

CITY OF EVERETT  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING  
September 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2024  
4:45 P.M. – 6:45P.M.  
Virtual Teams Meeting

Roll Call

Adoption of the Meeting Agenda for September 3<sup>rd</sup> 2024

Adoption of Meeting Minutes from April 2<sup>nd</sup> 2024

|                          |            |
|--------------------------|------------|
| Commissioner Report      | 10 minutes |
| Parks Director Comments  | 5 minutes  |
| Council Liaison Comments | 5 minutes  |
| Citizen Comments         | 5 minutes  |

INFORMATION

|   |            |
|---|------------|
| Annual Capital Improvement Project Update | 60 minutes |
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| Grant Update | 10 minutes |
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| Budget Update | 10 minutes |
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New Business

Adjourn

Next Meeting  
November, 5<sup>th</sup> 2024

MISSION STATEMENT:

"The Parks and Recreation mission is to bring all Everett citizens and visitors together on our common grounds and facilities. We provide a wide variety of quality recreational and park experiences that welcome everyone. We measure our success by customer satisfaction, efficiency and community development of our public spaces and recreation services that meet the values and needs of our citizens and visitors. We provide parks, play fields, recreation amenities, trails and pools that are attractive, clean, safe, and accessible."

CITY OF EVERETT  
BOARD OF PARK COMMISSIONERS AND TREE COMMITTEE MEETING  
April 2, 2024  
4:45 P.M. – 6:45P.M.  
Virtual Teams Meeting

**Board Members Present:** Emma Stone, Erica Dias, Tari Hayes, Bill Quinlan, Will Kaage

**Board Members Absent:** Jacob Close, Sergiy Ryzhonkov

**Staff Present:** Bob Leonard, Parks and Facilities Director, Kimberly Moore, Assistant Parks Director, Cory Rettenmier, Park and Golf Manager, Ruben Sanchez, Capital Projects Manager, Andie Allred, Recreation Supervisor, Emily Young, Administrative Coordinator

**Guests Present:** Daren Goehring, Seattle Outboard Association, Eileen Simmons, Evergreen Arboretum Association, Tammy Dunn, Snohomish County Sports Commission, Jan Shaw, Max and Leah; residents of the Silver Lake area.

**Acceptance of Meeting Agenda:** Motion/Second/Approved (m/s/a) unanimously to accept the agenda for April 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2024.

**Review and Acceptance of Minutes:** Motion/Second/Approved (m/s/a) to approve the February 6<sup>th</sup>, 2024, Meeting Minutes

**Park Board/Tree Committee Member Reports:**

Board Chair Erica Dias commented that the recent work party scheduled at Hannahbrook park was cancelled due to rain. She shared that she was excited to attend this work party because she had never been to this park and she believes working in them is a great way to get to know them. She is hopeful that this work party will get rescheduled in the future. She went on to share appreciation and praise for Park Ranger Hunter West, who presented at the Mayor's City of Everett Drug Task Force meeting. She shared that Ranger West carefully and tactfully presented the challenges and opportunities associated with life as a Park Ranger as it relates to the drug crisis. She shared that he displayed finesse, and he discussed the different scenarios that can be experienced out in the field. He told evoking stories about a litter of puppies found while doing this work and the need to administer Narcan among other different scenarios. She stated that Ranger West was able to talk about the drug crisis' complex issues and needs in a way that got the point across with data-based information that wasn't offensive at all. He spoke from a lens of public safety, community, family, and environment. His presentation covered all areas of life that are affected by the drug crisis, and she commended him on a job well done. She also shared that she learned that Everett's Park Rangers are trained through the Parks Law Enforcement Academy (PLEA). This training really came through in Ranger West's presentation as he did a fantastic job representing the Parks and the City of Everett as a whole. Commissioner Emma Stone shared that she visited Clark Park recently and it just so happened that there was a Bees and Bloom event in progress. She discussed with some people at this event their excitement about the proposed dog park and she also heard some ambivalence about the gazebo as well. Commissioner Bill Quinlan shared that he went to a recent Bayside community gathering and was pleased to visit with all types of people at this event. He was happy to see the public, families, members of Everett Police Department, and even some of the mayor's staff in attendance. He shared his sentiment that we are fortunate to have such a wonderful community. Commissioner Will Kaage share that he and his daughter visited Doyle Park together.

