

VASHON PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

Teleconference, 7:00 pm
DATE: Tuesday, June 23, 2020

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

ISSUE	DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME	FOLLOW UP
Call To Order	Hans called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.	
Public Comment	No public comment.	
6.9.20 Minutes; 6.6.20 – 6.19.20 Preliminary Vouchers; May Vouchers	Doug: Move to accept. Bob: Second. Pass 4-0	Motion to approve 6.9.20 Minutes; 6.6.20 – 6.19.20 Preliminary Vouchers; May Vouchers Pass 4-0
Sound Action Pt Robinson Orca Hydrophone Proposal	<p>Elaine: Amy Carey is the founder of a nonprofit called Sound Action. The mission is about preserving orcas throughout the Puget Sound region. She approached Eric and I about a hydrophone proposal for tracking orcas off Point Robinson. We have done a considerable amount of research on this to include talking with PSE about any concerns about their natural gas line there.</p> <p>Amy Carey: David Bain is also on the line as a member of Sound Action. He is an expert in the world on orcas. We have talked for years about how this might work. We sent you a proposal. Sound Action works to protect near shore habitat. We worked with Governor Inslee on his recommendations for orcas. Pt Rob is one of the premier spots for orcas. Hydrophone placement is a collaborative effort with other organizations, but nothing south of Whidbey Island right now. The idea is that this hydrophone would go in at Pt Rob and be part of the broader hydrophone project. It will be great for the science, general citizen advocacy, people can sit at home and listen to orcas, and potentially a live camera, as well. It would be an awesome thing for the Park District – the community, the Keepers Quarters, and the lighthouse tours. All expenses will be on us: internet access, the hydrophone, permitting. The cable for the hydrophone is small – the cable that comes out of your TV. It is very little impact. There is a wallet-sized box – a computer system – housed at the lighthouse, and that cable could go out and over the point or to take it land and then out. It requires a permit, but it is not construction. The hydrophone is underwater. Because of the permits needed, and we would like to have it in operation by October when the orcas come through, part of the request is that, as</p>	

soon as we get approval on the concept, that will let us start putting things in place.

Bob: I don't see anything negative about it. Sounds like the cable will be underground from the lighthouse to the hydrophone.

Amy: Yes, when external going across the beach. We can trench. The housing unit would be in the lighthouse. The cable can go in where the utilities enter. That can be worked out. And with the camera, it is small – no privacy issue catching everyone on the beach. It would be pointed toward the water for the whales.

Bob: The cable would not be a trip hazard, would it?

Amy: No.

Doug: I thought there was something like this on Vashon already?

Amy: About 10 years ago one was put in – the Vashon Hydrophone Project. It wasn't part of this broader network, and it was private. I don't even know if it is still working.

Abby: Are you going to just put in one hydrophone or an array? If not an array, why not? Also, do we have the type of internet there you need?

Amy: You already have Comcast down there. We can talk to them about what it takes to get to the lighthouse. There is a hotspot there, so there is the potential of boosters. It would be on us to do, but we won't do it until we know we can move forward.

David Bain: The system I set up at another lighthouse was an array of hydrophones, video cameras, and a weather station. In those days we had a 56 team modem, so that was a lot more data than we could get out to the outside world. With a fast internet connection, there are a lot of advantages to doing an array. It's up to you if you want to give us a bigger footprint with multiple hydrophones. The cables coming in would be larger to handle multiple hydrophones.

Abby: Our beach area is somewhat limited.

Elaine: It would all be subject to Coast Guard approval, too. What is an array?

Abby: It is a line of them rather than just one point.

Elaine: So the advantage is it picks up more sound?

David: Since you're a point, we could have one on the north side listening toward Seattle, and one on the south side pointing to Tacoma, so you have a couple points to hear. If we have multiple on each side, you can get more localized information, like how far offshore they are, how deep they are, what direction you can see them, where are they feeding? Arrays provide a lot more science. The disadvantage is more hydrophones means we must be careful to not damage near shore vegetation – we'll have to do a dive survey to run more cables without causing harm.

