

AGENDA
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION
Wednesday, January 7, 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:** December 3, 2025

- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - a. Boat Storage building at Ancich Park Naming Request**
 - b. 2026 Work Plan (cont'd)**
 - c. Parks Appreciation Day Planning**
 - d. Election of chair and vice-chair**

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

- VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & COMMENTS**

- VII. ADJOURN**

Next Regular Meeting: Wed., February 4, 5:30pm

MINUTES
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, December 3, 2025 - 5:30 p.m.
Civic Center Community Rooms

CALL TO ORDER/ ROLL CALL: Chair Louise Tieman called the meeting to order at 5:35 p.m. Vice Chair Hanley Bonyngne and Commissioners Stace Gordon, Kim Anderson, Larry Johns and Andrew Peabody were present. Commissioner Guy Magnus was absent.

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

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. 2026 Work Plan

Commissioners began to review the Parks Commission work plan for the 2026 - 2029 cycle, identifying which subjects are high importance and which ones are lower. This work plan will help guide the current and future iterations of the Parks Commission.

PARKS DIVISION UPDATES:

Parks Manager Jennifer Haro updated the commission about a new historical study on the vacant building inside of Crescent Creek Park, as well as updates about the project close out status of Doris Heritage Park, and the services agreement between the City of Gig Harbor and the YMCA regarding the new concession stand.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS & COMMENTS:

The Commissioners discussed future meeting topics and PAD 2026, as well as suggested witnessing the salmon at Donkey Creek. They also gave a shoutout to Parks manager Jennifer Haro for her excellent communication keeping the Parks Commission fully informed.

ADJOURN: The meeting adjourned at 7:15 p.m.

Scott Keely
Public Works Assistant- Parks



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

gigharborwa.gov
(253) 851-8136

TO: Parks Commission

FROM: Jennifer Haro, Parks Manager

DATE: December 31, 2025

SUBJECT: Naming Request: Boat Storage Building at Ancich Park

The city has received a few requests from people closely affiliated with the Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team (GHCKRT) to name the boat storage building at Ancich Park after Alan Anderson, the founder of GHCKRT.

Attached is a letter to the mayor, city council and city administrator from Missy Hill requesting the name change. Parks manager Haro also received an email request from Alyson Mrozinski, Head Coach of GHCKRT.

The boat storage building does not currently have a name, and Resolution 717, which establishes the policy for naming parks and facilities, allows naming a building after a living person when the individual has made an unusually outstanding public service contribution.

Chair Louise Tieman will speak to the contributions of Coach Alan at the January 7 meeting.

At the January 7 meeting, staff is seeking a recommendation to city council, which will be discussing the request at their January 15 study session.

Attachments:
Letter from Missy Hill
Resolution 717 – Naming of Parks & Facilities

Request to Name the Ancich Park Boat Storage Building in Honor of Alan Anderson, Founder of the Gig Harbor Kayak Club

Dear Mayor Barber, Members of the Gig Harbor City Council, and City Administrator Katrina Knutson,

I am writing to respectfully request the City of Gig Harbor's consideration in naming the Ancich Park Boat Storage Building after Alan Anderson, the founder of the Gig Harbor Kayak Club. For more than 23 years, Alan's vision and commitment have shaped generations of young athletes and strengthened the culture of recreation, teamwork, and water safety in our community.

Background and History of the Gig Harbor Kayak Club

The Gig Harbor Kayak Club was founded in 2002 by Alan Anderson, who saw a unique opportunity to introduce youth and families to the sport of competitive sprint kayaking. At the time, our area lacked a program that could support youth paddling at a national level. Alan recognized both the potential of our waterways and, more importantly, the value of giving young people access to healthy, disciplined, and skill-building activities that promote confidence and community pride.

Through Alan's leadership, the Club grew from a small grassroots effort into a nationally and internationally recognized team, with athletes consistently representing Gig Harbor at regional, national, and world-level competitions. Many have gone on to compete in elite programs, including the U.S. Olympic Development Program. Beyond competition, the Club has become a supportive and inclusive space for youth, helping them build resilience, sportsmanship, and lifelong connections.

Alan Anderson's Impact and Legacy

Alan has invested more than two decades of his time, personal resources, and financial support to ensure the Club's continued success. Long before the team had stable facilities, he purchased equipment, funded travel for athletes in need, and opened his own property for early training sessions. His volunteer leadership has spanned the roles of coach, mentor, fundraiser, caretaker, and advocate.

His influence extends well beyond athletic achievement. Alan has shaped the lives of hundreds of young people, teaching discipline, perseverance, respect for the water, and commitment to their community. Many former athletes credit him as a defining mentor, someone who believed in them, challenged them, and inspired them during pivotal years of their lives.

Few individuals have contributed more to youth recreation and water sports in Gig Harbor than Alan Anderson.

Why the Naming Request

Naming the Ancich Park Boat Storage Building in Alan's honor would offer a thoughtful and fitting way to recognize his long-standing contributions to youth paddling. For more than two decades, Alan has helped build a program that has become a valued part of Gig Harbor's recreational landscape, offering young people opportunities to learn, compete, and grow.

