

AGENDA
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION
Wednesday, April 2, 2025, 5:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting Link: <https://us06web.zoom.us/j/92140715051>

Call-in: (253) 215-8782 Meeting ID: 9921 4071 5051

- I. CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL**

- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** March 5, 2024

- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - a. Welcome New Commissioners- Larry Johns and Andrew Peabody**
 - b. Revisit Sports Complex Phase 1B Name Recommendation**
 - c. Parks Appreciation Day Planning**

- V. PARKS DIVISION UPDATE – Parks Manager Jennifer Haro**

- VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & COMMENTS**

- VII. ADJOURN**

Next Regular Meeting: Wed., May 7, 5:30pm

MINUTES
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, March 5, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
Civic Center Community Rooms

CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL: Chair Louise Tieman called the meeting to order at 5:32 p.m. Commissioners Stace Gordon, Kim Anderson, and Hanley Bonyngge were present. Vice Chair Stephanie Lile arrived at 5:37 p.m. Commissioner Guy Magnus arrived at 5:39 p.m., and Commissioner Stephen McDuffie joined virtually before arriving in-person at 5:48 p.m.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the February 5 meeting were unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

- A. Sports Complex Phase 1B Naming Resolution- Commissioners reviewed the initial name suggestions from the public.
Motion: Chair Tieman moved the Parks Commission recommend their top 3 choices to council in order of preference: 1) Canoe Park 2) Swiftwater Park 3) Gertie Park (Bonyngge second) – motion passes unanimously

- B. Sports Complex Stage Rental Follow up- Commissioners discussed initial pricing to rent the stage and surrounding lawn area in the new sports Complex Phase 1B.
Motion: Commissioner Anderson moved to suggest \$200 for half day rentals (8am-2pm or 2pm-dusk) and a discounted rate of \$300 for a full day rental, on top of requiring the standard Special Event Permit fees and process (McDuffie second) – motion passes unanimously

- C. Parks Code Discussion- Quick discussion about the future plan of combining parks codes across multiple spots on the city website into a single cohesive and clear location.

- D. Parks Appreciation Day- Date options were discussed for Parks Appreciation Day in 2025.
Motion: Commissioner Bonyngge moved to suggest Saturday, May 3 as the date of PAD 2025 (Tieman second) – motion passes unanimously

PARKS DIVISION UPDATES:

Parks Manager Jennifer Haro updated the commission about the Crescent Creek Park open house and the new related survey, the scheduling of the Phase 1B opening, updates to city lease holders, and about upcoming special events in the city.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 7:14 p.m.



Scott Keely

Public Works Assistant- Parks



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks Commission

FROM: Jennifer Haro, Parks Manager

DATE: March 31, 2025

SUBJECT: Sports Complex Phase 1B Naming Recommendation

At the March 13 study session, city council voted to move forward with the name Gertie Park at Gig Harbor Sports Complex. However, upon discussion with some members of city council, as well as community members, the mayor asked that it be reconsidered. At the March 20 study session, council members directed staff to send the name back to parks commission for reconsideration of some of the names that were submitted by the public.

Resolution 717 is attached, and the suggested names from the public have been sorted into appropriate categories in accordance with the resolution, which was not shared at the March meeting.

Administration is suggesting a name such as “_____ Park at Gig Harbor Sports Complex” to tie this phase of the project to the larger sports complex, which is not built out yet.

Council would like to consider three to five potential names, with consideration of three of the local people that were submitted – Doris Heritage, Hugh McMillan and Terry Lee. Additional biographical information has been provided.

Attachments:
Resolution 717
Park Name Criteria
Park Names – local people

RESOLUTION NO. 717

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON, RELATING TO PARKS AND PUBLIC FACILITIES AND CREATING A POLICY AND PROCEDURE FOR NAMING/RENAMING CITY PARKS AND FACILITIES.

WHEREAS, the City Council may have occasion to name or rename City parks and other facilities; and,

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to establish criteria and procedures for the official naming/renaming of City parks and other facilities; Now, therefore

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF GIG HARBOR, WASHINGTON HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1.

A. The naming/renaming of City parks and other City facilities shall be in accordance with the procedures and criteria set forth below. Once adopted, name changes should occur on an exceptional basis only.

