

**VASHON PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
MEETING MINUTES**

Ober Park, Performance Room, 7:00
Special Meeting

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

Staff attending: Elaine Ott-Rocheford, Christopher Iannazzone

ISSUE	DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME	FOLLOW UP
Call to order & agenda review	Special meeting- Interviewing for new commissioner	
Public Comment	Doug: We will make the official selection tomorrow night, and then the selected candidate will be sworn in tomorrow night. Darragh: I just want to say that on behalf of the sports club, I'm the President of the soccer club, it's great that we just have so many candidates in general. I've known Hans, former president of the soccer club, and I don't know these other two gentlemen, but I would just like to say that it would be great to get somebody involved that has knowledge/experience with the VPD sports programs and activities on the island.	

8/27/18

New VPD
Commissioner

Doug: Okay so what I thought that we would do, in more or less random order, each one of us ask a question to a particular person and then the other two can comment on that, and then we can move onto the next person.

Bob: I would like to get a comment from each of the three, I'm not addressing anyone in particular, and I'd like to know why you would like this job.

Hans: I'd like this job because I love this island and I love what the PD provides on this island. My family has been here about 15 years, and we love it here, it's been great, we've raised two kids, even get emotional about it. I think its essential the functions the Park District provides as a community resource, certainly as a physical resource, and then as facilities and programs for the communities. Then as a supporter of residents and the island to create community, and I've felt that with many activities I've been involved in with my family and the Park District, so for me it's a great opportunity to support that element. I feel like I have a pretty good background to fit that as well, and I know that we probably won't go into that in this question but maybe later on, and that's why I'd like to serve with you all. I certainly appreciate everything you all do to support the mission of the Park District and all the great things it has and done, and I'd like to join you all in that if you wanted to have me.

Bob: Thanks Hans, Steve

Steve: Hello Abby and Karen, I didn't have a chance to meet you when we first came in. I think what Hans said I mean definitely I would echo, there is a lot of potential and I think that's what a lot of us see, but turning that potential into actual substance that seems to be something that at least in my times with following the Park District from running 4 years ago, to periodically checking in. There seems to be a lot of good initiatives and good ideas but taking that and bringing that out into the public, and having the public join with the Park District to have that support. Just by way of example, when the levy funds came up there was a real anxiety if there would be a sufficient number of voters voting in favor of additional levy funds. With an organization and people here promoting the Park District and its agenda, but not having the community engage in the same level of excitement that Hans brings here and some other folks I've mentioned, that's something I think I can bring. I'm a builder, I take ideas and turn them into reality, bring people to the table, stakeholders, and get that critical mass going that allows these visions people have to come into fruition, or at least have the opportunity for them to be aired, tried, and then maybe they aren't appropriate, but that's what I think I can bring to the Park District.

Bob: Thanks, Kevin.

Kevin: I've only been here for a year and half, so I don't really have any agendas. I would just like to come

along and try to support any way I can what you guys have already written up.

Karen: Where are you from?

Kevin: I was in the tri-cities for about 40 years, I'm originally from England. I have had a history of service, I've been on a lot of different boards, and I run a board still up in Eastern Washington. My main goal is to just try to serve. I love the parks here, I love what I see, it's a beautiful place and the community is incredible. It's got great growth, great potential, I'd love to be a part of making that happen.

Doug: I would just like to add, I don't know if anyone else got copies of all three of your resumes, but I did not receive anyone's but Hans. So if the other two of you could go ahead and send me your resumes that would be great. Okay, Abby do you want to go next.

Abby: Sure, how have you participated with programs associated with the parks?

Kevin: Me, I really haven't participated in many of the programs, I just hike a lot of the hikes, so I'm quite familiar with the larger parks on the island, some of the smaller ones I'm not too familiar with. I have gone on the website and looked around and stuff, but I'm not particularly intimate with any of the programs. I do like sports, always been a sports person, I love soccer, all that stuff. So um, kind of simple answer.

Steve: Not having any children on island limits opportunity for engagement at least on my end, however concerts in the park, fairly routine participant with that with my partner Judy, and also making use of the pool, when trails are open and opportunities permit, I believe with exception of the two water access park lands, I've hiked and been around all the parks and kind of make note, and have an idea of the character of each and that nature. I think as I've mentioned in the response to a question, I did try awhile back to join some of the programs, but I think that was right during the transition from having them in house and then having outside contractors, so I haven't made use of any of the outside contractors at this particular point.

