

KITSAP COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

January 15, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:03 PM by the Parks Advisory Board Chair, Larry Walker. Guidelines of the hybrid Parks Advisory Board Meeting were read.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

ACTION | *Linda Berry Maraist motioned to adopt November 20, 2024, meeting minutes.
Jon Pearson seconded the motion.
No corrections. Minutes approved.*

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Hank Anderson – Express interest and support for an eventual connection between Green Mountain State Forest and Kitsap County Newberry Hill Heritage Park. Is aware of pre-discussions between the two entities. Supports non-motorized recreation to the extent possible.
- KC Paton | Kitsap Aircraft Remote Control Society –
 - Extended gratitude from the KARCS club members who attended the Kitsap County Veteran's Day celebration at the Kitsap Pavilion.
 - EAA KARCS – Young Eagles build is assembled and ready to fly in March.
- Sam Huff | West Sound Disc Golf Association – annual year in review for the Kitsap Fairgrounds Disc Golf Park. In 2024 WSDGA volunteers logged 300 hours to maintain the Fairgrounds disc golf park with a focus on trail brushing, storm debris clean-up, disc golf equipment maintenance, updating way-finding signs, and trash collection. Fund raising efforts for 17 years has brought \$15,000 for materials and equipment for the park. With plans to continue fund raising in the future

Three primary agenda items for 2025

- Develop a plan to mitigate areas of the park that have been impacted by disc golf, such as areas of soil compaction and trail erosion.
- Continue to collaborate with Kitsap County Parks for the future needs of the disc golf park and general disc gold area improvements.
- Continue to update the T signs and trail maps of the disc golf area.

Kitsap Fairgrounds Disc Golf Park had 33,000 rounds of golf played in 2024, which is a 30-35% increase from 2023.

Players are present in the park 7 days a week and are a surveillance tool and deterrent to vandalism and homeless encampments.

PAB member Dawn Dockter expressed thanks to Park User Group representatives for their reports and the commitment the groups have to their "part of the park."

PAB member Linda Berry Maraist announced the departure of Eric Baker. Eric worked for the Kitsap County Board of Commissioners office for 34 years. And acknowledged his contributions and impact to the Parks Department and County wide.

Also announced the final transaction of the Kitsap Forest and Bay Conservation project. Parks acquired 467 acres with the assistance of conservation futures.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS-

- Introduction to new Parks Planner – Carmen Smith. Carmen

5min recess for review of PAB Workplan

PAB WORKPLAN -

- Parks Director provided overview of the Parks Advisory Board 2024 Workplan. This is time for the annual review of all workplans County-wide.

- Big ticket items include PROS Plan, Park Code updates, event policy updates, PAB bylaws update, and Community and Youth Engagement.
- PAB member discussed workplan items and priorities-
 - Additional bullet under Community and Youth Engagement to review stewardship operations and assist County in developing plans to work with stewards.
 - Tier 1 – PROS Plan, Event Policy Updates, Forestry Policy, PAB Bylaws and Park Code
 - Tier 2 – Natural Resource positions being funded from forestry budget.
 - Decision to update workplan and bring to February PAB meeting for vote.

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS -

- Requested for PAB members feedback on assignments.
- Two of the subcommittees are required by the bylaws –
 1. Finance & Budget,
 2. Capital Projects & Parks
- Other subcommittees are ad hoc and can be changed.
- Chair recommends Community Outreach & Visitors Services and Planning & Property remain
- Parks Director shared that the PAB North vacancy has been filled and will be officially filled as of January 27th. South position remains vacant.
- Decision to have subcommittees remain in place as is, until February meeting. Then reorganize as needed.

PARKS REPORTS

- Director announced as of January 1, 2025, Grady Martin and Amy Smalley are no longer serving on the Parks Advisory board. County commissioners sent along certificates of appreciation award in recognition for their generous contribution of time and talents on the Parks Advisory Board.
- Announced the acquisition of an additional 11 acres to the Island Lake Park.
- Final transfer of Eglon parcels at any moment.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

- Eagles Nest new HVAC system installation is complete.
- Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park – North gateway parking lot
 - Design work completed
 - Permit and SEPA review phase
 - SEPA determination has been appealed. Will move to the Hearing Examiner office.
 - Project competition was targeted for summer 2025 but will be delayed due to appeal.
- Events Program – Annual report provided for 2024 Year in review – Facility Rentals
- M&O Program – Recognition to M&O staff for the work and efforts to maintain the vast number of facilities and parks properties.
- Parks Program collaboration - during holiday season Parks and Events maintenance staff came together to accomplish some much-needed deep to rental equipment at the Fairgrounds.
- Natural Resources Program –
 - Recent departure of two Natural Resources staff – Sierra Kross and Victoria Lehto
- PROS PLAN timeline – Public Presentations in February

SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS –

- NONE

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS –

- Port Gamble Stewards and Kitsap Trails Association did the Native Plant demonstration in December.
- Issues with trash and drainage at new PGFHP parking lot
 - Public Works is addressing the drainage issues
 - Parks M&O staff are working on the pothole issue

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Joe Lubischer-

- Supports Linda’s position and continued effort to remove and get a proper source of funding for all of parks staff
- One and half years ago, Commissioners were presented a legal opinion regarding parks plans. That opinion was that park plans are land use plans under the Growth Management Act, and they must be approved in the context of the GMA. To his knowledge, this has not been done on any of the parks plans.
- Two years ago, he pointed out the deficiencies of the PG land use plan, regarding the wetlands and buffers and riparian management zones and that issue still stands

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION | *Jon Pearson moved to adjourn the meeting.
Dawn Dockter seconded the motion.
Motioned carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:55 PM.*

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING | ATTENDANCE

PAB MEMBERS	STAFF	PUBLIC (In Person)
Larry Walker – South	Alex Wisniewski - Director	Online public attendee names not captured
Lisa Hurt - North	Alex Hardy – Events and Marketing Supervisor	
Dawn Dockter - South	Irene Weber – Natural Resources Supervisor	
Linda Berry Maraist - North	Camern Smith – Parks Planner	Hank Anderson – KPMS
Jon Pearson – Central	Chuck Cuzzetto – Public Relations & Communications Coordinator	Sam Huff – West Sound DGA
	Dee Tuttle – Office Support Specialist	Dylan Jacot – West Sound DGA
		Jackie Gfeller – West sound DGA
		KC Patton - KARCS
		David Onstad – KEC
		Emma Onstad – Dawn Dockter

