

# VASHON PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## MEETING MINUTES

Ober Park, Evergreen Room, 7:00 pm

DATE: Tuesday, June 26, 2018

Commissioners attending: Doug Ostrom, Bob McMahon, Karen Gardner, Abby Antonelis

Staff attending: Elaine Ott-Rocheford

ISSUE	DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME	FOLLOW UP
<b>Call to order &amp; agenda review</b>	Call to order by Doug, review agenda.	
<b>Public Comment</b>	<p>CC: Bob Horsley, a landscape architect on the island, and a former Park Board Commissioner, who served with Bill and Emma at the same time and lived to tell about it, at one point in his career did a plan reimagining Ober Park.</p> <p>Elaine: And he was an engineer, architect?</p> <p>CC: He was a landscape architect. He uncovered the plans and these things represent probably \$5,000 of his labor. He's done a lot of engineering – a lot of surveying, elevations, things like that. He's given me the plans; he's told me not to give up custody of them, but I would be happy to share them with you. And I've asked him if he can print me up a second set, he said he would do it but is kind of busy right now. So in case you want to think about reimagining the playground area or the concert area, this guy's come up with this. The plan was drawn in 2004.</p> <p>Cap Joe: Jay Goulds is one of the stalwarts on the Planning Committee for the Low Tide Celebration which is coming on the 14<sup>th</sup> of July. All of the planning or most of the planning with the exception of a couple little sleepers that have come up recently, are in place, it's going to a great event, as I said last time, it's going to be the best one we've ever had. We're going to have a lot of people coming from off island.</p> <p>My second comment has to do with the tours – we're getting more people than I think I can remember, this last Sunday I had about 200 people come to the top of the tower. It was a constant stream. One of the families that were tour takers were representative of those people who will travel a long, long way to get to a lighthouse, in particular one that they can get to the top of, which they can do with us. So we have a great asset out there and I know we're going to talk a bit about the septic issues and the fire, and I'll hold my comments on those until we get to that part. But since Jay came in, I take this opportunity to recognize him and all those people who work with me and work together to put this on.</p> <p>Doug: Do you want to add anything?</p>	

	<p>Jay: No.  Doug: If not, minutes, Special Meeting minutes, Board minutes, Vouchers -  <b>Bob: Move to accept on this.</b>  <b>Karen: Second.</b>  <b>Passed 4 - 0</b></p>	
<p><b>Vacant Commissioner</b></p>	<p>Doug: We move now to the vacant commissioner.  Karen: Well, I've been trying to get the word out to new people. I thought it would be good if we could get someone with financial acumen on the Board, but the people I know with financial acumen have absolutely no interest in being on the Board. So none of my forays out into the world have resulted in anything.  Elaine: I spoke to Marie Brown, put feelers out, nothing has resulted from that. Talked to the people I know at Edward Jones, nothing has resulted from that. For the record, we have 90 days from the date of my filing with King County – I'm required to let them know of vacant positions, so he resigned on Tuesday night, I put the notice in Thursday morning. So 90 days from that date, otherwise the County will appoint. And if the County doesn't appoint within 90 days, then the Governor will appoint.  Bob: What's the drop dead date then, what would it be?  Elaine: June 12 was the last meeting, so I let the County know the morning of June 14, so –  Bob: September 14.  Karen: Should we put an ad in the Beachcomber?  Elaine: I put a letter in your packet – CC wanted to speak to potentially doing something like that.  CC: Here was my thinking – I like to ask for what I want, I like to be clear about what I want. And I have specific desires for the kind of person I'd like to see sit on the Board. So I wrote something up that sort of covered what I'm looking for and my thoughts. But I did it to give everybody sort of a jumpstart, because I'm willing to buy an ad. The problem I see is agreeing on the wording for the ad can be problematic in a group. Sometimes young mothers or parents at home like getting out and doing something in the community and I think new people often thing that they can't step forward if they might be interested, and people who are interested in politics. This is a good entry level position if you were thinking about politics. So those are the qualities I was looking for. I would also be happy to send this out to my email people.  Bob: Nothing has been in the Beachcomber news-wise about this, has there?  Elaine: It wasn't a specific solicitation, just what CC is proposing.  CC: Here's what I really want – I want you guys to have some good choices. When Scott came on the Board he was the only guy willing to step forward. I would like you guys to have at least a couple of good choices, so the burden is not so heavy. I would also like somebody who had some leadership qualities, because I'm concerned about going forward, there being some longevity here. It's not easy being the new guy, showing up and what's an RCW, this is a language you have to learn that takes some time. And I would like somebody who may be willing to commit to another term. So those are my goals.  Cap Joe: At the same time that CC wrote to all of you, I wrote back to Doug. And I had two things</p>	

that were really important to me. The first one is that almost anybody can learn, anybody who is going to be considered can learn the RCWs, can learn those things. I always like to see, in public service, anybody who will put public service to the organization and the community in this case before themselves. That's the definition of the term shipmate, and I've lived with the word my whole life. The second thing is that we have a number of boards and committees on the Island which are troubled, and there are some people that sort of circulate around through the boards and committees. In my submission to you, I suggested to you that you select somebody who comes with some fresh thinking and is not somebody who has ridden all of these other carousels. I like the idea of finding a parent that has children who are in school, so to that end I've got a couple people who I'm going to get in contact with who themselves are already heavily committed, but they may know somebody else who is not, and who is ready to begin in public service, and this is a great place to start. Did you write this paper, CC?