**Director Report:**

Director Leonard shared that he and Assistant Director Kimberly Moore went before the Historical Commission twice since the last Park Board meeting with the intention of discussing and hearing feedback on the proposed plans for the Clark Park Gazebo. At the first meeting, Parks presented on the general concept and plans for the park and at the second meeting, detailed visuals of the proposed changes to the Clark Park Gazebo area were shared. Director Leonard shared that there were still some questions about the Historical Commissions systems of operation and how they would determine what they should be voting on. Because of this internal ambiguity, they chose not to vote on the proposals put forth by Parks. Director Leonard shared that Administration will be going back before the Historical Commission in April to get more feedback. Overall, the general consensus is that Historical Commission does not support the removal of the gazebo while the Bayside Neighborhood is supportive of the removal. Generally, there is an overall support of the dog park at Clark Park. Director Leonard went on to share that Wiggims Park renovations will likely be complete at the end of April and a grand opening celebration is tentatively planned in May. Construction of the

playground at Phil Johnson will soon begin and we hope to have this grand opening scheduled this summer as well. We will keep the Board up to date on these timelines and Commissioners are encouraged to attend these grand openings once the dates are established. Director Leonard updated the Board on several items that Parks and Facilities will soon be bringing before Council. He shared that Parks will soon bring forward to Council a funding ordinance for lighting at Jackson Park. This lighting would be located in the parking lots, around the dog park, and at one of the shelters. This ordinance will cover costs of additional lighting, upgrades of existing lighting, and motion sensors. Parks will also bring forward to Council a funding ordinance for improvements of the existing course as well as the expansion of disc golf at Thornton A. Sullivan Park. This expansion will add three holes across the street from the existing course. Director Leonard shared that we are excited to activate this space and expand our disc golf offering. Parks will also bring forward to Council a funding ordinance for repairs of the dock at Thornton A. Sullivan Park. Parks will be asking Council to accept an interlocal agreement with Snohomish County Conservation Futures for the award of over \$2,200,000 to purchase property in the Holly neighborhood for use as a future storm water park. Parks will also put forward five resolutions to Council for the approval to apply for several grants during this granting cycle. Parks intends to apply for a Youth Athletic Facilities grants (YAF) and Community Outdoor Athletic Facility (COAF) grants that will add twelve pickleball courts: eight pickleball courts on existing converted courts and four new courts designed for regulation play at Forest Park. Parks also intends to apply for a YAF grant for renovations to the Howarth Park Sport Court and a YAF grant to create a Skate Dot at Lions Park. This Skate Dot will include a half pipe, quarter pipe, and grinding curbs and 150 lineal feet of dedicated meandering skate sidewalk. Additionally, a COAF grant will be applied for to fund a RAVE Futsal Court at Walter E. Hall Park. Project development will include surfacing, striping, soccer goals, fencing, and signage. This project would replace the underutilized baseball field with a dedicated futsal court that will be open to the community and not available to rent. A Washington and Wildlife Recreation Program grant will be pursued for renovations at Edgewater Park including a new multi-use sport court, children's play area with accessible surfacing, informal basketball surface, open play field, and perimeter walking path, as well as enhanced tree canopy, fencing, and other site amenities. And lastly, Parks intends to apply for an Aquatic Lands Enhancement Account grant for work on the realignment of the south section of the Lowell River Trail. This would include replacement and realignment of the deteriorating riverside trail with a wetland boardwalk, interpretive signage, and shoreline remediation and restoration.

