

MINUTES
GIG HARBOR PARKS COMMISSION
Wednesday, January 6, 2021 – 5:30 p.m.
Virtual Meeting

CALL TO ORDER / ROLL CALL

Present (via Zoom webinar):

Mayor Kit Kuhn, Jennifer Keating (Puyallup Tribe of Indians)

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

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

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of December 2, 2020 Parks Commission Meeting Minutes

MOTION: Move to approve the December 2, 2020 Parks Commission Minutes

McDaniel / Barber – motion passed unanimously

OLD BUSINESS

1. **Restoring Parks Name** – The Public Hearing and presentation originally scheduled was to consider renaming Austin Estuary Park to Twalwacut park in honor of the historic village site of the Sxwəbabš people previously located on the Austin Estuary site. Mayor Kuhn provided an update that the Ad Hoc Committee is proposing a different direction that would still honor the Austin name. Jennifer Keating also provided that the Committee has further reviewed the Austin family and tribal history of the site. The Ad Hoc Committee requested that their presentation be deferred to the February Parks Commission meeting for consideration and public input.
2. **Review of Adopted 2021 Parks Commission Work Plan** – Public Works Director Langhelm reviewed the Work Plan adopted by City Council. Commission members asked for clarification on several items and proposed to start working on the following items during the first part of 2021:

February – Parks Appreciation Day (pandemic-aware)

February – Inventory of Parks Facilities – Update for 2022 PROS Plan

March – Creating an Adopt-A-Park Program

March – Cushman Trail Etiquette Signage

April – Develop list of parks/properties needing master plans, if required by PROS Plan

April - Ancich Human-Powered Storage

Crescent Creek Park Visioning has been deferred until after City Council gives direction on the proposed Masonic Lodge building improvements.

Several subcommittees were proposed to facilitate work on program elements outside of regular Parks Commission meetings.

Cushman Trail Etiquette Signage – Roger Henderson, Ben Coronado
Parks Appreciation Day (pandemic-aware) when appropriate – Mary Barber
Creating an Adopt-A-Park Program – Louise Tieman
Inventory of Parks Facilities – Louise Tieman

