



# Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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

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## REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

July 20, 2021, 6:00 PM

Sehmel Homestead Park, Volunteer Vern Pavilion (10123 78th Ave NW, Gig Harbor, WA, 98332)

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**Call to Order:** The meeting was called to order by President Babich at 6:00 pm

**Commissioners Present:**

Amanda Babich, President  
Kurt Grimmer, Clerk  
Maryellen (Missy) Hill  
Steve Nixon  
Laurel Kingsbury

**Staff:**

Ally Bujacich  
Chuck Cuzzetto  
Eric Guenther  
Stacie Snuffin  
Louise Tieman  
Matthew Kerns

**Attendees:**

Glenn Hansen  
Joan McNeil  
Sarah Stancikas  
Allen Benson  
Aaron Houston  
Vienna Lucas  
Bob McNeil

**Outside Staff:**

Curt Gimmestad

Entered into Executive Session at 7:10 pm

Entered back into Regular Session at 7:49 pm

**ITEM 1 Approval of Agenda**

Commissioner Kingsbury made a motion to approve the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Nixon. The agenda was approved with a 5-0 vote.

**ITEM 2 Citizen Comments**

Glenn Hansen, a neighbor to the Fox Island Fishing pier, expressed his concerns about eliminating the PenMet Parks Host program. He reported that he and a neighbor had communications with some of the commissioners regarding the matter. He expressed that he was confused by the decision and that there was a public process for having the park host program, but there's no public process for eliminating the program.

Joan McNeil commented on the DeMolay Sandspit property and expressed her concerns about the safety at the park, which includes traffic, parking, and after park hours, and wants to know PenMet's plans to address these issues.

Sarah Stancikas from the Swim Safe Campaign gave some background on how the group was started and its purpose. She gave an update on the Facebook group's growth since the last PenMet Board meeting and spoke about the newspaper writing about a drowning incident that happened at Horseshoe Lake. In addition, she read an article about swimming lessons and drowning statistics.



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Allen Benson commented on the limited space for swimming pools in the local area. He spoke about several individual swimming pools and gave information regarding accessibility, use, etc. In addition, he talked about the closing of the Tacoma Metro Parks Titlow pool and how the pool was the local staple for competitive swimming.

Aaron Houston spoke about the major problems of getting access to local pools, about not being able to be outside most of the year due to the weather and a nonprofit group he was a part of. He spoke about having a partnership between PenMet, local swim clubs, the city, county, and donors. He expressed his hope that PenMet will consider taking a look at this project.

Administrative Assistant Stacie Snuffin read public comments that were sent in via email:

Lauren Stephens's emailed that she is in support of sunsetting the park host/caretaker program at DeMolay Sandspit and the Fox Island Fishing Pier and explained why she was supporting that decision.

Billy Sehmel emailed questions that he had asked PenMet back in October 2020 regarding the park host program. He said that he received answers to some of the questions, but not all, and in his opinion, the host program probably isn't needed if it isn't bringing in any income revenue to the park district from the hosts or if it costs taxpayers any money.

Roy and Jackie Bean, who near the Fox Island Fishing Pier, emailed that they are concerned about the host program going away and that the cost savings may sound like a good idea, but for security and safety, it is a huge sacrifice, and they want to know what PenMet's plans are for how they will keep the park family-friendly and safe.

Dr. Peggy L. Power, a Fox island Fishing Pier neighbor, emailed that she has concerns about terminating the PenMet Park Host program. She wanted to know what PenMet plans to do about the opening and closing of the parks, the plan for securing the parks outside of the opening and closing hours, and the plan for managing patron behavior during open and closed hours.

Amanda Peterson, Candice Tong, and Rachael Criddle commented on their support for the Swim Safe Gig Harbor Campaign for the need for a public community pool or aquatic center and the development of the Peninsula Gardens property to include a plan for a community aquatic center.

Iris McFadden also commented on her support for the campaign and about her childhood memories of swimming, wanting her kids to build memories like she did, and the importance of swimming lessons.

Alisa Stigter emailed about her support for the Swim Safe Campaign and her fears for her daughters coming into a water situation that they will not know how to get out of and more options for local pools. She went on to write about the local pools.

Jen Wasankari emailed in and gave a brief childhood swimming history for herself and her children. She wrote that she heard from a friend about the Infant Swim Resource(ISR) and gave details about the program and doesn't believe the



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program exists in Washington anymore. She wrote that she supports the mission of developing a community pool.

The Miller's emailed that their family is in favor of Swim Safe's proposal to consider building a community pool.

