

VASHON PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

Ober Park, Conference Room, 7:00 pm

DATE: Tuesday, May 28, 2019

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

Staff attending: Elaine

ISSUE	DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME	FOLLOW UP
Call To Order & Agenda Review	The meeting was called to order and the agenda was reviewed at 7:01 PM by Bob McMahon	
Public Comment	<p>CJ: Here is Destination Vashon and since Paul is with us today, he can carry at least my personal thanks to Susan. So not only does it have a photograph on the front, inside is a lovely article about Point Robinson. I did not write it. When it was first written a couple years ago, I participated in the construction of it, and then Susan updated it for this issue. So I did have a part in the original version.</p> <p>I started my regular lighthouse tours on Sunday, and Paul, you will be happy to know that almost two bundles of these went out with our guests. The park was completely full all day long, and we just had a wonderful group of lovely, lovely people. Many of them were people who have been there with me before and want to know when we will be able to go up to the top of the tower. Elaine and I have been doing some work on that.</p> <p>Elaine: I'm waiting for the response from the Enduris attorney, and I'll follow up with him again. It's kind of a surprising amount of time that's passed.</p> <p>CJ: I have people who know what we've been able to do before that were all asking about it.</p> <p>That's it from me for today. Thanks to Paul and to The Beachcomber for a wonderful edition of Destination Vashon.</p>	
5.14.19 Minutes; 5.10.19 – 5.26.19 Preliminary Vouchers; April Vouchers	<p>Karen: I move to approve.</p> <p>Doug: Second.</p> <p>Pass 5-0</p>	Motion to approve 5.14.19 Minutes; 5.10.19 – 5.26.19 Preliminary Vouchers Pass 5-0
April Financial Report	<p>Elaine:</p> <p>Admin – ahead \$7400 – advertising due to great deals on levy postcards</p> <p>Maint – ahead \$19k – everything is tracking low</p> <p>Commons – over \$4200 – all wages from working more hours (gate)</p> <p>Programs - \$4400 ahead – odds and ends</p> <p>Pool Summer – tracking \$5100 ahead – all payroll taxes and benefits from the switch from Ann to Randy</p> <p>Pool Winter (Oct.-Apr.) – tracking \$8k over</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">Revenue really sagging – projected \$15k under</p>	

Lap swimming up, open swim down

Wages – Projected \$9k under

Valve fix - \$2k

Pt Rob – ahead \$8300 – mostly painting the houses

Fern Cove – ahead \$2300 – mostly payroll

Other – ahead \$1452

Hoopster donation for \$3500

Offset by a retainer due for the Fern Cove septic - \$2100

CIP – at budget, but you need to approve the budget in the Board vote. \$98k takes out 2 trucks and the trailer but adds in the Ober A&E. I hadn't added in the Ober A&E in presenting the modified budget at the last meeting. And...this will likely change, but I don't know how yet. This is all we know.

Ending cash – up to \$436k

Bob: On the Pool Winter budget, maybe families have not been in the bubble to see what it's like.

Elaine: This budget is considerably lower than the winter budget was last year. It's just about trying to figure out what the norm is. There were a lot of anomalies in the first year.

Abby: It's pretty cold. My kid gets cold.

Hans: Even your family's emotional focus might not be on going to the swimming pool in February.

Bob: We've got to be thinking about it though. Maybe we've got to say to the lap swimmers we've got to boost the temperature a bit during the winter to attract more people, even though the lap swimmers don't care for that.

Hans: Because you think it's not sustainable just to have it more of a lap swim focus in the winter?

Bob: There just aren't enough lap swimmers it seems like. Lap swimmers have a time of day that they swim laps, usually once a day at night when they are back on the island or in the morning before they go to work.

Hans: And our fixed costs can't be cut? We can't just scale back the lifeguarding...

Bob: That's really more of a variable. The fixed costs are the chemicals and the heating and all that. You can't just turn the furnace off because then you've got to heat it right back up again. But there's got to be a way. Somebody's going to start screaming about it before too long.

