

MINUTES
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION
Wednesday, February 3, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present (via Zoom webinar):

Mayor Kit Kuhn, Jennifer Keating, Brandon Rayon, Amber Hayward (Puyallup Tribe of Indians)

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

Staff: Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm, Public Works Assistant Terri Garrison

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of January 6, 2021 Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Move to approve the January 6, 2021 Parks Commission Minutes

Barber / Lieurance – motion passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Restoring a Park Name** – Mayor Kuhn provided an overview of the proposal and the history of the work that the Ad Hoc Committee has gathered to date. Brandon Reynon and Commissioner Tieman presented the research from the Committee and provided the Committee’s recommendation. Jennifer Keating and Amber Hayward provided background from the Puyallup Tribe’s perspective on history of the area and language and spelling clarification. The Parks Commission members provided their input and asked clarifying questions.

Public Hearing:

Paul Kadzik: Provided comments in support of the proposal and the naming proposed.

Linda Pitcher: Mentioned efforts to connect with the tribe and provided some history of the work that has been done to date.

Council Member Denson: Thanked the Ad Hoc Committee for their work and the desire to educate the public.

Council Member Himes: Added that this is substantial step just to get to this point.

Stephanie Lile, Director of Harbor History Museum: Thanked the Puyallup Tribe

members and other that have worked on this project. Provided ideas for different avenues to get this message out to the community.

MOTION: Move that Parks Commission recommends naming of txwaalqəf (twa-al-cuth) Estuary, which includes the Donkey Creek watershed, including the 7+ acre estuary, the Gig Harbor History Museum site, and the lands in and around Donkey Creek Park (see draft map) that may be named “txwaalqəf (twa-al-cuth) Estuary” in recognition of the historic sxwəbabš (sk-WHUH-babsh) village site and ask that this be placed into the form of a resolution to City Council.

Tieman / Barber –

MOTION: Move to amend the original motion to add:

Rename “Austin Estuary Park” to “Austin Park”. Recognition of the ancestral homelands of the sxwəbabš Peoples. The Parks Commission asks the City Historic Certified Local Government representatives (CLGs), in consultation with the Puyallup tribe, to recommend an area within the Gig Harbor waterfront to designate as ancestral homelands of the sxwəbabš (sk-WHUH-babsh) peoples. The Parks Commission asks the CLGs to work with the Puyallup Tribe and the City Planning Department to name the region “Ancestral Homelands of the sxwəbabš.” This would be an honorary designation for educational and awareness purposes only, with no regulatory impact.

Tieman / McDaniel –

Original Motion withdrawn

MOTION: Move to rename Austin Estuary Park to Austin Mill Park

Barber / Coronado –

Motion rescinded

Roll call vote on amended motion: Ben Coronado-no, Mary Barber-no, Louise Tieman-aye, Sara McDaniel-no, Roger Henderson-no, Nicole Hicks-no, Ben Lieurance-aye – Motion failed

MOTION: Move to recommend to City Council naming of txwaalqəf (twa-al-cuth) Estuary. The 7+ acre estuary, including the mouth of Donkey Creek, the Harbor History Museum site, and the lands in and around Donkey Creek Park (see red boundary on draft map) may be named “txwaalqəf (twa-al-cuth) Estuary” in recognition of the historic sxwəbabš (sk-WHUH-babsh) village site.

Rename “Austin Estuary Park” to “Austin Park”. Recognition of the ancestral homelands of the sx Peoples. The Parks Commission asks the City Historic Certified Local Government representatives (CLGs), in consultation with the Puyallup tribe, to recommend an area within the Gig Harbor waterfront to designate as ancestral homelands of the sxwəbabš (sk-WHUH-babsh) peoples. The Parks Commission asks the CLGs to work with the Puyallup Tribe and the City Planning Department to name the region “Ancestral Homelands of the sxwəbabš.” This would be an honorary

designation for educational and awareness purposes only, with no regulatory impact, and ask that this be placed into resolution format for presentation to Council.

Barber / Henderson – Motion passed unanimously

NEW BUSINESS

1. Parks Appreciation Day Discussion (pandemic-aware) – It was proposed that this annual event be moved to a date sometime in the fall.
2. Inventory of Parks Facilities Discussion (Update for 2022 PROS Plan) – Commissioner Tieman will forward the inventory document to be shared at the March meeting.

PARKS UPDATE REPORT – Public Works Director Jeff Langhelm provided an update on the status of current park projects/proposals.

COMMITTEE REPORTS – Commissioner Henderson gave an update that the next Leafline Trails meeting will be February 25th.

PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURN

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 8:41 p.m.

Lieurance / Henderson - Motion passed unanimously