

VASHON PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

Ober Park, Conference Room, 7:00 pm

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2020

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

Staff attending: Elaine Ott-Rocheford

ISSUE	DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME	FOLLOW UP
Call To Order	Hans Van Dusen called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. Reviewed the agenda.	
Public Comment	<p>Captain Joe: Before WWII, the Navy and Coast Guard included a dress uniform that included a ??? hat. I have one right here. It was a gift from Tag Gornell. For my broadcast today, Tag presented it to me. It will go to the Coast Guard museum at Pier 36. It will be difficult for me to give it up. We took a photograph. It will go on my VOV page.</p> <p>Lore Wintergreen: I would like to make a request. I tried to find the agenda for today’s meeting, and it wasn’t posted under Documents on your web page. Nothing was posted past the January 14 meeting. I called the office, and someone emailed it to me right away. I ask that agendas and notes be presented early enough for us to get information about the meeting.</p> <p>Elaine: I post the agenda every Friday before a meeting without fail.</p> <p>Lore: I looked under Documents.</p> <p>Elaine: It is under Board and Board Meetings – Meeting Agendas.</p> <p>Lore: I see it now, but this was not posted until today, because when I talked to the staff, they didn’t see it. I see Board Packets, and the last thing posted there when I looked was January 14.</p> <p>Elaine: It was posted on Friday.</p> <p>Hans: It is below Board Packets where it says Meeting Agendas.</p> <p>Elaine: The Board Packets are posted either Friday or Saturday before a Board meeting.</p>	
1.28.20 Minutes; 1.24.20 – 2.7.20 Preliminary Vouchers	<p>Bob: I move to accept the minutes and vouchers as presented.</p> <p>Doug: Second.</p> <p>Pass 3-0</p>	Motion to accept 1.28.20 Minutes; 1.24.20 – 2.7.20 Preliminary Vouchers; Pass 3-0
Staff Reports	<p><u>Tramp Harbor Dock</u></p> <p>Elaine: Since I assume Lore is here for the Tramp Harbor Dock report, I am happy to jump to that now. At that, all I have to report is that I reached out to DNR to see where they are with the sediment sampling results, and they never responded. I still have not heard a word.</p> <p>Doug: That was supposed to be in November, right?</p> <p>Elaine: The test was done in November. I don’t know how long it takes. I assumed 30 days, but that was my</p>	

	<p>assumption. Bob: So they never acknowledged your request? Elaine: No. That is all I have to report. Hans: At the last meeting, you were going to reach out to find out when the results would be due. Elaine: Correct. That is what I did. Hans: And who did you reach out to and when? Elaine: Jessica Olmstead. I don't remember the exact day. Early last week. Hans: We're kind of hanging until they respond. What is the next step? Elaine: Reach out again. Hans: And if we do not hear from her, what do you propose? Elaine: Go to her boss. Doug: Any action on their part cannot take place until the sediment sampling is available. Elaine: Correct. Hans: To reiterate, the issues are the lease, the geoduck habitat, and money. And our intent is, once we get the sediment information, to meet with them to discuss the lease and these corresponding issues. Doug: The dock must be shorter due to the geoduck bed. Do we have a sense for whether or not a shorter dock would be considered viable to those who use it? Elaine: I think that is for the community to decide. Hans: Elaine expressed the geoduck bed is a significant barrier, but I don't feel that is finalized yet. I don't think a longer dock has been ruled out yet. Elaine: In terms of design, we could always consider a floating section that moves with the tide. The issue is having pilings amongst the geoduck bed.</p> <p><u>Agren</u> Elaine: The contractor came back with an estimate. We will go with seeding, not sodding. Seeding will be \$90k; sodding \$110k. Sodding is more problematic due to cutting and seams that will require fill and seeding. Therefore, playability will be the same – like mid July. Start date will depend on weather. I forwarded the cost to the detective for him to take to the prosecutor for the degree of the charge. Hans: the park will be open mid summer, and the field open when? Elaine: People can walk the trail, but we will have fencing up to protect the field.</p>	Action Item
<p>Junior Taxing District – HB 2488</p>	<p>Elaine: I mentioned to you all a meeting or two ago that I have joined the WRPA/WWRC legislative committee that effectively serves as a lobbying group for park and recreation interests throughout the state. While I truly feel committed to the cause, I admit I have a bit of an ulterior motive in that it provides me access to the WRPA lobbyist, and I get to get in front of all the state legislators more regularly. Last week I attended the organizations' Legislative Day in Olympia. Wednesday was an educational day on funding options, and one is an opportunity for us. A bill passed that allows any P&R agency to take, per voter approval, 1/10th of 1 cent of sales tax to use for our benefit. I will explore how much that might yield us, but my sense is it is not much. I will reach out to the Chamber to see if they know the total retail sales on Vashon. Doug: Has the bill been signed by the governor? Elaine: Not yet, but it has passed the House and Senate.</p>	Action Item

