

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING April 16, 2026
 STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER: A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair DeWitt.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken DeWitt, Tom Goodlin, Jay Kinney, Rachel Pritchett, Tom Swolgaard.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add general business item 40.4.5 for Pritchard Park Puget Sound Energy power easement.

CONFLICT OF INTEREST DISCLOSURE: None

MISSION STATEMENT: Chair DeWitt read the District’s mission statement: The mission of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District is to build a healthy community through effective, sustainable stewardship of the District’s parks and open space, and through the development and delivery of innovative cultural and recreation opportunities.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the April 2, 2026 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Pritchett/Kinney: I have reviewed the following vouchers, warrants, and electronic payments and move that they be approved for payment.

Batch Date	Fund Number and Name	Warrant Numbers	Total Batch Amount
4/2/2026	300 Capital Improvement Fund	31756	\$220,116.00
4/7/2026	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	31757-31805	\$152,480.04
4/14/2026	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	31806-31839	\$53,232.06
	001 General Fund	Pre-approval	\$63,250.00

GENERAL BUSINESS

HILLTOP PRESCRIBED BURN: Natural Resources Manager Morgan Houk said staff are working towards holding prescribed burns at Hilltop. Funding has been awarded to the project from a prescribed fire competitive grant program administered by Washington State Department of Natural Resources. The District applied for the grant in conjunction with the Bainbridge Island Fire Department, which was the primary grant applicant, as well as the Bloedel Reserve and the Bainbridge Island Land Trust. Of the \$21,587 dollars awarded, the District will receive \$9,100. The Fire Department has committed to covering the cost of their staff time. The Bloedel Reserve was also awarded funding for what will be their fourth broadcast burn. The Bainbridge Island Land Trust’s involvement is related to the fact that they own a conservation easement on the Hilltop property. Staff will work closely with the Fire Department and develop a communication plan with neighbors and the entire community. Community outreach will include pre-burn and post-burn site visits to engage and educate the public regarding ecological aspects and the long-term aesthetic impacts. Staff are planning for two different types of prescribed burns; a pile burn before June 30 and a broadcast burn in August or September. The pile burn will eliminate accumulated underbrush and ladder fuels removed from parking lots and near powerlines to make the areas more firewise. The broadcast burn is planned for a portion of the Hilltop meadow.

Commissioner Pritchett asked about cooperation with park neighbors. Morgan Houk said staff will communicate directly with park neighbors. Commissioner Swolgaard asked about the purpose of prescribed burns. Morgan Houk said the purpose of prescribed burns ranges from managing fuels and therefore how wildfire interacts with the landscape, to transitioning soil and vegetation into a more native plant community which in turn supports pollinators and other wildlife. After the prescribed burn the area will be reseeded with native vegetation. To help native species compete staff will work on the resurgence of invasive species by removing them by hand, mowing, and herbicide application. Commissioner Swolgaard asked about the smoke that will be created and noted that it will be a concern for people. Morgan Houk said that staff will work closely with the Fire Department to make sure that burning is done on days when the way the air is moving will ensure that smoke will move up into the atmosphere and out of the area quickly. Staff are writing a communication plan on how to inform the public about the project through a variety of channels including utilizing the City of Bainbridge Island's Nixle alert system to communicate. While the public can be prepared well in advance about what is planned, the exact date and time will be determined by the weather, and then additional alerts will go out to the public.

UPDATE ON PHASE II OF THE RAY WILLIAMSON POOL RENOVATION: Risk and Project Manager David Harry said the contract for Phase II of the Ray Williamson pool renovation with contractor CDK Construction was signed today. CDK Construction is on track to mobilize as early as May 4. Aquatic Program Administrator Jenette Reneau said staff are planning to use the same approach to scheduling and communication as was used during Phase I of the project. Staffing is at a good level and user groups are aware the impacts are imminent.

TRAILS ADVISORY COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS: Natural Resources Manager Morgan Houk said staff are recommending a slate of committee members for the Trails Advisory Committee. The recommended committee members include representatives from a variety of user groups. **MSC: Pritchett/Goodlin: Move to approve the seven individuals including: Ann Browning, Cody Edwards, Brady Fullwood, Clay Levit, Jim Sharkey, Kylee Stanton-Hicks, and Jenny Stewart to serve on the Park District's trail committee for a period of one year and up to two years before reapplying to the committee.**

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND JAPANESE AMERICAN EXCLUSION MEMORIAL ASSOCIATION LONG-TERM LEASE AGREEMENT: Executive Director Dan Hamlin reviewed changes made to the long-term lease agreement with Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association since the last review. He noted that the current image used in Exhibit A will be replaced with a different map and distributed a copy for review. It was also noted that section 1.05 may need to be amended if it becomes necessary for BIJAEMA to get a loan to finish building the visitor center. The amended language would be required by their bank to secure a loan. District Attorney Hayes Gori has shared some sample language for consideration if that becomes necessary to address and indicated no concerns with the addition. **MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: Move to approve the lease agreement between the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District and the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial Association.**

PRITCHARD PARK PUGET SOUND ENERGY POWER EASEMENT: Executive Director Dan Hamlin distributed a standard easement lease document for Puget Sound Energy to bring power into the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial site for the visitor center. District Attorney Hayes Gori reviewed the document and had no concerns. **MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: Move to approve the easement between the Park District and Puget Sound Energy for easement on assessor's property tax parcel 352502-1-001-2001.**

INITIAL UNION CONTRACT PREPARATION — CAUCUS TEAM: Executive Director Dan Hamlin said there will be a designated group of staff that will be the District's negotiation team for in person contract negotiations with union representatives and represented union members. The District will also have a caucus team, which will consist of District representatives who will not be in the room during the negotiations. The caucus team can be called on at any time to discuss the negotiated terms.

