



**Finance and Parks & Recreation Committee Minutes
January 28, 2026**

Police Court Campus, 1805 Continental Place

Present

Mayor Donovan

Councilmembers: Beaton, Daman, Hudson, Oliver, Tercero, Vander Stoep, West

Staff: Parks and Recreation Director Berner, City Attorney Rogerson, Finance Director Volesky, City Clerk Jensen, Parks Operations Manager Corcoran

Citizens: 15

1. Opening Ceremonies

A. Councilmember Beaton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. Approval of Agenda

The agenda was approved as presented

3. Presentation by Boys and Girls Club: Skagit Boys and Girls Club President Ron McHenry provided an update of current operations/programs and enrollment. He spoke about financial challenges, priorities, and organizational changes.

4. Levy Amount Discussion for Parks: Mr. Volesky reviewed the Levy Lid Lift funds funding plan through 2040. The funds will be allocated to Police, Fire, and Parks.

Ms. Berner presented an option for an ADA all inclusive playground at Hillcrest Park, with an estimated of 1.2M to 1.3M, depending on materials and the addition of a sidewalk on 13th Street. The majority of Council supports the use tiles on the playground.

Possible future Park Levy Projects such as redesign of Pine Square Park, pickleball courts, skate park, playgrounds and baseballs fields were briefly reviewed.

- 5. New Park Signs for Emma Jarvis Garden and Little Mountain:**
Emma Jarvis Park will receive garden signage; Little Mountain Park will receive signs identifying trails, plants and animals.
- 6. Flood Recovery Update:** Edgewater Park, Riverwalk and Lions Parks flood damages and repairs were discussed. Flood impacts have been reported to Skagit County and the Federal government.
- 7. Illuminight Event Friday, January 30th:** The public is invited to attend the 12th Annual Illuminight Winter Walk beginning at 5 p.m. at Skagit Riverwalk Park.
- 8. NRPA Mentoring Grant Update:** The City was awarded a \$60,000 National Parks and Recreation Association Learn, Engage, Aspire, Develop L.E.A.D. Staff will partner with the Boys and Girls Club with a 16-week curriculum and volunteer opportunities to build job readiness skills for at-risk youth.
- 9. Miscellaneous - none**
- 10. Agenda Requests – none**
- 10. Adjournment –** The meeting adjourned at 6:55 p.m.

Action Items

Jennifer Berner

- Proceed with contract negotiation and finalization with Northwest Playground for Hillcrest Park playground installation aiming for February city council approval and June 2026 installation
- Provide additional information on environmental impact and odor concerns of playground tiles
- Report back with budget amendment proposal for increased playground cost at February council meeting
- Continue development of future levy-funded projects, including Pine Square Plaza redesign, pickleball court improvements, Kiwanis Spray Park

resurfacing, skate park community design, and playground replacements at Edgewater and Bakerview parks

Parks staff

- Implement new trail signage installation at Little Mountain by March 2026
- Install historical garden sign at Emma Jarvis garden by March 2026

Parks and Maintenance

- Complete flood-related repairs including fencing replacement at Edgewater Park, playground cleanup at Lions Park, and boat launch debris removal; coordinate with county and federal agencies as required

Program Coordinator (in partnership with Boys and Girls Club)

- Launch L.E.A.D. mentorship program for junior high students, track registration and program progress, and provide updates to council

Submitted by: Becky Jensen, City Clerk