

AGENDA
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, August 7, 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:** June 5, 2024
- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**
- IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - A. Love Lock Art Proposal
 - B. Masonic Lodge/Crescent Creek Park Master Plan Update
 - C. Parks Standards Discussion
- V. PARKS DIVISION UPDATE – Parks Manager Jennifer Haro**
- VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & COMMENTS**
- VII. ADJOURN**

MINUTES
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, June 5, 2024 – 5:30 p.m.
Civic Center Community Rooms

CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL: Chair Louise Tieman called the meeting to order at 5:31 p.m. Commissioners Stephanie Lile, Kim Anderson, Hanley Bonyng, Guy Magnus, and Stace Gordon were present. Commissioner Stephen McDuffie arrived at 5:40 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the May 1, 2024, parks commission meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: Steve Paris spoke on the impact of Crescent Creek Park events on street parking in his neighborhood.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A.** Volleyball at Crescent Creek: Nets, sand, and labor would be donated to construct more sand volleyball courts at the park. Bike tracks would need to be reconfigured. It was suggested to move the noise ordinance sign inside the park so it's more visible to the public.

Motion: Recommend installation of two additional unlighted courts adjacent to the existing courts at the earliest opportunity, while coordinating with volunteers to utilize donations of material and labor and considering the bike course, nearby neighbors, and parking impacts (Hanley/McDuffie).

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

- B.** Jerisich Dock Fee Discussion: Associate Engineer Chloe Wiser discussed the proposed electricity fee and asked for feedback.

Motion: Recommend that city moorage rates should, at minimum, cost recover and rates should be adjusted as soon as possible to align with the regional market. Adjust rates annually to higher of CPI or market rates but do not impose a separate surcharge for electricity.

Vote: Motion passed unanimously.

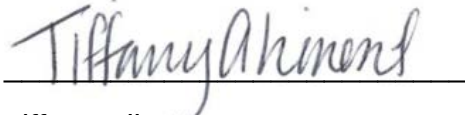
- C.** Kayak Launch Dock Attachment Request: The commission discussed the proposal for a kayak launch. This will come back for discussion with additional details.

- D.** Austin Honoring Art Lighting: Gary Williamson spoke on his request to add lighting to the Honoring symbol to prevent vandalism. Staff recommended against it. The commission tabled the discussion to collect more information.

STAFF REPORTS:

1. Parks Division Update: Parks Manager Jennifer Haro provided an update on the sports complex groundbreaking ceremony, phase 4 of the conservation area, parks appreciation day, and the work being done on the Skansie Netshed.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 7:11 p.m.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, reading "Tiffany Aliment", is written over a horizontal line.

Tiffany Aliment
Assistant City Clerk



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks Commission

FROM: Jennifer Haro, Parks Manager

DATE: August 2, 2024

SUBJECT: August 7, 2024 Parks Commission Discussion items

There are three discussion items at the August 7, 2024 meeting.

1. "Love Lock" Art Discussion – The City Engineer received a report from Pierce County, who conducts all bridge inspections in the city, that the "love locks" on the bridge between Donkey Creek Park and the Harbor History Museum must be removed. The locks add unnecessary weight and strain on the bridge and can cause structural harm to it. The love locks also can cause stream pollution, since most couples throw their keys into the stream after placing the lock.

City administration has asked the Parks Commission and Arts Commission to consider an art installation for love locks at Donkey Creek Park and/or Old Ferry Landing. Both locations have love locks attached to railings. We are unsure if funding for this project will be included in the 2025-2026 budget, but Parks Commission has been asked to consider potential locations and to discuss whether to support such an installation.

2. Masonic Lodge/Crescent Creek Park Master Plan Update – At the July 11, 2024 city council study session, Stephanie Lile gave a presentation about the proposal a group of volunteers came up with to remodel the Masonic Lodge. City council was grateful for the proposal, and agreed to keep the Lodge standing for now. They directed that staff re-start the master planning process. Staff will provide an update at the parks commission meeting.
3. Parks Standards Discussion – City parks are currently located in 11 different land use zoning classifications. As part of the comprehensive plan process this year, Community Development is creating a zone specifically for parks, trails and open space. Staff is working on creating two different types of standards for our parks:
 - a. Standards that will be included in the zoning code, such as setbacks, buffer requirements, and building height limits; and
 - b. Other standards, including preferred standards for benches, tables and garbage cans, trail widths, bathroom fixtures, etc.

