

AGENDA
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, April 3, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Community Rooms

Optional Virtual Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92140715051>
Call-in: (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 921 4071 5051

- I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** February 7, 2024
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. Pavers at Old Ferry Landing Park
 - B. Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Racing Team Use of Skansie Brothers Park
 - C. Parks Appreciation Day Planning
 - D. Special Event Code Updates
 - E. Conservation Property Management Plan
- V. STAFF REPORTS**
 - A. Parks Division Update – Parks Manager Jennifer Haro
 - B. City Administration Update – City Clerk Josh Stecker
- VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & COMMENTS**
- VII. ADJOURN**

Next Regular Meeting: May 1, 2024

MINUTES
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, February 7, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Community Rooms

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL: Chair Louise Tieman called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. Commissioners Stephanie Lile, Justin Teerlinck, Les McCallum, and Stace Gordon were present. Doug Smith was excused.

ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE CHAIR: Louise Tieman was unanimously elected to the position of Chair. Stephanie Lile was unanimously elected to the position of Vice Chair.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the November 8, 2023, parks commission meeting were unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

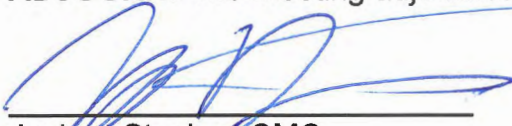
1. **Parks Commission Work Plan** – Parks Manager Jennifer Haro reviewed the commission's adopted work plan and her administrative work plan.
2. **Parks Appreciation Day** – The commissions discussed options for Parks Appreciation Day. Consensus was to hold events at Wilkinson Farm Park, Grandview Forest Park, and Soundview Forest Park on May 4.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. **Parks Division Update** – Jennifer Haro provided an update on several parks projects and efforts.
2. **City Administration Update** – City Clerk Josh Stecker reported on activity from city administration and the city council.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS: Commissioners discussed a recent letter submitted to Gig Harbor Now by Commissioner Justin Teerlinck.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.



Joshua Stecker, CMC
City Clerk



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks Commission

FROM: Jennifer Haro, Parks Manager

DATE: March 1, 2024

SUBJECT: Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team at Skansie Brothers Park

The Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team (GHCKRT) has been using Skansie Brothers Park for boat storage, team practices and summer camps since 2013. Since then, the GHCKRT has won ten national championships. They are a source of pride for the community and are making a name for their sport in the area, which is still relatively unknown in the US. They have had athletes represent the club and Gig Harbor at national and international competitions.

Over the years, their use of Skansie Park has grown, with more camps, practices and age groups using the park than ever. The current use agreement states:

Once effective, this Agreement shall remain in effect six (6) months from the date both parties execute the Agreement and shall continue in six-month increments until the City provides a three (3) month notice of termination in writing.

It was originally intended that GHCKRT would vacate Skansie Park once the Ancich boat storage building was opened, which the team rents at market value. The city provided GHCKRT with a notice of termination in November. GHCKRT came back and asked the city to consider continuing the facility agreement until January 1, 2027 (see attached).

The current use agreement requires payment to the city of \$1 per year, but GHCKRT is required to conduct cleanups and other public benefit activities in lieu of a larger fee.

Other nonprofit groups have inquired about using parks properties for similar uses, and the city desires to treat all groups fairly, while keeping them open and available for public use.

City administration is requesting that the Parks Commission provide a recommendation to city council about GHCKRT's use of Skansie Brothers Park. City council will consider the recommendation and GHCKRT's request at their April 11 study session.

FACILITY USE AGREEMENT BETWEEN THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR AND GIG HARBOR CANOE AND KAYAK CLUB RACE TEAM

THIS FACILITY USE AGREEMENT is entered into by and between the City of Gig Harbor, a Washington municipal corporation (hereinafter referred to as the "City") and the Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Race Team, a State of Washington 501(C)(3) non-profit corporation (hereinafter referred to as "GHCK").

W I T N E S S E T H

WHEREAS, the City owns property located at 3207 Harborview Drive, Gig Harbor, WA (hereinafter referred to as the "Property"); and

WHEREAS, the Property encompasses both Jerisich Park and Skansie Brothers Park; and

WHEREAS, the City purchased and developed the Property with funding assistance from the Washington State Recreation and Conservation Office (hereinafter referred to as RCO); and

WHEREAS, GHCK previously stored its canoes and kayaks on a private parking lot adjacent to the Property and used the Property to launch the canoes and kayaks; and

WHEREAS, GHCK has proposed that it use the Property to locate portable boat storage racks to store their canoes and kayaks; and

WHEREAS, the City approved a Shoreline Management Substantial Development Permit Exemption on November 14, 2013 for the placement of GHCK portable boat storage racks on the Property; and

