

KITSAP COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

DRAFT March 19, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

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

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Linda Berry-Maraist requested correction to a sentence referencing the purchase of 467 acres of the Kitsap Forest and Bay Conservation project. This purchase was made by Great Peninsula Conservancy and not the Parks Department.

ACTION | Dawn Dockter motioned to adopt February 19, 2025 meeting minutes as amended.
Lisa Hurt seconded the motion.
Minutes approved as amended.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- KC Patton | Kitsap Aircraft Radio Control Society –
 - Attended the Military Appreciation Day event at the Kitsap Fairgrounds and feels this was a very successful and well attended event. Extended thanks to the Parks Department for the support of this family event.
 - Extended thanks to Carmen Smith, Parks Planner, for visiting the KARCS site and engaging with the program.
- Susan Anderson | Central Kitsap
 - Shared copies of her PROS Plan comments which were submitted on March 14th.
 - Feels Central Kitsap was shortchanged in terms of outreach for the PROS Plan. Central Kitsap was not provided opportunity to exchange ideas at the public presentation of the PROS Plan at the CKCC meeting.
- Joe Lubischer - North Kitsap
 - Comments regarding the lack of opportunity to discuss PROS Plan, responses to PROS Plan comments from Parks, lack of actionable items, too many goals and not enough specifics.
- Carol Price – comments regarding the impacts caused by thinning along the Ewok trail. Is there some way we can avoid such destruction as has taken place along Ewok?

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

- BUDGET REDUCTIONS IN 2026

Parks Director shared information regarding a structural challenge in the county's budget. The Budget Office is projecting a \$8 million budget shortfall in 2026. Commissioners have agreed to utilize their reserves to absorb \$2 million dollars, and the General Fund will absorb the remaining \$6 million. The county departments that are funded by the General Fund will absorb a percentage of the \$6 million. Parks Department is funded by the General Fund.

Parks has 5 FTE vacancies which will not be filled this year in anticipation of utilizing that to absorb the impact to Parks budget. Parks will be adding 12 seasonal staff from April to Sept to help offset the staffing challenges with 5 vacancies.
- PARKS, RECREATION, AND OPEN SPACE (PROS) PLAN

Parks Planner presented detail of the public comments collected during the five-week public comment period and the edits that resulted from some of the comments. The five-week public comment period collected 445 comments using multiple platforms to capture the data-

 - Three community meetings provided opportunity for verbal and written comments
 - Online comment form
 - Comments collected at PAB meetings
 - Via email

The presentation provided a breakdown of comments by source, location, themes, projects, and other

categorization.

Some of the edits being made to the PROS Plan as a result of public comment will correctly label documents, update table info, correct inventory classifications, adjust timeline for selected projects, add projects, provide differences between the current and the 2018 PROS Plan, information regarding the PAB's role and much more.

PAB member discussed and shared comments on the presentation.

Central Kitsap community requests for another PROS Plan presentation and more time for public comments. Director commented that the format of the three presentations was determined by the District Commissioner. North and South Commissioners instructed Parks staff to provide a standalone meeting. Central Commissioner instructed the PROS Plan presentation to be during the CKCC meeting. PAB can make a recommendation to the Commissioners to request additional presentations. Parks Department does not feel an extension is warranted.

Larry Walker instructed the PAB to review the updated draft PROS Plan and provide feedback. Add to April PAB meeting agenda.

Updated draft will be posted online at Parks website with tracking document to show changes.

SUBCOMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS -

PAB members were encouraged to review the subcommittee assignments and provide feedback. Members added to selected subcommittees.

Finance and Budget	Linda Berry Maraist Nancy Whitaker Larry Walker
Capital Projects and Parks	Lisa Hurt Dawn Dockter Jon Pearson Amy Lawrence
Community Outreach and Visitor Services	Nancy Whitaker Jessica Rice
Planning and Property	Lisa Hurt Dawn Dockter Linda Berry Maraist Jon Pearson

PARKS REPORT

DIRECTORS REPORT –

- SEPA appeal for the North Gateway parking lot at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park was withdrawn. Project will now move forward.
- Point No Point – beach restoration project permits are moving forward with final approvals.
- Recent meeting with Central Kitsap School District discussed plans for field turf replacement and tennis court projects. CKSD is planning to replace turf this summer at three local school facilities and is planning a tennis court resurfacing project. Parks has similar project plans for Gordon 1 field and tennis court resurfacing. Discussing possible collaboration of these projects.

Dawn Dockter asked if the work party report included in the Natural Resource Program updates within the Directors Report are able to be broken out by events that are staff led versus volunteer led. In reference to the “Partners worked this period” report- How do people get on the partners list? Director shared that this is typically groups that have ongoing relationships or when organizations reach out to Parks staff to be involved in a project.

Stewardship groups are not listed on this report. For example, The Friends of Newberry Hill - Applesauce Gang have weekly work parties that are not ever listed on this report.

Could stewardship work parties be added to this report?

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS – No reports

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS –

- Central District – Newberry Hill Park storm damage from recent windstorm. Lots of blown downs have already been cleared.
- North District – Report of plastic toy/garbage problem at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park. Lots of “picturamas” with toys. North Kitsap Heritage Park has a similar problem with marbles. Lots of marbles left in tree trunks and tree knots. Suggestion to take picture and send to Parks staff to be added to trailhead bulletin boards under the Leave No Trace information. Lots of storm damage at PGFHP.
- South District- some damage from windstorm but not as much as other districts.

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Susan Anderson –
 - Are the Kitsap County Parks motorized or non-motorized? Not clear in the PROS Plan.
 - Is Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park a 501C3 organization?
Answer – Our Forest Fund is the nonprofit that is fundraising in the North End to acquire additional timber rights at Port Gamble Heritage Park. Illahee Forest Preserve is a nonprofit dedicated to the Illahee Preserve heritage Park. Great Peninsula Conservancy is nonprofit for Hansville and other areas.
- Joe Lubischer –
 - Landscape classification is not clear.
 - Disagree vociferously with Director’s mischaracterization of the stewardship groups
- Beverly Parsons – Hansville
 - Suggestions to Parks Planner for comments management
 - Make clear statements when the decision is made to not follow a suggestion.
- Carol Price –
 - Seconds Beverly Parsons comments
 - Thinning plans for Eglon are a concern. Urge parks to communicate the details prior to thinning. How much will be cut, when and where.
 - Number of comments needs to be shared by number of people.
- Don Willot – Extended thanks to Parks staff and the Parks Advisory Board for their work

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION | *Jon Pearson moved to adjourn the meeting.
Dawn Dockter seconded the motion.
Motioned carried. The meeting was adjourned at 7:51 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	Camern Smith – Parks Planner	
Dawn Dockter - South	Alex Hardy – Events and Marketing Supervisor	
Linda Berry Maraist - North	Irene Weber – Natural Resources Supervisor	Susan & Hank Anderson – KPMS
Nancy Witcher – Central	Chuck Cuzzetto – Public Relations & Communications Coordinator	David Onstad
Amy Lawerance - Central	Dee Tuttle – Office Support Specialist	KC Patton - KARCS
Jessica Rice - South		
Jon Pearson - Central		

