



KIRKLAND PARK BOARD

October 23, 2024; 7:00 p.m.
Peter Kirk Room, Kirkland City Hall
123 5th Avenue Kirkland, WA 98033

Land Acknowledgement

We acknowledge that the Southern Salish Sea region lies on the unceded and ancestral land of the Coast Salish peoples, the Duwamish, Muckleshoot, Puyallup, Skykomish, Snoqualmie, Snohomish, Suquamish and Tulalip tribes and other tribes of the Puget Sound Salish people, and that present-day City of Kirkland is in the traditional heartland of the Lake People and the River People. We honor with gratitude the land itself, the First People – who have reserved treaty rights and continue to live here since time immemorial – and their ancestral heritage.

Mission Statement

The mission of the Park Board shall be to provide policy advice and assistance to the Department of Parks and Community Services and City Council in order to ensure the effective provision of Parks and Community Services programs and facilities to the residents of the City of Kirkland.

AGENDA

1. CALL TO ORDER
2. ROLL CALL
3. WELCOME NEW PARK BOARD MEMBERS
4. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES
5. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE
6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. September 25, 2024
7. BUSINESS ITEMS
 - a. 2024 Summer Recreation Programming Review
 - b. Park Board Member Reports
8. COMMUNICATIONS
 - a. Correspondence
 - b. [Department Monthly Report](#)
 - c. Staff Updates and Information
 - d. Comments from the Chair
9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS
10. ADJOURNMENT

Next Park Board Meeting: November 20, 2024*

**November Park Board Meeting will be held on the third Wednesday of November*

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The City of Kirkland strives to accommodate people with disabilities. Please contact the City Clerk's Office at 425.587.3190, or for TTY Services call 425.587.3111 (by noon the work day prior to the meeting) if we can be of assistance. If you should experience difficulty hearing the proceedings, please bring this to the attention of the Chairperson by raising your hand.

KIRKLAND PARK BOARD
Minutes of Regular Meeting
September 25, 2024

1. CALL TO ORDER

The September 25, 2024 Park Board regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Mike Holland.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Board member Juliana Born, Board member Tammy Cohen, Board member Katherine Kearny, Board member Jared Silvia, Board member Crystal Thimsen, Vice Chair Amy Ambrosini, Chair Mike Holland

Members Absent: None

Staff Present: Deputy Director John Lloyd, Parks Maintenance & Operations Manager Jason Filan, Recreation Manager Sara Shellenbarger, Park Planning & Development Manager Mary Gardocki, Administrative Assistant Emily Lima Welch, Deputy Director of Planning & Building Allison Zike, Senior Community Engagement Coordinator Daniel Lazo

Recording Secretary: Administrative Assistant Emily Lima Welch

3. AGENDA ADDITIONS/CHANGES

Deputy Director John Lloyd notified the Board of Board Member Tammy Cohen's pending resignation and recognized her for her service on the Park Board. September 25, 2024 will be her last session.

No further additions or changes were noted.

4. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

None

5. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. The June 26, 2024 Park Board meeting minutes were presented to the Board and approved by unanimous consent.

b. The July 24, 2024 Park Board meeting minutes were presented to the Board and approved by unanimous consent.

6. SPECIAL PRESENTATION

Scott Morris, President of the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance (FHNA) and artist Austin Picinich presented materials for an art donation proposal. The art pieces were completed as part of a community engagement project at Dennyfest on August 17, 2024, and is proposed to be installed along the Denny Creek trail at a few different sites.

Following the presentation, Mr. Morris and Mr. Picinich answered questions from the Board.

7. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Houghton Village Development Plan Briefing

Deputy Director of Planning & Building Allison Zike presented on the Houghton Village Development Plan Briefing that was brought to Council on September 17, 2024. Deputy Director Zike noted that this property was purchased by the City in 2022 for the purposes of providing community benefit that would not otherwise be fulfilled by the market and presented three options for consideration.

The Board and Staff discussed, and the Board provided feedback on the proposed development plan. Primary concerns of Park Board include the connection to the CKC, the availability of designated recreation & programming space, the impact of potentially increasing numbers of youth & recreation programming into a heavily trafficked area, and the possibility of increased activation of nearby parks, such as Terrace.

