

AGENDA
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 4, 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:** January 7, 2026

- III. PUBLIC COMMENT**

- IV. DISCUSSION ITEMS**
 - a. Wind Phone Proposal**
 - b. Work Plan (cont'd)**
 - c. Parks Appreciation Day Planning**

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

- VI. COMMISSIONER REPORTS & COMMENTS**

- VII. ADJOURN**

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

MINUTES
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION MEETING
Wednesday, January 7, 2025 - 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 Stace Gordon, Kim Anderson, Larry Johns, Andrew Peabody and Guy Magnus were present. Vice Chair Hanley Bonynge was absent.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: The minutes of the December 3, 2025 meeting were unanimously approved.

PUBLIC COMMENT: N/A

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

A. Boat Storage Building at Ancich Park Naming Request

Commissioners heard from representatives of the GHCKRT (Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team) about naming the Ancich boat storage building after the founder and creator of the GHCKRT, Alan Anderson. The Commissioners gave their full support.

Motion: Chair Tieman moved to recommend that the city council name the boat storage building at Ancich Park the Alan Anderson Boat Storage Building. (Johns 2nd) motion passes unanimously

B. 2026 Work Plan (cont'd)

Commissioners continued 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.

C. Parks Appreciation Day Planning

May 2, 2026 has been selected as the date of this year's Parks Appreciation Day.

D. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Louise Tieman was unanimously approved as Chair.
Hanley Bonynge was unanimously approved as Vice Chair

PARKS DIVISION UPDATES:

Parks Manager Jennifer Haro updated the commission about the tenants at both rental properties, the CCP Master Plan, the projected opening date for the new YMCA turf fields, Gig Harbor hosting the SUP National Championships, and the 2026 Tacoma Tree Giveaway returning.

COMMISSIONER REPORTS & COMMENTS:

The Commissioners all reiterated support for naming the Ancich Boat building after the GHCKRT's founder.

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

Scott Keely -Public Works Assistant- Parks

Memorandum

TO: Parks Commission
FROM: Jennifer Haro, Parks Manager
DATE: 1/29/2026
SUBJECT: Wind Phone Proposal

The city received a request from Liberty Henderson, founder of The Far North, a grief-focused community in Gig Harbor, to install a wind phone in Grandview Forest. A wind phone is a simple, non-functional telephone placed in a quiet, natural setting. It is not connected to any lines. Instead, it offers a private, contemplative space where individuals can speak words left unsaid to loved ones who have passed on. Around the world, wind phones have been installed in parks and forests as a gentle, accessible grief-support resource for communities.

More information and a photo gallery of wind phones can be found at <https://www.mywindphone.com>.

If approved to move forward, an agreement will need to be created. The Far North would be responsible for installing and placing the wind phone, and replacing anything that's damaged. We are asking that it be installed on a post, rather than a tree.

Liberty will be at the meeting to explain the proposal. She also provided these images for parks commission to get an idea of what she has in mind for the phone in Grandview Forest.





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Gig Harbor, WA 98335

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Staff is looking for a recommendation from parks commission on whether to proceed with an agreement with The Far North for placement of a wind phone in Grandview Forest Park.

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			5-1-0
b. Recycling Program in Parks	Review and Promote Recycling Program in Parks, through partnerships			1-3-2
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			0-0-6
9. Park Master Planning	Revisit the master plans for major parks regularly, tracking phases and anticipate needs for new plans; advise on stakeholder outreach	Biennial with budget		0-5-1
10. Historic Structure preservation to include programming	Ensure Historic Preservation Plans and leverage support	Move to HPC?	Integrate with master plans	

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