WHEREAS, the boat storage racks are portable because the City does not anticipate the Property will be a permanent location for the racks since the City's recent visioning process has identified the likely use by human-powered watercraft upon development of the City's Ancich Waterfront Park; and

WHEREAS, the City reserves the right to use the Property in coordination and consideration of GHCK schedule of events and programming; and

WHEREAS, the benefits derived by the public from GHCK activities as specifically detailed herein are sufficient that the City is willing to allow use of the public property; and

WHEREAS, GHCK is an official and highly competitive youth program that won the USA Canoe/Kayak Sprint National Championships in 2012 and again in 2013; and

WHEREAS, given the limitations on the use of the Property as generally described above and more specifically described in the Terms section of this Agreement, the parties hereto agree as follows:

TERMS

1. Purpose. The purpose of this Agreement is to:
 - A. Identify the benefit provided to the public by GHCK for the right to operate on the Property; and
 - B. Establish the conditions of use for daily training activities by GHCK using portable boat storage racks.
2. RCO Approval. As a matter of RCO policy, the City must receive approval from RCO to allow a private use such as this on the Property.
3. Identification of the Property. The Property is outlined on the map marked Exhibit A, which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference. In general, the Property includes both Jerisich Park and Skansie Brothers Park but excludes any use of the Skansie House and netshed. The assessors' description of the Property is:

Section 08 Township 21 Range 02 Quarter 21 PARCEL A DBLR 2004-06-02-5005 DESC AS FOLL COM AT NW COR SEC 8 TH S88°18'20" E ALG NLY LI SD SEC 1797.63 FT TO INTER OF ROSEDALE ST NW & HARBORVIEW DR NW TH S88°18 MIN 46 SEC E 35.31 FT TO EL.
4. Definitions. The definitions listed below shall be construed as specific to this Agreement:
 - A. Equipment: All equipment and related appurtenances used by GHCK, including, but not limited to, portable boat storage racks, watercraft, safety gear, and personal belongings.
 - B. Area of impact: The area covered by the boats while stored on the portable boat storage racks plus the area necessary to maneuver boats on and off the portable boat storage racks.
5. Equipment.
 - A. Ownership and Responsibility. All equipment used by GHCK shall be furnished by GHCK and will remain the property of GHCK. Consequently the City is not responsible for lost, stolen, or damaged equipment. The placement and storage of equipment on the Property by GHCK shall be the responsibility, and at the sole risk of GHCK.
 - B. Storage. The City reserves the right to identify and modify the location of the portable boat storage racks at any time throughout the duration of the Agreement. No more than four portable boat storage racks shall be allowed on the Property. The area of impact from the portable boat storage racks shall be minimized to the extent practical and shall not exceed 1,000 sq. ft.
 - C. Maintenance. Maintenance of equipment on the Property shall be limited to daily cleaning only and shall follow best management practices to minimize impacts to the Property and the environment. All repairs and other maintenance shall be performed off-site.

6. Non-Profit Status. GHCK shall provide proof of non-profit 501(C)(3) status prior to the effective date of this Agreement and shall retain this status throughout the term of the Agreement.
7. Property Maintenance. The City will maintain the Property except within the area of impact and where determined necessary by the City because of surface degradation due to GHCK use. In such circumstances GHCK shall be responsible to maintain the Property as directed by the City and responsible for all costs and permitting requirements.
8. Public Benefit Activities. The City recognizes the following activities for public benefit to both the participants and the general public as in kind compensation for use of the Property:
 - A. Direct benefits to the participating youth, including, safe, healthy, and physical activity, the opportunity to explore the harbor in human-powered watercraft, the opportunity to embrace Olympic ideals, and to represent our community and country in international competition;
 - B. Source of pride for the community;
 - C. Daily clean-up of Gig Harbor waters by GHCK;
 - D. Daily clean-up of the Property by GHCK;
 - E. Quarterly clean-up of Property beach to mean lower-low water by GHCK;
 - F. Yearly public presentation at the Property demonstrating the GHCK program and awards, participant skills, and local talent; and
 - G. Year-round interpretive display on, or adjacent to, the portable boat storage racks identifying the benefits of exercise and the skills of canoeists and kayakers.

Beginning in June 2014 GHCK shall provide the City a written report and supporting documentation of the required activities identified above performed by GHCK for the previous six month period. GHCK's failure to timely perform those activities may result in termination of the Agreement.