CC: I did.

Cap Joe: I recognize much of the language, that's why I thought maybe you had. I'm not so sure it's an entry level political position – but I like the idea of getting some new and younger people to step forward. Because if you look at all the boards and committees on the Island, retirement is not too far off for some of them. Retirement is long overdue for some of them. And let's see if we can't get some younger people in.

Karen: One of the issues is, it's the retired people who have the time.

Cap Joe: I understand that.

Karen: and if you are young and raising a family, it's a big effort to be part of this. For me, financial background is more important than being a parent, because we have a parent.

Abby: I represent everybody

Karen: And someone who is willing to pitch in and do some work would be important. And the other thing I think that I can say for all of us here is that we didn't come in to support a single sport or anything like that. We really do have the well-being of the community at heart, and if we do that, we avoid "I want everything for my soccer team" or whatever. But it would be nice to have someone who wasn't fractious, which isn't the same as thinking he or she has to agree, not at all. The ability to be polite and civil in an uncivil age would be welcome.

Doug: I would just add that I think judgment is also important in this position. We all disagree about a number of important issues. And that's really our job, is to make decisions for the Park district and to assess the various proposals to see which ones can really work out. Look at critically and be supportive where appropriate.

CC: I understand that everybody wants somebody with financial background, I don't blame you for that, because Elaine has a strong financial background, she's a single source, and Scott provided balance. He was a check to what Elaine was telling you essentially, right?

Karen: mm-hmm.

CC: He was the corroborating testimony. So in my opinion, it might be easier to access that skill in a different way, rather than say I want somebody who's got a financial background. That's my take on it.

	<p>Bob: Financial, that can be lots of different categories of people, with financial backgrounds. Somebody who's been in business, who's run a business and understands the whole asset / revenue / cost concepts – you don't necessarily have to be able to put out a financial report to do that, but you have to have financial sensibilities. So I don't think we necessarily want to look for a CPA, but we need to have somebody familiar with how it works in the business world.</p> <p>CC: Well, the story I'm going to tell you – I have a high school education, I foresaw a cash flow problem here before anybody else did, back in the VES days.</p> <p>Bob: What's interesting about that is there was a financial CPA on the board in those days, so there's no guarantee.</p> <p>CC: Correct. You know, you guys get money a couple times a year, it's not the money stuff is that complicated in my opinion. What's complicated is the levies and the grants and what the state requires of you and stuff like that. To me, that's a different skill. My other thought is if you guys are going to be working on a levy, then maybe you want to look for someone who's got some community mojo, who can speak to the community.</p> <p>Doug: I'm told, and this is something we should clarify, is that Commissioners are told they're not supposed to speak in support of the levy.</p> <p>CC: No, that's true. Once you put an ad in the paper, you get what you get.</p> <p>Karen: Well, yeah, but at least you have a pool</p> <p>CC: You have some choices</p> <p>Karen: And if they come in and we talk to them, we interview them, it seems to me that a pool of candidates would be an ideal situation.</p> <p>CC: So you like the idea of putting an ad in?</p> <p>Karen: I think so.</p> <p>Bob: I think we need one.</p> <p>CC: Okay so you guys want to take a look at what I wrote and mark it up?</p> <p>Bob: Are you going to really try to do some kind of a list of requirements in there?</p> <p>CC: Not a list of requirements, I want to put in my wish list – the qualities. It's much easier to ask for what you want than to have it – because then people who think you're describing them go 'oh, well, that kinda sounds like me.'</p> <p>Bob: Yeah, we should take a look at it.</p> <p>CC: Alright. Say like by next week, next meeting, we'll come up with something.</p> <p>Bob: Are we meeting once a month now?</p> <p>CC: I'll send everybody an email and tell you to send me your edits, I'll send you a final and then we'll go? Alright.</p> <p>Elaine: So just to clarify, we are going to one meeting a month. We're not going to have another meeting for 30 days.</p> <p>Karen: We had talked about that, that's my understanding</p>	
<b>April Financial Report</b>	<p>Elaine: This is from April. May is not done yet, Marie has been really busy so she hasn't done May yet. Although I did do a projection, so I want to speak to that at the end here.</p>	

So speaking to April, this does not include the wage increases. May 1 does.

So just to April, the levy dollars at that point had come in \$17,000 under project. Admin budget about \$3,700 under budget, this is odds and ends. Maintenance is ahead by \$42,000. Actually I hadn't confirmed that Jason has done another top dressing at VES so it's actually \$34,000 ahead. That's primarily wage-related; \$13,000 is wages specifically, about \$24K is payroll related, so payroll taxes and benefits. Just to break that down, \$9,000 of that bucket has been charged to the pool for maintenance work there, \$6,000 to Point Robinson, \$1,000 to Fern Cove. Also we budgeted for 2 summer part time people; we could only attract one. And he stuck around for 6 weeks.

Bob: He was great –

Elaine: He was fabulous.