At the close of Director comments, it was discussed that Parks supports skating as a valuable recreational outlet. Director Leonard responded to inquiries about the skate dot, defining it as an area that may not be fully designated as a skate park but rather a place where skating is allowed on existing hard surfacing. It was discussed that maintenance to an area like this is low once the skate area is initially developed. Commissioners inquired about pump tracks in Everett, and it was discussed that while we do not currently have a pump track for bike use, we would like to see one in our inventory in the future. It was discussed that the above listed grants require 25-50% fund matching and that Parks does have proposed budgets for these matching requirements.

**Council Liaison Report:** No Report.

#### **Citizen Comments:**

Tammy Dunn, Snohomish County Sports Commission, shared a bit about her organization which brings sports to Everett and Snohomish County. She shared their purpose in improving quality of life through sports and getting people active. She shared that she is excited to hear of the expansion of disc golf and the grants applications that Parks will be submitting. She shared that her organization would be happy to write letters of support on behalf of Parks for these grants.

#### **Arboretum Update**

Eileen Simmons, Evergreen Arboretum Association President, shared her PowerPoint presentation reporting on the Arboretum updates from the previous year. She shared a brief history of the Arboretum by sharing that it was founded in 1963 by the Everett Garden Club and that the Evergreen Arboretum Association is a Volunteer 501c3 managed mostly by volunteer work (2330 volunteer hours in 2023!). She shared updates to the backyard garden project which included a new patio, drainage improvements, and irrigation improvements. Soil is scheduled to be added to the site this spring. She also touched on the renovation of the gravel paths throughout the Arboretum and expressed that the association is thrilled with the facelift to the Arboretum classroom. This update to the classroom building was completed by an Eagle Scout candidate who painted the building. A new HVAC unit was also installed, and Parks rebuilt the old ramps into the building. Eileen reviewed the multitude of uses that the Arboretum sees including celebrations, art creation, art display, Wintertide lights, photography, walking, bird watching, and outdoor classroom uses. The Arboretum's annual plant sale and grant funding are their main revenue generating sources, but it was discussed that this will certainly be the last year that funds for COVID relief will be received. She shared that they are pleased to work with the Everett Library, Imagine Childrens Museum, Everett Parks, and other supporting community partners who make the Arboretum experience possible. She shared the associations goals for 2024-2025 which included pathway renovation, continuing the backyard garden renovation, and additions to the Maple Grove. She invited Board members to attend

upcoming events this year such as the Sculpture Walk, Wintertide Lights, and potentially a Jack-o-lantern themed event in October. Eileen encouraged board members to visit <https://www.evergreenarboretum.com/> for more information.

### **Volunteer Program Presentation**

Recreation Supervisor, Andie Allred, reviewed a brief history of the volunteer program by explaining that Green Everett was formerly a joint partnership between Everett and Forterra, but this partnership has ended, and Green Everett has been rebranded as a city run program. Andie shared her visual on Green Everett which showed that in 2023, Parks had 231 volunteers: 52 from Green Everett and 179 from work parties. This totaled in 992 volunteer hours: 400 from Green Everett and 592 from work parties. She shared that Green Everett Day 2024 is scheduled for October 12<sup>th</sup> at Lions Park. Andie went on to describe the future goals for Green Everett as increasing community investment in parks, providing structure for engagement and communication, and supporting community connection in parks. She shared that there is already a growing list of volunteers ready to go and that she is excited as this type of work is important in making the next generation feel connected to their natural environments. Board Member Erica Dias commented on the impressive amount of work that was done during the last Green Everett day in such a short amount of time. Erica shared that last year's event was well organized and executed.