9. Limitation on Membership Use. GHCK shall limit the membership use of the Property to 45 members of the racing team and 15 members of the development team.
10. Use During Property Events. When non-GHCK events at the Property occur, the City may, in its sole discretion, require GHCK to cancel daily training activities and/or, if necessary, move equipment as directed by the City. If the City imposes this condition, the City will provide an advance notice of at least five (5) calendar days.
11. Supervision of Participating Members. Adult supervision by GHCK shall be required at all times on the Property when GHCK participating members are present. The adult(s) responsible for supervision shall be identified by GHCK to the City on an annual basis.
12. Moorage at Jerisich Dock. Contrary to posted limitations, GHCK may moor up to two safety boats at Jerisich Dock continuously between October 1 and April 1 using vessel rafting methods. If GHCK elects to moor any safety boat during this time period they shall pay the City a fee of \$300 for each month or partial month of moorage. GHCK shall follow the posted limitation regarding overnight moorage at all other times of the year.

13. Duration and Notice of Termination. This Agreement shall not take effect until the date RCO provides its approval referenced in Section 2 above. Once effective, this Agreement shall remain in effect six (6) months from the date both parties execute the Agreement and shall continue in six-month increments until the City provides a three (3) month notice of termination in writing. GHCK may provide a written notice of termination at any time during the Agreement. In the event of emergency as determined by the Public Works Director, the City may terminate or suspend this Agreement. In such event, GHCK shall immediately remove all equipment, watercraft, and other personal property from the Property. Nothing herein shall obligate the City to enter into any additional Agreements or addenda with the GHCK in the future.
14. Consideration. GHCK shall provide the Public Benefit Activities listed in Section 8 above and pay \$1 per year.
15. Conformance with Laws. GHCK shall, at all times, keep current and comply with all conditions and terms of any permits, licenses, certificates, regulations, ordinances, statutes and other government rules and regulations regarding its use or occupancy of the Property. Each race at the Property that includes GHCK shall require a special event permit from the City.
16. Hold Harmless. GHCK agrees to defend, indemnify, and hold harmless the City, its officers, elected officials, employees and volunteers harmless from any and all claims, injuries, penalties, damages, losses or suits, including costs and attorney's fees, arising out of or in connection with the performance of this Agreement or GHCK's enjoyment of the Property, except for injuries or damages caused solely by the negligence of the City, its officers, officials, employees and volunteers. In the event of liability for injuries or damages which are the result of the concurrent negligence of the GHCK and City, each party shall be responsible only to the extent of its own negligence.
17. Insurance. At its own expense, GHCK shall procure and maintain for the duration of this Agreement, the insurance coverages and limits described in this Section. This insurance shall be issued by an insurance company or companies admitted and licensed by the Insurance Commissioner to do business in the State of Washington. Insurers must have a rating of B+ or better by "Best's Insurance Reports," or a comparable rating by another rating company acceptable to the City. If non-admitted or non-rated carriers are used, the policies must comply with chapter 48.15 RCW.
- A. Type of Insurance. GHCK shall procure and maintain Commercial General Liability Insurance covering claims for bodily injury, personal injury, or property damage arising on the Property and/or arising out of the GHCK's operations. If necessary, commercial umbrella insurance covering claims for these risks shall be procured and maintained. Insurance must include liability coverage with limits not less than those specified below:
- | | |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Each Occurrence | \$1,000,000 |
| General Aggregate Limit | \$2,000,000 |
- The City may impose changes in the limits of liability if any of the following occurs:
- Upon a material change in the condition of the Property or any improvements; or

- ii. Upon any breach of the Sections in this Agreement relating to maintenance of equipment; or
- iii. Upon a change in the Permitted Use.

New or modified insurance coverage shall be in place within thirty (30) days after changes in the limits of liability are required by the City.

B. Terms of Insurance. The policies required under Subsection A shall name the City of Gig Harbor as an additional insured. Furthermore, all policies of insurance described in this Section shall meet the following requirements:

- i. Policies shall be written as primary policies not contributing with and not in excess of coverage that the City may carry;
- ii. Policies shall expressly provide that such insurance may not be canceled or non-renewed with respect to the City except upon forty-five (45) days prior written notice from the insurance company to the City;
- iii. To the extent of the City's insurable interest, property coverage shall expressly provide that all proceeds shall be paid jointly to the City and the GHCK;
- iv. All liability policies must provide coverage on an occurrence basis; and
- v. Liability policies shall not include exclusions for cross liability.

C. Proof of Insurance. GHCK shall furnish evidence of insurance in the form of a Certificate of Insurance satisfactory to the City accompanied by a checklist of coverages provided by the City, executed by a duly authorized representative of each insurer showing compliance with the insurance requirements described in this Section, and, if requested, copies of policies to the City. GHCK acknowledges that the coverage requirements set forth herein are the minimum limits of insurance the GHCK must purchase to conform to this Section of the Agreement.

