



Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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

REGULAR MEETING – MINUTES

January 06, 2026, 6:30 PM

PenMet Parks District Headquarters - 2416 14th Ave NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

Call to Order Time: 6:30 PM

Commissioner Roll Call:

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

Quorum: Yes

ITEM 1 Swearing in of Commissioners Kurt Grimmer and Laurel Kingsbury

Newly elected Commissioner Kurt Grimmer is sworn into office by Pat Schmidt.

Newly elected Commissioner Laurel Kingsbury is sworn into office by Mark Roberts.

ITEM 2 President's Report

Happy New Year. I trust everyone had a safe, fun, and meaningful celebration. I took some time to reflect on the past year, and I couldn't help but feel a sense of pride and genuine accomplishment when thinking about what we have achieved. I believe that 2025 has been an exceptional year for PenMet Parks, it has been both rewarding and fulfilling to witness the progress, growth, and success we have experienced as an organization.

I believe I've mentioned several times that the Gig Harbor area is becoming increasingly well known for its parks and recreation opportunities. That sentiment was reinforced again just the other day while I was out walking with a friend and our dogs through the woods and my friend who works in Bremerton with the County shared that, within her professional circles, PenMet is really developing a strong reputation. She shared that surrounding park districts and local government service agencies are taking notice of PenMet's work and accomplishments, and that PenMet is increasingly viewed as a model of success for others to aspire to.

That recognition is no small matter. It's a big deal, in fact! But I want to reiterate that this success is not credited to one individual or one group within our organization, rather this success is the result of a significant collective effort. We have become an example to our neighbors and peers because of our entire staff, our division leaders, our directors, our volunteers, our community partners, our engaged and active residents, our legal advisors, and, if I may be so bold, our board members all working together toward a shared goal. It is because of this extraordinary



Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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

collaboration that PenMet continues to evolve into the impactful community organization we are today.

Now that being said, we are only experiencing this success and accolades because individuals and teams within the collaborative effort are doing extraordinary work. And over the course of the past year, as I served as Board President, I have had the opportunity to highlight and recognize a wide range of individual accomplishments and departmental successes. I know I haven't been able to call out every effort or accomplishment, but that does not diminish the reality that PenMet's momentum and success are driven by many unsung heroes, dedicated individuals and dynamic teams who consistently show up, put in the time, and demonstrate a commitment to excellence.

There is, however, one individual and department that I have not specifically acknowledged, and shining the spotlight in that direction is long overdue. And that is our Director of Development, Tracy Stirrett.

When Tracy came on board, I'm not sure she had any real idea of what she was getting herself into. But whether she did or didn't know, we sure are fortunate that she joined our team regardless. The Rec Center project was well underway and we had designated no small sum in the budget to be outsourced or fundraised, yet we did not have any experience in fund raising, we did not have a donor base, all we had was basically an empty rolodex and a board comprised mostly of hard working public servants (so not your typical deep pocketed non-profit board members).

Yet despite this, Tracy rolled up her sleeves and jumped right in. And what she has accomplished in a few short years is nothing short of remarkable. She has built PenMet's capital campaign from the ground up, quite literally from scratch. It's akin to building a plane mid-flight. Yet through vision, persistence, relationship-building, and an unwavering belief in this community, she has brought us to within inches of completing a \$4 million goal. That level of success does not happen by accident, it happens because of trust, credibility, and meaningful relationship building, which Tracy consistently demonstrates with grace and ease.

Tracy's work will leave a lasting legacy on the people that live and reside here in the greater Gig Harbor area. The impact of this campaign will be felt for decades and not just in the Rec Center facility itself, but also in expanded access, opportunity, and community connection. On behalf of the Board and the community we serve, I want to sincerely thank you, Tracy, for the leadership, dedication, and heart you have brought to this effort. We quite literally could not have built this Rec Center to the degree and magnitude it is today without you. Thank you, Tracy!

And before I close I'd like to touch on one more thing - I want to express how grateful I am to serve alongside my fellow board members. You four are dedicated, capable, engaged, and deeply committed public servants. While we may come from different backgrounds, hold differing personal or even political views, or move in different circles, we are unified by something far more important than any individual agenda: a shared commitment to our community and to providing high-quality, accessible parks and recreation for all. That shared purpose has strengthened our governance and contributed to a meaningful impact on the community we serve.



Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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

As I close out this past year as President, I do so with immense pride, not in any single accomplishment, but in the collective body of work we have achieved together. PenMet Parks is strong. It is respected. It is well-governed. And it is well positioned for continued success.

Thank you to my fellow commissioners for your collaboration and trust. Thank you to our Executive Director, Ally Bujacich, and thank you to our staff for your excellence and accountability. And thank you to our community for believing in the value of parks, recreation, and public spaces.

It has been a privilege to serve as President, and I look forward to continuing this work alongside all of you in the years ahead.

ITEM 3 Nominations and Elections of 2026 Board Officers

The Board of Park Commissioners has two officers: the President and the Clerk. Board members shall nominate a President and a Clerk from its members.

The Board shall elect its officers after the nominations have been closed and at the first meeting of the new calendar year by a majority vote. The Board members elected as officers shall then immediately take office.

Nominations are accepted at the last meeting of the calendar year and again at the first meeting of the new calendar year. A Board member may nominate themselves for any officer position.

Commissioner Sehmel was nominated for the position of 2026 Board President at the December 2, 2025, meeting.

Seeing and hearing no further nominations, nominations for the 2026 Board President are closed.

Board Secretary takes the vote by voice and show of hands.

Commissioner Sehmel has received the majority of votes and is elected 2026 Board President.

Commissioner Grimmer was nominated for the position of 2026 Board Clerk at the December 2, 2025, meeting.

Seeing and hearing no further nominations, nominations for the 2026 Board Clerk are closed.

Board Secretary takes the vote by voice and show of hands.

Commissioner Grimmer has received the majority of votes and is elected 2026 Board Clerk.

Newly elected President Sehmel assumes presiding duties.

ITEM 4 Executive Director's Report

Executive Director, Ally Bujacich, provides brief presentation, congratulating and thanking newly elected Commissioners and Officers and outgoing President Kingsbury for dedication and excellent leadership.



Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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

Update regarding PenMet Parks' work to advance water safety and aquatics program, acknowledging it is a top community priority, evidenced in PROS plan and study; provides brief timeline, noting the 2024 feasibility study was the first step to gather data, inform decisions and planning as part of the 20-year plan; funding source and sustainability plan are still needed; no timeline for completion but District will continue to listen to community and work to advance goals.

Some steps taken include, as part of PenMet's partnership with Tom Taylor YMCA provision of park vouchers, available to allow residents once monthly access to the pool; participation in drowning prevention day; reviewing potential opportunities, cost and funding strategies; continued advocacy for this project maintaining open community communications.

Website will be updated with resources and current projects and steps taken; will pay close attention to public comment tonight and will incorporate feedback.

ITEM 5 Special Presentations

5a. December 2025 Staff MVP (Making Values a Priority) Awards

Making Values a Priority (or MVP) Awards are given to PenMet Parks staff that take exemplary actions to embody one or more of PenMet Parks values, which include stewardship, inspiration, responsibility, collaboration, and integrity. Awards are given twice each year for each of the five values, along with a Safety Award. Staff are nominated for awards in each category and selected by a committee. The Safety Award recipient is selected by the District's Safety Committee.

The Board of Park Commissioners is pleased to recognize the December 2025 MVP and Safety award recipients: MVP for Stewardship, Antone DeMello, Facilities Specialist; MVP for Responsibility, Amanda Walston, Executive Assistant; MVP for Collaboration, Ryan Sparks, Recreation Coordinator; MVP for Inspiration, Lindsey Dumovich, Recreation Center Assistant Supervisor; MVP for Integrity, Kelly Galizio, Accounting Specialist; MVP for Safety, Todd Snider, Customer Service Assistant. Thank you, and Congratulations to all our MVPs.

5b. 2026 Budget Book

Director of Finance, Jessica Wigle, provides brief presentation of the Budget Book, noting it will be distributed in final physical form to Commissioners and posted on the website; this condensed version of the budget demonstrates how PenMet achieves its strategic goals and will be available in electronic and printed form. In addition, full budget detail is also available on the website

5c. October 2025 Financial Report

Director Wigle provides brief overview of budgeted and year-to-date revenue and expenses for October 2025.