Karen: Why –

Elaine: Back to school. Or he had another job, or something. We knew that in advance, to be fair.

Bob: He was a ball of fire down there, I saw him at Pt Robinson.

Elaine: Yeah, he was great, he was back from last summer.

So, the Commons is at budget. Programs is ahead by about \$7800, due to about \$5000 for wages and benefits that were budgeted and forecast to the beginning of May and not hitting until the end of May. All else is odds and ends. Pool summer budget is over by about \$2600, most of that is from wages that we had to pay out to Scott Bonney for his vacation time that he's accumulated. Supplies for summer, at this point we're tracking \$4000 under budget, but I felt that the budget was set too high that. The rest is just odds and ends. The Pool winter budget, again, this is for the whole year, so over by just \$3600. Revenue is tracking under projection. Wages are tracking about \$7000 under, despite that \$9000 charge from Maintenance. Supplies and utilities are tracking close to budget. The rest are odds and ends.

Pt Robinson is ahead by \$6800, most of that is revenue, which is tracking ahead by about \$10K. Again, when I mentioned that \$6000 against Pt Robinson is charged here, so that's against the \$10K. The rest is just odds and ends.

Cap Joe: What was this \$6000 charged to Pt Robinson again?

Elaine: Maintenance wages.

Cap Joe: Thank you.

Elaine: Fern Cove is ahead by about \$8100. Wages is actually down due to more being charged to Pt Rob there as well. For us it's just odds and ends. For the other category I've – I guess I didn't do this for April, I did it for May. I listed out all of the items – the capital projects that are hitting the other budget and also being reduced against capital, so I'll be more specific in my May report when I do that next month. This is just – it says \$64K here – when I did my May calculations I realized that I counted one thing twice, so capital budget is actually up to about \$70K. So it's improved with the April report.

So we end the year with \$462K. Again, this does not have the wage increase packet in there. So to speak about how that hits- in May, glossy overview, we actually came in \$20K over projections on the levy dollars and we made enough improvements throughout the month the last 2 months that

	<p>we're actually, even with the \$30K wage hit for July – Dec, we're actually up \$3000 for end of year projections. So – we got from \$462K to \$465K, so things are looking good from that perspective. I also want to make one quick comment about – this is something also for the record – we have a policy that is driven by a RCW that essentially states, this is policy #2720, expenditures – expenditures must be made solely in accordance with the budget. If you're doing to make major expenditure changes that must be done by unanimous vote. Well, so you would think that making the wage increase motion would be a large increase and expenditure that would need to be approved by unanimous vote – well, we are ahead, totally in budgeted wages – we're ahead by \$40K cumulatively. There's about a \$30K hit to the budget for wages. So it has been pre-approved, we just haven't spent it. Differently. The reason for that \$40K wage leniency, if you will – remember, we didn't have a pool manager for 2 months. We had the lifeguard problem for 2.5 months. We had no Recreation Manager or Operations position, Kelly's position, for 2 months. We budgeted for the 2 seasonal maintenance guys, we only had one. And I always budget high in benefits to accommodate for changes from individual coverage to family coverage that people are entitled to, per policy. Well, the Open Enrollment time has come and gone and there were no changes, except that we have that flexibility in that budget area as well. So when an auditor comes in, first thing they do is look at minutes – I want this to be in the minutes, that your wage increase approval did not change expenditures. They were already approved in the budget.</p> <p>Bob: Good. For this year, it's also offset by the approved addition of a maintenance person – did you mention that?</p> <p>Elaine: Well, yes, that would have to have been approved –</p> <p>Bob: It was approved</p> <p>Elaine: yes, that did pretty much fit, it was over by about \$20K; you also did pass it by unanimous vote.</p> <p>Bob: But I mean that we're not doing it –</p> <p>Elaine: Yes, but we didn't really officially change the budget, that would be the expenditure increase that was unanimously approved.</p> <p>I just wanted to make that point for the record, for when the auditor goes to our minutes and wants to see that we've done everything appropriately. So, that's it.</p>	
<p><b>Dog Park</b></p>	<p>Elaine: I'm going to turn this over to Cap Joe, because he had a meeting with the Sunrise Ridge people and he wanted to report on that.</p> <p>Cap Joe: I sit on the site development committee for Sunrise Ridge; I do not sit on the board. So when Laurel came here with proposal to have a dog park at one of the VPD facilities, that one did not go through and there were good sufficient reasons for that. So I got together with Laurel and Laurel's successor, she's moving off island, and took them to 2 mtgs, one with the site development committee and one with the entire board, they made a very good presentation. And we're going to find a place at Sunrise Ridge to build a dog park.</p> <p>Many voices: Oh yay, good, it's a great spot!</p> <p>Karen: It will make so many people so happy.</p>	

CC: Until the first dog bites the second dog

Cap Joe: or until the first dog bites the second dog's owner – but there were a couple of little bumps along the way, which should never deter us from doing what's right – the chair of the Sunrise Ridge board says that Parks should step up with some sort of financial support. And I said Well, this is not a Parks program. I doubt very much should you send a courier to the Park Board that it will not get very far, and I would not even advocate for it to get very far, because I'm a member of the Parks family as well as the Sunrise Ridge family. So – they ran out of people. The dog barkers have run out of people. But they were able to recruit some new people. So they are going to pay for the fence. They are going to pay for the signage. And they're going to contribute through volunteer labor the policing of the area inside the fence.

