC
Lisa Hurt, Vice-Chair	Alex Hardy	Hybrid meeting online public attendee names not captured
Nancy Whitaker	Irene Weber	
Linda Berry-Maraist	Aaron Bartleson	
Amy Smally	Brian Hauschel	In-Person Public Attendee
Larry Walker	Chuck Cuzzetto	KC Patton
Jon Pearson	Dee Tuttle	Carol Price
Amy Lawrence		Sam Huff