Hans: With parks I was a member, representative at large, of the commons committee, maybe still am, I don't know.

Elaine: You are

(Laughter)

I was on the committee that finalized full grant funding on VES field. And then involvement and activities, I've been involved in coaching about every sport on the island, not lacrosse. But baseball, basketball, soccer, Frisbee, so most of those use parks resources and participate in that fashion. And like I've said in the beginning, as a family we've enjoyed every park on the island and all the activities that are associated with it.

Karen: So, When I joined the board, one thing that I wanted to do was be a spokesperson for community rather than to represent a particular group, so there's a tension between that, right. If you represent a particular

group, like soccer, then that's where you want all the money to go and that's where you want everything to go, and I'm saying to myself we have a big community here and we need to serve everybody. So how do you feel about that?

Steve: I'll go first, I haven't yet. The tensions, I can't speak to those, because I haven't been privy to them on the board, just the scuttlebutt I hear and things of that nature I hear. Presuming that they're in place, I believe that with good stewardship of the board and the focusing of that, I think each and every one of us has the ability to put any special interest that we may have aside, if there is essentially a guidance, agreement amongst the board members to do so. I liken it to a jury trial, when the judge says look the defendant is innocent until proven guilty. Can you put that in your mind and put aside any preconceived notions you may have? And most people seem to be able to do so. So I do believe that's entirely possible, maybe it takes critical mass, or maybe it takes more committed will power, I can't answer that with exact details, but I certainly believe by having some special interest gives insight that might not otherwise be present, but if its allowed to run unchecked it can breed discourse, suspicion, agendas, and things of that nature. Ultimately I think it's a management issue that can be well taken care of.

Hans: Yes, good question Karen, and I certainly have special interest in just about everything Parks District does. I've certainly been to the lighthouse with my dad, stayed in lodging housing with my family a few times, hiked and enjoyed every park in the district. Then as a sports person, soccer board president. Mentioned, but I've been coach to just about every sports, not swimming or crew, on the island. So I've had the opportunity to experience a lot of parks from many angles, which I appreciated and it gives me the opportunity to try and understand the different interests at stake there. I think its part of all your positions, Elaine's position, and making those tradeoffs. I work in the public sector daily for the City of Seattle. Day in and day out you have to understand what the competing interests are, you have to prioritize, you have to make those tradeoffs, and ideally you do it with as much information as you can, with open communication, transparency, and being well informed. So that's what I hope to do with you all as well, I've had the opportunity to have a lot of different experiences that I can bring.

Kevin: I can't claim to have experienced the politics of the island yet. I'm sure people express themselves and stand up for their positions. It would seem logical that the board sets the priorities. And this interface between you and the public, has to speak strong, and also honest. Special interests are always there but I guess you need to try and keep them balanced and everyone following the budget, and forward plans. If I was a board member, I would just go with the general board plan, what the strategic mission was, which I would hope to be a part of setting that mission. So I think it's all interrelated and resides around that plan.

Doug: I guess it's my turn, maybe to take a more concrete example, because I think it's one of those things we are kind of talking about, is that decision on the fields, where, I don't want to speak to the issue, for one because I wasn't a commissioner then. But it does appear that there were a lot of tradeoffs made at that time. For example, there was a plan for a restroom at Point Robinson, which is the single most popular Park District facility, which was apparently, people correct me if I'm wrong with this, but apparently not done at that time because the money was being used for the VES fields. So, I guess what I'm wondering is how would you deal with a situation like that, where you have what appears to be a meat on one hand, and you have this project going forward on the other hand, is there something you can say about that decision that would be useful.

Kevin: I was a commercial realtor for 10 years, and the term deferred maintenance is a real estate term I think originally. Funding, spreading funding, keeping it all organized, there are rules on how to do that, it's just your interactions, you guys thoughts, your guys decision sitting around that table again. I think it's very difficult to keep the public happy anytime, anywhere, I mean, people are just people, we're all the same. I think for capital budgets, with my experience with all that's left out of a capital budget for after about 5 years, so when you're budgeting you can throw a couple of pennies toward some capital improvement, hopefully, all the time, if you have the funding, if not you need to source the funding. I don't think there's any simple answer to that question. Sometimes it takes tough decisions, that's why you're representing the public, they have your trust, and so I think each decision is its own decision.