Abby: That's awesome.

Cap Joe: So the next step is that the Board Chair directed them to if they want to carry on to now draft a proposal which they will take before the entire Board. We have the votes to carry it, so that's what's going to happen.

Doug: How big will it be?

Cap Joe: About 2 acres.

Many voices: that's great –

Doug: Is there any residual Park District responsibility?

Cap Joe: Only if the Park Board allows it.

Doug: But is it, will it fly without it?

Cap Joe: Indeed it is.

Karen: What kind of support can we give that's not financial?

Elaine: Just to interject, we actually already do make a \$500 a year to Sunrise Ridge for use of their ballpark facilities in the summer. For youth baseball. We have a problem with one of those baseball fields, because the Food Bank put in a propane tank right up against the back stop, and it's really caused quite a stir among the baseball leadership. So they're not using it. So I've already has a little bit of a talk with Greg Martin, a little pushback on the \$500 we pay and we're only getting half of what we expect, and he said well, \$500 is a bargain. And I said That's true, but we also do the maintenance up there, we also provide the dog poop bags as it is. So we do a fair service as it is, and I think maybe if there's any concern about needing more financial consideration, there's \$250 wiggle room I would say –

Cap Joe: So in order to keep things clear with the Sunrise Ridge Board, I have on purpose completely separated out those two sets of problems. Karen asked what kind of support they might come to the Board for is 'while you've got your mower out there, would you mow around inside the fence? I'm not getting into any of that. My part is to make sure this goes through the Sunrise Ridge Board, that the proposal is accepted; I've agreed with the Dog Park people that I would vet the proposal with the Board because I know what that Board will accept and what it won't, and if the proposal is a good one we have the votes to carry it – and whatever happens with that propane tank and all that other stuff has got to be kept separated out. So I'm hopeful that we can have this thing in place – they are going to make their proposal at the next board meeting, which is the

	<p>beginning of July, and I'm pressing for them to submit their proposal to the Board in advance and ask for a vote at the same time they get it out there. So that they can start raising money, because they're committed to raise money from users, dog owners, to pay for the fence. Sunrise Ridge will not do that. So, there we are. We're almost done. We never count our poop bags until they're full, though.</p> <p>(laughter)</p> <p>Elaine: Thank you for doing that, that's fantastic.</p> <p>Karen: I volunteer to go there with you with a cudgel and I'll whack everybody who doesn't pick up after their dogs.</p> <p>CC: I just go pick up s*^+ -</p> <p>(laughter)</p>	
<p><b>Point Robinson Beach Fire &amp; Septic System</b></p>	<p>Doug: Ready to move on? Point Robinson – Beach fire and septic system.</p> <p>Elaine: Okay, so on the beach fire front, we're still awaiting direction from King County about what to do about the logs.</p> <p>Karen: Did we ever find out who was responsible for that?</p> <p>Elaine: No, it was someone who went in in the middle of the night. If you look really carefully at the logs what it looks like they did – you know how can follow how a fire travels, it's really really charred, like they built a fire ON a log, it was kind of surrounded by other logs. So that base log caught on fire I assume and spread to the other logs.</p> <p>Doug: Sounds like it's the idiots explanation.</p> <p>Elaine: Yeah, it was somebody who was there in the middle of the night, wasn't supposed to be, and probably – well, we're assuming they called the fire department after they set the fire.</p> <p>Karen: So at least they had a conscience.</p> <p>Elaine: Yeah.</p> <p>Bob: Did somebody call in, actually? It wasn't the caretaker out there?</p> <p>Elaine: No.</p> <p>CC: Was it someone in the residence?</p> <p>Elaine: The caretaker was awakened by the fire trucks arriving. About 3am. So – there is a law that forbids removing driftwood from a beach, so we're doing our due diligence and trying to suss out what we can and cannot do. Eric did have some King Co representatives go down there and take a look at it, so we're awaiting their report. Aesthetically I do want your input on this – removing the logs would be much more attractive than having a bunch of burnt logs down there. On the other hand, moving them is going to be very expensive. One comment they made is that we might have to replace them with something else.</p> <p>Bob: Why not get one of these portable sand blasters and blast all the black off them?</p> <p>Elaine: Well, that's maybe something we think of.</p> <p>Abby: Maybe there's a teaching thing in this.</p>	



Elaine: I agree, now there are signs right there (that say No Open Fires) so there's that aspect as well.

Abby or CC?: Can we move them around?

Elaine: Technically, no, because it's a whole ecosystem they don't want to have disrupted.

Cap Joe: So those logs belong to the US Coast Guard. They're property of the US Coast Guard. And I bet we haven't nor should we call Beverly in Alameda and say by the way – I'd advise you not to do that.

Elaine: I don't think that would be a good idea.