These limits may not be sufficient to cover all liability losses and related claim settlement expenses. Purchase of these limits of coverage does not relieve GHCK from liability for losses and settlement expenses greater than these amounts.

18. Modification or Waiver. No waiver, alteration or modification of any of the provisions of this Agreement shall be binding unless in writing and signed by a duly authorized representative of the parties.
19. Entire Agreement. The written provisions of this Agreement shall supersede all prior verbal statements of any officer or representative of the City, and such statements shall not be effective or be construed as entering into, forming a part of, or altering in any manner whatsoever, this Agreement.
20. Non-Waiver of Breach. The failure of either party to insist upon strict performance of any of the covenants and agreements contained in this Agreement, or to exercise any option herein conferred in any one or more instances, shall not be construed to be a waiver or relinquishment of any such covenant, agreement or option, or any other

covenant, agreement or option.

21. Notices. General notices required to be in writing under this Agreement shall be sent by registered or certified mail as follows:

Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Race Team
Terri Anderson
3225 Shawnee Drive
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

City of Gig Harbor
City Administrator
3510 Grandview Street
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Emergency contact information shall be provided to each party no later than the effective date of this Agreement.

22. Severability. If any section or provision of this Agreement shall be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be unenforceable, this Agreement shall be construed as though such section or provision had not been included in it, and the remainder of the Agreement shall be enforced as the expression of the parties' intentions. If any section or provision of this Agreement is found to be subject to two constructions, one of which would render such section or provision invalid and one of which would render such section or provision valid, then the latter construction shall prevail.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this instrument this 10 day of December, 2013.

Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Race Team

CITY OF GIG HARBOR

By: [Signature]

By: [Signature]

Its: President

Its: Mayor

STATE OF WASHINGTON)

)

) ss.

COUNTY OF PIERCE)

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that Charles L. Hunter is the person who appeared before me, and said person acknowledged that he signed this instrument, on oath stated that he was authorized to execute the instrument and acknowledged it as the Mayor of the City of Gig Harbor to be the free and voluntary act of such party for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.



Dated: Dec 10th, 2013
Molly Towslee
(print or type name)

NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the
State of Washington, residing
at: Gig Harbor

My Commission expires: 12/2/15

STATE OF WASHINGTON)
) ss.
COUNTY OF PIERCE)

I certify that I know or have satisfactory evidence that Alan Anderson is the person who appeared before me, and said person acknowledged that (he/she) signed this instrument, on oath stated that (he/she) was authorized to execute the instrument and acknowledged it as the President of the Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Race Team to be the free and voluntary act of such party for the uses and purposes mentioned in the instrument.

Dated: Dec 13th, 2013
Molly Towslee
(print or type name)

NOTARY PUBLIC in and for the
State of Washington, residing

at: Gig Harbor
My Commission expires: 12/2/15



EXHIBIT A



**FIRST AMENDMENT
TO THE FACILITY USE AGREEMENT
BETWEEN THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR
AND THE GIG HARBOR CANOE & KAYAK RACE TEAM**

THIS FIRST AMENDMENT is made to the Facility Use Agreement dated December 13, 2013 (the "Agreement"), by and between the City of Gig Harbor, a Washington municipal corporation (hereafter the "City"), and Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Race Team, a Washington non-profit corporation ("Team" or "Lessee").

RECITALS

WHEREAS, the City wishes to expand the use of the Skansie Brothers Park for the storage of human-powered craft to the Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Race Team; and

WHEREAS, Section 18 of the Facility Use Agreement requires the parties to execute an amendment to the agreement in order to modify the terms;

WHEREAS, the Parties agree that adding six hundred fifty square feet (650 sq ft) to the storage area will provide more and better benefits to the public through its existing obligations contained in the original Agreement;

NOW, THEREFORE, in consideration of the mutual promises set forth herein, it is agreed by and between the parties in this Amendment as follows:

5. Equipment. Section 5.B and 5.C of the Facility Use Agreement is amended to modify the storage square footage within Skansie Brothers Park as described below and shown in Exhibit A.

B. Storage. The City Reserves the Right to identify and modify the location of the portable boat storage racks at any time throughout the duration of the Agreement. Team may place portable boat storage racks in an area not to exceed one thousand six hundred fifty square feet (1,650 sqft). This area is identified in Exhibit B.

C. Maintenance. Maintenance of equipment on the Property shall be limited to daily cleaning only and shall follow best management practices to minimize impacts to the Property and the environment. All repairs and other maintenance shall be performed off-site. Maintenance of the portable boat storage rack area identified above in 5.B is the responsibility of the Team. The Team shall delineate the storage space with wood timbers, landscape fabric, and with angular crushed rock in order to protect the property from the majority of the team's foot traffic creating the muddy conditions. These improvements must be completed by April 30, 2020 and must remain in functional working order for the duration of the storage use at this site. These improvements are considered temporary and the site must be returned to its original state upon the termination or natural end of the Facility Use Agreement.