NEW BUSINESS

None

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

COMMITTEE REPORTS

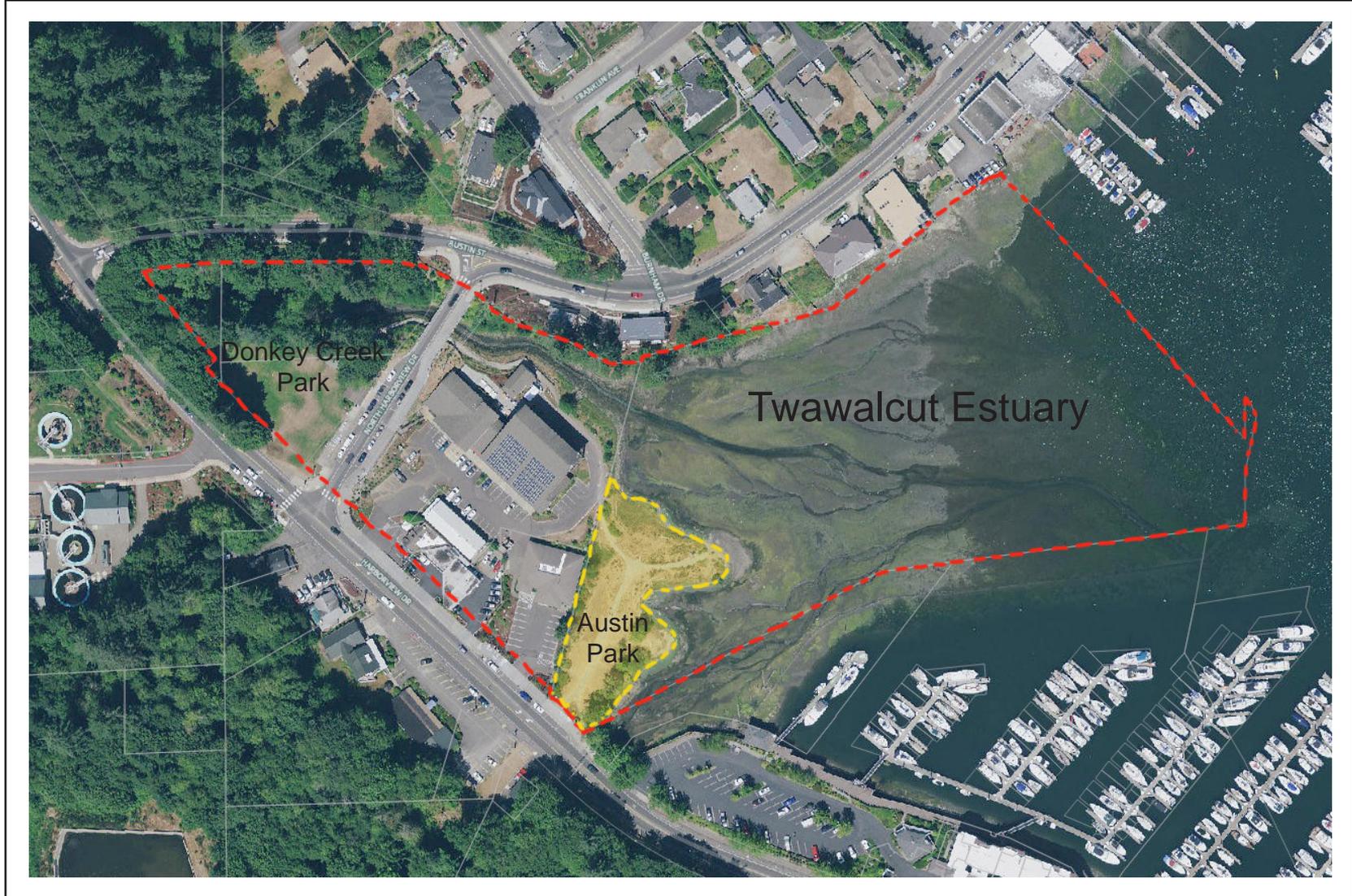
PUBLIC COMMENT

ADJOURN

MOTION: Move to adjourn at 7:14 p.m.

Henderson / Barber - Motion passed unanimously

Twawalcut Estuary Commemorative Designation Map





HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM

MEMORANDUM

TO: Jeff Langhelm, City of Gig Harbor

FROM: Harbor History Museum/Gig Harbor Peninsula Historical Society

Prepared by Stephanie Lile, Director & Curator

RE: Recommendation and Response Regarding the Restoration of Native Place Name at the Twawalcut Site

Dear Jeff and Parks Commissioners:

The board of the Harbor History Museum met to discuss your request in response to the City's ad-hoc committee recommendation, stated as:

The City's ad-hoc committee recommends the following:

1. Naming of Twalwacut Estuary: The Donkey Creek watershed, including the 7+ acre estuary, the Gig Harbor History Museum site, and the lands in and around Donkey-Creek Park be named "Twalwacut" Estuary in recognition of the historic Sx^wəbabč village site. (See draft map.)

2. Changing the name of the City's "Austin Estuary Park" to "Austin Park."

3. Recognition of Ancestral Homelands of Sx^wəbabč Peoples: The City's 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 Sx^wəbabč 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 Sx^wəbabč". This would be an honorary designation for educational and awareness purposes only and would carry with it no regulatory impact.