Cap Joe: so, I would have advised had I known about this ahead of time, not to even call the County or anybody. It's federal land. And what I'm advising right now is just leave them alone. They're starting to weather and I am up to the top of that tower 3 times a week. I look down there and I get pissed off every time I see it. What I can also see is that the water and the rain and the wind are all mitigating that char – so I'm saying, if I were the Chief of Operations for the Coast Guard here as I was at one time, if I came over and I saw that, I would have said Don't bring the County in, don't bring the state in. This belongs to us, you have it on a lease, leave everything alone.

Doug: Does that mean then that – should the Coast Guard decide to remove the logs, they can? Regardless of what state law may say?

Cap Joe: Indeed they can.

Karen: I like Abby's idea of using it as a teaching tool.

Elaine: I do, too.

Abby: I think it's good. We – for example once, an entire family took a boat up a river once, and they drowned, and we brought the boat into town and put it in the middle of town for two weeks, so you could see what those people were doing that was not smart. Especially if it's fire

Cap Joe: That's exactly what I use it for. When I give tours and people ask me about that, exactly what Abby says.

Abby: It's also going to be more damaging to move them or remove them.

Elaine: and costly. I can guarantee it's going to be costly.

Bob: Maybe a sign, explaining what happened?

Jay Goulds: I would just throw in that every zone in a beach is a unique ecosystem, very few of us have any clue what's going on in these tiny ecosystems. It would be very damaging – I admit, I haven't been able to see this and I'm sure I'd be appalled. However, we will damage that beach considerably if we go in and do something there. To make decisions based on aesthetics in an ecosystem you don't understand is a huge mistake, and I don't think you should make it.

Elaine: Okay, so it sounds like the general consensus is that we leave the burned logs?

Karen: I like the idea of a sign, however.

Elaine: The septic. So, last week our caretaker called in and reported seeing a pool of water outside Quarters A, on the lawn. What could that be from? So Eric and Maintenance went down there and did some digging up and found that there's a concrete pipe – this is where the drain field is, by the way – where he was seeing this. Dug down, there's a concrete pipe that links right up to the drain

field and it's just about completely disintegrated. There is no distribution box – this is a very old septic system, the distribution box – the main pipe comes to it and the distribution box pushes the stuff out to other pipes that go into all different areas of the drain field. So it's all kind of going into one little area. So Maintenance was able to put in a temporary PVC pipe. It probably is not going to suffice for much more than the rest of this year at most. So my recommendation is that for the 2019 budget we plan on bringing in an engineer the same way we did at Fern Cove, to do an analysis of what our needs are, and we're probably going to have to do something with that septic system. And while we're at it, we might as well do B at the same time, because you want to maximize economies of scale and not do the project twice. So, ironically an interesting twist to the story – we had a family that was renting both houses for a family event, both QA and QB, for this last weekend. Had to call them up – since we fixed it, fortunately we were able to salvage the reservation – but the original conversation was they found someplace else – turns out it was the same family who was renting Fern Cove – when we made that phone call about that septic system. So interesting coincidence. So just a heads-up, we'll start to get some pricing.

Doug: Are you talking about a major new septic system?

Elaine: Could be.

Doug: So like \$300K?

Elaine: Could be

Bob: But this is the drain field, this isn't the septic tank itself?

Elaine: Well, it's the pipe –

Bob: From the septic tank to the drain field -

Elaine: Correct. Yes. So I don't have any sense for what that's going to cost. I think that a septic specialized engineer, which is what we did with the evaluation at Fern Cove situation.

Doug: But is there a chance they're going to look at this and say "Early 20<sup>th</sup> century system, we need to practically start over"?

Elaine: There is a chance.

CC: This is just my experience with septic systems. Maybe before you hire the engineer you want to bring in the guy who does work on septic systems here on the Island, you know, Bob Zellerbach or something?

Bob: Right

CC: And have him talk to you, because once you go to the County, you're down there on the shore and you don't know what they're going to tell you to do.

Elaine: I know.

CC: so you want to repair before you replace.

Bob: In ours, we have a long line down to a drainfield and it's got several legs coming off the distribution box, and one of those legs got plugged up. So we had – I think it was Bob that came in, and he just isolated that leg. The others are working fine, just diverted the effluent

CC: There are some things that could be pretty simple mechanical fixes.

Cap Joe: Once we got to the point, if we get to the point, where there's a major job, then the Coast Guard has to know about it.

Elaine: Okay.

Cap Joe: The language of the lease will tell us exactly when we get to that point. It might be some help there.

Elaine: Okay.

Karen: Really, you think so?

Cap Joe: I don't know, I haven't read the lease lately.

Elaine: Well, we had to replace the roof, we had to paint the houses,

Cap Joe: We had to get permission from the Coast Guard to do all of those things.

Elaine: That's true. Okay.

