

VASHON PARK DISTRICT

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

COMMUNITY IDEAS INPUT
OPEN HOUSE (#1) 3.21.18

17130 VASHON HWY SW
VASHON, WA 98070

RECREATION PROGRAMMING

COMMUNITY IDEAS OPEN HOUSE (1)

EVENT SUMMARY

In direct response to the 2015 Vashon Park District service and planning survey that was coordinated island-wide, on Wednesday, March 21, 2018 from 6:30PM-8:30PM the Vashon Park District held a community input open house poster session to garner support and ideas for future community recreation programming. The event was advertised on social media, in the Beachcomber multiple times and in a direct mailer that was sent to every household on the island (6500+).

ATTENDANCE

Despite marketing efforts, this event was poorly attended. Programming input was gathered from 4 females over 60, 1 female over 50 and two elementary-aged children (one female age 9 and one male aged 7); a total of 8 people. Also in attendance were Commissioners Abby Antonelis, Scott Harvey and Doug Ostrom as well as VPD staff members Executive Director, Elaine Ott-Rocheford and Facilities and Operations Manager, Kelly Schmidt.

DELIVERY METHOD

To create a welcoming environment, staff used an informal and objective poster session approach to gather ideas. Random programming ideas were placed on bright colored posters around the room and participants were to “vote” with green (in favor) or red(opposed) dots or contribute their own ideas via writing them down on sticky notes.

OUTCOME AND RESULTS

Overall, the Open House did not go as planned but achieved its goal of outreach and being the first of several more opportunities to gain insight into community recreation desires. The initial feedback about the delivery method from those over 60 appeared to be one of frustration and confusion. One of the attendees assumed that their small contribution would be driving final decisions on programming instead of just scratching the surface. There were also negative comments about the interactive nature of the format; they expected more of a town hall “debate” about the state of programming. One individual complained using foul and offensive language because there weren’t program ideas already posted, specifically offering programming for those 65+.

Her comments minus the foul and offensive language: “Stop spending only money on sport kids and water sports, we are the tax payers; we should be getting ¼ of the budget for senior activities. We have a large senior population on the island yet your senior section is so small.”

After getting past some initial negative comments, a majority of the participants picked up dots and sticky pads and began contributing ideas. The following page summarizes the ideas that were generated.

65+

- Clubs: Hiking, Walking (Silver Sneakers), special interest (coin & stamp enthusiasts, etc.), board games
- In-door Shuffleboard, Ping Pong and Bocce Ball, Yoga, VPD Run Senior Fitness Classes, Tai Kwando
- Intro to Frisbee Golf
- Sunrise Yoga at Pt. Robinson Lighthouse

All Ages, Children, Young Adults

- Bicycle Safety Course , BMX Bike stunt class
- VPD Sports Clubs or better coordination with island Sport Associations
- Drop-in Tot Bop @ Ober Performance Space (18mos-3yrs)
- Movies in the Park
- Battle of the Bands (Youth ages 12-17)
- Skate Camp (Youth ages 8-12)
- Geocaching

Email Contributions

“Hi, Elaine-

Thanks for all your hard work at VPD! I saw Scott’s Facebook post soliciting for input on rec programs. Here are some things I’d love to push for/keep going:

1-Aquatics-just keep that awesome pool + bubble cover going for year round swimming! Love it. I use it, we need it.

2-A teaching apiary using the VIBeekeepersAssoc would be amazing, including garden/arbor clubs planting for pollinators. Public events could follow at a designated park venue. It’s a different kind of recreation based on conservation. It also spans all ages.

3-Vashon Ski School- way back when I was on the VSS board we had a great relationship with VPD; Parks helped w/insurance and did a lot of marketing to keep VSS registration robust. I am no longer sure if there is a partnership but it was a great way to keep kids busy in winter!

4-In general, a generous scholarship program for rec users who show financial need. I saw many kids just unable to partake because of money- no fun. I also saw scholarship amounts dwindle during VPD dark days.

Thank you!

-Heidi | Mobile: 206-276-7846”

“Hello,

Thank you for soliciting parks programming ideas. One great need I see on the island is for a safe place for older kids to go after school, until parents are home from work - roughly, 3-6 pm. There is an after school program on the island for kids up to age 12, but nothing beyond that age.

Many kids that age still need loose supervision and productive engagement to keep them out of trouble, as poor judgment is still a factor when left on their own. I would love to see the parks department have an after-school recreation program, M-F, to fill this need, similar to what Seattle Parks and Rec. offers in their community centers.

Thanks for the input! Debbie Stark| 206-371-0701

Debstark8@gmail.com”