

# VASHON PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## MEETING MINUTES

Teleconference, 7:00 pm  
**DATE: Tuesday, June 9, 2020**

Commissioners attending: Hans Van Dusen, Bob McMahon, Doug Ostrom, Karen Gardner, Abby Antonelis.  
 Staff attending: Elaine Ott-Rocheford

| ISSUE   | DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME  | FOLLOW UP  |
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| <b>Call To Order</b>  | Hans called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.  |  |
| <b>Public Comment</b>   | <p>Abby: We should acknowledge Captain Joe is not here.</p> <p>Bob: I was going to say the same thing. Has there been any update?</p> <p>Elaine: No. I sent an email the day of, just extending my sympathies. Eric spoke with him the following day. It has been frustrating to him that he can't have his kids over. I don't know where things stand now. They were awaiting a COVID test before allowing visitors.</p> <p>Bob: As cause of death?</p> <p>Elaine: Apparently, they were testing her, not that there was any reason to believe she had COVID. Perhaps it is standard procedure.</p> <p>Doug: Were they testing grandfather and grandkids to see if it was okay for them to meet?</p> <p>Elaine: I believe it had to do with Mary, and if she was positive, it would have had to do with meeting with Captain Joe. I believe the neighbors have been looking in on Captain Joe.</p> |  |
| <b>5.26.20 Minutes;<br/>5.23.20 – 6.5.20<br/>Preliminary<br/>Vouchers</b> | <p>Bob: Move to accept.</p> <p>Karen: Second.</p> <p>Pass 5-0</p>   | <b>Motion to<br/>approve<br/>5.26.20<br/>Minutes;<br/>5.23.20 –<br/>6.5.20<br/>Preliminary<br/>Vouchers<br/>Pass 5-0</b> |
| <b>Vashon<br/>Adventures<br/>Camping Proposal</b>                         | Erin Kieper: We have been talking with Elaine and Eric about the potential of adding a more formal approach to the campsites at Pt Robinson and Lisabeula for the boat and bike in crowd. We have been managing the campsites at Maury Island Marine Park for two years with the year before as a pilot. It is going well. There are seven sites there as a bike and paddle in access. It's a steep walk in, so people are looking for other options that are not quite as remote. Now that we know how to do it, it could be a way to bring it to VPD in the parks that already have campsites. It can be a source of revenue for the park district,   |  |

quantify the number of users using the sites, and make it a more structured type of environment. You can go to our website to see how we are doing it for KC. It is open May – October, no fires. One thing we found out is that the campers tend to be the eyes of the campsites, like when people come in and light fires. It could be a way to help mitigate some of the things that happen.

Karen: I am interested, because I does protect our parks. I like that we can get revenue from it. And it opens it up to a population that would like to visit Vashon, but they don't have the opportunities to visit as they like. Initially, I am in favor.

Bob: Which parks we are talking about?

Erin: Lisabeula has the camping at the beach. Pt Robinson has the kayak ramp down by the beach, with a trail, down below the parking lot.

Bob: I don't want to come off as negative, but you say it's hike in and bike in, but you know where there is parking, people will want to come in with their car. How would you deal with that problem?

Erin: KC is different, because there is that upper lot where people can park and hike in. I think people would have to check a box to state how they are planning to come to the site. It would be promoted as only bike or paddle in and clearly no driving. KC doesn't have an option, because they have to hike in. It would be something we would have to educate about. It would be in the booking process.

Ben: In the booking process, they have to sign a check box that says they can't have fires. The box alone educates. We think a box that says they understand no cars are allowed forces the education.

Elaine: The double edge to that is that we have a gate keeper who closes the gate at Lisabeula, and at Pt Rob we have the caretaker. So there can't be any abusers. The fact they are told in advance gives some power behind not being able to abuse it.

Hans: They can't stay overnight, because of the gates.

Bob: Seems like a good idea to me. The spots don't get a lot of use.

Doug: I don't where the campsites would be, but it seems curious that you have selected the two most popular parks to do this. Why not Wingehaven or Spring Beach where people would not be interrupted by those just wanting to watch the sunset? If they can check in at 3:00 means you will have campers there at the same time as other people. Most parks that allow camping have campsites away from the beach precisely so people who come to the parks can do so without feeling they are intruding. I am curious why you selected these two popular parks over those that are not so popular.