**Fire District Interlocal**

Elaine: I finally received our attorney's response to my question about requirements of consideration. I assume you all read that – our attorney's response was we really are legally obligated to pay at value. Now the question is, What is the value? And how do we pay? It doesn't have to be monetary, clearly from other examples it can be an arrangement of valuable service of some sort. I had a very constructive conversation with Charlie Kimmert last Wednesday and he really wanted to be clear that that \$11,500 is only a starting point in the negotiation process. He was very gracious, and said that he wanted for us all to be supportive of this process, feel comfortable with what we're arriving at, be creative – he's not married to the \$11,500 in any way, shape or form. So I attached to the draft agreement, the listing – the first long list is of our properties. This is how the \$11,500 was arrived at – that estimated market value of \$11,680,000, he just did \$1 per \$1000, rounded it down – and that is for all the properties based on presumed market value. So this was just a shot across the bow, kind of a consideration. In my talking with him, we agreed that so much of our property is undeveloped, there's no way people are going to be in there requiring medical services. I identified about 300 acres just right off the cuff that shouldn't even be part of this consideration. So I whittled it down to \$5.8M – and he agreed also that that is a better starting point, that is a more fair starting point than the \$11,500. So we've come down that far. We're still kicking around alternatives. He has suggested at the meeting here that he's going to put together a fee schedule for apparatus, equipment, personnel, and we can take a look at that, if it's per visit, as a potential solution to this.

Another interesting alternative was brought to me by Mike Dawson, who was here at our last meeting. He said, as a long-time Island resident, one of his fears is a major fire. Where they don't have enough manpower to get here quickly enough to attend to servicing the fire early on. He and I spoke with Charlie Kimmert about this idea – he said Why don't we consider having our staff, whoever wants to be a part of this volunteer, certified whatever, to where if there is a fire on not just one of our properties, but anywhere on the Island, that we could be called in. This could be a part of the consideration that we pay. So he's going to kick that option around. I haven't talked to any other staff members about it, but I think it's an interesting idea. They could not volunteer to do something like this, we'd have to pay them. This would be working for the Park District in the context of this arrangement with the Fire District. So any staff member who is an hourly paid person, they'd get time & a half.

Bob: and they'd be doing what, exactly?

Elaine: Helping with a fire.

Bob: So they'd have to be trained as a volunteer fire fighter.

Elaine: Yes.

Bob: That is a big deal. That's a lot of serious training.

Doug: I think that's one of the issues, I think that's why there are so few volunteers now, because the increase in training. When I was growing up on Vashon, it was totally a volunteer department. But over the years that's changed dramatically. And I think that has to do with a lot of the training that's believed to be required.

CC: I had a thought that was something along those lines, that perhaps you work in conjunction

with the Fire Dept to come up with some idea that would benefit the community as a whole and make everyone safe. For example, maybe we could have CPR training in the Parks, on a day when everyone gets trained up. Or our maintenance guys could mow the lawns at the Fire Dept; or if there's someplace that's a problem because it's overgrown, in the wintertime when things are slow maybe our guys could be helpful in that way. Jason would have a little discretion about using them in that way. I would really like to see – to propose some way that is not monetary.

Abby: I feel that about paying the people that work for us money, rather than the Fire Dept – I'd rather the money go in their pockets.

Bob: That's going to cost a lot more than \$5,000.

Elaine: Well, if we say it's going to be cumulative, it's not as if they're talking about \$5K a year.

What are the odds – I've lived here for 23 years and I'm not aware of any major forest fires.

Doug: There was a time when they were a summer occurrence. You could watch them for days.

Karen: And it's getting hotter. What I was wondering about was let's say that we did tap volunteers - that's how we were going to do this. The first year, there aren't any fires. We still have to pay them?

Elaine: No, I would say it would be a cumulative thing. It's for when it happens, our people are ready to respond.

Doug: and these would be for extreme emergencies, not like a weekly thing.

Elaine: Yes, I would have it stipulated that we'd draw up some sort of arrangement about what the understanding would be. So, what do you think?

Karen: It has merit – I like that better than paying the Fire Dept, because in my heart of hearts I still think it's double dipping. But this seems like a win-win situation.

Bob: So we would pay for their training?

Doug: Yeah, that would be a first year expense – training

Bob: And some sort of periodic upgrade. And then we would also pay them whenever they do volunteer work?

Karen: How do we keep that from getting out of hand? What if there's some huge fire and day after day they are working?

Elaine: I would say it stops once the cumulative monetary payment that's due them is fulfilled. So even if 2 years pass and there's nothing, now we own them \$10K or \$12K or whatever we arrive at, so it stops once that \$10K commitment is met.

Robin Miller: What if it never – what if it really isn't anything, and 5 or 10 years go by and you're looking at \$50K to \$60K?

Elaine: That's something we'd have to talk about. That would be the other side of the agreement.

Abby: Well, they'd still have the volunteers, though. I mean, just because they're not using them – in this scenario, money doesn't actually have to change hands, because they have the value of the people there.

Elaine: And the training itself would go towards this as well. So hypothetically it would cost a couple thousand dollars for 5 people to get trained. So that goes toward the kitty.

Karen: Well, if we have much of a turnover this would be an issue as well. You train them and then

they leave, and train some more and they leave.

Bob: and the other thing you have to find out is if your staff wants to do this.

Elaine: absolutely.

Doug: Volunteers of the Park District basically become professional fire fighters – and so, is there a chance that we train them, and they join the Fire Department?

Karen? Not with the wage increase now

(laughter)

Doug: I don't know how much the firemen are paid.

(many voices, they're paid pretty well, more than our wages)

Bob: It's not easy to become – all trained and still not able to be part of the crowd until someone leaves.

