

# VASHON PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## MEETING MINUTES

Ober Park, Performance Room, 7:00 pm

**DATE: Tuesday, January 22, 2019**

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

Staff attending: Elaine

ISSUE	DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME	FOLLOW UP
<b>Call To Order &amp; Agenda Review</b>	The meeting was called to order and the agenda was reviewed at 7:00 PM by Bob McMahon.	
<b>Public Comment</b>	Cap Joe spoke about the government being shut down, especially talking about former Coast Guard who will not be paid. The lighthouse has long been manned by Coast Guard. There was general speculation on the hospital district.	
<b>Minutes/ Vouchers Recreation Comprehensive Plan</b>	<p>Doug: Move to accept vouchers. Karen: Second. <b>Board Votes. 5-0</b></p> <p>Hans: I appreciated the informational packet you all put together. Again, I apologize for not being here last week, so I just wanted to comment on some of those things. The webpage could be enhanced if you add this resource you created as a list for every group on the island. Abby: I thought there was a reason we couldn't do that. Elaine: It just has to include everyone; it can't show one specific group. If it is representing the entire community, then it is fine. Hans: I also appreciate the next step: Program Master Plans. Do you have a sense of the timeline on that? Elaine: I'll be talking about the status of everything in the last agenda item. Eric is trying to get costs together and partnerships identified...it will be organic and throughout the year. Hans: Also, in regard to recreational programming, I just want to make sure we have great affordable access to everyone. Elaine: We do have the scholarship programs for just about every activity. It's super easy to demonstrate need- Apple Care, reduced lunch care plan, etc. We are the lowest cost hands down compared to other districts. Bob: All in favor of approving the rec comprehensive plan? <b>Board votes. 5-0</b></p>	<b>Motion to approve the Recreation Program Comprehensive Plan and the recommended recreation events/activities. Pass 5-0</b>
<b>Discussion of 2020-2023 Levy</b>	Elaine: Next meeting, I need the resolution drafted and explanatory statement and signed off by the attorney. By the 22 <sup>nd</sup> the pros and cons are due. So we have to do all of this at the next meeting. So regarding the cons, you felt that we could come up with the pro committee pretty	

easily. Are they on board?

Karen: Yes. I haven't heard back from one, but yes.

Elaine: Okay. I had a conversation with Hans as well discussing this. We have to be able to prove on the con committee that we at least showed an effort. We should reach out to Scott Harvey.

Have you done that?

Hans: You can go ahead and do that.

Karen: Do we have anyone else in the cons group?

Elaine: I can ask Scott to put some effort out there. It doesn't have to be three people, as long as we at least have one.

Karen: Do you have an example for the pros statement from last time?

Elaine: It would be in the voters pamphlet, online.

Karen: Okay, I'll go online then.

Elaine: Paul, if you can put something in the Beachcomber about this that would be great. Parks and Rec is having a levy on April 23<sup>rd</sup> and they can get ahold of me by the 21st to be on a con list.

Bob: Do we need to prove we went out looking for people to do it?

Elaine: A Beachcomber blurb. And reaching out to Scott will show effort, as well.

Cap Joe: You might want to reach out to Steve at Loop.

Abby: A lot of people read the newspaper from the High School, as well. I can reach out to them.

Elaine: Okay. Only three people can sign per group. The committee can have an unlimited number of people assisting them, but only three can sign. Each committee must designate a spokesperson to which King County will communicate with.

Citizen: You might reach out to Mike Mattingly.

Elaine: The pro-con statements are due on the 26<sup>th</sup>. Pro-con rebuttal statements are due on the 28<sup>th</sup>. The validation summary from last November, number of registered voters were just over 8,900, number of voters were 6,900. The minimal to vote is just over 3,000 and to pass it's just over 1,800. So what are we going to ask for? Our goal is to meet our reserve goal of \$4,000 a year, we want our cash flow to be steady.

Bob: We want \$400k showing in the reserves at the end of the year? We are not gaining that every year?

Elaine: Correct. At 50 cents, we would not meet our reserve goals in 2020 and 2023 and would have to borrow for 2024. At 51 cents, we would not meet our reserve goal in 2023. At 52 cents we would meet our reserve goals. If property values don't actually grow 8.7% like King County is predicting, we might be in trouble. If we do 52 cents, it is a little bit weak in 2023.

Karen: I still like 52 cents. That seems like the best solution. Are the people who write the pros also responsible for the rebuttals?

Elaine: Yes. We can educate, though.

Bob: Do we need a motion to select the 52 cents?

Elaine: Yes.

**Karen: I move that we seek a levy amount of 52 cents per 1000.**

**Abby: Second.**

**Motion to seek a  
levy amount of 52  
cents per 1000.  
Pass 4-1  
Doug opposed**

**Bob: Motion to suspend the rules?**

**Abby: I motion.**

**Karen: I second.**

**Board votes. 4-1. Doug doesn't want to suspend the rules on something this important.**

Bob: All in favor of the motion as presented?

Doug: I think we should take another look at it.

Bob: We have looked at every single levy amount for months.