### **Arbor Day/Earth Day Invitation**

Cory Rettenmier, Parks and Golf Manager, shared plans for the upcoming Arbor Day celebration at Garfield Park. This event is an exciting collaboration with Garfield elementary students, Council members, the Mayor, Parks, and the PUD commissioner, as well as local arborists. This year's event will be held Wednesday April 10<sup>th</sup> from 12:30P.M. to 1:30P.M. at Garfield Park and Board members are encouraged to attend. This event serves as a great opportunity for kids to plant trees and is a quick and fun community event. Cory also shared that our Earth Day celebration this year will consist of a call to action in collaboration with Snohomish County and our libraries to promote people to do good work in their park spaces!

### **Everett Rowing Association Agreement**

Cory Rettenmier shared an updated on the City's agreement with the Everett Rowing Association. The Everett Rowing Association currently lease the Shell House out at Langus. In this location they run youth rowing activities. Until now, Parks has operated this contract through a license to use city property. Recently, this changed to function as a long-term lease which was implemented with a five-year term. Parks is also in the final stages of developing an additional agreement with the Everett Rowing Association for rowing operations to take place at Thornton A. Sullivan. Cory shared that we are really excited to partner with them in an additional capacity which provides rowers with the opportunity for calmer waters on Silver Lake and adds a recreational outlet in South Everett.

### **Public Hearing – Seattle Outboard Association Mini Hydroplane Races**

Cory Rettenmier began his presentation on this topic by sharing that earlier this year, the city received Seattle Outboard Associations Special Use Agreement for the Mini Hydroplane Races on Silver Lake. In February, a public hearing was opened at the Park Board Meeting on the 6<sup>th</sup>. Cory explained that at today's meeting, the comments that have been sent into the Parks department since the opening of the public hearing, as well as live comments, will be heard. After all comments are heard, the Board will be asked to make a recommendation to move forward with either a one-day event, a two-day event, or to not move forward with the event. Cory shared the many ways in which information about the public hearing was distributed. He shared that a total of 6 Facebook/News Flash Posts were posted between the opening of the public hearing process through the date of this meeting. These Facebook posts were viewed approximately 4800 times. 20 promotional signs were posted around Silver Lake and 2 promotional ads were placed in the Everett Herald in April. Additionally, the announcement was submitted to the Silver Lake Neighborhood Association for distribution and the event was added to the City of Everett Public Event Calendar.

Cory went on to share the comments received during the open public hearing. Cory shared that two phone calls from the same household were received both noting their concern for the wildlife in the area during this event. Additionally, four emails were received. One email user responded that he is in favor of mini hydroplane racing, but he believes that the Silver Lake location may not be the best fit because of the square footage. This email respondent also noted concern for the wildlife including the fish, animals, and fowl. He noted that the parking is difficult during this race and this race would negate the current regulation of no motorized boats on Silver Lake. This email respondent suggested Martha Lake as an alternative site. Another email respondent wrote in support of the outboard races and commented the following:

“I was so impressed with the event that I returned with his son and grandson later. I knew little about the sport, but thoroughly enjoyed it. More of us plan on attending this year. Motorized sports such as this have gone on for generations. I ran hydro myself in the 1960s, and my son ran go karts in his early teens. I see these sports as wholesome, family events. Young people who participate are in an atmosphere of adults. They learn to be responsible, safe participants who quickly become mature beyond their years. In addition, they are learning mechanical sensibility, getting off a screened device of any kind, and it teaches them sportsmanship. No alcohol, no swearing, no loud music exists there. Just lots of picnic lunches. My old neighbor was Chip Hanauer, whom you may have heard of. He told me that from his first race in outboards, his father would greet him when he came in and ask, “did you have fun?”. That is the essence of outboard racing. I sincerely hope these races continue, and in fact are promoted.”