Elaine: Well, just to let you know, we're still tapping away at it. So those are just some things we've talked about. I'm confident we'll come up with something that makes sense.

Doug: Just one final question which is, I realize this may have been discussed in my absence, but one idea we had a month ago was to do whatever the School District is doing.

Elaine: That's a whole different RCW, a whole different formula, so no – quite honestly, we can't. It has to be like value. \$1800 isn't like value, unless we determine somehow that it is, but I don't think that's true.

Bob: Like value?

Elaine: Yeah, so whatever we determine what we owe the Fire District, if it turns out to be \$1800 coincidentally, then sure, that could be it – but we can't just say that all we're going to pay is \$1800 without going through an evaluation process.

Doug: So Pt Robinson is at least for some federal property – is that being counted as part of our property?

Elaine: Yes, because we manage it.

Abby: That's a good point.

Elaine: It's true that the VES – the School District properties are not in this equation.

Cap Joe: You would want to go back to the language of the lease and see exactly what it says. Then there's no question that the property is federal property, it's owned by the Coast Guard, but the terms of the lease talk about what the liability of the Park District is, it lays out the insurance minimum coverage for example. So we'd have to look at the language of the lease to be really clear about that.

Doug: Federal government doesn't pay local governments for anything.

Cap Joe: It does not.

Elaine: Good point.

<p><b>Strategic Plan</b></p>	<p>Bob: Well, we arrived at a point where we still have several slots that need to be filled in, is that correct?  Elaine: Yes.  Bob: We have now taken the scheduling as far as we're going to take it and go into the Strategic Plan write up that we talked about. So at this point I'll go down the list of the ones that are unfilled and we'll see what happens.  Develop a Board of fully engaged Commissioners – anybody? Doug, you don't have very many on here. You need to grab a few of these.  (laughter)  Bob: We can just put your name on all that don't have anything –  Robin: What about the new Commissioner that will eventually come – would they take something?  Bob: Okay, so we've got Doug in the Commissioner one.  Develop new schedule of pay and benefits –  Elaine: We're done with that.  Bob: Yes, we're done, we can actually take that off of here.  Encourage a Volunteer program, project-specific?  Abby: I'm not willing to take that on.  Bob: Not Abby.  Encourage partnerships with community groups and agencies –  Karen: That's Abby.  Abby: I've got that one.  Update and maintain user fee schedule –  Elaine: That's kind of me.  Bob: Search for alternative funding sources, that's you too –  Elaine: That's me. Ongoing.  Bob: Fern Cove, exterior painting?  Elaine: That's me. We're already talking about all that.  Bob: Ober Parking lot regrade?  Abby: I can take that; I have the building and the playground.  Bob: The Agren road regrade?  Elaine: That's me.  Bob: VES infield drains?  Karen: Nobody in their right mind wants that one. Why don't we give it to the new person?  Elaine: Save that for the new person, along with the Lisabeula Parking lot, those are all out in 2021.  Bob: Okay, we'll hold on those for now. I'll put TBD.  Abby: I thought the stage canopy wasn't happening –  Elaine: Yeah, it's not, we should take that one off.  Bob: What number is that?  Abby: 47.  Elaine: Yeah, it was not approved in the grant.</p>	
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Bob: So we're wiping that off?  
 Elaine: Yes, let's wipe it off.  
 Bob: Restrooms in all parks?  
 Abby: I got it.  
 Karen: Walking trail?  
 Bob: Yeah, ADA walking trail. Doug should take that one – that can be with the boardwalk .  
 Doug: Yep.  
 CC: This plan that Horsley came up with includes an ADA walking trail around Ober Park.  
 Abby: I meant to ask, when can we look at those?  
 CC: Tomorrow – I'll give you my address, you can come over.  
 Bob: Now, the Community Center –  
 Abby: I kind of feel we should all be on that, it's such a big deal.  
 Karen: I'm wondering if it's ever going to go anywhere.  
 Elaine: Hard to say –  
 Karen: We can't be the only ones looking at a Community Center; there needs to be some sort of coordination with other groups that have expressed an interest. Do we know anything more about K2?  
 Elaine: I have not heard a word.  
 Bob: So – at this stage, we've been through the whole thing. The only thing we haven't done is to summarize and put it in a form we can vote on.  
 Elaine: Well, I am working on that. It needs to be a certain way for both CAPRA standards and for RCO requirements for state grants. So I'm in the process of working on that. It's going to be about 90 pages long at least, and I'm probably about on page 60.  
 Bob: Really?  
 Elaine: Yeah, it's fabulous. I'm really proud of it.  
 Bob: And it puts everything we've done in a particular format?  
 Elaine: It does.  
 Bob: Are we meeting Thursday?  
 Karen: I can't, I have another appointment for my knee.  
 Bob: Would it be helpful if it – can I help, in some way, at looking at what you've done?  
 Elaine: Yeah, I'm happy to show you what I've done. I'll show you, too – I don't have any of it printed out so we'll just have to do it in my office – it's pretty comprehensive. Appendices –  
 Bob: So I guess we're about as far as we can go at this point.  
 Elaine: Yes. I think I mentioned to you at one of our planning meetings the three things that are really heavy on my plate right now, I've got the two grant projects that I need to kick into high gear and I'm almost ready to make some decisions about where we're going to go with those, so I'm talking with a lot of people – and this, getting the Strategic Plan done.  
 Karen: A question I have is – we have a levy coming up – and my question is what do we need to do for that? Do we need to start planning for that, sooner rather than later?  
 Elaine: Well, you need to decide what we're going to ask for. If it's 50 cents, 60 cents, 45 cents – so



that needs to be decided. We need to decide when. We get to have 2 runs at a levy, so if a levy fails, you need to leave yourself some room to run it again. Now the downside of that is – if you do an April levy as we did last time, because we were fearful that the levy was going to fail, you’re not going to get as many voters as you would in a November election. The downside to November is you don’t have another chance if it fails.