Doug: We haven't talked about a bond issue. There is a \$400,000 item on the pool, which changes everything.

Elaine: It's all considered "Deferred Maintenance/ Capital Projects." It would definitely work for a bond.

Doug: When the school wanted to do a track, they made it into a bond. It failed once and passed the second time. People have said the fire department should have done the same thing.

Bob: The Fire Department was buying new things. The pool just needs maintained.

Karen: When I talk to people about a 52 cent levy, people have been telling me that it's worth it because they value the Park District. We should go for what we need and we have to make a good case for it. This is in fact not going to raise people's taxes all that much.

Doug: Well, let's be clear. They are paying more taxes, even if it is 50 cents.

Hans: To fully fund the strategic plan, we would only be asking people to pay 312, it's currently 245, and with the 50 cent levy its 300.

Doug: Why should we pay significantly more taxes?

Hans: That's how the cycle goes.

Abby: Doug, If people are thinking that way, like Karen said, we have laid out very clearly about what we want to do with it, that story will make people understand. The pool is something we want to get done, so if we put a bond out there for the pool, and it doesn't pass, that would be bad.

Doug: Well that means people wouldn't want it.

Abby: I understand that. If people don't like the pool that much, they won't pass the levy, anyway.

Doug: Well, if it doesn't pass because people don't like the pool and that's what is driving the levy..

Abby: Then we come back and take the pool out of it.

Bob: We have used the survey and the strategic plan. These numbers make sense. We end up at the target reserve, we are positive all the way through, a few places it's close, we never have to borrow money. If we don't pass this and have to borrow money, we could be criticized for that!

Hans: To be clear, a bond is borrowing money.

Doug: It's different then how they were borrowing money before.

Hans: It's a good vehicle but it's still borrowing money. It's honestly \$10 more.

Karen: It's only \$10.

Elaine: The pool maintenance is really an asset preservation issue- the drains are broken, the concrete is cracking. We are trying to keep the pool operable and a useful facility.

Abby: That's how I think of it. The pool is hazardous, in some ways.

**Motion to Suspend the Rules.**

**Pass 4-1**

**Doug opposed**

	<p>Karen: I would like to vote.          Bob: Yes, so would I. Any other comments?          Hans: It really is only what we need and not a penny more.  <b>Board Votes. 4-1. Doug opposed.</b>          Elaine: April 23th is the levy date. People get their ballots April 1. We send the postcards out about a week before.          Karen: I think we need to publicize what we are doing.          Abby: And we can as citizens.          Elaine: From Park District, it's all informational. We are doing a levy, here's the plan, it's 52 cents.          Karen: This is what it will get us.          Elaine: Yes, exactly. Just facts. As a group we can talk about what is important to say.          Citizen: You need to form a committee of users and lovers of the parks who are really selling the levy to people. It really makes the difference to people when the actual Park District is not who is pushing it- for optics and legality.          Elaine: Correct.          Bob: Do you want a board subcommittee for that?          Elaine: Sure, to get the messaging right.          Abby: I can, for the board subcommittee.          Hans: We also need a non-board committee.          Abby: I want these talking points all solidified before we recruit people for that.          Hans: I can do it too.  <b>Abby and Hans- subcommittee for talking points.</b>          Elaine: I'll get some stuff together and then we can all edit.          Karen: Even just getting individuals to write letters to the Beachcomber.          Reporter: We would love letters.</p>	
<p><b>Discussion of Illegal Dumping</b></p>	<p>Elaine: Illegal dumping has become astronomical since last year, especially. Maintenance used to empty our trash cans a couple times a week, they are doing it daily now. From 2014-2018, Vashon trash rates only went up 5.7%, our total costs have gone up 111%, it is getting insane. For instance, 5-6 bags dumped over at Inspiration Point.          Karen: Can we get them?          Elaine: I prefer a Wall of Shame. I'm sure it's illegal, but I wish we could do it. It is listed as a rule that illegal dumping is considered a misdemeanor. A gross misdemeanor if it is more than one cubic yard. I need some guidance from you on how seriously we should pursue this.          Karen: We should seriously pursue this.          Bob: Why were you hesitating?</p>	

