PenMet Parks
Parks For All. Parks For Life.

Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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www.penmetparks.org

REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

October 06, 2026, 6:00 PM
PenMet Parks District Headquarters - 2416 14th Ave NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Call to Order Time: 6:01 pm

Commissioner Roll Call:

	Present	Excused	Comment
William C. (Billy) Sehmel, President	X		
Kurt Grimmer, Clerk	X		
Steve Nixon			Via Zoom
Maryellen (Missy) Hill	X		
Laurel Kingsbury	X		

Quorum: Yes

ITEM 1 President's Report

Heard from community members who attended Scarecrow Festival and were delighted by the event; recognize driver of District van 112 last night for observing safety and speed limits.

At our September 22nd meeting, the Board adopted the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports. We've received some great questions and interest from the community about this decision, so tonight I'd like to walk through why we made this choice, what it really means for our community, and how it fits into our everyday operations.

First and foremost, this step was inspired by local health data and our deep commitment to making sure cost is never a barrier to play. A 2023 Tacoma-Pierce County youth survey showed a concerning trend: only 26% of local kids get the CDC's recommended 60 minutes of daily physical activity. We want to change that. Part of our strategy is making our activities accessible to every family, regardless of financial circumstances. In fact, over the past year alone, PenMet Parks helped around 200 families participate in our programs through financial assistance.

Because of this focus, Pen Met Parks was named a 2026 Project Play Champion even before we formally adopted the Bill of Rights. That recognition came with a grant, which we're using to host five "Youth Play Free" days at the new Recreation Center. We purposefully scheduled these on Peninsula School District days off- October 12, November 11, November 27, December 21, and December 28-giving local kids a safe, fun, and active place to hang out when school is out.

When the Board and our staff talk about "equal opportunity," we mean physical accessibility. That's why we've worked hard this year to expand adaptive recreation; like opening Pierce County's first Outdoors for All Adaptive Cycling Center, hosting specialized sports clinics, and making full use of accessible spaces

like the Boundless Playground at Sehmel Homestead Park and our new Recreation Center.

I also want to address some questions regarding broader materials published by the Aspen Institute around gender, sexual identity, and sports participation. At our September 22nd meeting, our focus was strictly on the eight fundamental rights outlined in the Children's Bill of Rights in Sports. We didn't discuss any other Aspen Institute toolkits, and our vote was limited entirely to those eight core principles, which center on safety, qualified coaching, and age-appropriate play.

It's also helpful to remember that as a public park district, Pen Met Parks is already governed by the Washington Law Against Discrimination (RCW 49.60), which has protected sexual orientation and gender identity since 2006. Because these protections are established state civil rights laws rather than local park policies, anyone looking to discuss or suggest changes to those laws should connect directly with our state legislators.

On the practical side, I want to clarify how our facilities are set up. None of our venues feature group changing rooms. Along with standard multi-stall restrooms, we offer individual family and unisex bathrooms at Sehmel Homestead Park and the Recreation Center for anyone preferring additional privacy.

At the end of the day, adopting this Bill of Rights simply gives us a guiding philosophy to keep local kids healthy and active. The vote does not bring any new local policy updates, facility rule changes, or program shifts. Our current operational policies remain fully in place, and our focus continues to be serving the recreational needs of our community.

ITEM 2 Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Ally Bujacich, provides brief presentation, noting Scarecrow Festival was a wonderful success this past weekend, with over 70 vendors, food trucks, a petting zoo and falconer, craft booths, hayrides, games and much more; this is what building community and our mission in action looks like; people of all ages abilities coming together in the park to make connections and memories; FISH food also received generous donations from attendees; many thanks to staff. Commissioners and the 47 volunteers, who provided 135 hours in service, for all their hard work and energy as well as our partners and sponsors.

Looking forward, Monday October 12 is our first Free Play Day; made possible by the grant received as a Project Play Champion; as mentioned the goal is to get kids active and give them options and opportunities to play.

Monster Mash Bash coming on October 30, with indoor trick or treat, kids' activities, community booths, games and more in a safe comfortable event for families, regardless of weather. We anticipate a large turnout, last year drew close 800.

ITEM 3 Special Presentations – none

ITEM 4 Board Committee Reports

4a. Park Services Committee

Met 9/25/26; Staff shared project updates on PenGardens Parkland Development Project, including Frontage Improvements, RCO funding metrics, consultant Predesign work and need for contract amendment.

Divisional updates included the DeMolay Sandspit Improvement Project and amendment to the consultant's contract; an Invitation to Bid (ITB) will be issued soon for the 14th Avenue Crossing project; highlights by the Grounds and Facilities crews.

Discussed asset management updates, including upcoming removal of hazard trees and limbs at Narrows Park before the winter season sets in.

Next meeting is 10/23/26

4b. Finance Committee – has not met since last meeting

4c. Recreation Services Committee

Met 9/24/26; Staff presented the Summer/Fall Update and 2027 Rec Program Plan; some highlights include successfully serving over 2,000 campers, 1,600 mobile rec participants, 2,300 Community event guests and 13,000 min-golfers through September. Season concluded with an all-staff active shooter training led by the Pierce County Sheriff's Department

Fall programs off to a strong start; in addition to many returning offerings, this season includes new activities such as clamming, archery, teen events, and family programs.

Happy to host South Sound Football Club again for their home games again and look forward to welcoming a new women's team.

Next mtg 10/22/26.