Doug: If we have to do it twice, how many months have to be left in between?

Elaine: It’s quarterly. You can do one in February, April, August or November.

CC: And what’s the fee?

Elaine: It is generally around \$10 - \$12K. A couple months beforehand you want to do informational marketing, so to the Beachcomber, talk about our talking points. Last time I had a postcard mailer professionally done, to all residences on Vashon. Again, information – you can’t promote Yes or No, you can just tell them the facts.

Karen: What are the things that we need to do? Questions we’ll answer – which is How much will this increase your taxes? I think we need to be very upfront and realistic.

Cap Joe: So the other thing that the Fire District did do, which caused some grief, was they came and asked for money but they had no plan.

Karen: Correct. And we have that.

Cap Joe: and the plan has to be out – which is the Strategic Plan. And when Charlie was pressed on that point, he said Oh yeah, we’re just figuring out what we’re going to spend the money on – but they said vote for it anyway, and the Island did. So lesson learned is to be saying what the money is going to be used for.

Doug: My recollection of this process last time is that it was really frightening. Because it looks as if there was a good chance the levy would fail. It ended up passing by 50 votes, I think.

And it was suggested at the time that we may want to start a little earlier – if it was in April, we could have done it again in August, or November – but then we would have had August to December to shut down. Which seems a scenario we want to avoid?

Elaine: Yes, so I actually was instructed and did do a levy failure budget, so – basically, in April, you still have monies that are going to come in until the end of the year. So I took that bucket and pretty much stretched into the following year, so we could run another levy the following year. That’s how you manage that. It essentially meant that me and Jason were the sole employees of the Park District, and you shut things down. You have to make decisions about what you’re going to keep open and what you’re going to shut down.

Doug: And that itself was controversial. It was go full speed ahead until you’ve spent the last dollar and then shut down?

Elaine: It depends on which philosophy you want to embrace. On the other hand, if it’s a complete shut down and everybody is gone, then you have no way to manage anything going forward. So I tend to be in the camp that you want to stretch things out and keep your options open.

Doug: What is the role of reserves in that? Can we spend those into the following year?

Elaine: Absolutely.

Doug: Another – we have the authority to spend, we just don’t have the levy approval? If we get

the money from somewhere, from reserves, that's enough-

Elaine: Well, the reserves are money that you have in the bank. And so we have a bank account with King County and there's not a special savings account that's called the reserve, that's just our accounting.

Doug: Right, I was wondering about the legal authority to spend money after a hypothetical levy failure.

Elaine: I think you're totally fine. If you've got money, spend it however you want.

Cap Joe: The failure of the levy doesn't disestablish the District. That comes as a completely separate process. But what we don't want to happen is to have a standalone and a second election, if your timing of the second election should become necessary. But we'll all work together to make that not necessary. We will make sure that that doesn't happen.

Elaine: I would suggest too, that it was very, very helpful having the Friends of the Park group come together and if we have something organized along that line – it was hard, again, the volunteer thing on here – it's scrounging up people who are willing to take on that kind of a role, and it's really useful. Last time it was Kristen Pessman. She stepped up and volunteered to take that on – she was fabulous – so that's where your marketing can be.

Bob: A lot of its educational, maybe 25% of the Islanders realize that the levy isn't excess, the levy is the ONLY money for the District.

Doug: That was the point I tried to make last time, actually. Not like the School District, the School District gets some money from other sources. We don't get anything. And I'm not sure that's clear at all.

Elaine: Yes, that's a big part of the educational piece.

CC: Most of the people were still so upset about VES. We're over that hump now.

Doug: There was this theory out there also that people were: Well we're going to punish the Park District and fail the levy and then they'll get the lesson, and maybe a Commissioner or two will resign, then we'll pass one. That was a hypothesis at the time.

Bob: There was a problem with people that were against it vocally, like Hilary.

Elaine: Hilary was leading the charge on the No campaign.

CC: If there's some way to avoid getting Hilary against you; it's always good to know where she's going to come down.

Elaine: But her point was that the reason she wanted to fail it was not because of anger over VES or any of the commissioners; it was because of the elimination of recreation programming, so that's part of our educational component, that we've made a commitment to revitalizing that.

CC: And maintenance... but you guys have done some of that!

Elaine: We've done a lot of that maintenance.

CC: Okay, so see – she'll be fine. That's the story. You want Hilary on your side.

Doug: So are we finished?

**Bob: Motion to adjourn.**

**Karen: Seconded. This was a nice meeting.**