

VASHON PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

Ober Park, Conference Room, 7:00 pm

DATE: Tuesday, June 11, 2019

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

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 7:00 PM by Bob McMahon	
Public Comment	<p><u>Letter from Scott Harvey</u> Elaine: Scott Harvey asked this to be read today: Dear Commissioners, I am writing with regard to last week’s Beachcomber article. While I was disappointed to read about the “No” voters who told Bob they voted “No” as a result of levy fatigue, I am pleased to report that all the “No” voters with whom I spoke before and after the levy vote actually were Park District supporters. They voted “No” because the levy increase was excessive. In that regard, you will be glad to know that 100% said that they would support a more reasonable levy request in November. Whether you propose a \$0.45 or \$0.41 levy, I am confident it will pass with over 70% support in the fall. Best regards, Scott Harvey</p> <p>CJ: Last week we had visitation from the school group. We had 80 kids altogether, so we divided them up into two days. They are not Vashon kids, they came from Tacoma. The Vashon School District has chosen not to send any kids out to the park for the last couple of years. These were middle school kids from Bryant Montessori. Middle school kids are the most challenging, and these are the kids that this is the last chance to exert any positive influence on them. This is the group that I do the flag ceremony, and we talk about duty and honor – things that are important to me and now, important to them. It was just a great two days. Rayna and Jay Holtz do time out on the beach with the kids, and they have a great program that they put together for this particular school group. These are the kinds of things we’ll do for any school group that wants to participate, but we don’t advertise. The lighthouse, the beach, the park, the flag, and the flagpole are the training aids that we use.</p> <p>Last Sunday, the park was completely full, and we had a challenge with the three portable restrooms, as they ran out of toilet paper. One of the things in the strategic plan is that we construct permanent restrooms in all of the parks. At least in the summertime, Point Robinson is, by far, our most heavily used park. It should acquire your interest to make that top priority for permanent restroom construction when the time comes. We’re still going to need a portable restroom out by the lighthouse on a seasonal basis. We have done the planning work to construct a permanent restroom in the upper parking lot. Next Sunday is Father’s Day, which is a big day for visitors.</p>	

	<p>Bob: One of my rowing buddies is part of the group that came from Lisabeula a couple of months ago, and he had a couple of comments that I'll pass along. One of them is that he's very complimentary of the gatekeeper service. There was a man one night and a woman another night who were forceful, but not overly-forceful. On Saturday night, there was a problem with a fire on the beach, which is illegal, and the people were somewhat unruly, and for a while refused to leave. The man had a hard time getting them out of there, but finally did.</p> <p>Elaine: Plan B instructions are that if the gatekeepers run into somebody who is being belligerent and not obeying, they call the Sheriff and let them deal with it. By and large, trouble-makers are off-islanders. There was another experience at the skate park where the gatekeeper went in and there were seventeen tents set up. A lot of people were already in bed. Fortunately, they were quiet. The gatekeeper wasn't sure how to handle that. He used his judgement and I praised him. He spoke to four guys who were still up, and he just told them that they weren't supposed to be camping, to keep it down, and that if there were any problems then he would call the Sheriff, but under the circumstances, it would have caused a bigger reaction if he had asked them all to pack up and go.</p>	
<p>5.28.19 Minutes; 5.27.19 – 6.6.19 Preliminary Vouchers</p>	<p>Doug: I move that we approve the minutes and vouchers. Karen: Second. Pass 4-0</p>	<p>Motion to approve 5.28.19 Minutes; 5.27.19 – 6.6.19 Preliminary Vouchers Pass 4-0</p>
<p>Village Green Community Chalkboard/ Entry</p>	<p>Elaine: Last March the Board unanimously approved Ken Fulton to move forward on polishing up the community bulletin board and the entry to Village Green. You asked him to sort out cost of material, discuss fundraising with VIGA, and determine the King County permitting needs. Ken is here this evening to report back on those things and ultimately seek approval for the project.</p> <p>Ken: Please take a minute to read the documents I have provided and then proceed with any details that you want me to comment on. We're ready to get it built this summer. The drawings provided show that the arch will be centered over the walkway and the walkway will be widened with concrete that will be poured at the same time we pour the basis for the columns. The County has agreed to give us an over-the-counter permit, which is for a simple structure. The key is we call it a "parks accessory building". I'm ready to put a package together to take to the County to make the initial "request for permit". This is the step where they are asking for commitment to the fees. The cost for materials is about \$10,000 total. The County is asking for the value of the building, which would probably be twice that if you went to a contractor. The only labor expense included is for a roofer because I don't want volunteers climbing around on top. The roofer gave us a discount of about \$1,000 because it is a community project. My family will cover the expense of the community chalkboard. I will be giving the same presentation to VIGA next week, where I'll go into more detail about finances because they are the ones who agreed to raise the money. 3 VPD maintenance staff will pour the cement.</p>	