On Thursday, I had meetings again with all three of our elected officials. The week prior, I forwarded our House Bill to WRPA to ask for their support. They had forwarded it to their lobbyist, because when I met and spoke with him, he was familiar with it and had already done some vetting to determine that it is, indeed, something he will support and work to promote.

Hans: What is the status of the bill?

Elaine: I will get to that. Going into my initial meetings with our elected officials that drove the creation of our bill, we were aware only of Library running a lid lift ballot measure in August and assuming Hospital takes a rate of 45 cents. To recap, those together would take 31% of our levy revenue in 2021. On Wednesday evening of last week – the evening prior to Legislative Day -- I read in the online Beachcomber that KC Roads was also planning a lid lift ballot measure in 2020 from \$1.81 to \$2.25 – 44 cents! This will kill us. We will be dead in the water.

Doug: You are talking about in absence of the bill?

Elaine: Yes, in absence of the bill. (Explained what the bill does for the benefit of meeting attendees).

Doug: Voters may not approve these.

Elaine: Of course, hard to say, but they are KC measures.

During lunch on Thursday, I told the lobbyist about all this. He said this is serious, and we can rest assured he will work on our behalf. I also met a senior staff member who works for a senior senator, and I learned he is the guy to ask about how the bill passage process works. I learned from him that our bill wasn't going to get out of the Finance Committee, because there were too many bills, and ours came in so late. I shared this with Fitzgibbon and the lobbyist.

Monday morning, I was heartened to find the lobbyist had written to Fitz, Cody, and Nguyen about this alarming development.

- Fitzgibbon responded that KC Roads was likely not going to do a rate increase in 2021. I reached out to Joe McDermott to confirm and have not heard back.
- Cody wrote that the "Hospital District worry might not be as immediate as we fear." Not sure what that means – that they are only going to take 30 cents? I doubt it, but maybe.
- Paul Rowley told me the Library District will not confirm their lid lift, yet they told me and Karen it was inevitable.

This is all to say:

- Our bill will not go through in 2020.
- Fitz said he will push it for 2021 if it appears we will be pro-rationed.
- All the affecting taxing agencies are holding their cards close to the vest, probably because they don't want people to freak about increased property taxes. So we likely will not find out until nearly Fall. WRPA needs to know in the Fall to get this on their lobbying agenda.

We are at risk of being pro-rationed, even if the bill passes, we may not see funding until August of 2021, because next year is a 105 day legislative session. In Washington, the legislature is in session for 105 days in odd-numbered years starting the 2nd Monday in January. So, the 2021 session will last until April 26, 2021. A law goes into effect 90 days after adjournment of a session. At the earliest, my sense is we would not have any funding until July 26, 2021 at the earliest. I reached out to Hazel Gantz to confirm.

We would have some trickle from 2020 – maybe \$100k. We are carrying @ \$566k in reserves at this point. I suggest we speak to McDermott about a KC buydown.

Hans: Is there a president for that?

Elaine: Yes, it is an option listed in the property tax manuals in the event of an agency being prorated.

Bob: Are they forced to do it? Or would it be out of the kindness of their hearts?

Elaine: Out of the kindness of their hearts. It has been done before! Hazel told me KC did it in 2012.

