

AGENDA
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION
Wednesday, September 3, 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:** August 6, 2025

- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - a. Rotary Tree Proposal**
 - b. Masonic Lodge recommendation**

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

- VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & COMMENTS**

- VII. ADJOURN**

Next Regular Meeting: Wed., October 1, 5:30pm

MINUTES
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, August 8, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
Civic Center Community Rooms

CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL: Chair Louise Tieman called the meeting to order at 5:34 p.m. Commissioners Kim Anderson, Stace Gordon and Andrew Peabody were present. Vice Chair Hanley Bonyngne, Commissioners Larry Johns and Guy Magnus were absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the June 4th meeting were unanimously approved.

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Pickleball Etiquette Discussion

Local pickleball ambassador Fran Conn updated the Parks Commission about the new courts at Doris Heritage Park, as well as presented new suggested guidelines/rules for the courts. The commissioners also saw new guidelines/rules created by Anne Smith, another local pickleball ambassador. The Parks Commission suggested the city post a hybrid of the 2 concepts for the courts at Doris Heritage Park

B. Crescent Creek master Plan

The City's consultant from HBB landscape Architecture, Juliet Vong, updated the Parks Commission about the status of the Crescent Creek Master Plan, the open house, the survey results, and the direction from City Council. Commissioners discussed options surrounding the Masonic Lodge, and support concept 2A.

C. Property management plan - Tx^waalqəł Conservation Area Ph. 4

The Commissioners reviewed phase 4 of the plan and details for the property, including things that will need to be addressed by the city (stream blockages, safety concerns, project timeline and budget).

D. National Fitness Campaign – Video & Discussion

The Commissioners watched a short informative video regarding the National Fitness Campaign, who seek partnerships for building fitness courts throughout the United States. Commissioners discussed the possibility, as well as potential parks it could be located, and wanted to know more information regarding expected maintenance costs and life expectancy of the equipment.

PARKS DIVISION UPDATES:

Parks Manager Jennifer Haro updated the commission about National Night Out and "Harbor Hello" city booth, as well as updates about Doris Heritage Park, Phase 1A, and the maintenance agreement between the City of Gig Harbor and the YMCA regarding the concession stand.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 7:25 p.m.

Scott Keely
Public Works Assistant- Parks



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks Commission

FROM: Jennifer Haro, Parks Manager

DATE: August 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Rotary Memorial Tree Proposal

The city has been approached by the Rotary Club of Gig Harbor about the potential to partner on a tree planting program. This program would use city land to plant trees, which will help meet several city goals, but would also allow donors to honor or memorialize loved ones with a tree planted in their honor.

Some of the concerns the city has include locations, tree species, time of year planted, staff time requirements, irrigation/watering needs, and markers possibly becoming litter or harmful to the tree. Rotary is willing to work with the city to address those needs.

Representatives from the Rotary will be at the meeting to make a presentation about their proposal. Staff is seeking a recommendation from parks commission about the proposal before presenting it to city council.

ROTARY CLUB OF GIG HARBOR

TO: Katrina Knudson, City Administrator

FROM: Pamela Peterson, Rotary Club of Gig Harbor Past President

SUBJECT: Potential Tree Planting Program

DATE: June 2, 2025

The Rotary of Club of Gig Harbor is in the process of developing a program to honor individuals by planting a tree in their name. We believe this program will:

- Build community good will
- Increase a healthier environment through better air quality.
- Encourage our citizens to participate in a beautification project through trees
- Develop living memories

We want to make this a highly desirable, positive project that is a Win, Win, Win for all. A Win for our City by helping them with beautification projects and increasing good air quality in our community. A Win for our citizens to always know there is something living in a place for those they have loved and a Win for Rotary, by serving our community.

The most important step to making this program a reality is partnering with an organization that has the availability and need for trees. The “Memory Tree Committee” identified many organizations, City of Gig Harbor, Pierce County, State and Federal Parks, the Great Peninsula Conservancy and more. The committee decided the best approach is to first work with our city. Staying local and developing the program with a partner we have had successful projects and a good solid relationship.

A very rough wireframe on how the committee sees the program working:

An individual will seek a Memory Tree through the Rotary Club of Gig Harbor Foundation website.