The next phase of the Houghton Village Development Plan will be further economic analysis by staff, with plans to return to Council for a go/no-go decision on any further development or planning in January 2025.

PARK BOARD RECESSED AT 8:10 PM
PARK BOARD RECONVENED AT 8:15 PM

b. Preliminary 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program

Parks Planning & Development Manager Mary Gardocki provided overview of the preliminary Capital Improvement Plan (CIP) for 2025-2030 which was presented to Council on September 3, 2024. Planning & Development Manager Gardocki reviewed the overview & background of the CIP, its purpose, and the funding of the various projects in the program, including Parks Impact Fees. The presentation also included an overview of the park projects planned for 2025-2030, including potential renovations and upgrades to the existing Peter Kirk Pool to extend its life. The preliminary 2025-2030 CIP will return to City Council at the November 6, 2024 study session, and is planned to be adopted on December 10, 2024, barring any significant changes.

Staff answered questions from the Board.

c. Art Donation Discussion

Parks & Community Services Deputy Director John Lloyd lead a discussion of the art proposal presented by Scott Morris, President of FHNA and artist Austin Picinich in Agenda Item 6 - Special Presentation. Deputy Director Lloyd requested that the Park Board make a formal recommendation on the proposal for the Kirkland Cultural Arts Commission. The Park Board noted concerns over the logistics of art installation, including security of the art and the proximity to the stream, but also acknowledged and appreciated the effort, initiative, and goodwill from the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance.

Staff answered questions from the Board.

Motion to recommend that Staff work with the Finn Hill Neighborhood Alliance (FNHA) and artist Austin Picinich to refine the proposal for presentation to the Kirkland Cultural Arts Commission.

Moved: Jared Silvia; Seconded: Katherine Kearny

The motion passed with 7 votes in favor, none against, and none absent.

d. Park Board Member Reports

Board Member Juliana Born indicated the Market Neighborhood Association expressed an interest in having Parks & Community Services staff give a presentation. Board member Born

also attended the Totem Lake Mural Paint Day on September 21, 2024 and the KTUB Ribbon Cutting and Grand Opening on September 18, 2024.

Board member Jared Silvia was contacted by the Juanita Neighborhood Association about a parcel that could be potentially turned into a park, and he will direct them to Park Planning & Development Manager Mary Gardocki. Board member Silvia also suggested a tabling opportunity for summer camps at the Juanita Elementary Summer Camp Fair, expected to take place in January. Recreation Sara Shellenbarger will coordinate further plans to attend with her staff.

Board member Katherine Kearny requested an update on KTUB. Recreation Manager Sara Shellenbarger reported that the doors opened September 3, 2024, and the grand opening and ribbon cutting occurred on September 18, 2024. To date, KTUB has received 44 unique visits and 103 total visits from teens. Programming for the site is beginning, and partners 4Tomorrow and the counselor from Youth Eastside Services (YES) are now fully onboarded. Staff are tabling at school lunches, and open houses for adults and parents will recur on the first Tuesday of each month. More information and links to social media accounts can be found at www.kirklandwa.gov/KTUB.

Chair Mike Holland noted he also attended the Totem Lake Mural Paint Day on September 21, 2021. Chair Holland requested another board member attend Park Board Youth Member interviews occurring on October 8, 2024. Board member Crystal Thimsen will attend on behalf of Park Board.

Vice Chair Amy Ambrosini reported on her visit to City Hall for All on September 14, 2024. She noted she will be unavailable for the October 8, 2024 Houghton Neighborhood meeting, if anyone else was available to cover that day.

8. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Correspondence

Winna Choi

Jennifer Loy

Jeremy Nguyen

b. Department Monthly Report

The department monthly report was emailed to Board members and posted online.

c. Staff Updates and Information

In addition to KTUB, Recreation Manager Sara Shellenbarger also reported on the upcoming Harvest Festival on October 5, 2024 from 11:00 AM – 4:00 PM and will include activities such as pony rides and a cornhole tournament. She also noted a shuttle will also be available from parking at the North Kirkland Community Center to the event at Juanita Beach Park.

