



Parks & Recreation

PARKS ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Zoom Meeting

Tuesday January 13, 2026, Meeting Start 3:00 p.m.

1. Call to Order
 - A. The Chair called the meeting to order at 3:07 p.m.
2. Roll Call: – **Attachment A**
 - A. Voting Board Members; Staff; Guests/Presenters
 - a. The Chair asked board members and staff present to introduce themselves.
 - B. Introduction of Guests
 - a. The Chair asked members of the public and invited guests to introduce themselves.
3. Election of 2026 Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary
 - A. The 2025 Chair explains the process of electing new Parks Advisory Board officers. The Chair calls for nominations for the offices of Chair, Vice Chair, and Secretary.
 - B. Board Member Carolyn "Dode" Carlson, nominates Board Member Dusty Dionne for the office of 2026 Chair. Board Member, Lindsey Haight seconds the nomination. After discussion, the 2025 Chair asks for a vote for the office of 2026 Chair. The vote is unanimous. The motion passes. The 2026 Board Chair is Dusty Dionne.
 - C. Board Member Dusty Dionne nominates Board Member Jennifer Friess for the office of 2026 Vice Chair. Board Member Lindsey Haight, seconds the nomination. After discussion, the 2025 Chair asks for a vote for the office of 2026 Vice Chair. The vote is unanimous. The motion passes. The 2026 Board Vice Chair is Jennifer Friess.
 - D. Board Member Dusty Dione nominates Board Member Lindsey Haight for the office of 2026 Secretary. Board Member Holly Hernandez, seconds the nomination. After discussion, the 2025 Chair asks for a vote for the office of 2026 Secretary. The vote is unanimous. The motion passes. The 2026 Board Secretary is Lindsey Haight.
4. Review & Approve of Meeting Minutes
 - A. Review of November 18, Regular Meeting Minutes – **Attachment B**
 - a. Meeting minutes were not available and will be approved at the next regular meeting when available.
5. Public Hearings/Public Meetings (2 minutes) – **Attachment C**
 - A. The Chair asks Parks Division Manager Rich Patton to report on public hearings, meetings, and events of interest to the members of the board. Mr. Patton encourages members of the board to visit the Snohomish County Department of Conservation and Natural Resources, Parks and Recreation Division, Current Park Projects page (Link: <https://www.snohomishcountywa.gov/2703/Current-Park-Projects>) to review updates on current capital projects. Mr. Patton reported that the East County Park and Recreation District Maltby meeting is scheduled for today. See Attachment C for regularly schedule meetings.

6. Public Comments

- A. The Chair asks members of the public, guests, and staff in attendance if anyone would like to offer public comments. The Chair explains that each speaker should state their name and organization (if any) and then offer their comments. There is a 2-minute time limit per speaker.
 - i. First & Last Name Nathan Moore, Organization Northshore Soccer Association- Summary of speaker's comments: Here to listen and interested in the conversation about Ball fields.

7. Park Director's Time

- A. Parks Division Director Sharon Walker offered the following remarks. Happy New Year. As a follow up to Mr. Moore interests Ms. Walker shared that Parks is Partnering with East County Park and Rec District to providing funds to address the need for more ball fields in the South County areas. Principal Park Planner Carol Ohlfs, starting an effort to survey the ball field needs around Snohomish County.
- B. Ms. Walker shared that there has been great success with the roll out of the new reservation system on January 5th. There are already \$70,000.00 of reservations with significantly fewer phone calls to the front desk. The application has increased efficiency and customer service staff are proud of the team that made this happen. The effort has been a huge success!
- C. Ms. Walker also wanted to thank the Parks and Recreation Division team for their response to the recent flooding. The Fair Park staff really stepped up and responded with all the support of the community.
- D. Ms. Walker shared that the Parks and Recreation Division Team has responded to invitation by the Tulalip Tribes Tabling Event in March. This is great opportunity for Parks Advisory Board Members to be involved. The Park Ranger Core represented the Parks and Recreation Division last year. The Parks Advisory Board Members who expressed interest in participating include board members Dusty Dione, Lindsey Haight, and Stephen Heiss.
- E. Ms. Walker reported that Parks and Recreation Division staff have been working with the Executives Office and some cities and towns about exploring the possibility of a countywide parks levy. An outreach process is planned to begin in the next few months. A countywide public survey will be conducted to measure the level of community support for a parks levy. One of the goals of the survey will be to measure public interest geographically and to determine what their support is for. The Parks Advisory Board will play an important role in public outreach and there will be more to come about that role soon.
- F. Emergency Operations