EXCEPT AS EXPRESSLY MODIFIED BY THIS AMENDMENT, ALL TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF THE LEASE SHALL REMAIN IN FULL FORCE AND EFFECT.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have executed this Amendment on this 28th day of January, 2020.

Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Race Team

By: [Signature]
Its Board President

CITY OF GIG HARBOR

By: [Signature]
Mayor

ATTEST:

[Signature]
City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

[Signature]
City Attorney

EXHIBIT A

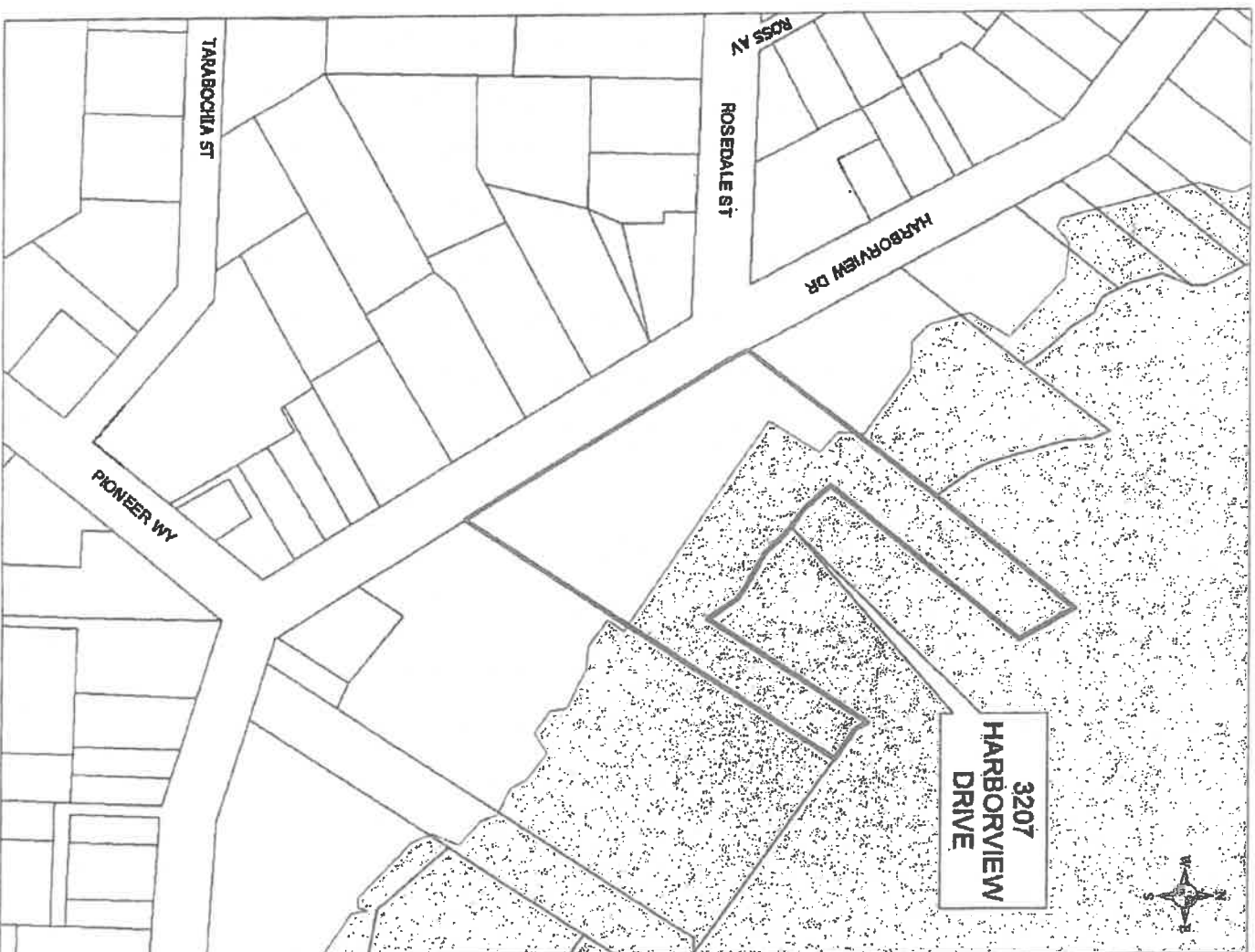
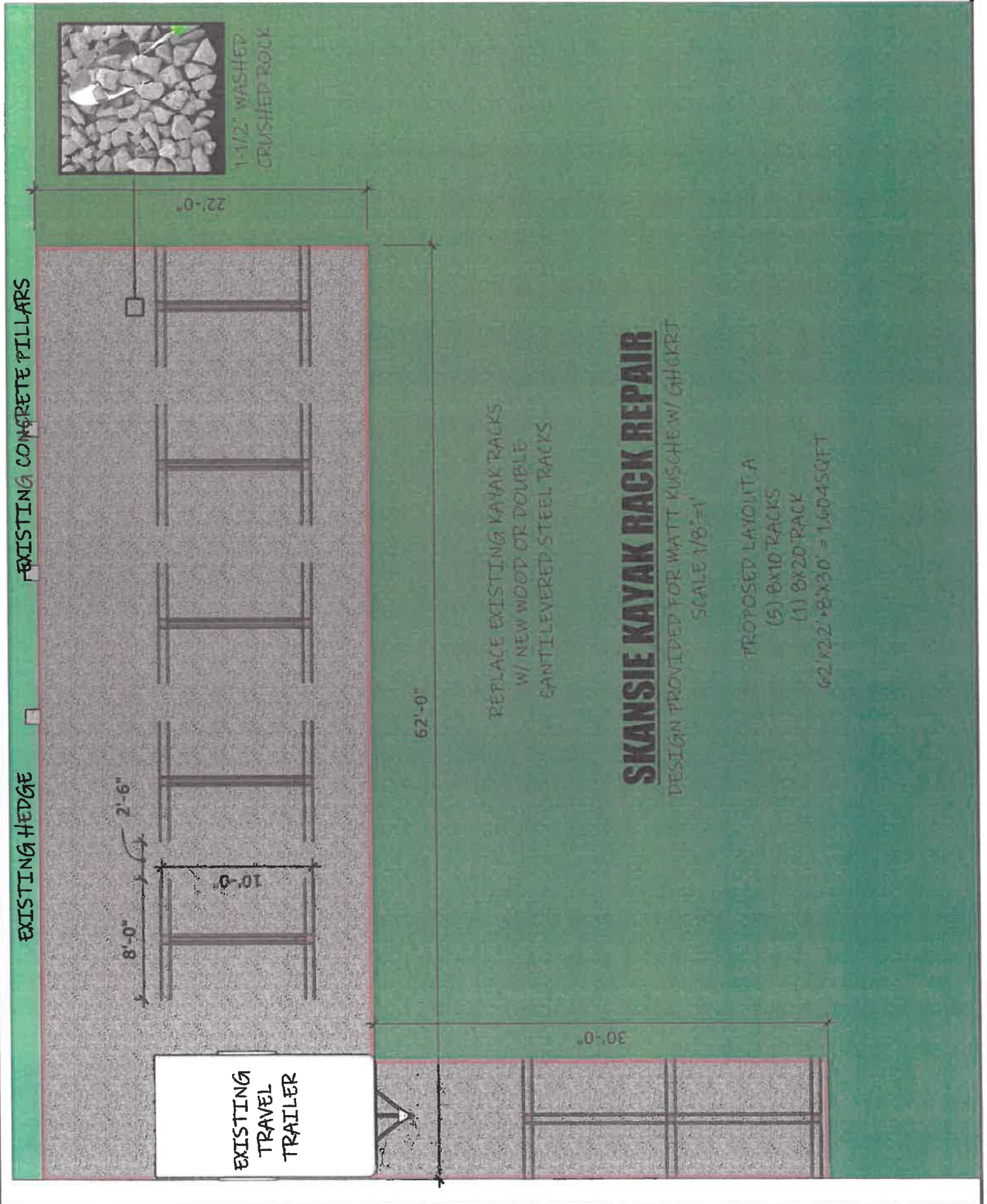