Heather Maher thanked the Board for welcoming their group and beginning conversations about a public aquatic center. She wrote that over 200 more members had joined the campaign on Facebook. They now have an active petition for a public aquatic center in Gig Harbor and continue to be in conversations with PenMet on current developments and understand that a community project like this is a process.

Jennifer Noble emailed that she supports the Swim Safe Gig Harbor campaign for a public community pool or aquatic center in Gig Harbor.

All public comments emailed will be on record with the minutes.

## ITEM 3 Presentations

### 3a. Executive Director's Report

Executive Director Ally Bujacich gave a brief update and information on the SEEK funding program grant that PenMet applied for. Bujacich listed some of the items that the grant will pay for.

Bujacich proved an update on a maple tree at the DeMolay Sandspit that will be turned into a habitat spray. Discussion ensued, and Commissioner Kingsbury requested that PenMet replant a tree in that area.

### 3b. Monthly Finance Report

Interim HR & Finance Manager Louise Tieman gave the June financial report. Commissioners and Tieman had a discussion. Tieman gave an update on the Kids Need to Play! (KNP!) program.

### 3c. President's Report: None

## ITEM 4

### Consent Agenda

Commissioner Nixon made a motion to approve the consent agenda, seconded by Commissioner Grimmer. The agenda was approved with a 5-0 vote.

#### 4a. Approval of Minutes

07/6/21 Study Session and Regular Meeting

#### 4b. Approval of Vouchers

\$58,821.87 Reference Number: 210702001-210702027 except for 210702012, 201702015, and 210702018

## ITEM 5

### Unfinished Business: None

## ITEM 6

### New Business

#### 6a. R2021-016: Resolution Adopting the June 19, 2021, Board Retreat Goals and Objectives, Draft CIP, Board Committees, and Annual Board Calendar



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Executive Director Ally Bujacich gave a background and recommendation regarding Resolution R2021-016.

Commissioner Nixon made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-016 adopting the June 19, 2021, Board retreat outcomes, including goals and objectives, CIP priorities, policy priority schedule, Board committees, and annual Board calendar. Seconded by Commissioner Kingsbury. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

**6b. Resolution R2021-017: Authorizing the Executive Director to Negotiate and Sign the Agreement for Recruiting Services**

Executive Director Ally Bujacich gave a background and recommendation regarding Resolution R2021-017.

Commissioner Hill made the motion to approve Resolution 2021-017 authorizing the Executive Director to negotiate and sign the agreement for recruiting services. Seconded by Commissioner Nixon. President Babich expressed her support for hiring a recruiting service. The motion passed with a 5-0 vote.

**ITEM 7 Project Manager Update**

**7a. CRC Marketing Committee**

Bujacich reported that the committee had a further review of some donor software options and that they had opted to move the review and recommendation out of the committee and into administrative work. Bujacich also reported that the committee had reviewed a draft campaign brochure and discussed fundraising next steps.

**7b. CRC Finance Committee**

Project Manager Curt Gimmestad reported that the committee had met and discussed the CRC budget, went through line items of soft costs, discussed the project management role and on-site project management by Absher, and a schedule for some upcoming meetings.

**7c. Hale Pass Update**

Gimmestad reported that he would give a schoolhouse renovation update at the August 3, 2021, Board Meeting. In addition, he gave an update on the design and permitting timeline.

**ITEM 8 Comments by Board:**

Commissioner Nixon thanked President Babich for sitting in on the Compensation Connections meeting while he was gone, Commissioner Kingsbury for being at the Finance Committee meeting that he couldn't attend, and thanked Commissioner Grimmer for catching him up on the Finance Committee meeting.

Commissioner Kingsbury thanked Executive Director Ally Bujacich for all her work, effort, and leadership over the past few months. She also thanked the constituents who came and spoke at the meeting and appreciated their time. Kingsbury also commented that she had not yet visited all PenMet's parks and that she had



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recently visited Rotary Dog Park with her new puppies and talked about her positive experience while at the dog park.

President Babich commented on PenMet's board meetings being back in person since June and had allowed emailed public comment to be still taken while transitioning back into in-person meetings. Babich commented that PenMet would no longer be accepting public comments via email but will be taking public comments in person starting at the August 3, 2021, board meeting.

- ITEM 9 Next Board Meetings**  
Tuesday, August 3, 2021 (Study and Regular) Study Session at 5:00 and Regular Meeting at 6:00 pm at the CRC
- ITEM 10 Executive Session to discuss with legal counsel matters relating to litigation or potential litigation per RCW 42.30.110(1)(I).**
- ITEM 11 Adjournment:** President Babich adjourned the meeting at 7:50 pm

APPROVED BY THE BOARD ON: 8/3/2021

President

Clerk

Submitted By: Stace Snuffin