Ben: We chose these two parks, because the campsites are already there. They are on the water trail. They just haven't been able to be tracked.

Doug: Where are they:

Ben: At Lisabeula, they are behind the grass patch.

Erin: At the north side of the beach. Last year we put in a kayak rack as a point to launch boats and also for the water trails people to store their boats at the campsite. At Pt Rob, it's up at the far trail close to the parking lot. There is a grassy area with dedicated campsites.

Doug: I don't know how common they are, but I haven't seen them. I didn't know camping was allowed.

Elaine: They are both on the water trail system and utilized frequently.

Doug: But not every day?

Elaine: No, not every day.

Abby: I think the point is we would be monetizing and tracking something that is already happening.

Elaine: And the other big advantages of working with Vashon Adventures on this are that campers have to sign a liability waiver; they will auto-notify the gatekeepers and caretaker in advance, rather than them being surprised; they check the grounds and the porta potties; it puts more eyes on the property with the policing factor with the campers, which is a really good thing particularly at Lisabeula. People do go in at night and cause problems. I feel this will be good for the properties in the long run.

Doug: I get from your website that the overwhelming users of the KC sites are from off-island. Why camp if you already live here?

Erin: Actually, we get a lot of campers from on-island. One right now, for example, is a family who likes to ride down with their bikes and camp for the night. One thing we can do is get addresses through our waiver process to keep track of that. The off-island campers are pretty low impact. They mostly come in by bike or kayak. They tend to be quiet and respectful – pack in/pack out.

Doug: There is a big difference between being a KC park and a Vashon park, because if somebody comes from Seattle to stay at a KC park, their tax dollars are supporting that. If they come to a VPD park, the small population of Vashon is supporting it. If it is going to work for VPD, we should make a lot of money off it.

Abby: I don't agree with that. I think the point to having parks is to have people enjoy them and not police who is there. Isn't that our mission?

Doug: We do want to provide spaces for everybody, but we should think about agreeing to something that overwhelmingly supports non-taxpayers.

Karen: I disagree. We had this conversation awhile ago. We cannot favor someone who pays taxes over someone who does not pay taxes. I go to Lincoln Park and walk my dogs.

Elaine: And actually, when we acquired both Pt Robinson and Lisabeula from KC in 1995, they came with an Intercovenant Agreement with the County that stipulates the properties must be open to all KC residents.

Doug: I agree. That is not my point at all. My question is who does this proportionately benefit? That is not to say we want to exclude anybody or provide a geographic test. But we should think about where these benefits are flowing. The proposal does not state how much money we would be making from the concessionaire fee. That is something I would like to know.

Ben: We have are not proposing a particular price at this time. For MIMP, we charge \$17.50 per night.

Erin: With KC, we pay a 15% concession fee. Our concession fee to VPD for the boathouse is 10%. This isn't a huge money maker. It is more offering the community a service. We can structure it however you would like to decide.

Bob: Have you ever been totally booked?

Erin: Yes.

Bob: When that has happened, has it been islanders or off-islanders turned away?

Erin: A combination. I can do an analysis of it.

Bob: All I'm trying to get to is Doug is worried about it being overwhelmingly off-island. I worry about Lisabeula, because it is on the waterfront, and islanders want to be on the waterfront. At Pt Rob, it is up from the waterfront. I think we can rethink the camp spots. The one at Pt Rob is a great spot. Before we talk about enlarging the camping at Lisabeula, we need to get the community involved. There are a lot of houses there that will be affected by it.