8. General Business:

A. Introduction of Jake Slade

- i. The Chair calls on Parks Division Director to introduce Staff Member Jake Slade, Project Specialist III, Parks & Recreation Division. Mr. Slade then briefly describes the work he has been hired to do for DCNR, Parks and Recreation Division. Jake joined the meeting and introduced himself. He has been in the position for 6 mos. focusing sponsorships and partnership primarily at the Fair Park. He commended the Board for their work. Sharon added strong opportunity for sponsorships. Jake asked Members to reach out to him

B. Program of Work for 2026 – **Attachment D**

- i. Capital Projects & Planning Policies to be Reviewed in 2026
 - 1) The Chair called on Parks Division Manager Rich Patton and Planning Supervisor Rachel Dotson to discuss opportunities for board members to participate beyond attending board meetings.

- a. Ms. Dotson talked about work on a park signage policy. There is opportunity for Parks Advisory Board members to sit on the advisory committee. There will be two or three meetings and work on developing the policy. Board members Lindsey Haight, Dusty Dionne, Holly Hernandez and Yvonne Gallardo expressed interest.
- b. Ms. Dotson is also looking for someone to participate in the steering committee for upcoming Paradise Valley Trail preferred plan and public outreach in District 5. Kevin Cronk is interested in participating.
- c. Ms. Dotson plans to request RCO grant application support letters from the board for 4 to 5 projects including the Mountain Bike Park, Kayak Point Park and Paradise Valley Conservation Area. Board members Lindsay Haight and Dusty Dionne are interested.
- d. Ms. Dotson and her team will request Parks Advisory Board member assistance with public outreach and review of several new projects including playground projects, Food & Farming Center, Carousel Ranch, CT South, County Wide Athletic Field Study, Kayak Campground Concept Design, Silver Creek Park Preferred Plan, Snohomish River Regional Trail. Board members Lindsay Haight, Yvonne Gallardo are interested.
- e. Ms. Dotson stated that Principal Park Planner Carol Ohlfs will be developing the next Capital Improvement Plan this summer and is interested in assistance from Parks Advisory Board Members. Board members Kevin Cronk and Holly Hernandez are interested.
- f. Ms. Dotson stated that Principal Park Planner Carol Ohlfs will be revising and updating the Level of Service Standards this summer and plans to share them out with the Parks Advisory Board. Board members Stephen Heise, Lindsay Haight and Holly Hernandez are interested.
- g. Lord Hill and Bike Park - Stephen Heise

2) Budget and Finance

- a. Parks Division Director Sharon Walker and Parks Division Manager Rich Patton commented that they plan to bring the proposed Parks Division budget to the Parks Advisory Board sometime in the spring for review.
- ii. Other Parks Division Policies to be Reviewed in 2026
 - 1) The Chair called on Parks Division Manager Rich Patton and Parks Division Director Sharon Walker to discuss DCNR Parks Division policies to be brought to the board for review in 2026. Parks Division Director Sharon Walker and Parks Division Manager Rich Patton commented that they plan to bring policies to the Parks Advisory Board for review on an as-needed basis in 2026.
 - iii. Which Staff to Report to Parks board and How Often?
 - 1) The Chair called on Parks Division Manager Rich Patton to discuss with the members of the board which parks staff and teams should report to the Board and how frequently the board would like to hear from them. Discussion followed. The members of the board agreed by consensus that they would like to focus primarily on agenda items and reports where the board is asked to review and provide advice and feedback on Parks Division policies, programs and capital projects.

Comments about Future Agenda Items and PAB Members role

- Yvonne Gallardo-Van Ornam (Dist. 1) Find ways to better participate with staff on the Long Range Planning
- Carolyn Carlson (Dist. 2) Appreciated all that has been said by others members She shared that she shares and likes on the Parks Facebook. She is also interested in FFC and presentations by Maintenance
- Lindsey Haight (Dist. 3) Give us things to do! I appreciate learning but would like to participate more actively.
- David Green (Dist. 4) Would like more regular updates about Capital improvements. Suggests that PAB be more involved at 30% design so we have a voice in some of the amenities/decisions. Bring what you need advice on.
- Stephen Heise (Dist. 5) Hearing about what is changing Food and Farming Center Updates Budgeting and Long Range Planning.
- David Divoky (At Large) Business background, more clarity around budgeting and long range planning. How can we bring our expertise? Actionable
- Grant Harrington (At Large)
- Kevin Cronk (At Large) Top 3 Budget and funding cycle Understanding the scope of work of Maintenance & Operations, conversations with SWM
- Jennifer Friess (At Large) (Vice-Chair)
- Holly Hernandez (At Large) (Secretary) be involved with long range planning; understanding how projects are prioritized. Be more in front of the decisions. Where can we help decide about the future.
- Dusty Dionne (At Large) (Chair) Audience with Dave Sommers and the Council so we can tell them what people are telling us.