There was brief discussion about whether board members want to be part of the caucus team and if so which board members. **MSC: Pritchett/Goodlin: Motion to add Commissioner Kinney and Commissioner DeWitt to the caucus team. Commissioner Swolgaard opposed the motion.**

STAFF REPORT

Administrative Division: Assistant Executive Director Amy Swenson said she is evaluating recommendations from the salary study consultants and preparing information on potential budget impacts.

Risk and Capital Project Manager David Harry gave a brief update on current projects including the Bainbridge Island Japanese American Exclusion Memorial visitor center and tennis court resurfacing.

Recreation Division: Aquatic Program Administrator Jenette Reneau said staff are busy preparing for the upcoming closure of the Ray Williamson pool for Phase II of the renovation. Bainbridge Aquatic Masters Head Coach April Cheadle was honored with the Pacific Northwest Association of Masters Swimmers Coach of the Year award for the third time, which is historic as it is the first time the award has been won by the same person three times. Assistant Coach Tamara Tulou was also honored with the Dawn Musselman Inspirational Swimmer award. Having both awards go to members of the same team was another first for the Pacific Northwest Association of Masters Swimmers. A new junior lifeguard program will be offered this summer. The private swimming lesson program has quadrupled in size since it began at the beginning of the year. Assistant Recreation Director Bryan Garoutte said Eagledale Pottery Studio is holding a spring pottery sale.

Park Services Division: Natural Resources Manager Morgan Houk said Volunteer Program Manager Sierra Kross won the Washington Recreation & Park Association Emerging Professional award. Park Services Division Director Lydia Roush said extensive landscape work was recently completed at Bainbridge Island Recreation Center.

Executive Director Dan Hamlin said staff are looking to possibly make additional changes to marketing for recreation programs after moving to a digital-only catalog last fall. On April 9 the City of Bainbridge Island Planning Commission held a meeting at which Planning Director Patty Charnas, who was standing in for Senior Planner Jennifer Sutton that evening, convinced the Planning Commission to pull the park zone from COBI's Comprehensive Plan update and instead write a goal policy to at some point in the future work with the District on a park overlay. Senior Planner Matthew Keough is attending the Planning Commission meeting being held this evening to present the history of the work done to date for the Comprehensive Plan update to include a park zone. It was generally agreed that the board is in support of a park zone and that Commissioner DeWitt, as board chair, will work with staff to draft and send a letter to COBI advocating for a park zone. Implementing a park zone would save both COBI and District staff a lot of time as currently parks are considered either commercial or residential for zoning purposes and therefore many projects require conditional use permits.

BOARD MEMBER REMARKS:

- Commissioner Swolgaard said he will be at the District booth at the Farmers' Market on Saturday.
- Commissioner Goodlin said he and Commissioner Pritchett attended the recent Bainbridge Island Parks & Trails Foundation meeting.
- Commissioner Pritchett said she attended the District work party at Moritani Preserve this morning.
- Commissioner Pritchett said Meadowmeer Golf & Country Club is now allowing the public to walk the paths through the golf course early in the morning before it opens.
- Commissioner Kinney said he was at Battle Point Park recently and noticed the ospreys are rebuilding their nest on the cell tower.
- Commissioner DeWitt said the dedication ceremony for Williams-Olson Park will be on April 26.

- Commissioner DeWitt said the City of Bainbridge Island's south ward meeting is Saturday at Island Center Hall and the central ward meeting will be held on April 26.


MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:26 pm.

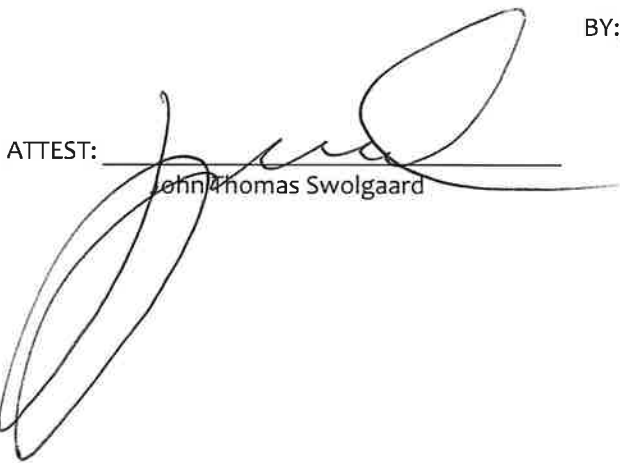
Helen Stone
Dan Hamlin
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

BY: 
Rachel Pritchett

BY: 
Tom Goodlin

ATTEST: 
John Thomas Swolgaard