Karen: Is there any possibility of talking to the new school superintendent about whether the school district might be interested in the use of the pool?

Elaine: Ann was working on that last year. They weren't able to fit anything into their curriculum because they already had their budget done, so the conversation has been had. I'll talk to Randy about it.

Bob: There's a built-in problem there too. All we can command from the schools in terms of revenue is just to cover the fixed costs, actual costs. We can't make any money off that.

Abby: I think we'd get more people potentially using it though.

Elaine: The Seals use it year round. That's the whole reason for the bubble. They're easily half the revenue.

Hans: The septic at Fern Cove is mentioned under Other, not under Fern Cove.

Elaine: We didn't budget for it. It was just kind of hanging out there from last year. I'll move it under Fern

	Cove.	
Board Votes	<p>Board Votes: <u>2019 Budget Revision</u> Elaine: As presented last time had Capital at \$71k (\$155k - \$70k trucks - \$14k trailer). Did not reflect Ober 2a which had been approved or \$5k lighthouse modifications. Cash projections have always been accurate. The budget should reflect the approvals. Friendly amendment. Karen: I move to revise the 2019 budget as presented. Abby: Second. Pass 5-0</p> <p><u>Social Media Policy</u> Doug: Addition of language regarding a forum for community discussion. Friendly amendment. Elaine: For the record, scope of authorization for Eric and Marshall is events, lodging, and recreation, but no public forum. Scope for Elaine and Abby is events, lodging, recreation, and public forum. Elaine: Screenshots will be taken of social media postings for record retention. Karen: Possible recruitment of intern for social media posting and/or design. Hans: I move to approve the Social Media Policy as amended. Abby: Second. Pass 5-0</p>	<p>Motion to revise the 2019 budget as presented. Pass 5-0</p> <p>Motion to approve the Social Media Policy as amended. Pass 5-0</p>
Levy Next Steps/ Communication – Assignments/ Message	<p>Doug: I spoke with Scott (Harvey) today, and he reiterated that if we set the levy at \$0.50 or lower, not only would he support it, but he would write a letter to The Beachcomber in support of that. Karen: I would still say we go in at \$0.41. Abby: I think the damage has been done. There’s nothing he can do to help us now. My sampling of people is small, but it’s mostly folks saying it was disappointing about the levy and then immediately about tax increases. It’s the overwhelming story that I’ve been getting. From my perspective, right now we need to listen to what was told to us that people don’t want any tax increases. Doug: Part of the problem is defining what a tax increase is. In my mind, if you keep it at \$0.50, that’s no tax increase, but other people see that as a tax increase. Elaine: At the last meeting we discussed increasing community outreach, particularly between now and the November election. We identified monthly op-eds, social media, Strawberry Festival booth, and constituency emails as being the most effective. We agreed to add messaging to the community to our board meeting agendas. I believe we need to create assignments and discuss what that messaging needs to be on a schedule. Karen had talked about writing an op-ed on the value of the Park District. I had talked about doing a FAQ sheet, like what I presented last time, but I’ll do it relative to what the new levy is going to be. Do we want to assign who’s going to write what op-ed and when and what that kind of message is going to be? Doug: We talked about me writing about what would be lost if the levy doesn’t pass. Karen: What order do we want to do these? Elaine: Bob has already done his. Bob: I’m happy to do another one if there is a requirement for that.</p>	

Abby: There are 5 months, right? I think it would make sense for Karen's to be right before Doug's.

Karen: I think so, too.

Doug: Can we list them again?

Karen: I talk about the value of the Park District, followed by what would be lost.

Elaine: So Karen do a June?

Karen: When is that due for June?

Paul: They're due Monday before the Thursday issue. Very preferably, afternoon, or in the morning, if you can swing it. The earlier the better.

Elaine: I remember Susan saying by 3pm at the latest, but that she would prefer noon on Monday.

Bob: So then Doug's would be in July. Are we going for beginning of the month or end of the month?

Abby: Maybe mid-month.

Bob: Then what follows those two?