Cory Shared that a third email respondent shared their support of the races by writing;

“to express my absolute support of the annual hydroplane races on silver lake in Everett, WA. Every summer my family looks forward to attending this event. My kids marvel at the racers like local superheroes, while family friends ask lots of questions about how the boats are designed or how fast they go. You see my family have been life-long hydroplane fans dating back to the early 1960's and I truly believe the unique culture and family friendly nature of the sport are what makes hydroplane racing in the pacific northwest so special. I have friends and family that travel from as far north as Surrey, BC and as far south as Tukwila, WA just to attend this event each year. Each of us spending a considerable amount of our hard-earned money in the community on food, gas, and hotels while attending and supporting this event. Seattle outboard association, the group that is responsible for the action on the water each summer is a completely self-funded and volunteer run group. The people you see flying their hydroplanes across the scenic water of Silver Lake are the same folks you'll find showing up early to set up the event, running the timing clocks, officiating the races, running the safety crews, and staying late after the event is over to ensure the park is all cleaned up. This amazing group does all this, while greeting every spectator with a smile as they answer questions or show them around the boats and trailers on display. The Seattle Outboard Association also takes part in multiple SeaFair events each summer like the greenwood parade, Nile temple car show in Edmonds, and doing a televised junior hydroplane exhibition on Lake Washington during the SeaFair cup. Later this summer, they will host the outboard hydroplane racing National championships in Moses Lake, WA, bringing people from all over the United States to beautiful Washington state. If I could humbly make a few suggestions to the parks department. I'd ask for more local advertising on websites or social media posts that the public relies on for family activities during the summer. I also believe the introduction of a select few food trucks, ice cream vendors, or soda/lemonade stands would do extremely well during this two-day event. I even believe that there is an opportunity to broaden the community interest by displaying a few hydroplanes at local stores, schools, or summer camps if the city of Everett, or the parks department was interested in that option. In closing I would like to say thank you to the Everett city council, Everett parks department, the community surrounding Silver Lake and all those who come to watch this event each year.”

Lastly, the 4<sup>th</sup> email respondent shared the following email.

“I am unable to attend the public meeting but wanted my voice to be heard on the hydro race issue. I live right on the lake. It is LOUD. It's also a shame that we continue to pollute this lake that the community has spent decades cleaning up. I have asked in the past to see any evidence that the city of Everett is actually benefitting from this event and to date have seen no such evidence. I don't believe it is appropriate, certainly not for both days.”

Cory then opened the floor to anyone in attendance to provide live public comments. Leah, a resident of Silver Lake commented that her family lives near the community dock area and moved in about four years ago. They have turned this event into their own family fun day and shared that they especially enjoy the 2-day event. They choose to host all their friends for this event and love this event. They are very impressed with the Seattle Outboard Association and their clean up after the event. She ended her comments by sharing that from an onlookers' perspective, the race is ran so well and their family certainly hopes the Board votes in favor of this event. Another member of the public, Jan Shaw, commented that she used to be involved with races of this kind and we always did everything we could. She shared that it's very important to teach our young people the importance of safely boating. Daren Goehring, Seattle Outboard Association President, and race director commented that he is open to answer any questions or concerns that anyone at this meeting may have. Some discussion raised inquired about any evidence of environmental impacts. It was shared that through researching the impacts of this race, no impacts to water quality have been shown. It has also been determined in the past that the noise levels of the race were not a significant impact to the eagles in the area.

Board Chair Erica Dias led discussion to request that the board either recommend a one-day event, a two-day event, or choose to not recommend an event at all. After all comments were heard and some discussion ensued, a motion to close the public hearing was made. Motion/Second/Approved **(m/s/a)** unanimously to close the public hearing. Motion/Second/Approved **(m/s/a)** unanimously to approve as written for a 2-day event. Parks will move forward with this recommendation to Council.

### **Capital Improvement List Review**

Capital Projects Manager, Ruben Sanchez, reviewed recently completed and in-progress projects on the Capital Improvement List with the Board.

**New Business:** None

**Meeting Adjourned:** 6:25P.M.

**Next Meeting:** June 4th, 2024

Respectfully Submitted

Emily Young

City of Everett Parks and Facilities