



Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

PO Box 425 – Gig Harbor, WA 98335
 253-858-3400 – info@penmetparks.org
www.penmetparks.org

STUDY SESSION AGENDA - MINUTES

December 03, 2024, 5:00 PM

Aretta Schoolhouse at Hales Pass Park - 3507 Ray Nash Drive NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Call to Order: 5:00 PM

Commissioner Roll Call:

	Present	Excused	Comment
Maryellen (Missy) Hill, President	x		
Laurel Kingsbury, Clerk	x		
Kurt Grimmer	x		
Steve Nixon	x		
William C. (Billy) Sehmel	x		

Quorum: Yes

ITEM 1 Board Discussion

1a. Tacoma DeMolay Sandspit Design Update

- Capital Projects Manager John Adams introduces Derek Eberle, Principal and Owner of Baumwelt, leader of design and implementation phases.
- Mr. Eberle provides a project overview and visual presentation, noting 30% design plans are complete as of December 3, 2024, 60% design targeted completion by end of January 2025 and 90% targeted completion near end of March 2025; Pierce County Conservation District will manage its own project timeline, while in coordination with PenMet; importance and challenges of tree preservation due to switchbacks and grade.
- **Board Question:** Parks Services Committee reviewed parking at its last meeting, with some located along County right of way; any discussion yet?
Answer: Discussions have begun, with positive response; no formal approval yet; using County provided guidelines for design elements that may work and fall in line with requirements for approval.
- **Board Question:** What material is proposed in beach plaza circle?
Answer: Proposed concrete, asphalt, crushed rock for transition area
- **Board Question:** Any recommended alternatives to tall evergreens, which have been known to eventually tear up sidewalks and roadways? **Answer:** Options could include smaller stock, shorter pines, douglas fir, spruce which offer a similar look; root barriers, could also build in repair estimates for 10, 20 years out.
- **Board Comments:** Exciting, very positive for the community; appreciation attention to addressing shoreline coordination and collaboration with Conservation District.



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- **Board Question:** Will the park be closed from August 2025 for Conservation District work through to reopening, or is there any interim?
Answer: Exact schedule, park impacts not determined yet; will have more definite details further down design process with permit submittal package; public notification with detailed breakdown will be provided.
- 1b. **Spring and Fall Youth Sports Recap**
 - Recreation Coordinator and Specialist, Zack Brown and Luke Duncan, provide a program overview and visual presentation, noting ‘3 pillars’ of youth sports philosophy: everybody plays, the joy of being active, and build community through sports.
 - Other highlights include: improved registration process, coordination with schools, practice schedules and coach assignments ready day of sign-ups, code of conduct and parent handbook development, increased training for officials and coaches, positive coaching alliance sessions, end of season surveys, good parent and coach feedback, focus on customer service for community, parents; updated webpage all in one calendar time table for each sport season registration, start, end dates; Heads Up Concussion Protocol from CDC, ‘I love watching you play’ philosophy
 - **Board Question:** How was attendance for positive coaching clinics?
Answer: Zoom trainings had less, but first in-person had 20, expecting a larger turnout at this Friday’s in-person.
 - Distributed coach packets at the start of Soccer, Flag Football with practice plans, drills, snack schedule template, other tools; big boost in middle school age group participants for baseball, survey results have gone up in almost every category.
 - **Board Question:** How many survey responses, comparable to last year?
Answer: Not exact but believe response was close to 10% as well.
 - Rainouts impacted schedules for some fields; shifted so all groups have turf field time; Skills & Drills twice weekly with one night on pitching, one batting w/pitching machine and fieldwork.
 - **Board Question:** Do you have just one pitching machine? **Answer:** Yes, only needed for one age group.
 - Adult softball had good survey results; some officiating challenges; discussion with WWUA (Western Washington Umpire’s Association) found rules not standardized with other surrounding leagues caused some confusion; participation up from 280 to 308; 2025 plan to expand to 24 teams, add some weekend tournaments; high interest in senior league.
 - Offering accelerated Flag Football Spring leagues, so kids don’t have to choose between baseball and flag football, hold 1-hour practice followed by 1-hr game same day, same field; surveys showed increase in everything but officiating; contract with Dave Ralston’s group, officiating for 15-20 years in area; great inclusive program explain rules, guide parents, players.
 - Looking to offer indoor/outdoor football and soccer for Fall/Spring; girls high school flag football growing in popularity; also explore hosting pickleball tournaments with South Sound Pickleball or others.



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- **Board Question:** Who did we use for officiating when Ralston was unavailable? **Answer:** Staff officiants.
- Soccer survey results showed all improved; new 6th grade girls division with Dave Gamble, longtime coach created a rotating session with girls playing on different teams was enjoyed by all; will add 6th grade boy soccer in 2025; with no 6th grade options for middle school players, could be good way to fill need; Kindergarten/1st grade will shift to the accelerated model with 1-hour practice and 1-hour game on same night.
- **Board Comment:** Adding a 6th grade soccer division is great; any time there is not an option provided by schools, we want to try and counterbalance that.
- **Board Question:** Do we have agreements with the School District regarding responsibilities, maintenance for school fields we rent space at? **Answer:** We have language in our Interlocal Partnership Agreement where we can evaluate or look at joint maintenance standards if needed; at this time, practices are all scheduled at Sehmel or other PenMet parks.
- **Board Comment:** Love this philosophy; like to see we are doing a great job of development of youth and adult sports; this Board greatly appreciates it.

ITEM 2 Adjournment

BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MEETING PROCEDURES

The Board of Park Commissioners encourages the public to attend its Board meetings. All persons who attend Board meetings must comply with Board Policy P10-106 providing for the Rules of Decorum at Board Meetings. This Policy is to preserve order and decorum and discourage conduct that disrupts, disturbs, or otherwise impedes the orderly conduct of Board meetings. A copy of the policy is available at each meeting and at www.penmetparks.org.

Approved By the Board on 01/07/2025


Board President,


Board Clerk,



Attest: Amanda Walston, Board Secretary