Bob: As long as there is no harm, no trip hazard, and the costs are up to you, I think the more the better to collect more scientific information.

Elaine: It would be cool for Captain Joe's tours.

Abby: I'm not sure about the video camera. Do we want cameras at our parks? People might perceive we are looking at them. I don't like to see cameras in parks. Maybe the video camera can be initiated by the hydrophones?

Amy: Also, if there are external speakers, we can add a turn-on feature. I'm there any time the whales are there, so I can turn it on. There are pathways for these added features. The cameras are really small. It

	<p>would not change the character of the lighthouse.</p> <p>Doug: How will the experience for the person visiting Pt Rob be different because of this?</p> <p>Amy: It's such a popular place for whale watching. It almost becomes an interpretative sort of event. They can listen on their phones through an app. If someone couldn't make it there, they can listen from home. We do activities with classrooms on orca projects. The Vashon Nature Center brings people in. It is not only whales – it picks up otters, etc.</p> <p>Eric: Are there other ways to experience it?</p> <p>Amy: You can have Bluetooth speakers in the Keeper's Quarters that can be turned on and off for the guests to hear.</p> <p>Abby: There was a hydrophone array at Resurrection Bay that we have listened to. It was really cool.</p> <p>Bob: I move to approve moving forward with the exploration of this project up to knowing this is going to work, to include getting Coast Guard approval, notifying Captain Joe, submitting the design to PSE before permitting, get an MOU in place.</p> <p>Doug: Second.</p> <p>Hans: We will vote on it next meeting. There are enough words of support to where you should feel okay exploring the next steps.</p> <p>Amy: I would like us to put timelines on the steps, like when we would have an agreement signed and what needs to be in place to do that.</p> <p>Elaine: Immediately, we will reach out to Captain Joe and the Coast Guard before the next meeting. Do you have the design ready for permitting that you can have PSE review?</p> <p>Amy: We need to do three things. We need to do a dive survey to locate the vegetation, and that does not require permitting. Once we have that, we will do some acoustic testing to inform placement of the hydrophones. Then from there, which way the cables will get there.</p> <p>Eric: Don't expect the Coast Guard to do anything timely.</p> <p>Amy: We can help with that. Both Scott and David have worked with the Coast Guard on other projects.</p>	<p>Motion to approve moving forward with the exploration of the hydrophone project up to knowing it is going to work.</p>
<p>May, 2020 Financial Report</p>	<p>Elaine:</p> <p>Levy – May brought us closer to budget after April's shortfall of \$135k. We are now in the hole \$79k, which hopefully we will make up in June due to the extended property tax extension.</p> <p>Admin – ahead \$27k.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • \$4k in misc income – mostly due to the copy machine trade • \$3k in payroll due to Sue having been partially furloughed • \$12k in election costs from November. We budgeted \$20k, the general election only cost us \$8k due to the spread of costs to other Districts with ballot measures. • \$8k in professional fees – we budgeted \$25k for Tramp Harbor Dock legal fees in anticipation of a long battle with DNR, but so far we aren't seeing that. <p>Maint – ahead @ \$30k</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenue down \$8k due to reservation cancellations • Payroll down \$28k due to no Robin and no summer temps May and June. <p>Abby: Do we still employ Robin?</p>	

Elaine: She is almost completely furloughed. She works maybe 4 hours every couple weeks. Normally she works 30 hours per week. She is collecting unemployment for the missed hours.

- Materials down \$10k – with no use on VES for months, it did not need a topdressing
- Outside services down \$4k – no need for topdressing

Commons – ahead \$19k

- Revenue down \$8k
- Payroll down \$6k
- We will have saved \$20k on the interlocal fee. I will be requesting an additional credit on our December payment of \$8600 due to 6 additional weeks of no VISD use. We opened the track and Stadium last Friday. Inside facilities will be available per Phase allowances.

