KIRKLAND PARK BOARD
Minutes of Regular Meeting
August 26, 2026

1. CALL TO ORDER

The August 26, 2026 Park Board regular meeting was called to order at 7:00 PM by Chair Jared Silvia.

2. ROLL CALL

Members Present: Board Member Berenice Bortoni, Board Member Denise Lindberg, Board Member Shivani Jain, Board Member Ava Spainhower, Chair Jared Silvia

Members Absent: Board Member Paul Stull, Vice-Chair Juliana Born

Staff Present: Deputy Director John Lloyd, Parks Superintendent Jason Filan, Parks Planning & Development Manager Mariah Gill, Events & Services Manager Maryke Burgess, Recreation Manager Sara Shellenbarger, Senior Management Analyst Nick Greenlee, Administrative Assistant Emily Lima Welch

Recording Secretary: Administrative Assistant Emily Lima Welch

3. ITEMS FROM THE AUDIENCE

Erika Schliep

4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The May 27, 2026 Park Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

The June 24, 2026 Park Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

The July 22, 2026 Park Board meeting minutes were approved as presented.

John Lloyd notified the Board that Kathy Kearny has resigned her position. New board members Shivani Jain and Ava Spainhower were introduced. Senior Management Analyst Nick Greenlee was introduced. All other Board and Staff introduced themselves.

5. BUSINESS ITEMS

a. Donation Recognition

The Park Board recognized the Kirkland Dance Center for their donation of $10,000 in support of the recreation scholarship fund and dance programs at the North Kirkland Community Center.

Debby and Melissa.

b. Team Building - A Great Day in Our Parks

The Park Board and Staff participated in a team building activity “A Great Day in Our Parks” as an introduction to the team for new Board Members.

c. Green Loop Branding & Wayfinding

The Park Board received a report on the Green Loop Branding and Wayfinding project from Parks Planning & Development Manager Mariah Gill. She reported that branding concepts are still in progress, and the Park Board will be asked to provide feedback at the September session. A final design is expected by Winter 2026.

Manager Gill and Parks Superintendent Jason Filan confirmed that once branding and wayfinding is established as part of the Green Loop, the methodology will be applied to other signage in the park system as signs are replaced.

Staff answered questions from the Board.

d. Park Board Work Plan Revisited
The Park Board revisited their Work Plan in a discussion led by Administrative Assistant Emily Lima Welch.

The Board accepted all staff recommendations to be added to future drafts of the Park Board Work Plan, including the additions of the Green Loop and Former Church Property (13230 NE 132nd St) Activation to the Work Plan. The Board plans to continue discussing the Draft Park Board Work Plan at future sessions.

THE BOARD RECESSED AT 8:00 PM
THE BOARD RECONVENED AT 8:07 PM

e. Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) Dashboard
The Park Board reviewed the CIP Dashboard presented by Planning Manager Gill, including an update on damage to the skatepark elements that were being stored at Houghton Park & Play after a car accident occurred over the summer, an update that the O.O. Denny bridge construction would begin in about 8-12 weeks, and the park expansion at Juanita Bay.

Planning Manager Gill also notified the Board that the ‘Castle Playground’ theme was selected to continue as the playground theme for the North Rose Hill Woodlands playground replacement. A concept challenge is currently underway, and 3-4 concepts will proceed to outreach and community voting in September.

Staff answered questions from the Board.

6. COMMUNICATIONS

a. Parks & Community Services 2025 Annual Report
The Board received a copy of the Parks & Community Services 2025 Annual Report.

Suggestion to promote the annual report online.

b. Correspondence
None

b. Park Board Member Reports
Board Member Ava Spainhower reported on surveying staff about conservation and sustainability in parks and recreation and that she plans to bring the topics to a youth sustainability summit.

Chair Silvia reported that he attended the Juanita Neighborhood community picnic and heard community members express interest in the Green Loop and the future of the Wiviott Parcel. He reported tabling with the Park Board at Juanita Friday Market on August 14, 2026. Chair Silvia also noted to Staff that that the current process for swim tests at the pool is to keep records on paper and sort them by testing date, not alphabetically, making them difficult to search for.

Board Member Berenice Bortoni also reported attending the Juanita Friday Market in August and noted that community members who stopped by were very interested in receiving a physical copy of the Fall/Winter, and suggested to Staff that they reconsider mailing physical issues for the Fall/Winter season. Board Member Shivani Jain also suggested that the department could offer limited physical copies of the Recreation Guide at the local libraries, or provide flyers with a QR code to view the digital Recreation Guide.

No further reports were presented.

c. Staff Updates and Information
Events & Services Manager Maryke Burgess reported that the second annual International Night Market on August 19, 2026 went well, with an estimated 5,000 attendees. The next upcoming events hosted by the division will be Coco en Español on September 5, 2026, See Spot Splash on September 12, 2026, and Harvest Festival on October 3, 2026.

Recreation Manager Sara Shellenbarger reported that summer camps have come to an end for the 2026 season, and that the Peter Kirk Pool will continue with open swim sessions every afternoon through Labor Day and that there will also be some night swim sessions. Lifeguards will be on duty at the beaches through Labor Day as well. The rest of the division is beginning to transfer into fall programs and the new school year.

Parks Superintendent Filan reported that Parks Seasonal Laborers are beginning to return to college, and on the success of the 2026 Little League Softball World Series.

No further reports were presented.

d. Comments from the Chair
None.

7. FUTURE AGENDA REVIEW

The Board reviewed the tentative agendas for the next three months.

Staff answered questions from the Board.

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Silvia adjourned the meeting at 8:49 PM by unanimous consent.

Emily Lima Welch

Emily Lima Welch, Recording Secretary
Parks and Community Services

Jared S Silvia
Jared S Silvia (Oct 12, 2026 11:28:38 PDT)

Jared Silvia, Chair
Park Board

Park Board Minutes 2026-08-26

Final Audit Report 2026-10-12

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