Elaine: Of course, they do know there is camping there already.  
 Bob: But there would be a lot more people, right?  
 Erin: It would only be the one campsite.  
 Ben: It is pre-established. We wouldn't be adding new campsites.  
 Bob: Okay, I misunderstood.  
 Abby: I have been there when people are camping. It's a little bit weird but not a problem. They take up so little space, and they are right on the edge of where people aren't allowed to go anyway.  
 Hans: Sounds great. About the marine trail piece, you have interacted with that some. How would you interact with them? Would there be a discount for members and current users?  
 Erin: With the marine trails, with KC parks, they established a discount rate with various sites around Puget Sound. We can build in discount codes if they are members of the water trails. Or boy scout troupes or islanders can be given discounts. The software is capable of doing that. Some sites are paid on the water trails, and some are not – like the VPD sites.  
 Hans: What is the KC discount?  
 Erin: 10%  
 Hans: In that transition from KC sites to you managing them, did you bump into people who were used to using them then having to move to a reservation system?  
 Erin: Those were brand new sites for KC. In three years, we had one conflict where someone was crashing a site that had been reserved.  
 Hans: I think this is a great opportunity. It seems like a gain for the neighbors to have more eyes on the property. These are existing campsites, so we aren't adding anything new. Adding the reservation system gives us more control over them. We should use the marine trail outreach system, so people know there is a reservation system here now. Beyond this scope, Doug mentioned Wingehaven and Spring Beach as potential future options.  
 Elaine: Actually, the reason those two parks are not good options is we don't have porta potties there. Wingehaven used to be on the marine trail and was a camp-able area, but until we get that road fixed, we can't get a porta potty down there. Maintenance can't even get down there.  
 Doug: How difficult would it be to resolve that issue?  
 Elaine: The porta potty provider can't get down there. And Spring Beach doesn't have road access.  
 Hans: That is a platform for a composting toilet, but that is a conversation for another day.  
 Karen: What is you want from us?  
 Erin: If this is something you think is a good idea, the green light for giving it a try as your partners.  
 Karen: Is this something you need a motion for?  
 Elaine: Yes, you need to approve it.  
**Karen: I move we approve this camping partnership with Vashon Adventures.**  
**Abby: Second.**  
 Elaine: Just to make a statement about working with Vashon Adventures, they are an absolute joy to work with. They are so professional and on top of things. I could not give more praise to them as VPD partners.  
 Hans: Agreed! We will vote on this next meeting.

**Motion to approve adding reservation camping at Pt Rob and Lisabeula to Vashon Adventure's Concessionaire Agreement.**

**Sport Group  
Storage and  
Fencing at  
VES**

Elaine: In mid-May I notified you all that the Soccer and LaCrosse clubs only utilized \$230k of the King County grant for the lights, and that the grant administrator has approved use of the additional \$20k in funding for three storage containers for soccer, lacrosse, and baseball @ \$14k and outfield fencing for baseball at \$6k + \$1500 from baseball. I let you know that these improvements are in the master plan for VES, and 4 of you agreed you would not need to approve it, since it is in the Master Plan, and the grant was approved by you already. Doug had a couple reasons why he felt it should come before the Board. Doug, do you want me to go through those reasons, or do you want to?

Doug: You can.

Elaine: Concern #1: Doug is uncomfortable with doing something merely because it is in the Master Plan, because that plan was developed and approved by commissioners over ten years ago, none of whom are connected with VPD currently. The Plan does not represent current thinking necessarily. And the actions of those long gone with respect to VES turned out to be unpopular. He feels we should reaffirm the Master Plan, abandon it or develop a new one. He suggests we use the funds for non-athletic amenities like picnic tables instead of more things for the sport teams.

My response to Doug's concern is that the grant is for athletic amenities and would not apply to picnic tables. We tried to apply it to the restroom, but that did not get approved. There is definitely a need for storage for the sport groups who use the field (soccer currently pays \$230 per month for storage), and there is a need for outfield fencing, as we currently have orange temporary fencing serving as the outfield fencing, and the field is not completely secure from a vehicle getting onto the field. Doug had suggested we could walk away from the grant money if we couldn't come up with something we could be supportive of, however, the need for these things does not go away. And developing a new Master Plan is a considerable undertaking – public process and months of work. The Master Plan is attached. Storage is on page 16 of the Master Plan.

That is my take on it, but I respect Doug's take on it, as well.

Concern #2: Doug also feels you should vote on this, because otherwise it looks like we are trying to sneak something by the public when its attention and ability to follow what we are doing is restricted.