Steve: The critical question isn't so much an issue of prioritization in that regard, decisions were made, cost control is what happened here, we had a vision as I understood it, and the ability to match funding to that vision. Things started spiraling out of control cost wise, was ultimately what happened, so the question then becomes do you maintain that particular direction until you the see the conclusion of that undertaking to the extent that it injures other opportunities, and other wants, desires, that would otherwise be prioritized, or do you simply say enough is enough and let that deal with it as it flies. Now my understanding of the VES fields, had to do with additional outside funding, permitting issues, and a number of outside issues, that compounded and absolutely, pardon the expression screw the books, I think so it's a very difficult position to be in, if there's any lesson to be learned in that regard is perhaps more of, again, with my limited understanding of, for example with the pool cover. Is that before you take significant Capital expenditures number one you know exactly what it is you're getting into. You don't do wishy-washy hopefully these things will happen. Because generally they never happen the way you expect them to. Pool drain for example, I know where did that come from. Those things you have to be able to deal with, but if you have a vision For something such as a cover for the pool, it's going to cost so much money. You get more people involved, you spread the risk, and you spread

the ability to fund it coming in. By doing it that way you have other interests and stakeholders, so it's not just the park district on the line, it's other interested parties that are on the line as well. So if things start going swirly you have the ability to bring those stakeholders in, you have the ability to reach out, as VES fields tried to do, I believe, after the fact. But lighting standards were taken off the books as well as a couple of other things, you know, that still haven't been met. So I think the upshot in that particular thing is number one, going into it knowing your numbers cold. Get guarantees, figure where the cost overruns might be, who's going to bare them out, things like that. And number two, spread the risk out, or at least the interest in the projects. That's what's I think I learned about the VES Fields and how to protect something like that from happening again.

Hans: Yeah I think you both speak to that very well. That kind of thing is about facility planning, project planning, for me. And I think the park district now is in much better shape than it was 10 to 15 years ago in facility planning, so having a long-term facility plan, keeping that current, and allowing that as the vehicle to make sure you're prioritizing what your facility needs are, is how you would usually handle that.

And then project planning, if you have a project that it's planned out robustly, so you can see those things coming and for a variety of reasons, just so happened in the front end of that project as well. So long term facility planning is key to making sure you have the resources to apply to the projects you need. And then, being mission driven, which I think you guys are doing well. You have a really clear mission now, and I think that step you guys took last year to do that, missions and values kind of grounds you, prioritizes you.

Bob: So, tell me what in your background would you bring to this job that would be beneficial to the Parks?

Hans: Sure I can start, so professional, volunteer, and locally, so professionally. I'm a service contract manager for the City of Seattle. I manage \$100 million year in service contracts, I have a lot of exposure to high level finances, service delivery, contracts to services, as well as City provided, and municipality provided services. In this case, working with executives to understand the tradeoffs, the scope, the scale, and to prioritize. So I have that exposure to very high service delivery, very high contract to services, very high level of customer services, all those things on a day to day basis. And like I said earlier, I also have a lot of experience on the island related to parks and the recreational activities on the island, so I bring that in my experience working with recreational activities in a variety of aspects, and in the parks themselves. I also bring personal vested interest in the community, and the parks, like we all do.

Kevin: I managed a corporate farm for 25 years, full CEO, full profit loss, authority and responsibility, lots of finance trying to keep the farm working now days is quite challenging. Then I was a Commercial realtor, so I had a lot of experience with land, and funding it, financing it, understanding, quite a lot of financing and

accounting. One year at a loss, your neck is on the block, and you know it.

(laughter)

Steve: Well you guys are going to have a tough time, I bring legal expertise. I bring 25 years of being a lawyer by trade, but of course working with contracts on the business side of things. That's my primary strength in addition to starting and growing law firms as well as small businesses. High level of entrepreneurship, number for clients would peel off, and I would become special counsel, as well, business consultant to these individuals. Some of these turned out to be successful, some did not. So the lessons learned from failures, whether mutual or otherwise, are lessons I carry with me forward. Also the ability to engage with the public, potential investors, for financial purposes, gaining publicity, and a number of other factors that go into the development of a small business environment. In addition to the financial end of things, which I have some exposure, that was generally delegated mostly on my part. But by being primary shareholder you are very interested in the books. So that was a bit more peripheral, and more so was management of personal as well as outside of business organizations. Again I would stress all the time I've been following the parks and talked with people, whether it be cap joe and some of the folks he's with, or others out and about, some of the biggest things I've heard and why I presented myself for a candidate and believe it be a good fit, is the ability to engage the public, the ability to go out there and take these wonderful ideas you folks come with, and essentially sell them. Get people interested in backing these ideas, so that the success and failures are felt by everybody not just parks, so I think that's something I think I can contribute.