Deputy Director John Lloyd invited the Board members to a Boards, Commissions & Council training hosted by the Planning & Building Department. The training is tentatively to occur on either Wednesday October 16th 2024 at 6:00 PM or Monday October 28th 2024 at 6:00 PM.

d. Comments from the Chair

Chair Holland added no further notes.

9. FUTURE AGENDA ITEM REQUESTS

Note that a review of the 2024 Summer Programming has been bumped to the October session, with the addition of the Houghton Village Development Plan to the September agenda.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Mike Holland adjourned the meeting at 9:10 PM by unanimous consent.

Emily Lima Welch, Recording Secretary
Parks and Community Services

Mike Holland, Chair
Park Board



MEMORANDUM

To: Park Board

From: John Lloyd, Deputy Director, Parks and Community Services
Sara Shellenbarger, Recreation Manager

Date: October 23, 2024

Subject: 2024 Summer Recreation Programming Review

RECOMMENDATION:

That the Park Board receives an update from City staff about the 2024 summer recreation season, including an update about recreation scholarship program usage.

DISCUSSION/ANALYSIS:

Summer is the busiest time of year for the Recreation Division. Each summer the Recreation Division offers a variety of summer camps, recreational, and instructional programming. Additionally, the Division offers a full slate of aquatic offerings at both the Peter Kirk Pool and the three designated swimming beaches (Houghton Beach, Juanita Beach, Waverly Beach). At the pool we offer swim lessons, public/lap swim, water exercise classes, a youth swim team, and rentals. To offer all these programs and services, hundreds of employees are hired, doubling the overall number of employees in the Division.

This past summer, 9,547 people enrolled in the 1,057 recreation classes/activities that were offered. The staff presentation will include a brief overview of programs offered, participation data, and trends staff observed.

The recreation scholarship program has seen a growth in use since being revamped in 2021. Families who meet income eligibility requirements can apply for recreation scholarships and receive \$450 per household family member per year. More information about the scholarship program is available on the Recreation Scholarship website¹.

The staff presentation will cover scholarship program parameters, usage, trends, and fund health.

¹ <http://www.kirklandwa.gov/RecreationScholarships>

From: [Jennifer Loy](#)
To: [Kelli Curtis](#); [Jay Arnold](#); [Neal Black](#); [Jon Pascal](#); [Penny Sweet](#); [Amy Falcone](#); [John Tymczyszyn](#); [City Council](#); [Park Board](#)
Subject: Items from the Audience Speakers Notes 10_1_2024 Carillon Woods Park
Date: Wednesday, October 9, 2024 2:27:10 PM

CAUTION/EXTERNAL: This email originated from outside the City Of Kirkland. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Forwarding speakers notes from Items From The Audience, October 1st, 2024

10/01/24

The Carillon Woods Park Chronicles Part III- Tale of The Missing Tree

I could never have imagined how poorly the rest of this meet-up was going to go. (continuing account of meeting at Carillon Woods Park from September 17th council meeting.)

Before you cut me off, I was sharing that Deputy Director of Parks, John Lloyd was suggesting that parks could “decoratively prune” the newly planted large growth saplings I requested to be repositioned from secluding the playground. I told him, why would you not just move them to where they could grow naturally? He said, “Don’t you trust us?” I said “No, I do not. (Why would I)

You may be wondering how I could remember all of this so well. You see, I was so disturbed by this meeting and what took place that I wrote several pages of notes even though there was a large audience there.

Then he says, “We need to get a park plan going.” The city council member present says, “reclassifying seems reasonable” (meaning to a neighborhood park from a natural area)

As has been shared by me repeatedly now, this park was already classified as neighborhood park in the PROS Plan policy document. Why did none of the people that work in parks for the City acknowledge it at that time?

I ask the Deputy Director WHEN he can tell me about moving the saplings. He makes it clear it’s HIS decision and suggests in “a month.” I reply, “how about in a week?”

He says, “you just want your way”, and that they have their “park goals.” I say it’s the community that uses this park and they should be maintaining it for the neighbors.

Then, I suggested that I get a petition going to show wider support and evidence for my requests to address his “lone wolf” claim. Then, he said.....“Now, you are threatening me!” I assured him that I was not. He then says, “We’re leaving!”

