



# Peninsula Metropolitan Park District

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[www.penmetparks.org](http://www.penmetparks.org)

March 25, 2022

Craig McLaughlin  
1128 Hyak Place  
Fox Island, WA 98333  
[Craig99srf@comcast.net](mailto:Craig99srf@comcast.net)

Re: March 15, 2022 Letter

Dear Mr. McLaughlin,

Thank you for your March 15, 2022 follow up letter. I understand from your letter that you do not believe it appropriate for PenMet Parks to allocate funds to Fox Island based on some type of prorated calculation of the property taxes paid. I also understand from your letter that you do believe funds should be allocated based on the public need and the District's available resources. On those matters, I believe we agree. Your concern seems to be based on the dollar amount spent by PenMet Parks at the Fox Island Fishing Pier and DeMolay Sandspit for maintenance and how the terms "capital improvements" and "maintenance" are defined.

The amounts you are using for maintenance expenditures at the two parks (\$6,683.46 at the Fox Island Fishing Pier and \$18,302.08 at the DeMolay Sandspit) do not include any of PenMet Parks' staff time and expenses related to maintaining and operating those parks. PenMet Parks has not historically tracked the exact hours staff spent working at any of the parks or the cost of materials it may have used for that work. We are beginning the process to implement a computerized maintenance management system that will enhance maintenance tracking and planning over time.

Demolishing some of the structures at the DeMolay Sandspit, providing a picnic shelter, and renovating the bunkhouse are all public works projects and as such we consider them to be capital improvements. Public works include all work, construction, alteration, repair, or improvement to the property. The requirements associated with public works are unique to government agencies and are not applicable to non-governmental entities.

With respect to the example regarding the school district and your response, it is true that children are required to attend school. However, not every resident on Fox Island has school age children and those residents still pay the school district assessment. Our parks are open to the public and anyone is welcome to use them.

I understand that you will be requesting from the Boundary Review Board a change in the PenMet Parks boundaries to de-annex Fox Island from those boundaries and then to seek approval of a new metropolitan park district that would only include Fox Island. PenMet Parks would not support either of those objectives. PenMet Parks would certainly support a greater police and fire presence at Fox Island, as it would throughout the District. But PenMet Parks cannot fund that cost nor is it in a position as a park district to advise those authorities as to how they should spend their limited funds.

PenMet Parks remains committed to advancing its mission to enhance the quality of life by providing parks and recreation opportunities for our community. We will continue to offer a diverse array of parks and recreation services and opportunities to our constituents, which includes residents of Fox Island. We welcome feedback from all members of the public, and hope you will participate in one of the community engagement opportunities as PenMet Parks begins the process to review and update its Parks, Recreation, and Open Space Plan later this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Ally Bujacich".

Ally Bujacich  
Executive Director