Exhibit B



"Strong in body. Strength in character."



Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team
PO BOX 1097
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

January 4, 2024

Mayor Markley and Mrs. Knutson
City of Gig Harbor
3510 Grandview Street
Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Dear Mayor Markley and Mrs. Knutson,

I hope you have both enjoyed a wonderful holiday season. As we discussed at the end of November, I am writing on behalf of the Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Racing Team, a longstanding and integral part of our vibrant community. Our team has operated in Gig Harbor for over two decades, utilizing Skansie Brothers Park as our home base. We are immensely grateful for the City's ongoing support, which has played a pivotal role in our growth and success, culminating in our current standing as the ten-time National Championship team.

Skansie Brothers Park has been the heart of our operations, serving as a crucial venue for year-round training of our development team and younger athletes. Furthermore, we hold summer camps at the park throughout June and July, offering a unique opportunity for the public to engage with and learn more about the captivating Olympic sport of sprint Canoe and Kayak.

We enthusiastically contributed to the development of the Ancich Waterfront Park facility, and we are grateful for the dock and the boathouse that our teenage and older athletes use year-round. The absence of safe beach access for our beginners and younger development team athletes at Ancich Park impedes their ability to enter and exit their boats both comfortably and safely. As a result, the beach access at Skansie Brothers Park remains vital for the continued development of our team, especially for those at the early stages of their paddling journey.

In addition to our use agreement extension request, we propose a collaborative effort to enhance communication and coordination between our team and the facilities/maintenance crew. We are committed to contributing to the upkeep and cleanliness of Skansie Brothers Park and are happy to align our activities with scheduled maintenance items. Specifically:

Daily Clean-ups: We will continue our daily water and land clean-ups, ensuring the park remains pristine for all users.

Quarterly Beach Clean-ups: Our team will continue to organize quarterly beach clean-ups, contributing to the overall maintenance and aesthetics of the park.

Scheduled Maintenance Items: We are flexible and willing to work around other scheduled maintenance items such as lawn mowing and related activities. Our goal is to ensure minimal disruption to park operations while aligning our efforts with the City's maintenance schedule.

We understand the importance of effective park management and assure you of our dedication to being responsible and cooperative partners throughout this process. Your consideration of our request for a use agreement extension and collaboration enhancement is greatly appreciated. We value our long standing relationship with the City of Gig Harbor and look forward to continuing our positive collaboration for the betterment of our community.

As we look ahead to the 2024 Paris Olympics, our focus is equally set on the 2028 Los Angeles Olympics. We currently have six athletes training for their opportunity to compete in the Olympic games. These athletes are in college and beyond, yet they still come back to Gig Harbor regularly to train with the team and be part of the community that has provided this opportunity for them to succeed. The journey to the 2028 Olympics presents a unique opportunity for Gig Harbor to shine on a global scale. The dedication, hard work, and achievements of our athletes will undoubtedly draw attention from media outlets, sports enthusiasts, and sponsors alike. This heightened visibility will not only reflect the prowess of our paddlers but also showcase Gig Harbor as a nurturing ground for elite athletic talent.

Our team is not merely aiming for victories; we are committed to embodying the spirit of Gig Harbor – a maritime community that supports and fosters excellence. The positive attention generated by our athletes' journey to the 2028 Olympics will undoubtedly extend beyond the realm of sports, positively impacting tourism, local businesses, and community pride. In fact, a local author has taken up the challenge of telling the history of the team and these incredible athletes' personal stories leading up to the 2028 Olympics. He'll be sharing how this community has created the Olympic dream opportunity for these and future GHCKRT athletes. Over the next year, he'll be interviewing community members about the team's impact and identity in Gig Harbor. We are so excited to share our story with the world!

With the 2028 Olympics on the horizon, we envision collaboration with the City to leverage this opportunity to its fullest potential. Whether through joint promotional initiatives, community engagement events, or highlighting Gig Harbor's scenic beauty,

we believe that aligning our goals will magnify the positive impact on our shared community.

In conclusion, we earnestly seek the City's support in extending our current use agreement for Skansie Brothers Park until January 1, 2027. This three year extension is pivotal for the continued success and development of the Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Racing Team, allowing us the necessary time to research and establish arrangements for potential relocation. We are confident that this collaborative effort will not only preserve the legacy of our team within the community but also contribute to the positive image of Gig Harbor on a broader scale. Your consideration of this request is deeply appreciated, and we are eager to work together to ensure the continued prosperity of our shared community.

Thank you for your attention and understanding. I am also attaching a letter from our Head Development Coach and Team Manager, Sadie Hanks, who wanted to let staff and council know the importance of being a part of the Gig Harbor community and growing up in Skansie Park.

Sincerely,

Cara Cantonwine
Team Administrator | Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

CC: Bob Platt, Board President, Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team
Alan Anderson, Founder & Coach, Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

From Sadie Hanks:

Hi Mayor Markley and Mrs. Knutson,

My name is Sadie Hanks, and I am the Head Development Coach and Team Manager for Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Racing Team. However, I do not write this letter as a coach or manager, but as a kid from Hilltop, Tacoma who found a home in a park in Gig Harbor.

I started kayaking with my father when I was 3 and joined the team when I was 10 in 2012. I started as a kayaker, but soon grew bored and was pushed to expand my horizons to canoe by the founder, Alan Anderson. At that point in time, we were not in the park, we were in the parking lot beside Skansie, renting out a spot from Lee's Sups who had a home base there. We were called the parking lot team, a name we wore

proudly as we won our first National Championship. Soon we were welcomed into Skansie Park where we continued to win more National titles year after year.