Abby: My question is, how would you actually engage the public though? Because it's difficult for the PD to have the public interested in, until something goes wrong, so is there a strategy that you have in mind? Or is that something that you feel as if you can strongly do?

Steve: Many minds working together works better than a single one. So the ideas that I might throw out, might just be a few ideas of those that a collective such as yourselves could come up with if there was incentive and opportunity to do so. Something you could do is a weekly column in the loop, or bi-weekly now, since its every two weeks. An opportunity for here's what's going on, here's a call for ideas. Right now I'm on an extended sabbatical, so I have time. To engage the community, I have absolutely no problem conversing with different groups, go down to the pool, go over the horse riding at paradise, soccer fields. Just having that presents and the word gets around, and again, it doesn't always have to be successful initially, but what you want to do is change the public impression. If there's one, two, three, or four people out there plus a paper presence, for other opportunities, even a sandwich board sign. Something that keeps it in the public mind. That is a good first step in my opinion, if there successful, expand on ideas that are. If not, ask why. If the answer is instructive

then you go with that. If it's simply, yeah that's not the best idea, you tried it, great, now you know, and now that's one fewer idea you have to go through.

Kevin: I think Steve has some great ideas. Engaging the public in every opportunity you got, I mean concerts in the park. It would take someone to go and do all that, and Steve sounds like he would be very good at that actually. Engaging the public is probably the biggest challenge I think you all have, having them in your roles, and the things you want to do. I had not given that a lot of thought prior to coming in, and now I recognize that it's obviously very important. I would go with Steve's ideas, trying to get out, use the papers. Use any medium you can, you have a Facebook page, social media is a good way of engaging people today.

Hans: Yeah so for me it's the constituent relations, online survey, and sidewalk engagement. So certainly you can do that plenty now. Most of the different facilities on island have groups of people on island who care for them which is great, and so just like you've done to engage them in activities/facilities, Make sure there's an open line of communication, which you have done. You guys did a survey the year before last and that was helpful. I think it's easy these days to maintain an online survey in multiple languages. It's hard to get people to do that, but you can build it, so that you can get some continuous feedback on constituency, get some feedback there. Every board I've been on I've always pushed for that, more feedback, more opportunity. Then it's just about relations in the community, which I have. That's often what you build on, put out those concepts, what you're wrestling with, and get the feedback through a variety of channels. So I think those three mechanisms work for me.

Karen: So one of the things which I'm very interested in is, what Vashon is going to be? Because it's in the midst of change. I'll talk to people and they will say, Vashon is families and small children. Is it? Or is it primarily becoming an elderly population? When I tried to dig into the demographics, I was horrified to find really don't know real statistics on this island. I also have a friend on this island that is absolutely positive, Vashon is going to turn into Nantucket.

(Laughter)

I'm interested in, if you're trying to plan a park system, you have to have some sort of an idea what is the future, what are the demographics going to be.

Doug: Could I make a quick comment, I've heard Lopez Island and mercer island as future models to what Vashon is going to be, but I have never heard of Nantucket.

(laughter)

Hans: My hope is that it doesn't change too much, but supports its community. I'll say it's refreshing to come to the concerts Thursday nights, and see how many kids there are, because my kids are older now. It's hard to

get your hand on the demographics now. So for me that's refreshing to keep seeing the young kids coming through. I do pay attention to the School District, which is the easiest barometer, and staying around 100 island kids per grade, and they're still doing that in K-3, where you see it. In some respects we're lucky, the water limits growth to some degree, and families are able to afford to live here still. So it's amazing how much it hasn't changed in terms of demographics I think. What I look for in a region is affordability, access, and I think the public sector has to keep an eye on that ...things are getting more expensive in this region, and it's hard on budgets. I think the Park district and other public sectors have to make sure to continue to provide opportunity and access to everyone that just means you're conscious of it. How you price things, what's available, and accessibility as well. That's about reaching communities that speak other languages, or come from a different place, and making sure the opportunities in the district continue to be accessible and available to reach those communities financially. So I think there's a challenge and opportunity for public districts to make sure that stays the case.

