

KITSAP COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

September 17, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at **6:03 PM** by Vice-Chair **Dawn Dockter**. Meeting guidelines were read aloud.

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

ADOPTION OF MINUTES

Review of August 20, 2025, Meeting Minutes

- **Motion:** Linda Berry Maraist moved to adopt the minutes.
- **Second:** Dawn Dockter
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval. No opposition.
→ **August minutes approved.**

PUBLIC COMMENT PERIOD –

Comments regarding the Forest Restoration and Thinning Project at Banner Forest Heritage Park:

- Sunnie Merritt, *Save Banner Forest*
- MJ Dunlap, *South Kitsap resident*
- Peter Steinle, *Save Banner Forest*
- Lisa Soete, *Save Banner Forest*
- Andre Harness
- Monica Newby
- Dan Erland, *Port Orchard resident*
- Carrie Guthrie-Whitlow
- Jimmy Danko

Additional Comments:

- **Marion Allen**, *Poulsbo resident*
 - Native Plant Group appreciated the Noxious Weed Department's Native Plant Workshop and Irene Weber's support.
 - Expressed safety concerns at Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park; requested pedestrian-only trails.
- **Joe Lubischer**
 - Commented on habitat quality and impacts of thinning at North Kitsap Heritage Park.

SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS –

2026 Budget Submission Highlights –

- **Countywide Budget Shortfall:** Kitsap County faces an \$8 million deficit; all departments are required to make reductions.
- **Parks Department Budget Adjustments:**
 1. **Forest Steward Fund**
 - 10-year projections show sustainability concerns.

- Plan to absorb fund into the General Fund.
- 2. **2026 Budget Cuts**
 - Parks must reduce its budget by **\$197,646**.
 - Strategies include eliminating two vacant FTEs, reducing extra help, increasing revenue, and cutting expenses.
- 3. **Operational Changes**
 - Reorganize department structure for improved efficiency.
 - Move Volunteer Program to Administration.
 - Propose staffing changes in Events and Natural Resources.

PARKS REPORT

DIRECTORS REPORT –

Capital Project Program Update -

- **Point No Point Beach & Shoreline Repair**
 - Construction is underway and on schedule for November completion.
- **North Gateway Parking Lot**
 - On track for October completion, it remains within budget.
- **Eagle's Nest Deck Rebuild**
 - Contract in process; construction expected to begin in October.
- **Indianola & Suquamish Sports Courts**
 - Cost estimates exceeded budget; projects deferred to 2026 and will be re-bid.

SUB-COMMITTEE REPORTS –

- None

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS –

- North District | No report
- Central District | No report
- South District | No report

PUBLIC COMMENT

- Cheryl Klampe-Van Hess – Banner Forest thinning project
- Grace Steinle – Banner Forest thinning project
- MJ Dunlap – Banner Forest thinning project
- David Onsted, *Port Orchard resident*
 - Encouraged applying for state and federal grants; suggested increased volunteer involvement.
- Sunnie Merritt
 - Expressed concerns about lack of clarity in the plan for volunteers; asked for a definition of “big tree”; offered to assist with grant applications.

→ The Director requested that public comments requiring a response be sent to parks@kitsap.gov

ADJOURNMENT

- **Motion:** Linda Berry Maraist moved to adjourn.
- **Second:** Nancy Whitaker
- **Discussion:** None
- **Vote:** Unanimous approval. No opposition.

→ Meeting adjourned at **7:55 PM**.

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MEETING | ATTENDANCE

PAB MEMBERS		STAFF	PUBLIC (In Person)
Linda Berry Maraist - North	Alex Wisniewski - Director	Bre Ganne – M&O Supervisor	Online public attendee names not captured
Dawn Dockter - South	Alex Hardy – Marketing and Events Supervisor		
Lisa Hurt - North	Chuck Cuzzetto – Communication and Public Relations Coordinator		David Onstad
Nancy Whitaker - Central			MJ Dunlap
Jessica Rice – South			Lolita Adrien
			Hank Anderson
			Suzanne Holland
			Sunnie Merritt
			Elena Collins
			Charlen G
			Ginger Erland
			Dan Erland
			Baylee Avery
			Lisa Soete
			Peter & Grace Steinle
			Rick & Sandy Verhelst
			Shelly Newman
			Dennis Smith
			Matt Walker
			Andre Harness
			Kathy Temper
			Monica Newby
			James Danko
			Georgianna Allen
			Cheryl Klampe-Van Hess
			Jay Van Hess
