

KITSAP COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

July 16, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 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

- Review of June meeting minutes.

ACTION | Jessica Rice motioned to adopt June 18, 2025
Dawn Dockter seconded the motion.

Discussion | None

VOTE | All in favor.
No opposition.
Minutes approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD –

- Loren “Bill” Wasson – President of the Friends of the Newberry Hill Heritage Park a non-profit group. Referenced an email that he received from Parks staff regarding volunteer work projects and safety concerns.
- Frank Strickland – Shared historical information and work party practices of the Friends of Newberry Hill Heritage Park. This group is a 501 c Charity for Newberry Hill Heritage Park (NHHP). This group has requested a Memorandum of Understanding with the Parks Department.
- Michelle Ring – Volunteer with Newberry Hill Heritage Friends. Provided comments regarding the email sent to the group from the Parks Department. She spoke about the Gary Oak project and invited county members to visit the parks.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS

- Forest Stewardship and Restoration Policy and Implementation Plan – Irene Weber, Natural Resources Supervisor and Kevin Ceder, Stewardship Forester.
Staff provided an overview of the Natural Resources Program and Stewardship Forester history, program purpose, park/forest history, current conditions and future goals for forests in Kitsap County parks. Provided an overview of the Forest Restoration Planning Structure. Staff also provided a detailed review of the purpose and intent of the Forest Restoration program. The policy update will utilize modern science and best practices. The primary objective is to restore and develop resilient forests and is not a revenue generator. Shared financial sustainability predictions and emphasized that all restoration activities are based on ecological needs. Provided an overview of the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park restoration achievements and a list of planned treatment areas and plans for outreach efforts.

Draft 2024 Forest Stewardship Policy (Updated June 2025), Draft Forest Stewardship and Restoration Implementation Plan, Port Gamble 2025 Stewardship and Restoration Project Plan and Report, and presentation slides are available on Parks Department website.

Discussion on Parks community-use impact, clarification of types of Plans, monitoring

processes, soil enhancement strategies, history of Port Gamble plans, REET II funding definitions and availability.

PARKS REPORT

DIRECTORS REPORT –

Capital Project Program Update -

- Acquisition of 16.8 acres of new undeveloped property to be incorporated into Illahee Preserve Heritage Park. This purchase was accomplished by Jim Aho and the Illahee Forest Preserve stewards and a RCO grant. This helps the Illahee Forest Preserve Heritage Park move towards the vision of the Stewardship Group to acquire parcels to protect the Illahee Creek watershed.
- Point No Point Beach and Shoreline Repair project. Final permit received from the US Coast Guard. Construction permitting and public bidding process happening simultaneously. Shoreline work must be performed during the “water work window” from July 15 through October 15.
Park remains closed to vehicle entry. Pedestrian access will be closed in certain areas at certain times during construction.
Fishing season will overlap with the construction and may cause challenges.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- Capital Projects and Parks – Capital Improvement Program (CIP) development for the 2026 through 2031, six-year CIP is in process. Using the project evaluation tool for preliminary scoring with staff and subcommittee review. Subcommittee will be meeting again to focus on balancing the CIP by location and project type.

Discussion about ADA and wheelchair accessibility in Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park (PGFHP). The Commissioner for District One has provided directions to wait on this and other projects until the PGFHP Framework is updated.

- Planning and Property – The subcommittee met to discuss the Forest Stewardship and Restoration Policy and Implementation Plan. Comments from PAB member regarding the efforts to balance the program expenses and the need for this work even if it is not a self-sustaining program. Concerns about maintaining staff positions with a funding source that is not secure.
- Community Outreach and Visitor Services – Subcommittee met to discuss updates to the Events Policy and Fee Schedule. Subcommittee members took a tour of the Fairgrounds and learned about the history of the events program. Discussed new and creative ways to provide rental space and services to the community. The updates are well thought-out, easy to work with, and a significant improvement.

Can a subcommittee be formed to discuss and focus on a resolution of the issues with volunteer groups?

PAB Chair plans to meet with key volunteers to discuss and begin to move toward resolve.

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS –

- North District | Thirteen years ago a private property owner gave a lease to the North Kitsap Trails Association for public access to the Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park through their property. Due to the road work Rayonier is performing at this property, the

property owner has decided to temporarily close access to the park via their property until the timber harvest is complete. Request for Parks to post signs to notify park users of closure and support the property owner's decision. The statement from the property owner was read aloud.

- Central District | Chico Salmon Park is having issues with rock dams being built along the creek by park users. Stewards are increasing their visits to remove the structures and are utilizing See, Click, Fix to report. Lots of signage to educate the damage these dams cause.
- South District | none

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Frank Strickland – Curious about the current science on hardwoods in the riparian area. Newberry Hill Heritage Park is very short on hardwoods, and they are critical to the salmon fry that are in the riparian area in this park. Does the Forestry Plan address this topic?

Irene stated that it is something that would be addressed at the park level plan and at the project level. The Forest Restoration Policy and Implementation Plan is a higher-level planning document.

ADJOURNMENT

ACTION | Dawn Dockter motioned to adjourn the meeting.
Amy Lawrence seconded the motion.

Discussion | None

VOTE | All in favor.
Motioned approved. The meeting was adjourned at 8:04 PM.

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING | ATTENDANCE

PAB MEMBERS	STAFF	PUBLIC (In Person)
Larry Walker – South	Alex Wisniewski - Director	Online public attendee names not captured
Linda Berry Maraist - North	Camern Smith – Parks Planner	
Dawn Dockter - South	Irene Weber – Natural Resource Supervisor	
Jessica Rice – South	Kevin Ceder – Stewardship Forester	Hank Anderson
Nancy Whitaker - Central		Frank Strickland
Amy Lawrence - Central		Joel Bolin
		Eric Martin
		Pat Strickland
		Diane Wasson
		Loren Wasson “Bill”
		David Onstad
		Michelle Ring.