Programs – we are calling this at budget, despite Eric being hamstrung over not being able to plan for anything. He has spent nothing on programs, because they have all been cancelled. His intent is to ramp up what he can quickly when he is able. Likely, his budget will be ahead in the long run from unspent funds.

Pool Summer – ahead \$28k

- Anticipating a revenue loss of \$37k
- Offset by anticipated payroll savings of \$59k

Doug: What is the schedule for the pool at this point?

Elaine: Randy is poised to open July 1 with reservation only lap swims and possibly small group water aerobics. The Seals will come on board July 8, also super modified – mostly lap swim and drills. Randy set up the reservation system, which is live now. It is booking up quickly.

Pool Winter – pretty much at budget

Pt Rob - \$7800 over

- Revenue is down \$16k
- Offset by payroll down \$8k

Fern Cove - \$5600 over

- Revenue down \$10k
- Payroll only down \$3k

Elaine: Despite the houses having been virtually empty for a few months, Eric has been inundated with reservations going forward.

Eric: The first two months cratered. But now we are pretty well booked at Point Rob through the summer; Fern Cove is getting close. I struggle with housekeepers not being willing to clean. I am having to do much of it myself.

Elaine: I think Bob raised the question at a recent meeting where he asked how the staff feels about coming back to work. Housekeepers is turning out to be an issue. I also have an Access guy who is in the at risk category, so he wishes to take a leave of absence based on the FMLA. There are COVID allowances for people who are afraid to come back or have reasons not to. Now that we are ramping up, we are faced with interesting challenges.

CIP - \$18k over -- \$12k for Agren retainage and \$5300 for Ober architects. I told you last report that I approved \$3500 extra for them. This survey has been extremely time consuming, so I approved an

	<p>additional \$1800, since I am allowed up to \$10k. Ending cash is going up -- \$677k There are a lot of budget problems with a lot of districts. So far we are doing okay. I'm a little concerned about October, to be honest, but there is no way to prepare for that other than minding our costs. We already made budget cuts in February in anticipation of being pro-rated in 2021. I think it would be prudent to keep those cuts in place until we know more about October. Doug: What is the County saying about property tax due dates for October? Elaine: I have a feeling that those Districts like city and county that are heavily based in taxes other than property taxes will not allow extensions to the October tax deadline. Doug: What are you assuming about October in your cash flow projections? Elaine: I pushed April out to June due to that extension. I have not pushed October out with the assumption that the deadline will not be extended. I am being cautious about expenses, just in case.</p>	
<p>Board Votes</p>	<p>Karen: Motion to approve adding reservation camping at Pt Rob and Lisabeula to Vashon Adventure's Concessionaire Agreement Abby: Second Doug: What is the current policy on camping, and what is changing? Elaine: Camping has been allowed for years at LB and Pt Rob. The policy is no drive-in allowed; accessible by kayak or bicycle only. It is first come, first served. I have never been aware of any problems. They are on the water trail system since before I came here, where they are advertised and receptive to new information. Campers must follow the rules. Bob: Vashon Adventures would take reservations for those spots and parallel to the no-reservation system in place now? Elaine: No, it would be reservation required going forward. We can decide to allow for non-pay exceptions if we would like. The Cascadia Marine Trail folks would direct all inquiries to Vashon Adventures. I think it's a good way to go. It puts more organization to it and adds eyes and ears, particularly LB problems at night. Doug: Are we collecting revenue now, and will that be a different rate going forward? Elaine: We are not collecting revenue now, because we do not have an organizational system to do so. They are open to whatever we want to negotiate. Their KC rate is \$17.50 per night. We could keep it simple and consistent with that, then have a reduced fee for the water trail system. Doug: How much would the Park District get? Abby: She said the current concession with us is 10%. Elaine: KC gives them 15%, but that is negotiable. Do you want me to negotiate the camping fee and concession rate, or do you want to? Hans: You should handle that. Bob: Agreed Doug: 10% of \$17 isn't much as a revenue source. Bob: I don't see that as a big issue.</p>	<p>Motion to approve adding reservation camping at Pt Rob and Lisabeula to Vashon Adventure's Concessionaire Agreement Pass 4-0</p>