The member of the parks board who takes their kids to this park said, “Wow- I’ve never seen him like that before”. “They seem to want to punish all of us because someone took a tree down.”

Another attendee said, “why would you volunteer for these people anymore?”

I was also asked if I had “thanked his people?” Ironically, I have. He had no idea. In fact, I learned the thanks I ran through the Natural Areas Supervisor never got passed along. (Ironically, I was thanking them for doing a job they are paid to do but, no thanks or mention to me of thanks for volunteering my time- working for free)

I was disillusioned and depressed after this meeting. Director Lloyd literally inferred that if I got a petition going, he would accuse me of threatening him. There was an opportunity for this city department leader to be a problem solver, role model and demonstrate de-escalation. Sadly, he did the opposite.

Two days later, I picked up a call from a number I didn’t know. It was the Parks

Maintenance Manager whom I met for the first time at the park meeting.

He told me that he had moved the saplings to another area of the park. (JUST LIKE THAT)

I bet you'd like to know what happened when I heard back from Deputy Director John Lloyd. Well, I have NEVER heard back from him.

Respectfully Submitted,

Jennifer

206.617.5555

From: [Jennifer Loy](#)
To: [City Council](#); [Park Board](#); [Jay Arnold](#); [Neal Black](#); [Kelli Curtis](#); [Penny Sweet](#); [Jon Pascal](#); [John Tymczyszyn](#); [Amy Falcone](#); [Kelli Curtis](#)
Cc: [Kurt Triplett](#); [James Lopez](#)
Subject: Carillon Woods Park- Items From The Audience 10_15_2024
Date: Wednesday, October 16, 2024 1:36:03 PM

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The Carillon Woods Park Chronicles- The Disagreement
October 15th, 2024- Items from the audience speakers notes

I began to realize that regardless of the request, the behaviors of the employees were what was most concerning at this point.

What was worse? The cavalier disregard and management of a park OR the behavior by the employees? This is the “plot twist” where the BEHAVIOR becomes the central theme. I could walk away from the park but, could I accept the way the City employees had been treating me?

I was still determined to discover what went horribly wrong with the maintenance of this park and how to fix it for the long run. All roads led back to getting the park reclassified. I made this request to you at the May 7th City Council meeting.

The Parks (& Community Services) Director Lynn Zwaagsta was assigned to respond to me (by email on Wednesday, May 15th.) Among other strange things, she says...quote:

“City Council and staff have also heard your request for a **policy** change to upgrade the park maintenance level to that of a neighborhood park level. The level of **development and amenities** at each park is **the primary driver** of the maintenance level...Carillon Woods has very **limited amenities** and is intended to look and feel like a natural park.”

“To increase the level of service we would need to increase the development and amenities at the park. These factors are a matter of **POLICY** (there is that word again) as well as a balance of City resources required.”

Our Parks (and Community Services) Director went on to say...

“You’ve brought your requests forward at an opportune time given the current Comprehensive Plan process. City Council has received your feedback as has the Planning and Building Department planners who are working on the Comprehensive Plan.

“Should **policy makers** wish to change course on the level of service standards and vegetation management, it will be incorporated into draft documents currently going through the public hearing process”

So, it is confirmed to me by the Parks (and Community Services) Director herself that this is a

natural area/park and maintained at a low to nonexistent level on purpose because it has limited development and amenities.

That any changes to Carillon Woods park service must be run through the planning department, have a public hearing, be voted on by the (policy makers) City Council and then be incorporated as **policy** into the actual Comprehensive Plan.

She then provided me the PROS Plan, (a policy document) referencing the exact pages to look at to see how parks are ranked by development and amenity level.

Naturally, I looked up Carillon Woods Park on the exact pages the Director pointed me to and found it categorized as a Neighborhood Park with a very HIGH amenity score when compared to its 26 peers.

I about fell out of my chair.

I was stunned.

How could this be?

This behavior should give you ALL great pause.

End.

I will challenge you to put yourselves in my shoes and name the first emotion you think I experienced when discovering the above after all I've been through. Just the recounting of this to you is painful.

*The level of development and amenities was determined through an outside contractor. It's called a GRASP score and can be found in the PROS Plan.

Jennifer

206.617.5555