Per an updated map and information supplied to us by Lita Dawn Stanton, as well as information gleaned from our archives and other stakeholders, **the Harbor History Museum recommends the following:**

1. Scofield Tidelands (as current on the Piece County Assessor's map) were named, it is believed, to honor Scofield, a key person and company in many local bridge building projects. These efforts are now largely forgotten in the community memory except as documented in some of our archival photographs. The city owns this property and HHM has no objection to



HARBOR HISTORY MUSEUM

restoring the tidelands to the “Twawalcut” name. We feel that #1 and #3 as described above are duplicative and may, in current thinking, be honored in the new map’s designation of “Twawalcut Watershed and Estuary.” If this 7+ acre land designation has no regulatory implications for the parcel owners included therein, then the HHM Board has no objection to this designation. No matter what the city’s outcome of this designation, the HHM Board has adopted a Native Land Acknowledgement as stewards of the Twawalcut site that will be displayed on the museum campus.

2. HHM has no objection to changing the current name of “Austin Estuary Park” to “Austin Park” in recognition of the Austin Mill and the family’s contributions to early Gig Harbor.
3. **Our primary recommendation, even if all other aspects of this proposal fail to come to fruition, is the naming of the currently “unnamed” trail that passes through Austin Park along the creek behind the Museum to Donkey Creek Park as “Twawalcut Trail.”** The recognition by this trail naming would promote a broader understanding of the significance of the Twawalcut site and the Sx^wəbabč peoples. *The trail is a connecting artery of the entire site* and could even be extended in the future to reflect all the aspects of Native use of the site and stewardship of the land and its resources over time. Twawalcut Trail could even extend across the water to the Crescent Creek site and (as was noted on some earlier trail maps) across Harborview to the Cushman Trail.
4. Second Reference Map as provided to HHM.

Proposed **Watershed** designation of original Native American settlement in Gig Harbor



Parks Appreciation Day Pandemic Style

The City team had provided us with a list of activities that were planned for PAD in several of the parks and an estimated number of volunteers needed. We decided to try a targeted approach at getting that number of volunteers, which appeared to be substantially more than previous years.

The targeted approach involved reaching out to area companies and service organizations to ask them to basically adopt a park for the day and had created a flyer about the day.

For companies:

We wanted them to get a group of employees together to help clean up the community as a way to show their support for their area, AND as a good employee morale activity. Suggest employees wear company logo wear so they're identifiable and get the "credit" for being there.

For membership groups:

We had a similar message for membership groups who are often looking for service projects.

The organizations on our list:

7 Seas	LDS Church
American Legion	Lions
Banks	New Neighbors
Boards	Peninsula Athletic Association
Boy Scouts	Preschool by Crescent Creek
Century Link	Rotary
Chamber of Commerce	School PTAs
Chapel Hill	Sound Credit Union
City Council and other Commissions	Sportsmans Club
Comcast	St. Anthony's Hosp
Discovery Elementary School	St. Nick's
GHCKRT	Target
GHLL	Tides
Girl Scouts	Timberland Bank
Harbor Soccer Club	VFW
Heritage Distilling	Welcome Home Club
Jax Salon & Spa	YMCA
Kiwanis	

We believed this type of approach was the best way to get the largest number of people to support us at one time. The list was divided and we were making contacts with great success. Until...

The approach still makes sense as the primary way to recruit volunteers for the day. We will need to revise the flyer to include a COVID-safe message; require masks, etc.

PARKS COMMISSION

FEBRUARY 2021

Parks Division Updates

Proposed Donations

Bench at Skansie Brothers Park – Private memorial donation has been approved for a bench to be installed at Skansie Brothers Park at a location on the sidewalk side of the park. The bench has been ordered and should be installed in February.

Water Bottle Filling Station at Crescent Creek Park – A private memorial donation has been approved for a water bottle filling station fountain near the ballfield at Crescent Creek Park. Installation is anticipated in March.

Benches at Wilkinson Farm Park – Two separate private memorial bench donations are being reviewed for placement at Wilkinson Farm Park.

Benches at Austin Estuary Park – Two private bench memorial donations have been approved at Austin Estuary Park and are expected to be installed after the public art has been placed on site. In the meantime, they are being stored at the Shop.

Benches at Gig Harbor Sports Complex – Kiwanis Club of Gig Harbor has made a financial commitment for sponsorship of eight benches to be located throughout the Sports Complex in Phase 1B. The Parks Commission provided a recommendation on the style of the proposed benches to be forwarded to City Council.