Because this facility directly supports the activities Alan devoted much of his life to fostering, it provides a natural place to reflect on his legacy. Naming the building after him would help future generations

understand the program's origins and the passion that allowed it to flourish. It is a humble request intended to acknowledge the positive impact one individual's dedication can have on a community.

Sense of Urgency

Timing is an important consideration for this request.

Alan has shared that personal circumstances make it especially meaningful to consider this recognition in the near term. Honoring his contributions now would allow the acknowledgment to occur while he remains closely connected to the team, the families, and the community he has served for more than two decades.

Proceeding within a timely window would enable the City to recognize Alan's legacy in a way that is both thoughtful and personally meaningful, while remaining consistent with the City's values of community stewardship and appreciation for long-standing volunteer leadership.

Conclusion

Naming the Ancich Park Boat Storage Building after Alan Anderson is more than a recognition of athletic contributions; it is a testament to community leadership, volunteerism, and the transformative impact one person can have over multiple generations. Alan's dedication helped shape not only a team but a culture that continues to strengthen Gig Harbor's identity.

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request and for your continued stewardship of our community's recreational assets. I would be glad to provide additional information or speak further with staff or Council as needed.

Respectfully,
Missy Hill

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):

1. If the City Council determines that a City park or other City facility should be named or renamed, the City shall solicit suggestions for names. All suggestions, whether solicited or independently offered, shall be acknowledged and recorded by the City. The City Council may authorize the Park Commission to take public input and make a recommendation. For a park or other City facility in the city's Historic District, the city shall solicit names from the Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society. Any recommendations to Council should be ranked by order of preference.

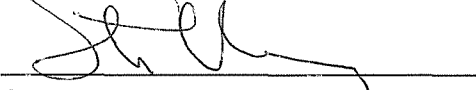
2. Following a review of recommendations, suggestions, and public comments, the City Council shall determine the name for City parks and other City facilities.

D. The provisions of this procedure shall not apply to the application of donor recognition for such minor items as benches, trees, refuse cans, flagpoles, water fountains, or similar items.

E. Pursuant to RCW 58.17.110(3), if a preliminary plat includes a dedication of a park with an area of less than two acres and the donor has designated that the park be named in honor of a deceased individual of good character, the City must adopt the designated name.


RESOLVED by the City Council this 11th day of June, 2007.

APPROVED:



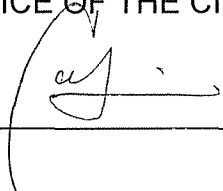
Steven K. Ekberg, Mayor Pro Tem

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:



Molly M. Towslee, City Clerk

APPROVED AS TO FORM;
OFFICE OF THE CITY ATTORNEY:

By: 

Files with the City Clerk: 06/6/07
Passed by the City Council: 06/11/07
Resolution No.: 717

PARKS COMMISSION ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2026-2029

The Gig Harbor Parks Commission is a seven-member citizen panel that advises the City Council on the acquisition, development, and renovation of parks, trails, open spaces, and recreation facilities in the city.

The Commission plays an important role in the development of policies and plans for the park and open space system, reviews and recommends such documents to City Council, and may oversee the implementation of public process for significant capital investments and park policy initiatives. It functions as the designated public forum for park concerns about the park system in the City.

The **Values** and **Goals** of the Commission are determined by members and presented to the City Council for consideration for exploration, policy development, or implementation by the Mayor. These must compliment the 9 Goals of the city's [PROS Plan](#)/Comprehensive Plan, **referenced in the attached Work Program as PROS #1-#9**

The exact duties of the Parks Commission are stated in the city's Municipal Code, within [Title 2](#), captured below, **duties referenced in the attached Work Program as Code A-F:**

- A. As directed by the council, the commission may make informal investigations and informal surveys concerning the future park, playground and recreation resources of the city;
- B. As directed by the council, the commission may formulate draft plans for the future development of the parks and playgrounds system of the city;
- C. The commission may recommend to the city council regarding planning, promotion, acquisition, construction, and development of public recreational facilities and recreational programs;
- D. The commission may review the proposed annual budget for the operation, maintenance and acquisition of public recreational facilities of the city;
- E. To cooperate with any and all departments of the city and with public school authorities, Pierce County, the state of Washington, Peninsula Metropolitan Park District, and other cities and jurisdictions in the surrounding area in the furtherance of a well-rounded parks and recreation program;
- F. To recommend such rules and regulations in regard to the use of city parks and city recreational facilities as shall best serve the interests of the public.

