

MINUTES
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION
Wednesday, April 7, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present (via Zoom webinar):

Parks Commission Members: Present-Chair Ben Coronado, Vice Chair Mary Barber, Louise Tieman, Roger Henderson, Nicole Hicks, Ben Lieurance, Anastasia Wright

Staff: Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm, Public Works Assistant Terri Garrison, Tourism & Communications Director Laura Pettit

Welcome to new Commissioner Anastasia Wright and recognizing the re-appointments of Mary Barber and Ben Lieurance for new 3-year terms.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of March 3, 2021 Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Move to approve the March 3, 2021 Parks Commission Minutes

Barber / Lieurance – motion passed unanimously

Introduction to Laura Pettit, Tourism/Communications Director

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Inventory of Parks Facilities Discussion (Update for 2022 PROS Plan) -**
Commissioner Tieman shared that the survey program data had been collected. This program was created to collect park inventory data to be used for the upcoming PROS Plan update. Public Works Director asked for three Commissioners to participate in a subcommittee to help with the PROS Plan update. He shared a draft schedule for completion of the update by the end of February 2022. Commissioners Barber, Henderson and Coronado volunteered to participate, with Lieurance as an alternate. Staff will coordinate scheduling of meetings starting in late April/early May. Survey inventory answers will be discussed at May meeting.
2. **Creating an Adopt-A-Park Program** – A list showing proposed Adopt-A-Park task details, group size and frequency of cleanups for each park was distributed. A resolution for recommending City Council adoption of the program to be proposed at the May meeting, then moved forward for Public Works Committee review. Public Outreach will be coordinated with Tourism & Communications department.

NEW BUSINESS

1. **Harbor History Museum Update** – Executive Director Stephanie Lile, provided a presentation of the museum history, current work/programming and capital plans coming up at the Museum.
2. **Ancich Human-Powered Storage** – Public Works Director Langhelm shared a draft layout for the inside storage facility. He asked the Commission to provide input on the lease terms for the public side of the building to include pay structure, security locks, type of crafts allowed and initial offering options. Ideas should be forwarded to staff by the morning of April 26th. To be discussed at May Parks Commission meeting.

PARKS UPDATE REPORT – Public Works Director Langhelm provided updates regarding proposed new signage for the Austin Park area, the Crescent Creek Park visioning process, and park donations. Commissioner Hicks mentioned the recent increase in cougar sightings in the vicinity of Crescent Creek Park. Sightings can be reported to the City. Chief Busey will work with the Operations department and Tourism and Communications to get the word out.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Commissioner Henderson gave an update on the Leafline Trails Coalition. The Coalition asked if the City would be willing to provide a signature of support to Washington's Congressional delegation to prioritize trails in infrastructure spending. Commissioner Henderson will forward request to staff for the Mayor's consideration.

PUBLIC COMMENT

Colene Acker, 3320 Lewis Street, Gig Harbor: I would like to make a suggestion for the skateboard park near city hall. Recently in the news, the city of Bonney Lake has started requiring skateboarders to wear helmets after one of their young people suffered severe head trauma. Isn't it time to start that requirement at Gig Harbor's skatepark? They are aware it will be difficult to enforce so one plan is to offer incentives to skateboarders wearing helmets. The Subway on Kimball would be a popular location for young people--close and inexpensive. If nothing else, at least the city is taking a stand that helmets should be worn for safety. Perhaps if required, more skateboarders would be encouraged to wear one--even if it's not cool.

The only park for kids in the city hall area is the small playground near the skateboard park. It really needs some updating. Even before the merry-go-round was wrapped in yellow tape, it barely moved. It took a huge effort to push the grandkids around. Perhaps it needs grease. The climbing structure is very small and appropriate for a toddler. If there's ever some extra park budget money, perhaps some money could be put into creating a larger more interesting structure in the city hall park.

Marlene Druker, 7010 Stanich Avenue, Gig Harbor: Pedestrian and Cyclist Advisory - Safety Concern - Crosswalk at Hollycroft Wye NW / Olympic Drive / Cushman Trail/ Cushman Trail Park. This comment is to bring public attention to a "dangerous by design" intersection within the City of Gig Harbor. The crosswalk connecting Cushman Trail Park to the section of Cushman Trail between Hollycroft Wye NW (as this street is labeled on maps) and 14th Avenue NW has been the site of several collisions and many "near-misses". This crosswalk is part of Cushman trail, the majority of which is a City of Gig Harbor park. (map view attached)

The lack of traffic control for cars turning right onto Hollycroft Wye NW from Olympic Drive and the large radius of the curve at this corner encourages high speeds and a trend of drivers failing to notice crosswalk users. The drivers wishing to make a left onto Olympic have a stop sign in their direction. They also have a difficult angle to view Olympic and try to find an opening in traffic in both directions. They also often fail to notice crosswalk users.

This configuration is unsafe and I believe the city would be held liable if someone was seriously injured there. I am calling upon you to remedy this flawed intersection in an effective way before this occurs. Signage has been shown to have little or no effect. Please consider closing this spur to traffic or at least trying blocking it off on a trial basis. This area could be eventually be re-purposed as part of the park and/or as a parking area for the park. Directing turning vehicular traffic to at the traffic light at Hollycroft street, just on the other side of Cushman Trail Park, would also improve safety for people in motor vehicles. The city being unwilling to take action would show a disgraceful lack of regard for human life, which does not reflect my values or, I believe, the values of the people who live here. Thank you for giving this serious issue serious consideration.

ADJOURN

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 7:59 p.m.

Henderson / Barber - Motion passed unanimously