Lease Updates

Gig Harbor Canoe and Kayak Race Team at Ancich Park – At their August 27 Study Session, City Council discussed the possibility of amending the March 2020 amendment to this lease to modify or eliminate the fundraising amount for the Community Paddler's Dock required from the Race Team. Council will consider another amendment after the approval of the 2021 Budget.

Gig Harbor Commercial Fishermen's Club Draft Lease – The lease is still in a draft state and currently on hold. For now, we anticipate providing access to both Ancich Pier and Ancich Netshed similar to the City's arrangement with commercial fishermen at Maritime Pier.

Gig Harbor Sports Complex – The City has negotiated a lease agreement with the YMCA and brought it to Council for discussion on 10/28/20. The City and YMCA continue to consider a few outstanding items before a formal presentation for consideration to City Council.

Projects

Ancich Homeport Commercial Fishing Dock Feasibility Study – The next phase of the Ancich Waterfront Park consists of a floating dock system to provide moorage for commercial fishermen. Public outreach and conceptual design will be conducted.

- Research available grant opportunities.
- The final draft was presented to Council in a staff report on 10/12/20.
- *A Council study session with the study participants was held on 01/14/21.*
- *Consideration by Council with public input in early 2021.*

Community Paddler's Dock – Conduct visioning and develop a master plan for Crescent Creek Park pending Council direction on the City's proposed Masonic Lodge building improvements.

- A Master Agreement and sublease was approved by Council on 8/10/20 to provide a path forward on development of the human-powered floats from the Jerkovich Pier
- Kickoff meeting re: timeline/schedule for next steps occurred on 10/7/20.
- Staff and the consultant have been meeting with adjacent aquatic lease owners, GHCKRT, and permitting agencies as design progresses.
- Federal, state, and local permit revisions were submitted in November 2020.
- Staff presented an update to Council on 12/14/20.
- The City completed in December a preliminary sublease/amendment review with Jerkovich Pier and DNR in preparation for the aquatic lease amendment.
- *DCG provided the 90% design documents on January 15.*
- *National Marine Fishers has accepted the City's proposed mitigation for the project. This allows the City to proceed with the SEPA review process for the project.*
- *Staff will continue to coordinate with DNR and Jerkovich Pier LLC on the 90% design documents.*

Ancich Park Advanced Mitigation - Design, permit, and demolish the existing, dilapidated Jerkovich Pier located at Ancich Park using the federal process for advanced mitigation for the future Commercial Fishing Homeport float system.

- Administration held a meeting in October with US Army Corps to discuss mitigation banking for the removal of the deteriorating concrete pier.
- *A professional services contract to provide design/permitting support was signed by the Mayor on 1/25/21.*

Austin Estuary Honoring Project – In conjunction with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, the Gig Harbor Kiwanis Foundation, and the City's Arts Commission, the City Council awarded a contract in 2019 for the placement of an "honor symbol" in Austin Estuary Park to acknowledge the importance of the Tribe as the original residents of Gig Harbor. Staff is working with the Puyallup Tribe of Indians, a citizen group, and directed by City Council.

- Preliminary wetland, geotech and structural analyses for installation of the art piece has been completed.
- Art Call Committee is working on plaque language.
- A contract amendment with the artist extending the work duration until 3/31/21, was approved by Council on 6/22/20.
- Staff met with the Committee and Permitting Agencies (including Department of Ecology), and the Puyallup Tribe on 10/21/20.
- Staff provided a report to Council at the 11/23/20 Council Meeting.
- *Staff submitted a shoreline master program amendment on January 21.*
- *As the proposed SMP amendment progresses, Staff will submit a land use permit for the associated honor symbol.*
- *Anticipated installation date has been extended to the end of 2021.*

City Park at Crescent Creek Visioning/Master Plan – Conduct visioning and develop a master plan for Crescent Creek Park pending Council direction on the City’s proposed Masonic Lodge building improvements.