Parks Commission will be reviewing and making recommendations on these standards before the end of the year.

PARKS COMMISSION

AUGUST 2024

Parks Division Updates

Projects

Gig Harbor Sports Complex

Phase 1B – Site grading is now complete, and Pease Construction and their subcontractors have been working on underground storm drainage, sewer piping, water service and electricity. Soon, some above-ground structures, such as concrete walls and building foundations.



Skansie Netshed Rehabilitation

The contractor has been working on the roof. It's been tough juggling the work with Summer Sounds and the Farmer's Market, but the contractor and the subcontractors are making it work.

Other Park Updates

tx^waalqəł Conservation Area – The environmental site assessment came out clean for the 11.41 acres that the city will be acquiring as Phase 4 of the tx^waalqəł Conservation Area. All the paperwork is in place for the Conservation Futures grant from Pierce County, so we are just waiting for all the pieces (& funding) to be put into an escrow account, and a closing will happen soon after that!

Many thanks to the people and organizations that have made this acquisition a possibility, with minimal spending of Gig Harbor funds. The only expenses that the city paid for were some staff time for coordination, as well as the environmental site assessment. Thank you to:

- Ali Querin at Great Peninsula Conservancy for doing almost all of the heavy lifting – negotiating with property owners, title reports, grant applications, etc.
- Robyn Denson of Pierce County and Gig Harbor Land Conservation Fund. Robyn first suggested this acquisition, then connected key staff and organizations to make it happen. She also led fundraising efforts with the Gig Harbor Land Conservation Fund, which has raised approximately \$49,000 to match the Conservation Futures grant.
- Chris Chaput at Pierce County Conservation Futures for working with us on the grant process and getting all the ducks in a row for the acquisition.

This acquisition brings the city “natural areas” to 119.9 acres and the txʷaalqəl Conservation Area to 51.95 acres, which is unheard of for a city this size.



Canoe & Kayak Racing Team Use of Skansie Park – City Council agreed with the Parks Commission recommendation to extend the facility use agreement for the Racing Team until January 1, 2027. They will be considering the official agreement at their August 12, 2024 meeting.

Upcoming Special Events

August-

- Summer Sounds Concert series in August, Tuesdays at Skansie Park: 8/6 “Victims of Love”, 8/13 “Beadhead”, 8/20 “Danny Vernon: Illusion of Elvis” and 8/27 “The Profits”
- The Downtown Waterfront Alliance’s weekly Farmers Markets continue each Thursday through August at Skansie Park
- 8/7 and 8/14 Pierce County Libraries Outdoor Storytime Series at Civic Center Green
- 8/17 Volkssport Association walking event along the Cushman Trail, with check in at Civic Center Green
- 8/24 Harmony in the Harbor Wellness Fair at Crescent Creek Park
- 8/26 Scott Keely’s 39th birthday
- 8/31 Gig Harbor Boatshop presents: Unveiling the IDYL

September-

- 9/7 – Harbor Hounds at Skansie Brothers Park
- 9/7 Race for a Soldier (Home base is at YMCA, route runs through downtown and back)
- 9/28/24 SEP for large family gathering day before wedding at Crescent Creek Park covered shelter
- 9/28/24 Wedding at Skansie Park
- 9/29/24 Lets Beat Breast Cancer rally at Skansie Park

October-

- 10/5 Harbor WildWatch’s “Pier into the Night” at Maritime Pier
- 10/31 “Trick or Treat in the Harbor” downtown and Skansie Park

November-

- 11/2 Harbor WildWatch’s “Pier into the Night” at Maritime Pier
- 11/18 “Turkey Trot” through downtown