B. The following criteria shall be considered:

1. Neighborhood or geographical identification;
2. Natural or geological features;
3. Historical or cultural significance;

4. The articulated preference of residents of the neighborhood surrounding the public facility.

5. Facilities may be named for living persons provided they have made a significant contribution of land or money and the donor stipulates naming of the facility as a condition of the donation or when the individual has made an unusually outstanding public service contribution.

C. The following procedures shall be followed for naming/renaming of City parks and other City facilities (see subsection E below for the procedures to name a park less than two acres in a preliminary plat):

Gig Harbor Sports Complex – Phase 1B

Resolution 717 criteria:	Nominated Names:
Neighborhood or geographical identification	Harbor Courtside Harbor Hill Artena Gig Harbor Sports Complex Harborenea
Natural or geological features	Tide & Paddle. Blue Ocean
Historical or cultural significance	Shenandoah Field Swift Water Hugh McMillan Terry Lee Charles Wilkes
Articulated preference of residents of the neighborhood	
Living person, provided that they have made a significant contribution of land or money and the donor stipulates naming of the facility as a condition of the donation OR when the individual has made an unusually outstanding public service contribution	Doris Heritage
Undetermined criteria	Drago Kalafatich Landry Apollo

- Park name is proposed to be _____ Park at Gig Harbor Sports Complex.

Names that do not meet criteria	California Retrograde Aapoloitical Plastic Soccer Mom Entertainment & Recreation Complex Sporty McSportface The Regatta Sports &Y Social Club Action Wins YMCA Sports Complex
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Park Names

Doris Brown Heritage

There is only one athlete, male or female, who had a career that was legendary enough to represent Gig Harbor on Sports Illustrated's Top 50 Athletes from Washington list. Her name is Doris Heritage, who at one time was the best female long-distance runner in the world and the only one to win a remarkable five cross-country world championships in a row, from 1967 to 1971. She competed in two Olympic games ('68 and '72) and missed a third ('60) when she was 18 by just .01 seconds. Heritage was the first woman ever to run a sub-5-minute mile indoors, shattering the barrier by eight seconds. At one point, she owned every national title, from the 440-yard dash to the 1-mile race. She was the U.S. champion in the 440-yard dash, 800 meters, 1,500 meters, 3,000 meters and a five-time national cross-country champion. She set world records in the 3,000 meters and the 2-mile run.

She grew up in (unincorporated) Gig Harbor, born to flower farmers, went to Peninsula High School, where girls were not allowed to run track and cross country. She attended Seattle Pacific University, where she was allowed to run with the men's track team, and later coached track for many years. She is still alive and lives in Stanwood.

Terry Lee

Terry Lee grew up in University Place and graduated from Curtis High School in 1964. He became familiar with the Gig Harbor area while enjoying the family cabin on Henderson Bay. Lee worked as an electrician for local construction companies for 29 years. He managed the electrical, security, fire alarm and phone systems on large projects, including Gig Harbor Civic Center, Peninsula Light's facility, Kopachuck Middle School, Discovery and Minter Creek elementary schools and Bremerton High School.

Terry's public service included:

- Served on the first county Land Use Advisory Committee, beginning in 1983.
- Appointed to the county Planning Commission in 1991 and represented Gig Harbor for 10 years.
- Ran for the Pierce County Council in 2001 and served eight years.
- Helped Pierce County buy Tacoma Narrows Airport and turned it around financially.
- Advocated for the Cushman Trail
- Executive Director at PenMet Parks

Terry was an outdoorsy person who enjoyed skiing, bicycling, boating and had climbed Mount Rainier.

Hugh McMillan

Hugh dedicated his life to Gig Harbor kids. I can think of no better way to honor his legacy and no one more deserving.