Elaine: We have to decide what our levy is going to be by August 6th, so mine will be August. September and October, Hans and Abby?

Hans: I have some ideas, but I'd like to see what the landscape is looking like. Once Elaine lays the groundwork of what the facts are, then you speak to it, maybe in a more narrative sense. And the other piece is the context of your tax bill.

Elaine: I think that it would be really wise to address the hospital district issue in September or October when people are starting to percolate about it.

Abby: It would be cool to run through how the levy system works with a follow up of how it works with your tax. It might be worth taking a stab at.

CJ: I see that Doug has a particularly challenging piece to write because the amendments that have been made to the budget to send forward some money in case the levy does not pass may motivate some people to say something like VPD has already figured out how to keep going for 2020 and maybe we don't need to put anything in. Maybe if we vote no, it will force VPD into another election in 2020 and come in at an even lower rate.

Doug: It's going to have to come right out and say that if we have to cut back to the extent that we can live for one year on \$400,000 that everybody is let go, and we've got to crank the whole thing back up again. Bringing that back would be a couple of years.

Elaine: It would be a nightmare to start all over again, not to mention the damage to facilities in the meantime; things not being addressed, VES field is going to dry up and blow away. That's a \$3M asset that is just going to go to waste. You've seen what we can do with \$0.41. It's basic operations with \$250,000 for high-priority capital issues. That's it.

Abby: Something that always bothers me is that people say there are always grants, but that all comes from tax money, too. I would rather have our tax dollars go to our districts directly where we have more control over them.

Doug: I've been concerned about asking for any money less than what we asked for in the initial levy. People could be saying it looks like VPD didn't need the \$0.52. Now they're asking for \$0.41. Why should we believe them at \$0.41, when they weren't right at \$0.52? And then, assuming the levy does pass at \$0.41, what about the next levy (years away)? We could establish a downward spiral of requests if we can

	<p>seem to make it on a reduced amount.</p> <p>Karen: That’s one of the reasons why people have to know here’s what is not going to happen. It needs to be really clear about the cost of the failure of the levy.</p> <p>Elaine: There are two different sections: this is what will be lost if the levy fails altogether, and this is what is not being done as a result of the \$0.52 levy not passing. So, in terms of social media, what are we thinking about?</p> <p>Hans: Every one to two weeks sounds good. On social media and constituent emails, from now through at least July 31st has nothing to do with the levy, right?</p> <p>Elaine: Absolutely. Just what’s going on. This is exactly what I want to talk about. As a group, we all need to be on the same page about what needs to be said. So, Strawberry Festival booth, mark your calendars July 20-21. I think it would be great if everybody can participate.</p> <p>Hans: On the social media and emails, I think just rotate through the great summer programming: sailing camp, swim lessons, concerts in the park. And you could ask the user groups if they want to be a featured partner each week.</p> <p>Elaine: I will be sending to every email on Vashon.</p> <p>Doug: What do we say to somebody who says the Park District does nothing for them?</p> <p>Elaine: Chances are I wouldn’t have those people’s email addresses. I would only have email addresses for people who use the parks.</p> <p>Doug: I am just concerned that somebody gets this email that talks about 20 things the Park District is doing and says, “There’s nothing here for me”, which was the reaction of some people who got the activity guide.</p> <p>Karen: Part of the response to that is that maybe there is nothing in the Park District that suits you, but you have friends, you have relatives, you have grandchildren who use the parks.</p>	
<p>King County Grants</p>	<p><u>Van Award</u></p> <p>Eric applied for and received one the Metro Vanpool vans to offer transportation to seniors, teens, and special needs persons to VPD recreational opportunities. This is a KC program that helps local governments and community nonprofits provide transportation to their constituents. The retired vans have been in service for at least six years and are considered surplus. The Council has transferred over 600 vans since the program’s inception in 1996 and VPD is one of three dozen recipients this year.</p> <p>This van: 2011 Dodge Caravan Seats 7 passengers Value = \$8750 81,042 miles Impeccably maintained Approximately \$3k to insure Fuel/maintenance = \$1k annually</p>	