Kevin: Change, where do we go from here? Change is inevitable, we all know that. Last year I heard a statistic from Windermere Seattle that Seattle is going to grow by 2 million people in the next 5 years. Now that may or not be accurate, but big growth. That is bound to spill over here, you've got new people like me coming into town, loving it here. The demand I think for change is going to be massive. As I'm so new, I don't know how much things have changed, I've been coming here for about 25 years. I haven't seen much change but believe the population has grown dramatically. According to your survey it's going to grow.... not much growth by 2040, I question that in the survey. I can't see that happening at all, it doesn't make sense with what's happening in Seattle and surrounding areas. If the economy keeps going, we could see a lot of growth and a lot of change, there is a lot of cash in the system right now. But I am a little nervous about where the economy is going here too. I would love to see it remain similar to the way it is, maintain parks and try to keep population manageable. Try to keep it green and healthy and beautiful. I think it will be challenging in the next 20 years, I do. The rate of change is too much, it's going to spill over. There are already a lot of people with young kids coming over, I see it all the time. I would love to see it stay this parish like island, you know. I love nature, I love everything about it. It's too nice of a place, but I think long term we will have to fight to maintain it. A lot of people out there coming here.

Steve: I think, one of the first questions is to ask how Vashon is led...we have an unofficial mayor but otherwise no governing body. King County takes care of the governing aspects on our behalf, so that doesn't leave a lot of avenues for community input. An entity that had the ability to steer public funds, for public benefit, and I think the park district is actually one of the few opportunities that can happen. Ultimately it becomes is

the Park district supposed to be responsive or a leader? And it is constrained by financial funding issues. While the population may be strained by water rights issues and the ability to draw off the aquifer, the income base is going to increase, it's inevitable. Whether or not the population follows suit, as far as where kids go to school or type of activities they do, or things of that nature, I don't have the answers to that. But I do believe, and this gets back to the theme I've been advancing, if the park district is going to take a leadership role in defining what Vashon as a community is going to present to others, its own community and visitors that come over, and we're going to have a vibrant small business environment, I think it's crucial to involve a greater extent of stakeholders in that question. Again this gets back to what I'm presenting, the park district to take that lead. We have the ability, we have some critical mass, but we need more people, more involvement in this, because we are going to be proactive. Or as a collective, simply say no, we chose to be reactive, the demand will come to us and we will fulfill that demand. But in any case you need to have a greater level of input otherwise you won't have cohesive environment where ideas can flourish and communities can thrive.

Doug: One of the things I've found in my years as commissioner, is that a lot people have very little idea what the VPD actually does. Somebody mentioned not having visited the two water access parks, that's true, including the people that live right next to them. And in fact, they don't know it's a park, in the case of one neighborhood. They think well maybe it's a state park they haven't heard of. There are state parks, but not on Vashon, there's King County Parks and the land trust, there are all these organizations, and of course the School District present in the community. So my question is, how do you see the Park District relating to these other organizations? Role of the Park District in the community?

Steve: I think it's absolutely critical, involving the community is a wonderful idea. The reality is that you can't involve everyone all the time, so this gets back to a comment I made earlier, special interest is an important aspect of community decision making if they are properly managed. When I was talking to Elaine, and talking to her about maybe running for this position, and I said you know the land trust, seems like a perfect marriage. Where you have interests that are shared, it's not a matter of territoriality, it's a matter of involving more people so there is that awareness. When I was running four years ago, every week up on the website created, I had up that I'm going to be at this particular park at this time. Judy, my partner who grew up on the island, hadn't been to Wingehaven, she had not been to a couple of the other parks. I said come on these are gems lets go explore. Generating that kind of interest just through simple opportunities, for members of the public to meet each one of you, on a one on one basis. It's not that one person has to do everything, but one person can simply say I love Point Robinson, I'm a member of the land trust, okay I'll go ahead and do these things, or work with Cap Joe, this and that. Again even if it's not well attended per say, the fact that you have that

exposure to the public, where here for you, these things are tremendously important.

Kevin: I still like what Steve's saying about integrating all of these, including the public, and bringing the interested parties and maybe some of the non-interested parties in. One of the questions I had when I looked over the website and went over some of the published material, yeah, I was wondering if the park district was the right name for this group. You know one thing in accounting you got to call an account by a good name if people know what's going on. It seemed to me that Park District is a pretty broad general name for what you guys do, you guys do a lot of difference stuff. Lots of different contracts. That was just one thought I had whether or not the Park District was the right term to describe what you guys do.