PARKS COMMISSION ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2026-2029

WORK PLAN ITEM	OBJECTIVE PER PARKS COMMISSION'S ROLE		YEARS: 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025	PRIORITY RATINGS High-Med-Lo
1. Park Evaluation	Data collection and application regarding demographics, user experience, etc.			H-M-L
a. Community Input, User Experience	Conduct outreach through commission meetings, surveys, interviews, QR Codes at parks, and through tours/meetups at parks			3-3-0
b. Use Monitoring Tools for Park Status	Utilize evaluation tool(s) designed for Commissioners, Council, staff, & users			4-2-0
c. Park Standards	Establish Park Standards that address park safety, desired outcomes, and instruct maintenance expectations			In process
2. Capital Improvement Program of the PROS Plan	Investigate cost savings concepts for projects and implementation strategies ahead of biannual budget			6-0-0
3. Local Recreation Access Improvements	Ensure local recreation access in equitable manner			0-2-4
4. Shoreline Access for Recreation	Investigate waterfront access for public and underserved populations, coordinate efforts with Shoreline Master Program in places like Old Ferry Landing			6-0-0
5. Accessibility (ADA) Planning for Parks	Evaluate and improve ADA access; Establish goals and evaluate progress			4-2-0

PARKS COMMISSION ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2026-2029

<u>WORK ITEM</u>	<u>OBJECTIVE</u>		<u>YEARS</u>	<u>PRIORITY</u>
PROS-Plan Based Work Items				
7. Coordination of Environmental Protection, Enhancement, Sustainability efforts in Parks	Support efforts for urban forestry management, natural creek protection, and wildlife corridors, including daylighting and culvert removals			
a. Critical Area Enhancement	Investigate and recommend enhancement efforts, as budgeted			
b. Recycling Program in Parks	Review and Promote Recycling Program in Parks, through partnerships			
8. Development of Trail Program: Coordinate with City plans; Review Trail Projects; Coordination of non-motorized systems	Create an inventory of trails, walking routes, standards, and access to them throughout the city			
9. Park Master Planning	Revisit the master plans for parks regularly, tracking phases and anticipate needs for new plans; advise on stakeholder outreach			
10. Historic Structure preservation to include programming	Ensure Historic Preservation Plans and leverage support			

PARKS COMMISSION ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2026-2029

WORK ITEM	OBJECTIVE	YEAR	PRIORITY
Goal and Value Based Projects			
11. PROS Plan Monitoring	Conduct an annual review of plan with staff	Value: A cohesive and efficient parks program	
12. Parks Appreciation Day	Lead an annual, volunteer citywide parks cleanup each spring	Value: Community Stewardship	
13. Adopt-A-Park Program (being revised to focus on areas, rather than park-specific efforts)	Support and expand Volunteer Program Opportunities	Goal: Promote and encourage volunteer citizen groups	
a. Donation List for Parks – Revise to only include replacement furnishing, not new ones.	Assist with donation policy and programming, recommend policies to Council		
14. Promotion of the Parks Facilities	Ensure there is a complete inventory of existing park facilities for optimal public access, QR code and maps at sites	Value: Public Recreation Opportunity and Park useability	
a. Park Reservation System	Review the system and make recommendation on policies, fees, access.		Existing budget item
b. Development of Sign Program	Create system for coordinated signage in parks, on trails		
15. Old Burnham Properties Feasibility and Long-use Plan/Visioning	Study trail options across properties which would include obtaining public access to connect the two sections of public land.	Value: Public Access to Open Space	
16. Public Access to the Shoreline at Ferry Landing	Study options for safe public access to the beach.	Value: Public Access to Shoreline	

PARKS COMMISSION ANNUAL WORK PLAN 2026-2029

<u>WORK ITEM</u>	<u>OBJECTIVE</u>	<u>YEAR</u>	<u>PRIORITY</u>
Commission Role as Public Forum for Park Projects			
17. Continuing Review of Funded Park Capital Projects at milestones:	Remain apprised of status and updates on capital projects occurring in city parks.	Value: Public Review and Participation	
a. Anich Park, Homeport	Received reports from the stakeholder reviews as well as staff efforts towards fundraising		In Progress
b. BMX/Bike Playground, Pump Track	Formulate a plan for BMX/bike interests in coordination of master park plan for Crescent Creek Park		COMPLETE
c. Crescent Creek Visioning (incl. Masonic Lodge Study)	Complete a visioning and programming process that includes public input to develop a Master Plan for the park properties encompassing Crescent Creek Park and the associated public waters		In Progress
d. Cushman Trail, Phase 5	Participate in Feasibility Review of Phase 5, Prepare for project implementation with partners		Planned
e. Cushman Trail Spur to N. Harborview	Support a feasibility study for a spur that would connect Cushman trail to Harborview Drive near Austin Estuary		In Progress
f. Gig Harbor Sports Complex	Ensure the goals of the project are met, i.e. constant monitoring of master plan, strategic use of investment, and careful development of complex		In Progress
g. Harbor Hill Open Space	Work with local interests including planning an environmental sanctuary on private property		In Progress
h. KLM Veterans Park	Support planning of a loop trail within the open space on the park, improving access		Planned
i. Shaw Park	Prepare for and conduct master planning for Shaw Park; coordinating for its expansion		Planned
j. Wilkinson Farm Park Visioning	Facilitate a visioning process that includes public input for the parcels encompassing the park.		Planned
k. Wilkson Barn Stabilization	Assist with Planning and Funding Barn Stabilization		Planned