



# Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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## STUDY SESSION MINUTES

Tuesday, March 17, 2020, 5:00 pm

PenMet Community Recreation Center (2416 14th Ave NW., Gig Harbor, WA 98335)

**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by Commissioner Hill at 5:03 pm

### **Commissioners Present:**

Maryellen (Missy) Hill  
Kurt Grimmer  
Amanda Babich (Via Teleconference)  
Laurel Kingsbury (Via Teleconference)  
Steve Nixon

### **Staff:**

Doug Nelson  
Elaine Sorensen  
Ed Lewis (Via Teleconference)  
Chuck Cuzzetto (Via Teleconference)  
Eric Guenther (Via Teleconference)  
Stacie Snuffin (Via Teleconference)

### **ITEM 1 Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Grimmer made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Nixon. The agenda was approved with a 5-0 vote. The Board appointed Commissioner Grimmer as the temporary clerk for the evening.

### **ITEM 2 Board Discussion**

#### **2.a Covid-19/Coronavirus Update and Discussion**

Executive Director, Doug Nelson gave a report on the current status of the parks.

- Parks are currently open
- Programs, leagues, rentals, and events have all been postponed or cancelled; with options to reschedule or make-up when possible
- Cancellations that can't be rescheduled will result in refunds

Nelson discussed the efforts PenMet has been making to reschedule fields for practices, along with youth activities, and that our parks were still open at this time for small unorganized groups and individuals. There are some concerns that too many people are gathering in the parks. He explained what some other local districts were doing under the circumstances due to the COVID - 19 virus and that the Board and staff had not yet had the opportunity to discuss the district's plan under the current situation. The Board and staff discussed the PenMet's office hours and alternate work schedules for employees as well as the maintenance staff using extra precautions for staff safety, performing regular duties, and use of seasonal or part-time workers to fill in gaps if needed. Nelson asked for some input from the Board. Commissioner Grimmer's input was to keep the Parks open at this time. Commissioner Kingsbury asked what Metro Parks was implementing and that she would like to possibly see the parks and playgrounds closed while restaurants and other business are closed. Commissioner Babich and Nixon would like to stay in line with what our Govenor is requesting and that we post appropriate signage for social

distancing and safety while keeping the parks open. The consensus after further discussion was to keep the parks and playgrounds open, fields are closed to organized practices for now with obvious safety practice signage. The Board and staff discussed the cleaning protocol for the playgrounds. Nelson informed the Board that PenMet has formed a task force to handle the disinfecting of playground equipment. The Board and staff also had a conversation as to what the city and school district was doing with their parks and playgrounds. Nelson shared that the recreation department is working on a list of items and activities that children can do from home during this time. The sports staff is working on at home activities and workouts as well - in addition to spotlighting different PenMet parks. Nelson reported that the staff would prefer to close the office to public access but still have staff in place with a slight adjustment to office hours being 8:00am-4:00pm instead of 8:00am – 5:00 pm along with some alternative rotating work schedules. Nelson discussed some other considerations for short- and long-term impact, revenue considerations, and review of prior practices and lessons learned to help with future forecasting.

**ITEM 3      Adjournment** Commissioner Hill adjourned the meeting at 5:58 pm

**APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON:** \_\_\_\_\_

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**President**

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**Clerk**

Submitted by *Stacie Snuffin*