Board Question: Was the revenue in October the highest for the 2025 year? **Answer:** Yes.

5d. Youth and Adult Sports - Summer/Fall 2025

Recreation Coordinator, Zack Brown, provides brief overview of 2025 Summer and Fall programming for youth and adult sports, including current and previous year participation levels, program format changes, survey and feedback results. Some highlights include:

Youth soccer survey showed improvement in most categories with slight decline for officiating; positive feedback on moving games to weekends, allowing all teams to have practice time on turf field.

Board Question: Did these changes help or increase capacity? **Answer:** Not necessarily more capacity but allowed more time on the turf, and reducing weather-related practice cancellations on other grass fields.

This year had enough participants to split into boys' and girls' divisions, which received positive feedback; we will explore shifting to earlier season, based on feedback regarding playing into late November.

Youth Flag Football saw 10-week season with new rules for variable points for touchdowns based on where they started the run and opportunities for defense to score points as well; survey showed growth in most categories with slight decline on officiating, which is contracted out for this program. Positive feedback for indoor play and coaching; next year explore splitting into separate boy and girls' divisions, with opportunity to feed into new State recognized sport for girls High School Flag Football; explore an adult division.

Junior All-Stars Pre-K program is curriculum based with focus on skill development, engaging kids; weeknight and Saturday morning sessions held onsite at Harborstone Field, with Rec staff instructors led to improved participation. Positive feedback received, with request to provide more information about the program on registration pages, consistent schedules.

Adult Co-ed Softball included competitive and rec divisions, with seasonal games plus playoffs. New Adult Co-ed Soccer and 4v4 Basketball received positive feedback; soccer to look at shifting from 7v7 to 6v6.

Upcoming items of note include: an Annual Youth Sports Calendar to provide a full year at a glance, subject to change; Spring Volleyball for grades 4-8; Spring Indoor Soccer for grades 2 – 8; Spring/Summer Pickleball for grades 6 – 12; Summer Sports Camps; 2026 Adult Sports including 4v4 Basketball and Volleyball.

2025 helped build interest with drop-in; hope to further develop league play.

Board Comment: Appreciate depth of the presentation; excited to see use of survey results and growth from last year to this year. There is a significant jump in improved communications. **Staff Comment:** Much credit goes to Alicia Arnott taking initiative and desire to improve the program to heart, helping build and grow the plan for communications.

Board Question: Indoor flag football previously had schedule challenges, was there any major change? **Answer:** Carving time to provide opportunities for practice or activity each day of the week to provide more flexibility.



Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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

ITEM 6 Board Committee Reports

6a. Park Services Committee – has not met since last meeting

6b. Finance Committee

Committee met 12/29/25.

State Auditor's Office conducts its audit every two years; SAO audit of 2023-2024 data began 11/15/25 with a pre-audit meeting, followed by formal engagement on 12/19/25 and meetings with Executive Director, Finance Director and Commissioner Sehmel; areas of focus to include procurement, accounts payable, open public meetings and general financial condition

Reviewed new fee schedule for copies of public records, effective 1/20/26.

Next meeting to be scheduled in 1st quarter 2026.

6c. Administrative Services Committee – has not met since last meeting

6d. Recreation Services Committee – has not met since last meeting

6e. Campaign Committee

Committee met 12/19/25; District Counsel Mark Roberts was present.

Discussed what draft agreements, Bylaws and Board Development with PenMet Parks Foundation will look like as we move forward;

Discussed capital campaign, which is 97% complete; closing out the year.

Next mtg 1/23/26.

6f. External Committees – none to report

ITEM 7 Public Comments:

Board Comment: We recognize and appreciate those who are here tonight; it has been a long meeting, and we look forward to hearing your comments.