	<p>Doug: The net cost to VPD will be the cost of the cement? Elaine: Correct. That cost is only \$750. What is needed is overall approval for the project itself to include our contribution of \$750 for the concrete. Ken: The one number I don't have is the fee for the over-the-counter permit, which shouldn't be onerous, but would be a cost to the Park District. Karen: I move to approve. Hans: Second. Pass 4-0 Karen: Do we need to suspend the rules? Is there a rush on this? Ken: I would like to get the "request for permit" package in to them by next week. Elaine: From my experience, you need to pay for it at the time. Karen: I move that we suspend the rules. Hans: Second. Pass 4-0</p>	<p>Motion to approve the Village Green Community Chalkboard Project Pass 4-0 Motion to suspend the rules. Pass 4-0</p>
<p>Board Votes</p>	<p>Board Votes: <u>Derek Hinz</u> Karen: Motion to approve Derek Hinz's wage/benefit allowance. Doug: Second. Pass 4-0</p>	<p>Motion to approve Derek Hinz wage/benefit allowance. Pass 4-0</p>
<p>King County Signer Authorization + Resolution</p>	<p>Elaine: King County has changed their policy to where they are requiring the Accounts Payable Authorized Signatures, that's me, to be updated annually, and as backup it would be Board Treasurer and Board Chair. Two documents need to be signed and the resolution that accompanies it would need to be voted on. The reason for this is that we had this when I originally became a signer, but my name is legally changed to Rocheford, so it needs to reflect that in the resolution since I'll be signing my name on checks and vouchers going forward. I don't think it's critical that it be suspended. If there is a motion to approve that is seconded, we can wait and do the actual signing next time. Hans: Motion to approve. Karen: Second.</p>	<p>Motion to approve the Auditing Officer Delegation Resolution to reflect Elaine Rocheford's legal name change.</p>
<p>Lighthouse Modifications/ Procedure Changes</p>	<p>Elaine: As reported previously, the lighthouse modifications and procedural changes we've been discussing were not only in response to the family's request after the accident, but it is now a requirement of the lease renewal with the Coast Guard, which expires at the end of July. The attached summary details what those modifications are. The only change is that Enduris and the attorney are okay not requiring people to sign a waiver to go up to the tower. This is something Captain Joe spoke about and he felt that that was onerous, and they agreed. As long as we do the sign that says "Caution. Steep and narrow stairway. Use handrail." The interior modifications, if done in-house, are estimated at no more than \$5,000. That has yet to be formally approved in a motion. I figure that can be done all at once, as I get into these exterior modifications. The interior changes and procedural changes need to go to the Coast Guard. The exterior is doing the lighthouse masonry deck repairs. That's \$19,000 to be covered by a 4Culture grant. We also</p>	

	<p>talked about raising that railing from 31” to 42”. We don’t know how much that’s going to cost, but I’m assuming \$10,000ish. There is nobody on the island who would do something like that, and it’s just too weird of a project to bring somebody from off-island just to give an estimate.</p> <p>Bob: Given what’s happened, given the awareness of the inherent safety issues, and given that OSHA gives a specific safety-rail height, it seems to me that we’re obligated to do that. People are taller than they were in those days.</p> <p>Doug: The big difference is that people are climbing up there who aren’t fit 20-year-olds anymore.</p> <p>Bob: That makes it more important. I think it can be done inexpensively if somebody thinks it through. I suggested cutting it off, adding another rung low, and just lifting the upper part up, so it still has the same look and conforms to the original design. We just have to find somebody on the island who is a welder to take a look and come up with a way to do it that wouldn’t cost very much money.</p> <p>Karen: I think it’s worth trying to get a quote. Maybe two.</p> <p>Elaine: We don’t know anybody on island who does this kind of work.</p> <p>Bob: Mark Bennion is a metal artist would be able to give some advice on that. I will get in touch with him.</p> <p>CJ: Before we get into any of this, the Coast Guard and the State Historical Police have to approve all of these physical pieces. Bob Powell built the wrought-iron gate that closes off the steps and is an islander. None of the things we proposed either in physical or procedural changes would have prevented the tragic accident that we had. My problem is going to find volunteers to join me or someone I train to do tours to the top of the tower because we’ll have to have someone to manage people down below. When we have Low Tide Celebration, we have people come from the Puget Sound Corps that are detailed to me to just that.</p> <p>Elaine: So we’ll get a couple of quotes in the next week or two and then, hopefully, come back at our next meeting with a complete packet of information for you to make a decision.</p>	
<p>Ober Park Playground Grant</p>	<p>Elaine: You recall that we had to cut \$75,000 of the original design due to the smaller grant award. I worked with the architect, MacLeod Reckord, on recommended cuts. Unfortunately, you can’t cut the groundwork, as it’s all foundational. I reviewed the recommendations with Jason, and his suggestion is that what will buy us about \$20,000 in playground equipment is if we do not change the playground footprint by doing concrete work. All of the deteriorated wooden structures must be replaced, so we would be left with the two swing sets, one slide, and two springy toys. \$20,000 would get a structure for little kids in the back and the center area would be for older kids. We would eliminate one of the three exercise stations. The grant was \$175,000, and the architect worked the proposal down to \$180,000, so there is a \$5,000 potential cost that we will have to come up with. You approved \$59,000 in A&E. I’m able to get about \$9,000 of that reimbursed under the grant. The net effect, in addition to that \$5,000, is another \$20,000 that will cover permitting and an additional potential contingency. The architect put 5% contingency in this, but the grant requires 15%. One way that we can buy another \$30,000 on this is the under-drainage. We currently do not have under-drainage in the playground, and what that does is rot the wood chips more quickly. With under-drainage we probably would not need to add to the chips but once every 10 years, whereas now it’s about once every 3 years. Every time we do it, it costs us about \$9,000, so the under-drainage pays for</p>	

