

KITSAP COUNTY PARKS ADVISORY BOARD

February 18, 2025

MEETING MINUTES

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 PM by Parks Advisory Board Chair, Dawn Dockter. Meeting guidelines of the hybrid Parks Advisory Board were read.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – January 21, 2025

Lisa had a correction for the minutes: Correction of spelling for April Ryan's name.

Linda sent email with corrections and clarifications to add to Public Comments and District Reports. Larry read them out loud.

Larry moved to accept minutes as corrected.

Seconded by Jessica Rice.

Discussion: Lisa asked for further discussion on Linda's emailed corrections, asking for clarification on whose Public Comment the corrections are applied to. Larry and Jen responded.

Vote to approve Minutes as corrected.

Motion is carried, Minutes Approved.

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

- Casey Patton, with Kitsap Aircraft Radio Control Society: Young Eagle program is progressing really well, 7 kids in final stages of completing their airplanes, hoping to bring some to show at March meeting
- Katherine Ander, Lead Volunteer for Coulter Creek Heritage Park: Have a shared amenity (Big Pond Trail), partly Park property, partly McCormick Communities property. Met with McCormick Communities reps to go over shared responsibilities and plans to maintain conditions of trails. Some concerns over trail access were expressed from the Communities.
- Mark Schorn: Received "You Are Here" signs for PGFHP and will be installing them in the next week.
- Beverly Parsons: Two concerns regarding PGFHP- Mountain bike community growing in dominance outside of designated ride park; inadequate attention being given to the protection of nature and critical areas like wetlands and streams. On 2/6 a Ground Truthing Walk was organized with Commissioner Rolfes and Dawn Dockter. Walk focused on Ranger Corridor and made observation that rogue trails and confusing signage may lead people to believe the area is part of EMBA's ride park. Beverly restated KEC Working Group's call for closure of Ranger Corridor, and to put more focus on balancing needs of environment with accessibility to human visitors.
- Joe Lubischer: Following up on his public comment at the last meeting about necessity for complete assessments before park planning is done. Elaborated on that and gave examples of studies that found a number of wetlands that are not on any parks maps, but that are impacted by trails bisecting them that are causing erosion. Stated that those trails should be closed and

rehabilitation efforts started. For future planning, a full set of physical and ecological assessments should be done beforehand to take those factors into consideration.

- Alan Marshall: active in Save Banner Forest efforts. Thank you to Alex Hardy and Aaron Bartleson for Lead Stewardship training, and thank you to PAB for all the work they've done. Question- What kind of public forums do PAB members (particularly in South Kitsap) create to gather input from public and gain awareness of public desires for parks? Request- to exchange contact information with Sout Kitsap members to share ideas and express interests for the parks.
- Alex Wisniewski (Parks Director) gave directions to where on the website members of the public can find contact information/email for PAB, as well as to Parks Department.
- Dawn Dockter (PAB): Mention that she went on 2/6 Ground Truthing Walk as an individual, not as a representative as of PAB. Reminded that PAB does not meet outside of official meetings, unless for specific sub-committee meetings with parks. All meetings to discuss business are open to the public to attend.
- Lynn Schorn: Co-chair of Our Forest Fund, which is looking to purchase remaining trees in PGFHP. Comment on restoration efforts, wildlife study & wetlands concerns – park is a changing environment due to ongoing clearcuts. Encourages people to donate through the Great Give to save the remaining 1,008 acres of trees in the park. It's the 2nd year of submitting Legislative Budget Request, this year will be asking for \$750K, with Our Forest Fund added that will bring it up to \$1 mil, and then Rayonier can be contacted about how many trees can be purchased.
- Mark Schorn: Clarification on previous comment – Mycelium Trail previously mentioned is not in the Ranger Corridor, and is not a bike only trail. It is multi-use. Regarding the decommissioning of trails- more approval from Parks needed to continue but there's plenty of willing volunteers ready to work on them.
- Larry Walker (PAB): Asked for bill number for budget bill previously mentioned for Our Forest Fund. Lynn will connect and share that.
- Alan Marshall: Ask for clarification on previous answer from Dawn regarding PAB not meeting with members of public outside of official meetings.
- Larry Walker (PAB): Clarified that PAB members are private citizens, so they do not set up formal scheduled meetings with the public, but are willing to talk if met out in at a Park.
- Alan Marshall: Asked for further clarification on what is the best way for members of public to have 2-way dialogue with local PAB members instead of being limited to Public Comment Period in official meetings
- Dawn Dockter (PAB). encouraged all comments and dialogue communicated through email and through Parks contact.