C. Meetings – Does Board Move to Digital Only Meetings?

Rich & Board

- i. The Chair called on Parks Division Manager Rich Patton to discuss with the members of the board whether to switch board meetings to all or mostly virtual meetings.
- ii. Discussion followed. The pros and cons were discussed.
- iii. Board Member David Divoky moved that the Parks Advisory Board would meet virtually for most of its meetings except for the May and October meetings which would be in person. Board Member Yvonne Gallardo-Van Ornam seconded the motion. Discussion followed. Board Member Dusty Dione moved to amend the motion on the table to (1) make the May and October PA Board meetings hybrid rather than in-person only, and (2) make the February PA Board meeting in-person only for purposes of a group photo. Board Member Holly Hernandez seconded the amendment to the motion. The Chair asked for any further discussion on the main motion. Hearing none, the Chair asked for a vote on the main motion. The motion passed unanimously. The February PA Board meeting will be in-person only for a group photo. The May and October meetings will be hybrid, and the remainder of the meetings will be digital only.

- D. The Chair called on Cabot Fuqua, Facility Coordinator II, Parks and Recreation Division, to provide an update on the new online reservation system and the quantity of reservations to date. Mr. Fuqua presented the following report. The new reservation system opened in the first half of the year on Jan 5 2026. The second half of the year will start in February. We sold \$30,000 worth of reservations on the 1st day and only received two phone calls. By staggering the release, it minimizes the overload of the system and the complexity of refunds. The system also provides other capabilities such as getting the messaging out there. Alerts about specific parks, announcing closures, notifying customers to update their information.
- E. Board Member Stephen Heise asked if there was any push back on prices for camping? Mr. Fuqua replied that there was no pushback whatsoever from customs. Mr. Fuqua proposed a change we might consider next year when we reevaluated the fee schedule would be to drop the taxes on the rental fee on cabins and yurts. Parks Division Manager Rich Patton added appreciation for all the staff that worked on the roll out of the new system. They built a cool system that really serves the public well!

9. Board Roundtable – **Attachment E**

10. Adjournment.

- A. The Chair moved to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Board Member Stephen Heise. The meeting was adjourned at 5:10 PM.

ADA Notice: Snohomish County facilities are accessible. Accommodations for persons with disabilities, sign language interpreters and communications materials in alternate form will be provided upon advance request. Please make arrangements one week prior to the hearing by calling the Park Department office, 425-388-6602.

David McConnell is inviting you to a scheduled Zoom meeting.

Topic: 2026 January Parks Advisory Board Virtual Meeting - Tuesday, January 13, 2026 at 3:00 PM

Time: Jan 13, 2026 03:00 PM Pacific Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/82743233837?pwd=O1TflDn916sNqWHLBkcNSgOb8ku1ne.1>

Meeting ID: 827 4323 3837

Passcode: 410524

One tap mobile

+12532158782,,82743233837#,,,,*410524# US (Tacoma)

+12063379723,,82743233837#,,,,*410524# US (Seattle)

Join by SIP

• 82743233837@zoomcrc.com

Passcode: 410524

Join instructions

<https://us02web.zoom.us/join/82743233837/invitations?signature=eLM-5BQUGIsEHPmDeR54vHkHmdXoVoBVKUMAhpeRyrk>

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Parks & Recreation

ATTACHMENT A:

Action Item - Attendance roll call by Recording Secretary

Voting Board Members

Board Member	District/Roll	Present/Absent
Yvonne Gallardo-Van Ornam	(Dist. 1)	p
Carolyn "Dode" Carlson	(Dist. 2)	p
Lindsey Haight	(Dist. 3)	p
David Green	(Dist. 4)	p
Stephen Heise	(Dist. 5)	p
Kevin Cronk	(At Large)	p
David Divoky	(At Large)	A
Grant Harrington	(At Large)	P
Jennifer Friess	(At Large) (Vice Chair)	A
Holly Hernandez	(At Large) (Secretary)	P
Dusty Dionne	(At Large) (Chair)	p

Staff

Staff Member	Title/Roll	Present/Absent
Dave McConnell	Associate Park Planner & Board Liaison	p
Sharon Walker	Parks & Recreation Division Director	p
Rich Patton	Parks & Recreation Division Manager	p
Jacob Slade	Project Specialist III, Parks & Recreation Division	p
Cabot Fuqua	Facility Coordinator II	p

Guest Presenters & Guests

Guest Name	Title, Organization/Roll/Public	Present/Absent

ATTACHMENT B:

Action Item 1 - Review and approval of November 18, 2025, Parks Advisory Board regular meeting minutes.