	<p>Elaine: Well, do we want to handle this via a sheriff? There is a King County group that will do the actual investigating, and I think we should go that route. If this is a quick and dirty, go for broke, we will impose fines and go after these people.</p> <p>Karen: Another thing we are doing on our private road is putting up cameras.</p> <p>Elaine: Well at Inspiration Point, we don't have electricity, so it has to be a hunter's camera. Should we go that route?</p> <p>Karen: Well we don't know how successful it will be.</p> <p>Doug: Let's say we go the sheriff route, we have the name because they put their name in it. What would they do?</p> <p>Elaine: They would fine them.</p> <p>Doug: I guess I'm asking, would they enforce it?</p> <p>Elaine: Well that's a good question, I am not sure. I want to go this King County route. We write into them and they do the work.</p> <p>Bob: How about people who come and throw their garbage in our dumpsters?</p> <p>Elaine: The fine depends on the amount of garbage.</p> <p>Bob: The only distinction is if it wouldn't be something thrown away at the park. Do we keep our dumpsters locked?</p> <p>Elaine: No.</p> <p>Karen: Because it is an island-wide problem, should we have a strategy for this island-wide?</p> <p>Abby: We can ask Zero Waste Vashon.</p> <p>Hans: King County Roads, as well.</p> <p>Elaine: This is an operational thing, so I don't need a motion.</p> <p>Abby: We have so little power over other frustrating things, so we should really take care of this.</p>	
<p><b>Staff Reports</b></p>	<p>Elaine: Grant Reports: Ober Park grant, letter of intent is due at the end of this month. Typically, they ask for a partner and a nonprofit is a good one. Is it okay if I reach out to the senior center?</p> <p>Abby: Absolutely.</p> <p>Karen: Sure.</p> <p>Elaine: So I have an RFQ out for the engineer/ architect. We have two responses so far.</p> <p>Abby: Are they on the island?</p> <p>Elaine: They are not, but one has a son who goes to school on the island. The first part is the conceptual design- I need that by mid-March. The second piece is if we don't get the grant, it is null and void. Sound good?</p>	

Abby and Karen: Yes.

Elaine: It is \$250k for the grant. Basically the RFQ is written as, we want a conceptual design for “The Playground For All” to replace the aging equipment, reuse whatever can be reused, stress the ADA component, and the senior and adults activity centers. Interviews will be Feb 7-8. **I could use a committee for this.**

**Abby: I am available for this.**

**Elaine: I will see if Susie is available, as well.**

Elaine: I spoke at the last meeting about the mini-grant for the BARC building. Turns out the capitol is not applicable. Regarding the programming grant, movie night will not work. It has to be about active youth, so we are going to focus on the picnic and various activity centers, instead.

Tramp Harbor Dock

Elaine: Risks associated with the lease renewal were checked with our attorney and insurance. Both recommend against renewing the lease because DNR would not agree to any of our suggested changes. All liability, environmental issues associated with, and any work to remove the dock will all fall on the Park District if we renew the lease. They recommend against signing the lease. We can not get insured for it either.

Bob: So what happens if we don’t sign the lease?

Elaine: The dock has to come down.

Bob: Who will take it down?

Elaine: Hopefully the state will pay for this. They should know in July.

Karen: Worst case scenario and they don’t pay for it?

Elaine: We pay for it. We would have to take the farthest offshore part.

Hans: The lease is for the far end of it, right?

Elaine: Yes. But we have structural integrity problems with the entire dock.

Bob: The pilings are failing, so the dock is basically condemned anyway.

Elaine: It wouldn’t make sense for us to only take down the end of the dock because the pilings are failing.

Karen: Have we talked to our Congressperson?

Elaine: I can go that route but I would be essentially be asking for \$3M to fix the dock. But we still have the problem with the liability. I could ask for \$5M and see if they will cover sediment remediation.

Bob: We are stuck, no matter what you do. So it has to be removed.

Cap Joe: State DNR has a program for presorted timber removal. They are water quality scientists, but they are very much involved with the stewardship in shoreline management. They have money so they might well be happy to talk to us about pulling those pilings.

Elaine: Do you have a contact person for that?

Cap Joe: I do, I’ll talk to you later.

Hans: I think that pier is a great asset. But the state put us in a difficult position for legal, financial, and insurance reasons. But we still would like the state to be a proactive player here. Can we ask them how to proceed from here?

	<p>Elaine: I did ask, what does it look like if we take the dock down? There's permitting that has to happen, sediment testing, etc. all in that cost. So I can further explore that with the state to see if there is help or remediation management. I'm going to reach out to the county, as well.</p> <p>Bob: Any other comments?</p> <p>No that's it.</p>	
<b>Rec Program</b>	<p>Elaine: Thursday night is the final BARC meeting regarding Judith Neary's grant and public programming. We have a staff member on board that starts this Friday on weekends. I also have a couple people on the gate closing, so that's coming along. The first skateboard lesson program starts next Sunday.</p> <p>Abby: I want that information.</p> <p>Elaine: Okay. Ski school has 61 full time participants and 16 single riders. The Concerts in the Park/ Concerts in The Dark: We have a meeting with the VCA for partnering on give-and-take trade for various activities, so hopefully we will have some of this at the VCA. Another partner is the Vashon Theater. Vashon Events does our Concerts in The Park series. One idea they have is a video contest for local bands called Bands By The Sea. Local bands would be asked to make a 30-second video and the winner gets to open for the Concerts in the Park/Dark and we would later have a chance to watch all the video submissions. Another idea, this was done in Seattle, we would have pianos in the park for one month in the summer. The Movies in the Park event, Eric is working on pricing that out. The Swampbottom, we are talking with Stefan Moody, to organize that. He planned the original one.</p>	
<b>Adjourn</b>	<p>Bob: Adjourn.</p> <p>Karen: Motion to adjourn.</p> <p>Doug: Second.</p> <p>Board votes. 5-0.</p>	

Minutes by: Amanda Mahaffey