	<p>itself over the course of about 9 years. If we decide to take that out, that would get us better playground equipment. This is all informational right now and there is nothing to approve yet. Our Planning Committee will meet on Friday to discuss this, and then I will come back and talk about dollars and approval.</p>	
<p>Levy Next Steps/ Communication</p>	<p>Elaine: Some of the reasons why seniors voted down the levy is because they wanted more specifics about the capital projects. Doug, I know that you were thinking about writing an op-ed about what the levy will buy us and what we're foregoing.</p> <p>Doug: I can't write that op-ed until I know what the levy rate will be to determine what we would forego.</p> <p>Bob: The key here is that we've got to figure out a way to get the real facts out in one easy-to-access place.</p> <p>Elaine: I will be writing the FAQ sheet op-ed probably in August that will be relative to the rate that you decide. We'll post it on our website.</p> <p>Hans: For the two months prior to the vote, we need to have an active campaign page or website that we refer to for FAQs.</p> <p>Elaine: Strawberry Festival is a go.</p> <p>I did my first Facebook posting last Friday that were very well received. I talked about the grant and the van. Next week you will see an article in The Beachcomber about the van. Lynne Ameling heads up an Alzheimer's group that go to a recreational activity on the island, and they require transportation. Because of the van, she reached out to ask us to provide that transportation every Tuesday. The article praises that we have the van. We are also working on a program with the Food Bank to transport kids who can't get to the Picnics in the Park.</p> <p>Concerts in the Park have been released, so I'll be doing a blast about that.</p> <p>We're working on the emails for the June newsletter.</p> <p>Hans: So, the levy rate is mostly about the pool. If we drop the \$1.5 million for the Tramp Harbor dock, it's about a pool septic system, a couple of other things, and a \$1 million renovation. One option is we have a very low levy, and we float and successfully pass a bond for the pool. I'm not confident about putting out a \$1 million bond in two years and having it pass.</p> <p>Elaine: People tend to vote for things that are safety issues and liability issues. The pool would be an asset preservation need. The longer we wait the worse the pool gets. The plaster at the bottom is chipping away. The decking is cracking, and the drains are problematic. An engineering report was done in 2016, and they feel repairs should be done sooner than later. If it gets put off too long things are just going to get worse and the cost is going to increase.</p> <p>Karen: I am not sanguine about passing a bond. The reason that I want to go for \$0.41 is that the community has made it fairly clear that they don't want their property taxes raised. If we want this to pass, we need to be able to say that the levy will not raise taxes. Then we just keep taking the pulse of the community as we progress. Maybe they don't want the pool.</p> <p>Hans: That's something to reflect on – whether the pool is a good Park District asset. Maybe we're going down a road of not preserving the pool because we're not so sure it's a priority. 53% wanted us to pass the last levy despite very poor information. Unfortunately, we have to provide a Park District for the majority. I think the pool is a great resource, so I'm still inclined to \$0.45. I'm confident that we can pass it. I'm not</p>	

	<p>confident about passing a bond, and I don't want to lose the pool.</p> <p>Karen: The other thing that is a variable here is the hospital district. If we go in at \$0.41 and the hospital district passes, we might survive. When do we have to make the decision?</p> <p>Elaine: Your resolution is due August 6th.</p> <p>Karen: Is there any reason why we have to wait? I might go for \$0.45 if there is room to negotiate with the hospital district.</p> <p>Doug: I'm still at \$0.41.</p> <p>Karen: We have Scott Harvey's support for \$0.45.</p> <p>Bob: I'm for something higher than \$0.41, but I think we need to do some more pencil work. Just the fact that the numbers come after the hospital district is approved gives us an ability to control that to some degree.</p> <p>Hans: It seems like we should do this in July after Strawberry Festival when we're out there talking to people – spend some time on the pavement and then come back and make a vote.</p>	
<p>Adjourn 8:45 pm</p>	<p>Doug: Move to adjourn.</p> <p>Karen: Second.</p> <p>Pass 4-0</p>	

Minutes by: Marshall Murray