	<p>Planned Use:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Teen Trips Abroad: Vashon Park District wants to make the Seattle nonprofit TeenTix readily available to our Island youth. This Seattle based program works to empower teens through access to art. For a \$5 pass, teens can get into movies, music, theater, and museum events and more. A van will make it possible to ferry island kids into the city to participate in these events. • BARC Skate Park Outbounders: Vashon has a vibrant community of skaters that have shown interest in visiting other skate parks. Access to a van can make this a reality. With a van, the District can also offer field trips with its upcoming skate camps. • Senior Events: VPD’s recent survey revealed that seniors desire programs at the pool, like dedicated senior swims and senior aerobics. With a van they can provide transportation. The District also hopes to add, over time, senior trips to regional parks – on and off island – and will be meeting soon with Vashon Island Senior Center to discuss supplementing their van program. Initial thoughts are to start with a monthly trip to regional museums and develop the program to evolve accordingly with a senior oriented survey. <p>If approved, VPD needs to take possession next week. Karen: I move to accept the van. Doug: Second. Karen: I move to suspend the rules. Doug: Second.</p> <p><u>Ober Park</u> Elaine: We were awarded the KC grant. We asked for \$250k but were awarded \$175k – highly competitive, they wanted to spread the wealth around. Fortunately, \$175k will replace the playground equipment, which is ultimately the District’s need. We need to honor our intent behind the application for the “Playground for All,” but clearly our plans need to be modified by \$75k. I have reached out to the architect for suggested modifications then will meet with the planning committee. We need to pare it down to \$175k minimum; any fundraising will be gravy. Of course, I am very grateful for \$175k, but this is a perfect example of how we cannot rely on grants to meet our capital improvement needs.</p>	<p>Motion to suspend the rules. Pass 5-0</p> <p>Motion to accept the van. Pass 5-0</p>
<p>Derek Hinz – Wage/Benefit Exception</p>	<p>Elaine: Derek is our pool maintenance guy and has been exemplary in maintaining the pool’s chemical needs in addition to managing all maintenance. He was hired to work 25 hours/week and makes \$16 per hour. At 25 hours, he receives health and retirement benefits pro-rated for 25 hours. He has managed to get the efficiencies down to where he can do what he does in 15 hours per week, and with his young children’s needs, he wishes to cut his hours back. At \$16/hour, the work is not worth it to him, although he loves his job and would like to stay on. He will no longer be receiving benefits so is asking for his compensation to reflect the lost benefits. Amounts to \$20.20/hour. That is worth it to him. Clearly, this does not affect the budget, and we will draw up an agreement to state if he comes back on with benefits, his wages will be reduced accordingly. Randy is good with this. He is also AFO-certified and can fill in if needed. Need to</p>	

	<p>approve, since this is off policy, although industry maintenance in general is \$28.60/hour. Bob: \$28.60 plus benefits, I presume. Karen: I move to approve. Doug: Is there any risk that this would set a precedent? Elaine: Sure. That is why we have a policy that defines how this works. Karen: But as long as it doesn't cost anything, it is a precedent worth considering. Some people need to make choices about whether they want benefits or not. Hans: We should structure this so his wage is \$16.00 with a 25% benefit allowance. That is what the City of Seattle does to avoid getting sued for not providing benefits. Some companies treat temps like full time employees and don't give them benefits. In this way, he can't come back and say he should have been getting benefits. Doug: Second. Bob: Anything else to discuss? Hans: We have three good candidates. Karen: Which reminds me, if we don't have anyone run against us, we don't have to do anything. Hans: We should have a picture and a short statement in the voter's pamphlet. We should all do the same thing. Capt Joe: You should appear in the community forum. It's a good opportunity for some PR.</p>	<p>Motion to approve Derek Hinz wage/benefit exception.</p>
<p>Adjourn 8:20 pm</p>	<p>Doug: Move to adjourn. Karen: Second. Pass 5-0</p>	

Minutes by: Elaine Ott-Rocheford & Marshall Murray