Meeting minutes to be provided when available.

ATTACHMENT C:

Information Item - Upcoming Public Hearings/Meetings

A. Standalone Meetings, Hearings or Events:

- (1) Maltby Recreation District Board Meeting – January 13, 2026
- (2) Paradise Valley Trailhead Open House or Public Meeting – Soon, TBD
- (3) More information on current park projects can be found on the [‘Current Park Projects’](#) webpage.

B. Reoccurring meetings:

- (1) [Arts Commission](#), meets 6:30 PM, third Monday of each month
 - (2) [Conservation Futures Program Advisory Board](#), meets twice per year. Next meeting is a special meeting to be held in October, date and time TBD.
 - (3) [Evergreen State Fair Advisory Board](#), meets 7:00 p.m. second Tuesday of each month
 - (4) [Historic Preservation Commission](#), meets 7:00 PM, on the third Tuesday of the month
 - (5) [Planning Commission](#), meets 5:30 PM, the fourth Tuesday of each month
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ATTACHMENT D:

Action Item – Program of Work for 2026

1. The Parks Advisory Board will work with Rich Patton, Sharon Walker, and others to plan the work of the board in 2026. Items to plan may include, but are not limited to:
 - a. Capital Projects & Planning Policies to be Reviewed in 2026 Rich & Rachel
 - i. Opportunities from Rachel Dotson:
 - 1) *Park Sign Standards* - Having 1-2 representatives be part of the Advisory Committee on the development of Park Sign Standards. I could also invite the whole board to the Advisory Committee Meetings. The 3rd and my least preferred option would be that I can come to the PAB 3 times throughout the year to present and gather their feedback.
 - 2) *Paradise Valley* – participation in the steering committee and public outreach
 - 3) *RCO Grant Application Letters of Support* – Lord Hill, Mountain Bike Park, Kayak Phase 3, Paradise Valley(?)
 - 4) *Public Outreach and Review* - Continued participation in public outreach and review, or project share-out, of the following existing and new projects: playground projects, Food & Farming Center, Carousel Ranch, CT South, County Wide Athletic Field Study, Kayak Campground Concept Design, Silver Creek Park Preferred Plan, Snohomish River Regional Trail, etc.
 - 5) *Capital Improvement Plan Development* – Development of the Capital Improvement Plan (Carol O in the summer)
 - 6) *Level of Service Standards* - Level of Service standards share-out (Carol O in the summer)

- b. Other Parks Division Policies to be Reviewed in 2026
 - c. Which Staff to Report to Parks board and How Often?
 - d. Meetings – Does Board Move to Digital Only Meetings?
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Rich & Sharon
Rich & Board
Rich & Board

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A. Comments

- Yvonne Gallardo-Van Ornam (Dist. 1) - Look for Nat Nehring 60 second videos great video on Updates at Kayak Point. Next week he will be at Jensen Park out in Arlington. Next Save the date September 19th for 3rd Annual Hispanic Heritage Event. Hope to see you there!
- Carolyn Carlson (Dist. 2) - Dusty thanks for running again and for Lindsey for stepping up.
- Lindsey Haight (Dist. 3) - Thank you Sharon for updating us about the flood response. Give me comfort that we are looking out for one another. Looking forward to this next year.
- David Green (Dist. 4) - no comment
- Stephen Heise (Dist. 5) - If Jake is still on, I would like to offer to join him at sponsorships meetings as a representative of the PAB. Heard speakers from the Pollinators Pathway NW Group from Woodinville. Great information about the state of pollinators in our area. would like to see Parks provide space in the parks to collaborate.
- David Divoky (At Large) - Enjoying the group with lots of good ideas, great collaboration. Let's keep doing it.
- Grant Harrington (At Large) - Absent
- Kevin Cronk (At Large) - no comment
- Jennifer Friess (At Large) (Vice-Chair) - Absent
- Holly Hernandez (At Large) (Secretary) - A question for Jake wanting to hear examples of the connections he has made with new sponsorships Would like to have an idea of what they look like and ideas about who we could send to him.
- Dusty Dionne (At Large) (Chair) - An honor to serve with you all, look forward to continuing to serve.

End of Board Packet