



Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

10123 78th Avenue NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98332
Office: 253-858-3400 Fax: 253-858-3401
E-mail: Info@PenMetParks.org

"Today We Touch Tomorrow"

MINUTES OF BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS SPECIAL MEETING

Wednesday, June 14th, 2017

PRESENT:

Board Members

Kurt Grimmer
Maryellen (Missy) Hill (arrived at 6:20 p.m.)
Steve Nixon
Amanda Babich
Todd Iverson

ABSENT:

None

Staff

Eric Guenther
Terry Lee
Elaine Sorensen
Gretchen Hayes

Visitors

Kelli Talent	Windy Payne
Dillon Payne	Jo Simms
Mary Beth Haugen	Deb Evans
Kirsten Gregory	Jeff Wenrich
Michele Lehosky	Linda Hyatt
Makaila Hyatt	Ashley Hyatt
Mark Roberts	

PLACE:

PenMet Parks
Sehmel Homestead Park Volunteer Vern Pavilion
10123 78th Avenue NW
Gig Harbor, WA 98332

CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting of the Peninsula Metropolitan Park District was called to order by Commissioner Grimmer at 6:15 p.m.

Commissioner Iverson made a motion to approve the agenda, and Commissioner Babich seconded the motion. Commissioner Grimmer called for the vote and the motion passed 4-0. Commissioner Hill arrived after the vote.

SPECIAL MEETING AGENDA

Discussion – Harbor Soccer Club

Jeff Wenrich of Harbor Soccer Club reviewed a fundraising plan to hire a professional consultant and develop a plan to secure donations for field development. They have received \$100,000 in an anonymous donation.

Commissioner Iverson noted concern regarding coordination of naming rights. Mr. Wenrich agreed to consult with the board before promising any naming rights.

Terry Lee thanked Mr. Wenrich for coming, and indicated that he looks forward to working with Harbor Soccer Club in the future.

Discussion – Recreation Programs

Jo Simms spoke to the board on behalf of people with disabilities in the community. She indicated that while the Special Education system does quite well, when the kids reach 21, they're pretty much on their own, much more solitary. On average, there are just 2 – 4 hours of employment per week, and they don't see their friends nearly as much. She recommends talking with families to identify the needs for all ages, and include summer programs. She would like to work with PenMet for programs for these families. Metro Parks Tacoma has some good programs which could be used as a guideline.

Kelli Talent, a teacher in the Community Transition Program, indicated that she hopes that special needs children have the same opportunity that other kids have.

Michele Lehosky of the Community Inclusion Program noted that she partners with the school district to help special needs kids until graduation. And that after graduation, it is important for these kids to continue to have opportunities available to them, including volunteering and community interaction.

Windy Payne suggested having an area for both parents and children to socialize that is safe. This area could include lunch, crafts, music, etc. She explained that parents would be more than willing to volunteer their time, and that it is important to separate different age groups and age appropriate programs.

Mary Beth Haugen with Special Olympics and Linda Hyatt with DSHS also noted that additional funding may be available through the federal government and through the state.

Their hope from this meeting is to find a place where parents and children can socialize for one or two hours per week. They would like to see some sort of programming, but any help would be welcomed.

Gretchen Hayes, PenMet Parks Recreation Manager, explained that they have already set up a Halloween event on October 21st in the Sehmel Homestead Park Pavilion. Ms. Hayes indicated that she is planning to meet with attendees of tonight's board meeting to get more information about what they are looking for, and how the Recreation Department can best help.

Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation

Commissioner Hill motioned to approve the proclamation of July 2017 as Parks and Recreation Month. Commissioner Nixon seconded this motion. Commissioner Iverson asked that the proclamation be amended to include the word "resolved". Commissioner Babich seconded this motion. Commissioner Grimmer called for a vote, and the motion to amend passed 5-0.

Commissioner Grimmer then called for a vote to approve the amended proclamation, and the motion passed 5-0.

Quarterly Staff Report Update – Gretchen Hayes, Recreation Manager

Gretchen Hayes gave an overview of the Recreation Department. She updated the board on current photo contest results, website information, and the overall development of the Recreation Department.

Ms. Hayes also gave an update on the Food Truck Feast event that is scheduled for June 17th. The board explained that they are excited for the event, and are all willing to help as needed.

Commissioner Iverson noted concern regarding fields for PenMet Parks baseball programs. He would like to see staff explore options to create better fields for all users in the community (Gig Harbor Little League, Peninsula School District, and City of Gig Harbor).

Executive Session

The board entered into Executive Session at 7:20 p.m. to consider the acquisition of real estate per RCW 42.30.110(1)(b) for 30 minutes.

The board came out of Executive Session at 7:50 p.m. and returned to Executive Session for an additional 25 minutes.

They returned from Executive Session at 8:15 p.m.

Comments by Board

Commissioner Iverson noted that there needs to be additional signage for parking at DeMolay Sandspit Nature Preserve and also at Narrows Park. Staff will check into more signage.

Commissioner Babich noted that she has received comments about garbage and camping at the Fox Island Boat Launch.

Tentative Date(s) for Next Board Meeting(s)

Regular Meeting, Monday, 7/10/17

ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Iverson made a motion to adjourn the meeting. Commissioner Nixon seconded and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

APPROVED BY BOARD ON:

7/10/17



President



Clerk

Submitted by: *Jase Newton*