- In determining the next steps of the Masonic Lodge, Council will review Bill Acker’s report and John McMillian’s renderings.
- City Council approved the Master Planning contract with HBB on 3/23/20.
- City to engage with the public regarding the Masonic Lodge prior to proceeding with the Park visioning.
- *Project temporarily on hold until it is safe to engage in public outreach efforts.*

Eddon Park Brick House – Remodel and rehabilitate the historic Eddon Residence.

- Council awarded PW Contract for construction on 10/12/20.
- Notice to Proceed and construction commenced on 11/16/20.
- *Rough framing and rough plumbing are complete, most of the rough electrical is complete, site work is awaiting ambient weather conditions, and the relocation of the heat pump still needs to be resolved.*
- *Construction completion anticipated in March 2021.*

Eddon Boat Railway Carriages – The two railways at the Eddon Boat Building still require the construction of the boat carriages that will carry boat along the marine rails. This work will support the final design and construction of the two railway carriages.

- Staff met with John McMillan (Gig Harbor BoatShop) for pre-scoping meeting to provide an estimate for design with consultant Peterson Structural Engineers.
- Provided schedule to Gig Harbor BoatShop on 12/04/20.
- Prepare/discuss with Gig Harbor BoatShop a management agreement prior to going out to bid.
- Council received a staff report on 11/23/20.
- A Professional Services Contract with Peterson Structural Engineers was executed in December 2020. Awaiting final review comments on the plans and specifications.
- **Advertise for bids anticipated on or before: 2/15/21.**

Gig Harbor Sports Complex Phase 1A – Partner with the YMCA to develop City-owned properties into a 17-acre Gig Harbor Sports Complex with lit and turf-ed multi-use fields and associated parking. Updates are posted on the city website: <http://www.cityofgigharbor.net/637/Gig-Harbor-Sports-Complex>

- Funding: work to come under contract with our state appropriation of \$206K and \$350K RCO Youth Activity Facility Grant.
- The IGA Committee recommended this project as a grant priority in 2020.
- City staff will be meeting with the YMCA and AHBL to finalize components of the 30% design and discuss the overall field grading before the YMCA continues with 60% design.
- Discussed lease agreement with Council on 10/28/20.
- *Continuing negotiations on a lease agreement with the YMCA, AHBL, YMCA, and City finalizing slope of site.*

Gig Harbor Sports Complex Phase 1B – Phase 1B includes multiple playgrounds, trails, event lawn, pickle ball courts, bocce ball, picnic shelters, and additional parking. Council approved Res. 1178 + 1180. authorizing application for the Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) for \$500K, and the Local Parks (WWRP) for \$500K.

- Kiwanis is donating eight benches. City coordinating with Kiwanis for bench style, delivery and installation during construction.
- Working through grading with YMCA for ADA.
- The RCO Board approved Preliminary Ranked Project Lists for funding on 10/2/20 as follows:
- The Recreation and Conservation Funding Board has recommended the City's LWCF grant award at their 11/5/20 meeting.
- RCO will officially post grant awards as part of state's legislative biennium 21-23 on 7/1/21 (estimated date).
- Working with the City's lobbyists and legislative delegation to secure capital funding from the state.
- Working with RCO to complete the information gathering for the LWCF grant agreement.

Skansie Netshed Structural Repairs – Design, permitting and construction of building structural repairs, siding repairs, repaint the exterior of the building, and re-roof.

- Sitts and Hill Engineers provided a technical memo for their structural overview recommendation and cost estimate on 10/30/20.
- City Staff met with the Skansie Netshed Foundation and Sitts and Hill to review the report on 11/19/20.
- PW Staff provided an updated preliminary 2021 Budget objective to Council during the budget process

Veterans Memorial Park Playground – Purchase and install playground equipment for age range 5-12 at Veterans' Memorial Park. This project is implementing the adopted park master plan.

- On 7/13/20 Council approved the purchase authorization for the play equipment.