SPEAKER: Randall Keith, 13727 4th Ave Ct, Gig Harbor

SPEAKER: Gina Hammer, 492 6th Ave, Fox Island

SPEAKER: Marisa Merritt, 7717 77th Ave NW, Gig Harbor

SPEAKER: Ash Rempt, Gig Harbor

SPEAKER: Tera Ireland, 14117 14th Ave NW, Gig Harbor

SPEAKER: Heather Maher, 2108 22nd Ave CT NW, Gig Harbor

SPEAKER: Rachel Rempt, 4 Raft Island Dr NW, Gig Harbor

SPEAKER: Betty Lilienthal, 3615 21st Ave NW, Gig Harbor

SPEAKER: Efrain Gonzales 6819 77th Ave NW. Gig Harbor

SPEAKER: Margaret Keith, 13727 4th Ave Ct, Gig Harbor

ITEM 8 Minutes

8a. Approval of December 2, 2025 Special Meeting Minutes



Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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

8b. Approval of December 2, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes

Commissioner moved to adopt the minutes as presented.
Commissioner seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

ITEM 9 Consent Agenda

9a. Approving November & December 2025 Vouchers

Commissioner moved to adopt the consent agenda as presented.
Commissioner seconded.

Roll Call Vote: Unanimously approved. Motion carried.

ITEM 10 Unfinished Business – there is none.

ITEM 11 New Business

11.1 Purchasing Resolutions Requiring One Reading for Adoption

11.2 Single Reading Resolutions Requiring One Reading for Adoption

11.3 Two Reading Resolutions Requiring Two Readings for Adoption

11.3a Resolution RR2026-01 Adopting Amended Policy P50-102: Financial Assistance Policy *(first reading)*

Commissioner moved to adopt the resolution as presented.
Commissioner seconded.

Director of Recreation Services, Tracy Gallaway, provides brief overview of proposed amendment, noting policy has undergone multiple amendments to broaden awareness and accessibility, resulting in progressive growth and participation; District has received requests to expand financial assistance rates to youth party rental package, which would provide meaningful impact to constituents.

Staff recommends approval.

Board Comment: Fully support this amendment; especially appreciate, as a parent and educator, seeing families who may not be able to host a party themselves due to financial need, and students don't always understand why they don't get to have fun parties and events like the ones they may have been able to attend.

Board Comment: Echoes fellow Commissioner's full support; thanks to staff for the mindset and willingness to listen and consider bringing this forward and finding new opportunities to meet and serve our community needs; envisioning more to be done through the Foundation.

Board Comment: Also fully support the amendment; this is a wonderful asset and fills a need in the community; has thought been given to whether seniors may be interested or possibly a future expansion to this.

Staff Comment: Not at this time, as this extends to a specific party rental package, but if the Board would like, we are happy to explore further.



Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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

Board Comment: Also initially thought about extending to seniors; understand after discussion that while we have other support avenues for seniors, this amendment will provide for youth parties.

Second reading will be at the January 20, 2026 meeting.

ITEM 12 Comments by Board

Thanks to Commissioner Kingsbury for demonstrating strong leadership over the past year; great appreciation for her comments and opinions, please continue to share; much gratitude for a wonderful year under her Presidency.

It is a tremendous honor to be voted President by fellow Commissioners to serve the public; really have something special in this district with its beautiful parks, wonderful programming and staff all strengthening our bond as a community.

ITEM 13 Next Board Meetings

January 20, 2026 - Study Session at 5:00 pm and Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm at PenMet Parks District Headquarters - 2416 14th Ave NW, Gig Harbor, WA 98335

ITEM 14 Executive Session

The Board of Park Commissioners will now meet in executive session for a period of 60 minutes for the purpose of considering the selection of a site or the acquisition of real estate by lease or purchase when public knowledge regarding such consideration would cause a likelihood of increased price pursuant to RCW 42.30.110 (b).

The estimated length of time for the executive session is 60 minutes.

The Board is not expected to take final action following the executive session.

The board is starting executive session at: 8:22 PM


The board ended the executive session at: 9:12 PM

ITEM 15 Adjournment Time: 9:12 PM

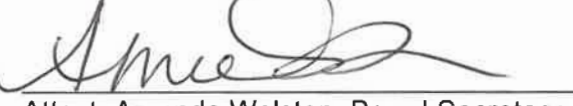
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS MEETING PROCEDURES

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 01/20/2026


William C. (Billy) Schmehl, Board President


Kurt Grimmer, Board Clerk


Attest: Amanda Walston, Board Secretary