Hans: Yes, good question from Doug, I think it's essential, obviously to maintain strong support from community, and maintain strong constituency Making people aware of the programs and facilities that are associated with the district and that they understand that support. But also beyond maintaining that strong level of support I don't see it essential that the brand and the name of the Park District be first and foremost in everyone's mind when they're using a resource. That is to say I'm sure many people are confused about which public spaces are managed and owned by who but that's okay. We want to be proud of the resources, able to use them, able to access them, fundamentally that's what the mission is all about. It's not necessarily about which park is owned by the park district vs King County, vs the Land trust. As long as we're maintaining the positive support to support the district's pursuit of the future, it might be a priority to me to make sure the public differentiate the facilities. And then I think it's about partnership beyond that in terms of achieving anything.

Bob: We've got operations, capital expenditures, where are your views on where money should come from for those two categories? We've got several different sources...there are private-sector donations, the Levy, potential bonds, grants, so where should the money come from for a capital project? For operations of the district? And how does all that work from your view?

Doug: May I also add borrowed money is possible.

Hans: Obviously it depends...for capital it depends on the level of the expense, and many districts, many districts of any sort, that start a capital project, would choose to have that paid for by a couple of generations...so obviously a major facility is often a bond or financed in some other form, for future ratepayers to pay for that facility, and that's about scale. I tend to be fiscally conservative, and tend to not want to borrow money in general for certain operations, especially for small scale capital, once again that's back to scale. I mean I think for the park district and Public District in general, it's essential to leverage grants and fundraising. I think Elaine and the district have done a great job with that recently, so identify grants that could support the

activities, and identify constituents that could help with the fundraising support as well. Operating budgets should be within your revenue mechanisms I think, and then like I said capital depends on scale.

Kevin: Modern financial theory spits out that you need to borrow money, Having access to those funds. They don't emphasize paying that back. I am too fiscally conservative, I like low debt, but believe some debt is good. Capital budgets are difficult on a skinny budget. In my other life in capital campaigns, we did a lot of fundraising. I would like to look at alternative sources of funding. Music in the park is successful. Capital projects must be approached with more care, takes a lot of planning and collaborating. I don't think there's a clear answer, it's moment by moment thing by thing.

Steve: I agree with Kevin and Hans, I would fall in the same category, I would say fiscally cautious, not fiscally conservative. If you own something, take care of it, and if you're not in a financial position to do so, you shouldn't have it. Image presented to the community is what is spoken and presented by the park District as well as the physical assets that are there. Roof for example that needs replacement, 3 years go by before roof is taken care of in the most highly used park in the district, something's amiss in that set up. Operations are important, more you can involve others, lessen the risk to fiscal assets. Public relations, community realizes this entity can manage their assets. The money would come, lots of generosity in the community. It is our money on behalf of those who let us borrow it. Again, I am definitely on the fiscally cautious side of things.

Abby: Where are we falling short? And something going well?

Kevin: I've heard a lot about excess land not being used or utilized. I can't criticize because I haven't been exposed to the Park District's efforts. From touring the forests, looks like some things working, maybe some maintenance. It's gorgeous, facilities are nice. It seems to be very successful, farmers market, web page, the survey from last year. The web page is very educational, and whoever did that did a great job. You seem to be going in the right direction. Not close enough to the details to criticize.

Hans: I think day to day delivering facilities and their programs is outstanding. It's an essential factor in fabric of community, the PD programs and facilities, and it's fantastic. What you provide for community is great. Administratively a lot of good work on planning has been done, understanding base, having mission, facilities plan. Puts in good position to make long term decisions. In response to Karen's question, access and affordability, keeping that in mind.

Steve: I didn't make a point to try and seek out information about parks, I intentionally didn't want to investigate, wanted to rely on personal experiences. I'm not sure what happened with the survey actually, not aware of any initiatives that came from it, or affected anything. I think I remember someone once stated objection to the cost of the survey.

No news is good news model, seems to be status quo. Everyone special interests are being met, VES fields the grass is always nice. The pool, the facilities, everything is being taken care of. My experiences suggest things are going well, the amount of negative news is low. That's a good thing, but shouldn't be that way. Again if you have something to get excited about, crow about it for those people who don't go on the website.