My training at this park remains a core memory for me and something that inspires my vision for the future of the team. We measured our sprints on the length of Skansie dock. It is still a known Time Trial to race from one end to the other (which is exactly 130 meters if you ever wondered.) I remember hard summers where we trained twice a day. My family did not have the money to spend on tolls going back and forth from Gig Harbor and Tacoma so I would take a bus in the morning to train and spend my hours before my next practice sleeping and eating under the apple tree to prepare for my afternoon practice. I remember sitting on the grass beside Java and Clay waiting for the bus to take me home. I swear I have spent more time sitting on the grass in that park than anyone. Soon, it became a small community of athletes who stayed the whole day to stretch, play games and rest between practices under that apple tree. My greatest friendships and my hardest victories were won at Skansie Park.

Since then, our team has grown and our whole team does not fit under that old apple tree anymore. But the love for the park and the city still has strong roots within these kids. I lead our young paddlers out of Skansie, and we often will embark on our training outside of the dock. When it is time to turn around and make our way back to end practice, we always tell the kids it is time to go home. Skansie is a home for these kids. They know every drop off, pothole and slope in this park and they work their butts off in that park. If we are removed from that park, it is a part of our history that will be deeply missed.

Whatever we can do to pay our love for the park forward, we can do. But this city and that park in particular is so tied within our team, it would be a great shame to lose it.

Sadie Hanks



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks Commission

FROM: Jennifer Haro, Parks Manager

DATE: March 29, 2024

SUBJECT: Public Works Old Ferry Landing Proposal

The City of Gig Harbor's Public Works Operations Division is requesting permission to install pavers at Old Ferry Landing Park. Pavers would be etched to honor public works employees who have retired after distinguished careers with the city.

Public Works Superintendent Jeff Olsen will be in attendance to provide more details about the proposal.

The parks commission should provide a recommendation about the proposal for further consideration by city council.

PARKS COMMISSION

APRIL 2024

Parks Division Updates

Projects

Commercial Fishing Homeport Design/Permitting – The federal regulatory agencies have put up more mitigation hurdles than anticipated. It is likely that the project will not meet fish window requirements for construction in 2024.

Skansie Netshed upgrades – The low bid on the contract came from American West construction for approximately \$316,000. The contract will be awarded on March 11, with construction expected to begin in April or May.

Gig Harbor Sports Complex

Phase 1B – On March 9, about 20 people spread out around the Phase 1A & B sites to dig up native plants. The event was facilitated by the Gig Harbor Land Conservation Fund. After the event, city crews took machinery to the site and removed larger plants and transplanted them at the new operations center.



Phase 2 & 3 – The final draft of the master plan was adopted at the March 11 city council meeting in a 5-1 vote. Several community members spoke in favor of

it, including a Peninsula High School student. To see the master plan and attachments, visit [the Gig Harbor Sports Complex webpage](#).

Other Park Updates

txʷaalqəl Conservation Area – The property owners and Great Peninsula Conservancy have agreed on a sale price for Phase 4. The city attorney is reviewing the purchase and sale agreement. The Gig Harbor Land Conservation Fund has agreed to fund the matching requirement as part of the Conservation Futures grant. There is a \$35,000 gap in funds, which GPC is exploring how to fill.

Parks Appreciation Day May 4 – The signup sheet is up and has been advertised the last several weeks in the Gig-A-Byte.

Tree Giveaway April 20 – The city is partnering with the Tacoma Tree Foundation to conduct a free tree giveaway on April 20 at Donkey Creek Park. The event will happen from 10:00 AM to 1:00 PM or until they run out of trees. There will be a variety of trees to choose from and experts on hand to help choose the right tree for the spot it will be planted.



**Tree Share:
Donkey
Creek Park**

Saturday, April 20, 2024
10:00 AM 1:00 PM

Donkey Creek Park
8714 N Harbor Dr, Gig Harbor

Join your neighbors
in welcoming spring
and take home a
new tree!

Tacoma Tree Foundation
GGHF
corps
GIG HARBOR
PUBLIC UTILITIES

The poster features a green background with white text. It includes two photographs: one of people looking at a tree in a pot, and another of several potted trees lined up. A QR code is located in the bottom right section. Logos for the Tacoma Tree Foundation, GGHF corps, and Gig Harbor Public Utilities are at the bottom.

Upcoming Special Events (pending permit approval)

- Tree giveaway at Donkey Creek Park – 4/20
- Paddler's Cup – 4/20-4/21
- Parks Appreciation Day – 5/4
- Gig Harbor Pride – 6/22