IV. SPECIAL PRESENTATIONS/REPORTS –

Alex Hardy, Marketing & Events Supervisor with Parks Department – 2025 Events Year in Review

- Events Program- 2023 was first full year of using RecDesk software for booking and retaining Event Data
- 5 Categories of Event Types: Athletic Fields, Community Buildings, Fairgrounds & Events Center, Picnic Shelters, and Special Park Events

- Athletic Field Rentals: Increase in hourly usage of many fields due to new user groups and accurate field usage reporting
- Community Buildings: Decrease in Eagles Nest usage for 2025 due to more accurate reporting and not counting Park usage as an event day. Small decrease in Island Lake usage due to loss of Dance School that was previously using it multiple days a week. Long Lake usage stays consistent.
 - Wide variety of event types, with largest number of events being Meetings, followed closely by Weddings
 - In 2025 started sending post-rental surveys to track satisfaction, likelihood to return, online accessibility, amenities used & desired (with most requested amenity being Internet)
- Fairgrounds & Event Center: Consistent usage, being booked almost every weekend of the year.
 - Increase in Van Zee usage from wrestling team practices, Cat and Dog Barns used to support 4H programs and their participants. Sheep Barn used by many user groups including Roller Derby.
 - Biggest User Group is Practices (4H, Roller Derby), followed by Expos
- Picnic Shelters: Silverdale Waterfront Park most popular and has most amenities. Supports other Park Events like Whaling Days.
 - Surveys started in 2025 to track online accessibility and overall customer satisfaction.
- Special Park Events: Parks with most usage: Gordon Park Parking Lot, due to Kitsap Transit using it for driver training; Port Gamble Forest Heritage Park, with small decrease due to adjacent airfield that events would use for parking and tents; Salsbury Point Park, with large increase due to new contract with Tender Leaves Outdoor Preschool.
 - Event Types- Parking is largest event type, followed by Camps
- Total Number of Event Days: Increase in each year, with goal being to get over 4,000 in 2026
- Event Revenue: 80% of revenue goes to the 9508 Annual Event Revenue Account, and 20% goes to the 1501 Special Revenue Account, which is what funds facility maintenance, new equipment, annual field ops.
- Questions:
 - From Lisa Hurt: asked for clarification on why revenue from Use Charges shown in presentation did not increase when costs have recently been increased. Alex H. explained that new policies and fees have been passed, but will not be implemented until 2026, so now impacts will be shown in 2025's data, but will be shown at end of this year for 2026 data.

V. Parks Report

A couple things to highlight from the written report:

- Temporary staffing shortages- Admin support services operating slower due to shortages
 - Dee Tuttle no longer with Parks, took a promotional position with Public Works)
 - Hoping to have that position filled within 3 weeks to the next month
 - Budget Analyst on maternity leave, out for 3 months, but will be back in time for Budget Development for the department

- At the middle mark for interviews for the new Wildlife Ecologist position
- Planning: Currently have RFP posted for Park Impact Fee Study (last time a Park Impact Study was done in 2003)
- Community Engagement Meetings in past few weeks: visited Kingston Parks Trails & Open Space sub-Committee to discuss and ask questions about engaging with Kingston Community about desired improvements they want to see at Kola Kola Park.
- Public Meeting with Commissioner Walters at Rolling Hills Golf Course: shared with public about upcoming RFP for golf course operations; over 100 members of the community in attendance.
 - Goals: to keep the golf course as a golf course, and to keep it affordable
 - Process will last a year and a half
 - More details to come in March PAB meeting
- Questions: None

VI. Sub-Committee Reports

None

VII. District Representative Reports

North

- Lisa and Marion had a walk & talk with Aaron Bartleson and Jason Boddy today (2/18) to walk trails at PGFHP
 - Discussed Springs Trail- brought up fixes to keep bikes/walkers/horses from going through the spring, and think about funding to get a bridge built
 - Discussed decommissioning trails
 - Discussed getting Ewok Walking Trail back open
- Linda Berry Maraist- Wondering about background of recent KEC meeting for the walk at PGFHP with Dawn and Commissioner Rolfes and what context it was in
 - Dawn: was invited but reminded them that her attendance would not be on the behalf of PAB. Had written comments to give Parks and distribute to those on the walk. They had concerns over Ranger Corridor and Springs Trail
 - Lisa: KEC organized the walk and invited the Commissioner due to their concerns over conditions of park and wetlands

South-

- Jessica Rice: New barriers put up at SKRP in grassy area; members of public commented that they were very happy about that because it helps protect the grass area

VIII. Public Comment

- None

IX. Adjournment

Larry Walker motioned to adjourn the meeting. Linda Berry-Maraist Seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Vote: Unanimous

Motioned carried. The meeting was adjourned.

Parks Advisory Board Meeting Attendance

PAB MEMBERS	STAFF	PUBLIC (IN PERSON)
Lisa Hurt - North	Alex Wisniewski – Director	
Linda Berry- Maraist - North	Alex Hardy – Admin and Event Supervisor	
Larry Walker - South	Chuck Cuzzetto – PR & Communications Coordinator	
Dawn Dockter - South		
Jessic Rice - South		
Jen Skalbeck - North		