Doug: I would add that after looking at the Master Plan, which is the first time I have seen it after 7 years on the Board, this is a very vague plan. There is mention of storage, but only one word. Storage for whom? There were other things laid out more specifically, like a running trail, dog park. The storage facility was not even provided on the map. What was on the map were the running trail and other things. To say storage is in the Master Plan that is 13 years old, it wasn't clearly identified. We have been living with this for 13 years, and this is the first I have heard of the need for storage and fencing. It has never been brought up. I'm okay with it, and I will vote for it, but I feel uncomfortable when there are other needs in the County, like the homeless. Or look at other items that are athletically-related in the Master Plan. It feels like the Plan was a compromised document. There were other interests, like things about nature. But the reality is that primarily soccer has gotten everything. Do we have the option at this point to look at other sport needs not currently represented?

Karen: It seems to me there are two issues: 1) the Master Plan is 13 years old, which might be in our interests to revise, but 2) there is a grant that pays for these sport group needs. Since we have a grant, I am inclined to move forward to it, but I do understand Doug's concerns about everything going to soccer and

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|  | <p>not to anything else. If the Park District survives, we should revisit the Master Plan.</p> <p>Elaine: To be fair to that statement, all of the Master Plans are overdue for a review. As I have been going through the CAPRA standards, I have found that we should review them every 10 years or so. But again, it is a major undertaking.</p> <p>Bob: I am happy to serve on a subcommittee to do that if necessary. We aren't talking about just soccer on this, though. Isn't baseball benefiting?</p> <p>Elaine: The fencing is for baseball. The storage is for baseball, soccer, and lacrosse.</p> <p>Doug: Who are they renting these facilities from now? The Park District?</p> <p>Elaine: No – an outside organization.</p> <p>Hans: The ongoing need has very much been there. VPD provided storage at Fisher for a long time, but we took that away for our own maintenance. It is not a new need. Having to rent private storage means they have to charge more for the kids' fees. While there is an operational need, there is also a security need for the fencing. We are very familiar with that risk! We need to preserve our assets no matter which partner benefits. And I need to put a little vouch in for how great these partners are. It is certainly in our mission to provide recreational opportunities for our youth. They provide that for 100s of kids on the island each year. They step forward to get grants for these activities on our behalf.</p> <p>Bob: Do we need a motion?</p> <p>Elaine: Yes, and I would ask that you suspend the rules, because they are still paying for storage, and the grant administrator is anxious to get the grant closed. It was supposed to be closed end of last year.</p> <p><b>Bob: I move we approve the sport groups moving ahead with the storage container and fencing projects.</b></p> <p><b>Abby: Second.</b></p> <p><b>Bob: Move to suspend the rules.</b></p> <p><b>Karen: Second.</b></p> <p><b>Pass 5-0</b></p> <p><b>Motion: 5-0</b></p> | <p><b>Motion to approve the sport groups moving ahead with the storage container and fencing projects</b><br/><b>Pass 5-0</b></p> <p><b>Motion to suspend the rules</b><br/><b>Pass 5-0</b></p> |
| <p><b>Fern Cove Parking Lot – Land Trust</b></p> | <p>Elaine: As you know, we partner with the Land Trust on a number of properties for environmental stewardship and trail maintenance. The Land Trust has approached us with a project idea for Fern Cove. They wish to install a parking lot at Fern Cove that provides access to the Shinglemill Trail. The proposed area would be just inside the existing gate on the left where there are a bunch of sword ferns – 100 feet up from the Carriage House. No trees would have to be removed. Currently there is a gate at the entrance. They would add a new second gate just below the parking lot to restrict vehicle access to the Belle Baldwin house. The first gate would remain open most of the time, but we like keeping it in case we need to close the parking lot for any reason. This is really the only suitable parking area for the trail. The parking situation, as it exists now on the road, is fairly dangerous.</p> <p>They also will be eliminating an existing walking trail near the house and creating a new trail from the parking lot. This keeps the public from getting too close to the house. That said, this should increase foot traffic in the area, which is good for the house, as more foot traffic reduces vandalism. Too, the Land Trust would maintain the parking lot and the trail, which would have them there multiple times a week, reducing</p>   |   |