McMillan died in February 2023 at the age of 96. He was raised in Tacoma and had a career with the CIA following a stint in the Navy. Once he returned to the Northwest, McMillan became immersed in area activities first as a volunteer firefighter. He wrote the Kids' Corner column for the Key Peninsula News and Peninsula Gateway for decades until he lost his vision in 2021 and couldn't continue. He sought to bring the Key and Gig Harbor peninsulas together through his writing, and to serve as a mouthpiece for students to tell their stories. McMillan is known as a founder of many organizations in the area including:

- Key Peninsula Lions Club
- Key Peninsula Citizens Against Crime
- Communities in Schools of Peninsula
- Peninsula Schools Education Foundation
- Peninsula Emergency Preparedness Coalition

- Key Peninsula Community Services Food Bank
- Hope Recovery Center

His awards are numerous including:

- Pierce County Council proclaiming April 22, 2006, as Hugh McMillan Day
- citizen of the year for the GH Chamber in 2010;
- North Star Award from the Rotary in 2014.
- Evergreen Elementary School Gym is named after him
- The Peninsula School District annually presents a Hugh McMillan award to a community member who makes extraordinary contributions to the schools.
- Family was presented with a flag that flew over the Capitol by Rep. Derek Kilmer

After learning of McMillan's death, Derek Kilmer said, "On the Mount Rushmore of amazing Americans, there ought to be a place for Hugh McMillan. Hugh lived an extraordinary life of service, and, in his later years, he dedicated himself to improving the lives of folks on the Key Peninsula and supporting the kids of the Peninsula School District.

PARKS COMMISSION

APRIL 2025

Parks Division Updates

Projects

Gig Harbor Sports Complex

Phase 1B – Phase 1B is nearing completion, although with weather delays, it will likely open in May. Crucial steps are being held up because of the inability to pour concrete on days when there is rain. Once the concrete work is done, the rest of the park

Crescent Creek Park Master Plan

An open house is scheduled for **April 9, 2025** from **4-6 PM** at **Crescent Creek Park**. The citizen advisory committee met on March 3 to discuss three concepts. The consultant will take the comments back, make some tweaks, and present them at the open house. A public survey will launch on the same day.



Lease Updates

Gig Harbor Little League – GHLL started their season in March with the largest number of kids yet – 960. On March 24, city council approved a new facility use agreement, which clarifies duties of the city and of GHLL for the duration. It will also collect \$15,000 per season from them, to offset costs for maintaining the facility.

YMCA Lease – The YMCA lease amendment was approved by city council on March 10. Due to changing timelines and a new monetary contribution by the city for the Phase 1A sports fields, the lease had to be renegotiated. A maintenance and operations agreement for the fields will be negotiated shortly. The YMCA is looking to break ground on their field facility in early May.

Gig Harbor BoatShop – Staff has been meeting with BoatShop representatives to discuss updates to their lease, which will clarify roles and responsibilities for the city

and the BoatShop in regards to maintenance. It will also combine the lease and FOUR amendments into one lease agreement for easier navigation.

Other Park Updates

Pinwheels in Parks – April is Child Abuse Prevention Month, and our Housing, Health and Human Services (H3) Coordinator is installing “Pinwheels for Prevention” in some parks to raise awareness of child abuse prevention. We have asked them not to install them on grassy areas.

Marine Organizations Meeting – On April 3, the parks manager will attend an annual meeting of marine organizations at the Harbor History Museum. The meeting, which includes nonprofits, sports organizations, city government and waterfront businesses, discusses ways to support each other and spread the word to customers about other organizations. It’s a great way to connect with other people doing good work in the community.

KGI Watershed Council Report – Last week, the parks manager gave a report to the KGI Watershed Council about the Lu Winsor grant that we received for the purchase of Phase 4 of the tx^waalqəł Conservation Area.

tx^waalqəł Conservation Area – Staff did some bushwhacking to get to the site of the old home foundation that is on the site. We will not be opening up the property to the public until we can get rid of the foundation, as it collects water and could be considered an “attractive nuisance.” We will be working on a permit from TPU to open up the loop trail that is on phase 2 of the conservation area, and hope to have it open by late summer. All the work will be done by city staff.



Upcoming Special Events

April

April 5 – Fool’s Run 5K – downtown

April 9 – Open House for Crescent Creek Park

April 26 - Paddler’s Cup, Maritime Gallery Grand Opening

May

May 3 – Parks Appreciation Day

May 10 – Local Makers Spring Market – Civic Center Green

May 22 – August 28, Gig Harbor Farmer’s Market (Thursdays @ Skansie)

May 31 – Croatia Day

June

June 7-8 – Maritime Gig Festival

July

Summer Sounds – Tuesdays through August – Skansie Park