4d. Stewardship Committee – has not met since last meeting

4e. External Committees – are there any to report on?

Attended Harbor Senior Connections Board Meeting as a guest; they are working hard to open their facility and have made lots of improvements; working on admin, registration, and programming projects; they will host an open house on 10/10/26 at 4:30 pm

Tacoma Narrows Airport Advisory Commission (TNAAC) met 9/30/26 for a special meeting to review the airport Capital Improvement Plan and provide recommendations to County Council with changes to initial proposal.

PenMet Parks Foundation met 9/24/26; work continues to advance IT, website and email projects; working with the District on finalizing the Foundation budget.

ITEM 5 Public Comments:

NO SPEAKERS

ITEM 6 Minutes

6a. Approval of September 22, 2026 Study Session Minutes

6b. Approval of September 22, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner moved to adopt the minutes as presented. Commissioner seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

ITEM 7 Consent Agenda

7a. Resolution C2026-018 Approving Vouchers from September 2026

Commissioner moved to adopt the Consent Agenda as presented. Commissioner seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

ITEM 8 Unfinished Business – none

ITEM 9 New Business

9.1 Purchasing Resolutions Requiring One Reading for Adoption

9.1a Resolution P2026-004 Authorizing the Executive Director to Sign the Agreement with Revize LLC to Redesign the District's Website and Provide CMS Services to PenMet Parks

Commissioner moved to adopt the Resolution as presented. Commissioner seconded.

Director of Operations, Brynn Grimley, provides brief presentation including background, goals, process and recommendation; noting the primary focus was a user-friendly site that meets accessibility factors, allows the public to easily find information and learn our story and is easier for staff to manage and maintain this is included in the 2026 budget.

The Request for Proposal (RFP) went out this Spring, returning approximately 70 submissions, which were reviewed by a committee; Revize LLC has been selected based on experience and understanding with the unique needs and requirements for government agencies and field.

Staff recommends approval as presented.

Board Question: Materials show staff are presently spending 24 hours each month on the website and related tasks, will this new site free up staff time? **Answer:** Yes; right now, we do a lot of manual modifications in addition to constant monitoring and fixing for plug-ins and other features; this will allow us to focus on content and Revize handles the other.

Board Comment: After seeing the presentation at the Finance/IT meeting, I feel that this is the best fit for the District, based on results from the RFP.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

9.1b Resolution P2026-007 Authorizing the Executive Director to Sign Amendment #3 to the Architectural/Engineering Agreement for the Design of the Tacoma DeMolay Sandspit Master Plan, Facility and Accessibility Improvement Project with Baumwelt

Commissioner moved to adopt the Resolution as presented. Commissioner seconded.

Executive Director Bujacich introduces Capital Project Manager, Dave Klipp, who provides brief presentation, noting PenMet received additional funding for this project in 2026, which allowed for expansion of the project scope to meet more of the community's needs, which also requires additional design services. Staff negotiated with consultant, Baumwelt, for a revised contract that includes full implementation of master plan design and cultural resources tasks, which are required including onsite monitoring.

Staff recommends approval as presented.

No further Board discussion.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

9.2 Single Reading Resolutions Requiring One Reading for Adoption – none

9.3 Two Reading Resolutions Requiring Two Readings for Adoption

9.3a Resolution RR2026-004 Adopting the Amended Policy P40-102 Purchasing Policy *(first reading)*

Staff has noted that minor changes have been made to the policy since the Agenda Packet was published on Friday; the Board has a copy of the updated version before them tonight; a copy is available to the public at the table in the back of the room; Materials published online have been updated as well.

Commissioner moved to adopt the Resolution as presented. Commissioner seconded.

Director of Finance, Jessica Wigle, provides brief presentation, noting the policy, first adopted in 2005, has been amended several times, most recently in 2025, with the purpose to adopt standards that promote proper stewardship of public funds and assets in an effort to maintain public confidence and trust to ensure compliance with applicable procurement laws regulations and procedures; also establishes what levels of spending are approved and the level of delegation to the Executive Director.

Proposed amendments to the policy relate to purchases of goods, services, technology, and art, as well as several procedural requirements related to competitive bidding exemptions and purchasing records. Legal counsel has reviewed the attached amended policy.

Staff recommends approval as presented.

No further Board Discussion.

Second reading will be at the October 20, 2026 meeting

ITEM 10 **Comments by Board**

Echo comments regarding Scarecrow this weekend; was able to join and the weather was perfect, people had a blast launching pumpkins, playing games and truly enjoying the day; hats off to staff for a wonderful job of putting together such a popular community event.

Commissioners may work on hosting a booth at the Monster Mash Bash.

ITEM 11 **Next Board Meetings**
October 20, 2026 - Study Session at 5:00 p.m. and Regular Meeting at 6:00 p.m. at PenMet Parks District Headquarters - 2416 14th Ave NW, Gig Harbor WA 98335

ITEM 12 **Adjournment Time: 6:37 pm**

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MEETING PROCEDURES

The Board of Park Commissioners encourages the public to attend its Board meetings. All persons who attend Board meetings must comply with Board Policy P10-106 providing for the Rules of Decorum at Board Meetings. This Policy is to preserve order and decorum and discourage conduct that disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of Board meetings. A copy of the policy is available at each meeting and at www.penmetparks.org.

Approved By the Board on 10/06/2026

William C. (Billy) Sehmel, Board President

Kurt Grimmer, Board Clerk

Attest: Amanda Walston, Board Secretary