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|   | <p>vandalism. Their experience is that a well maintained area generally tends to repel problems. We have had vandalism at Fern Cove. You may remember recently somebody painted swastikas all over the Carriage House, and we had to repaint it.</p> <p>They also will be installing a kiosk.</p> <p>They will have to have the project permitted. The project will be fully funded, installed, and maintained by the Land Trust. Cost = \$25k. Because of this donated improvement by an outside group, this requires your approval. Since they are anxious to get the permitting going, I also ask that you suspend the rules.</p> <p><b>Bob: I move we approve this project. I sounds like a good idea.</b></p> <p><b>Abby: Second.</b></p> <p><b>Bob: Motion to suspend the rules.</b></p> <p><b>Abby: Second.</b></p> <p>Doug: Why is it so imperative we suspend the rules? Is it that important?</p> <p>Elaine: You don't have to. It is their request.</p> <p><b>Motion to suspend the rules: Pass 4-0 (Doug opposed)</b></p> <p><b>Motion: Pass 5-0.</b></p>  | <p><b>Motion to approve the Land Trust Parking Lot at Fern Cove project. Pass 5-0</b></p> <p><b>Motion to suspend the rules. Pass 4-0</b></p> |
| <p><b>COVID-19 Safety Plan, Ad. Policy #13-16</b></p> <p><b>Pool Plan</b></p> | <p>Elaine: Now that we are in Phase 1.5, my office staff can come back to work. To do so, a comprehensive safety plan is required by L&amp;I. This was gleaned from L&amp;I, the CDC, and Inslee's requirements. It is lengthy, so I will assume you have reviewed this on your own. I reviewed this with staff on Friday. They are all educated about it and ready to come tomorrow with your approval. Since it is a policy, you must vote to approve.</p> <p>Bob: Do you or staff have any concerns about getting back together?</p> <p>Elaine: No, not that I am aware of. Some are more concerned than others, but the fact that we have the plan makes them feel better. They are anxious to come back.</p> <p>Karen: What do you need from us?</p> <p>Elaine: It is a plan, but it also serves as a required policy, so you need to approve policy. I also need you to suspend the rules, so they can come back tomorrow.</p> <p><b>Karen: I move to approve the COVID-19 Safety Plan and Policy.</b></p> <p><b>Bob: Second.</b></p> <p><b>Bob: Motion to suspend the rules.</b></p> <p><b>Abby: Second.</b></p> <p><b>Pass: 5-0</b></p> <p><b>Motion: Pass 5-0</b></p> <p>Elaine: I also put in your packet the latest and greatest from Randy on his pool-opening plan. This is information he has gleaned from a state-wide pool operators meeting he has been participating in. He plans to just do lap swim and work something out with the Seals Swim Team.</p> <p>Bob: And that is Phase 3?</p> <p>Elaine: At this point, it is Phase 3. Even if it was Phase 2, that would only allow 5 people.</p> <p>Hans: Is 5 less than we usually have for lap swim?</p> <p>Elaine: We have 6 lanes, but you have to allow for lifeguards and staff. I am finding the governor is very</p> | <p><b>Motion to approve the COVID-19 Safety Plan and Policy. Pass 5-0</b></p> <p><b>Motion to suspend the rules. Pass 5-0</b></p>             |