- a. A variety of price points to purchase the tree will be offered
- b. Based on the price point, different locations will be displayed
- c. Based on the location, the type of tree(s) that are allowed at that location
- d. Rotarians, volunteers and maybe the donor will plant the tree
- e. The donor will be given an acknowledgement of the planting
- f. The honoree’s family or designee will be given a specially designed certificate.

We have a lot of work ahead of us and we have a lofty goal to have it ready by December 31, 2025. We are looking forward to meeting with you.



PUBLIC WORKS DEPARTMENT

MEMORANDUM

TO: Parks Commission

FROM: Jennifer Haro, Parks Manager

DATE: August 29, 2025

SUBJECT: Masonic Lodge

At the August 6, 2025 Parks Commission meeting, Juliet Vong of HBB Landscape Architecture, the consultant for the Crescent Creek Master Plan, gave a presentation about the master plan process to date.

The presentation included council's direction, which was to proceed with further development of two options: Concept 1 and 2a. Both concepts are similar, with the only difference being that Concept 1 will keep the Masonic Lodge according to the redevelopment plan presented by an advocacy group associated with the Harbor History Museum, and Concept 2a would remove the Lodge and replace it with a shelter structure that paid tribute to the former school and some garden and gathering areas.

At the August meeting, Parks Commission discussed a variety of reasons why rehabilitating the Masonic Lodge may not be in the best interests of the city, and it was suggested that they make a formal recommendation to council.

The attached draft memo lays out some of the concerns of the parks commission. At the September 3 meeting, the parks commission should review the attached memo and make edits to pass along to the mayor and council as a formal recommendation.



TO: Mayor Barber & City Council
FROM: Parks Commission (Chair Louise Tieman, Vice-Chair Hanley Bongyne, Guy Mangus, Andrew Peabody, Stace Gordon, Larry Johns,
CC: Jennifer Haro, Jeff Langhelm, Katrina Knutson
Date:
Subject: Crescent Creek Park – Masonic Lodge recommendation

The Gig Harbor Parks Commission has received regular updates on provided input on the Crescent Creek Master Planning process since it began in 2023. We understand and are aware of the important history of the building as a school and a Masonic Lodge.

However, we would like to formally recommend that the city demolish the Masonic Lodge, for the following reasons:

1. The Masons significantly altered the building from its original form, which in the opinion of Rolluda Architects, on its February 24, 2023 technical memo, stated *“because the building has been modified extensively over the past 100+ years, with the removal of the 2nd story of the original school house, the doubling of the with vinyl siding, and the replacement of the roofing with standing seam metal roofing, it would appear that there is little remaining of the original building fabric to have the structure considered for nomination (to National Historic Register) under criteria 3 above.”*
2. We have been made aware of problems with mold, as well as asbestos and lead present in the building.
3. It is unclear if the foundation is safe, and it appears to let water infiltrate the basement.
4. The Lodge proposal would require 54 new parking spots, in a park that is already short on parking for its current uses.
5. Many people who comment on the park master planning process want it to remain a more passive, natural park. Inviting the traffic for events that might have over 100 people in attendance will greatly increase the traffic and use of the park, as well as noise.
6. The footprint could be used for open space, a shelter, or gardens that would look great and better tie the space into the overall park. The new space could honor the old school/lodge building to remind park visitors of the history.
7. While the proposal from the volunteer group to remodel the building into a community gathering place would be great, costs will likely be greater, if not much greater, than anticipated due to general inflation, as well as unforeseen issues due to the age of the building. Further, people would likely have to pay to rent it, while all city taxpayers would have footed the bill for the remodel.
8. The money could be better used on other priorities, including projects that were carefully considered in the 2022 Parks, Recreation and Open Space plan, that are currently unfunded. Some of these projects include: Wilkinson Farm Park barn stabilization and master planning, Cushman Trail extension, KLM Veterans



Park amenities, future phases of the Gig Harbor Sports Complex and trail development.

9. We are aware of budgeting shortfalls that most counties, park districts and cities, including Gig Harbor, are currently facing. There are many projects that are worthy of being built with our limited tax dollars, but do not think that this is one of them.

We urge you, as city residents and taxpayers who volunteer our free time to serve as advisors to you about parks, to choose the more fiscally responsible option for this building and demolish it.

We respectfully submit this recommendation for your consideration.

DRAFT