Hans: I think they could afford to pay us off rather than taking the black eye of closing Vashon's Park District.

Elaine: And remember, Vashon makes up 1/3 of the constituency for the 34th District. These elected officials don't want to face reelection knowing 1/3 of their voters are mad as hell about their park district. I am optimistic that we will figure something out.

Hans: To clarify, we don't know enough yet for Fitzgibbon to start pursuing the legislation. Did you mean for 2020 or 2021?

Elaine: 2021. 2020 is over. It will not pass out of committee.

Hans: I heard there were many, many bills that did not get through the pipeline – ours amongst them. I feel we know enough that we are going to ask Fitzgibbon to sponsor this in 2021. That is a given.

Elaine: What I meant by "not knowing enough" is I can't yet be factual about how hard we are going to be hit. My sense is we will have full information by August. That is good timing. The WRPA needs to know by October to support this.

Hans: McDermott is now a key player in this. Would you like us to reach out to him, as well?

Elaine: That would be great.

Hans: I will reach out. KC Roads and Library have to be authorized by him and the Council. If they authorize the bills without taking care of us, we're going to be pissed.

Bob: Now we need to figure out our revenue situation.

Hans: Yes, there is the County. And then there is the Hospital District. We need to hold them accountable to 45 cents.

Doug: Where does this leave the others in the pecking order?

Elaine: I believe Cemetery will be wiped out, as well. I believe the Flood Control Zone is protected. If the Hospital District takes more than 45 cents, the higher level districts will start prorating, as well. Level 5 Fire District gets hit next. See the \$5.90 Proration Worksheet. The 1% Proration Worksheet illustrates the effects of our bill passing, where we are fine.

Bob: If the bill happens, property taxes increase.

Elaine: We aren't doing anything to property taxes. All we are doing is drawing from a larger pool. If taxes go up, that is due to the two KC measure increases and whatever the HD does.

Back to the issue of the bill passing in 2021, but we won't have funding until July, do you believe we should cut back where we can now? I can shave back the Recreation budget and not purchase a 2nd truck.

Doug: This is assuming we do not receive a buy-down from KC?

Bob: We need to be prudent and cut back where we can now. We need to consider this in deciding our Capital Improvement Plan going forward.

Doug: So 2021 will likely be uniquely tough for us. 2022 will be back to normal. If this looked like forever, we might consider other cuts.

Hans: There are a number of scenarios here:

- 1) We are held whole by KC forever, and the State bails out the County in 2022.
- 2) We are not held whole by KC, we are rescued by the State mid-year.

	<p>3) Neither of those scenarios happen. At this point, the ED is recommending we be as conservative as possible yet not diminish services to the community. If Armageddon strikes, we may have to even borrow money again. Elaine: I will reach out to the HD after the article about our bill comes out Thursday and ask if they have any sense about their rate. Hans: And if you don't hear back from them, reach out to Cody to find out what she meant about us not needing to worry about the HD rate. With more information, we might want to reach out to the others who will be affected, like the Cemetery District. Elaine: I think we should meet with McDermott to find out our options before we set off the alarm bells with Cemetery. Hans: Right, we don't want people writing in to elected officials without full information. Bob: If our bill doesn't pass, property tax payers are protected by the \$5.90 cap being reached. We need to be careful about how we phrase this. Hans: It's more books and better roads at the expense of parks. Bob: We are actually raising the limit to \$6.35. Elaine: We are actually getting out of the way. It is ultimately up to the voters to decide the rate they are willing to pay. Hans: And remember, we will still be in the \$5.90 structure when these KC measures come up in August. Voters will consider them at their surface, and they will increase taxes. Bob: How long has the \$10 or the \$5.90 numbers been challenged? Elaine: No idea. Hans: I am optimistic we can hold KC accountable. I know Vashon is a small number of voters, but we will speak loudly about these ballot measures and people's reelection.</p>	Action Item
Adjourn 7:45 pm	<p>Bob: Motion to Adjourn Doug: Second Pass 3-0</p>	

Minutes by: Elaine Ott-Rocheford