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|   | <p>specific about the activities he allows. For example, Phase 1.5 only allows for boating, golf, tennis, outdoor fitness with a group of 5, but no team sports. They tell us what is allowed – we don't get to choose.</p> <p>Hans: So under boating, is sailing allowed?</p> <p>Elaine: Sailing lessons are, if it is one on one. We are not doing Sailing Camp, because QYC decided against it. But kayaking is allowed – Vashon Adventures is open with restrictions. Horseback lessons are allowed up to five people. Soccer can't start, because people are too close together and shared equipment.</p> <p>Hans: Your sense is that sailing lessons one on one are allowed?</p> <p>Elaine: Yes. Also, we can take the bubble down. It is considered construction, even though it requires up to 20 volunteers. Interestingly, even though the Seals are anxious to get back swimming, and they know keeping the bubble up is costing us money, they are having trouble finding volunteers, because they are too afraid to get together. I am working with Karl on this.</p> <p>Hans: Let us know if you need help recruiting volunteers.</p>   |  |
| <p><b>After Hours Fee Access Fee Policy</b></p> | <p>Elaine: Presently, summertime use of Commons facilities are allowed during the hours of 5 – 9 pm Monday through Friday, and anything approved earlier than 5 pm that requires Access staff is subject to the after-hours fee of \$22.05 per hour AND Access staff availability (they all hold other jobs during the day). Access staff has asked that we lift the additional fee from the Access Policy for this summer only, because they are desperate to work more hours this summer (they are all furloughed from this and their other work). Too, I imagine more use will be desired, as people are still at home and have been house-bound for months. I believe it would be a positive gesture of goodwill for the community if we lift the additional fee. They would still pay the regular fee.</p> <p>Doug: Which facilities would they be using?</p> <p>Elaine: Indoor facilities at VISD and the Stadium.</p> <p>Doug: I thought indoor facilities cannot be used.</p> <p>Elaine: They could be later! The gyms for sure. Everything can be open once the phase allows for it. VISD does have their janitorial and field people working.</p> <p><b>Karen: I move we approve the elimination of the after-hours fee from the Access Fee Policy for Summer of 2020.</b></p> <p><b>Bob: Second.</b></p> | <p><b>Motion to approve the elimination of the after-hours fee from the Access Fee Policy for Summer of 2020</b></p> |
| <p><b>Paradise Ridge Arena Footings</b></p>     | <p>Elaine: The Horse Association has notified me that new footing material is necessary for the covered arena, since it has not been addressed in about 12 years. They wish to fundraise @ \$7k to do it and are confident it will be done. This requires Board approval, since it is over \$2k per policy. Will involve a forklift and tractor to bring it in; 15 – 20 volunteers to rake it out. They believe they can do it in a week. This will be allowed, because it is considered construction.</p> <p>Karen: Does this have anything to do with the vandalism that recently occurred there?</p> <p>Elaine: No. Just a coincidence.</p> <p>Bob: This is the material spread out on the floor of the arena?</p> <p>Elaine: Yes, it is called footings for the horses.</p> <p><b>Karen: I move to approve the Paradise Ridge arena footings project.</b></p>   | <p><b>Motion to approve the Paradise Ridge arena footings</b></p>  |

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|                                  | <p><b>Bob: Second.</b><br/> <b>Abby: Motion to suspend the rules</b><br/> <b>Doug: Second.</b><br/> <b>Pass 5-0</b><br/> <b>Motion: Pass 5-0</b></p>   | <p><b>project. Pass 5-0</b><br/> <b>Motion to suspend the rules. Pass 5-0</b></p> |
| <p><b>Black Lives Matter</b></p> | <p>Abby: I wanted to know if the Park District could have a conversation about whether or not we could put up something like an equity policy to show our support for this. I think it would be valuable for us to make a statement about our support for Black Lives Matter and direction to an anti-discrimination policy. Just something that indicates we are paying attention and it is important to us, especially as a taxing district.</p> <p>Bob: I agree with that. We should have something on our website.</p> <p>Elaine: We don't a policy per se other than the standard anti-discrimination statement in our Recruitment policy. Does somebody want to take a stab at writing the statement?</p> <p>Abby: I can. I have been involved in many circles in this. I would also like to run it by the staff to make sure they are comfortable with it. Technically, it is our deal.</p> <p>Hans: That's great. It can be a statement from the Board if all are comfortable with it. It can be from both us and staff. We also could use the signs on the highway. If we are going to make a statement, maybe it should be more than just the website. Maybe use our email. Or it can go out on the survey. Is the survey about ready to go out?</p> <p>Elaine: I am waiting for comments from people. I kinda feel the survey needs to be a stand-alone. The letter is pretty long that goes with the survey, and I don't want it to get too muddy.</p> |   |
| <p><b>Adjourn 8:10 pm</b></p>    | <p>Bob: Motion to adjourn.<br/> Karen: Second<br/> Pass 5-0</p>  |   |

Minutes by: Elaine Ott-Rocheford