Doug: Steve you've talked about the survey, and it actually has come up in decision making, such as the pool cover. There has been some criticism when the last levy came up, that the programs of the Park District had been stripped to nothing, and that was strong opposition to the levy last time. So should programs be expanded? What is your thinking about expanding programs?

Steve: I absolutely believe it should be actively considered. The central nature parks has, that most other organizations don't have is they are multifaceted. Huge level of user groups, aquatic and equestration. Most important thing, if I want to take empowerment classes, I might have to go here or this contact, I mean you have the web portal, but I'm looking for accountability. It is a brand at that point, the private contractors that have a presence on the website is great, but I don't know who they are. It would be great to be able to see when there is a kid's activity, adult education, or meditation class. Something that provides for more of an encompassing and inclusive direction, opposed to offering physical assets.

Hans: Facilities and recreational programs are a key to the mission of the District. Make sure there's sufficient programs to support community's interest. Then I think the opportunity is to partner with local organizations, District has done well and can continue to do so.

Karen: By the way, the survey has resulted in our strategic plan, and our strategic plan is almost done, so that's the good news.

Hans: Yes that's great

Kevin: I look at growth from a different standpoint for an organization. If an organization isn't growing it's shrinking. Physiological requirement for any successful organization. People need to feel like they're getting somewhere, and that will spill into the public. Critical to the entity, you have to grow, define the way you want it to grow.

Doug: What about programming in particular?

Kevin: I am not experienced enough to answer that clearly. Social programing, between you guys and the school, you have to keep that going.

Bob: As you've probably heard most of the year we have two meetings a month. Is that a problem with any of you?

Hans: Nope, 2nd and 4th Tuesday of every month.

Kevin: I'm retired
(laughter)

Doug: Two former members of the board of commissioners had a fundamental disagreement about the park District. One said that the job of the Park District is to run a balanced budget, and no more. The other side said we should strive for a small surplus each year. We have important expenditures down the road, VES fields, maybe the pool cover, and other things. Big ticket items. If not doing them this year, put some money aside to do in the future. Should the budget be balanced every year?

Kevin: Having been responsible for a lot of budgets I think you need to have a balanced budget or close to it. In private business I like to have 6 months of operating expenditures in the bank. What happens if the economy goes south? Good accountant, good banker, good insurance agent, and good attorney. It's difficult for you guys, because you are dependent on levy and public funding. I would recommend 6 months expenditures in bank.

Steve: In an organization such as parks, you take a look at other Park Districts, and there are significant cuts, less garbage pickup or mows aren't cut as often. Ability to be a little flexible in the business model. I am a proponent of using funds made available through levy, and other sources for purpose to provide services to the community. Yes, extraordinary expenses come up, and they need to be identified in as far in advance as possible. Having a protocol when a large issue comes up, taking a calm minded approach. Parks will survive, it's gone through a lot. With good support of community, you will make it. So a specific answer to your question, I would not keep a surplus. It is generally just a cookie jar. Other people grabbing from the cookie jar.

Hans: Good question...positive income is a great target to maintain for sure. Facilities and having a long term budget and plan in place for them. I wouldn't choose to maintain an excessive revenue, positive net income is key, but delivery of value to rate payers. Long term planning and facility planning and how to finance that.

Doug: Questions from the audience, do you have anything to say Cap Joe?

Beachcomber: Just for my own reference can I have everyone say their full names.

HANS VAN DUSEN

STEVE EVANS

KEVIN O'RORKE

Cap Joe: I commend the board of commissioners for the way this whole thing was done. We're faced with an unexpected vacancy, and filling it warms the cockles of this old sea captain. Although I know Hans and Steve, I don't know this gentleman, can you identify your accent.

Kevin: Born in England, now I'm American

Cap joe: What part of England.

Kevin: I was born in England

Cap Joe: Well done, and I support whatever way you go.

Doug: Thank you everyone for coming

Karen: Yes thank you so much.

Bob: This will be difficult, I am very impressed with all three of you.

Cap Joe: Good to have the Beachcomber back with us too.

Beachcomber: Happy to be here.

Doug: Motion to adjourn

Karen: Second

Motion passed 4-0

Adjourn 8:20 pm

Next Meeting: August 28, 2018, 7:00 PM

Respectfully submitted by:

Christopher Iannazzone