	<p>Abby: I think it is better to keep the rental low rather than focus on revenue.</p> <p>Hans: Remember, this could potentially increase their business, which translates to more revenue if it increases the kayak rental. In terms of the pros and cons, there are other advantages besides revenue.</p> <p>Doug: Abby thought it was weird to see a tent down there. It is not usual to have campsites on a beach. It is usually more in the woods.</p> <p>Bob: I wonder how the LB location was selected? It could be moved to the other side of the parking lot.</p> <p>Elaine: I don't see any reason why we can't change that.</p> <p>Doug: I read Vashon Adventure's brochure, and I think one of the KC selling points is waking up on the beach. I don't know how agreeable they would be to moving it.</p> <p>Bob: But all they are doing is administering it. Cascadia might object.</p> <p>Elaine: We can certainly explore this.</p> <p>Bob: In the meantime, we can vote to approve.</p> <p>Pass 4-0.</p> <p>Karen: Motion to eliminate the after-hours fee from the Access Fee Policy for summer of 2020.</p> <p>Bob: Second</p> <p>Pass 4-0</p>	<p>Motion to eliminate the after-hours fee from the Access Fee Policy for summer of 2020.</p> <p>Pass 4-0</p>
<p>Anti-racism and Equity Team</p>	<p>Abby: Doug and I had a good exchange about this. I have been purposely quiet about it this week. I have nothing new to bring to this discussion. Doug had some great points, and he can speak to them. One example, though, was the Latinx community plays soccer on their own, so is there something VPD can do in how we administer things like that generally.</p> <p>Doug: We may not be aware of how our policies are affecting other groups. While no person of color has applied for a position with VPD, that has a ready answer that there aren't many people of color on Vashon. But is that enough of an answer? Maybe we should look beyond that, like look off island. We might be doing everything right, but we don't spend a lot of time thinking about these things. You mentioned the soccer team. Even David Hackett says the Latinas play separately. Is that okay? I think we should talk about these things. If there is anything we need to do, we should do it. The idea that we just pass a resolution, no matter how strongly worded it may be, is less than we can do. We should change policies and actively reach out.</p> <p>Abby: At first I was thinking we should have a statement about supporting Black Lives Matters. But really it's disingenuous in terms of addressing racial equity. We should change policy and what we have going on to see that we are doing the best we can.</p> <p>Doug: As a sometime Vashon resident for over 60 years, these issues come up. It's usually because we have always been so white. A few years ago, a person was taking a nap at Jensen Point in his car, and somebody called the cops on him. That's the kind of issue we are bound to face – people making bad assumptions. That guy, I'm sure, felt uncomfortable about working on Vashon. When you call the cops on a colored person, that puts them at risk. We need to think about these things.</p> <p>Elaine: I want to go on record about a person of color never having applied for a job -- that is specific to</p>	

African Americans. In terms of our staff diversity, we have 3 Latina workers, one being our Maintenance Director and 2 housekeepers. We have a transgender person at BARC. Our age ranges from 75 all the way down, ½ being 45+. Half our staff is female. I'm pretty proud about how diverse we are, given the statistics on Vashon, and I think we represent the demographics here in a significant way. In terms of looking at policies, Abby, have you heard back from the School District?

Abby: Yes. I will pass them on. I think we can mimic what they are doing. But I also think that hiring isn't the only thing that's happening that is systemic racism. It is great what we have done with staff, but it's the bare minimum of what we can do. This is an opportunity for us to be an anti-racist organization. I am super excited about this opportunity.

Hans: I proposed we put out a statement of our intent. I think there is less interest in that now. Secondly, we decided a group of us would look over things. Key areas are employment, contracting, impact from our services, program participation. I don't think we are proposing a resolution, but rather look at policies and things we can address. Like Abby said, we should do this hand in hand with staff. The next thing is to figure out who wants to participate. Abby, Bob, Doug, and I have said we are interested. Does that sound good?

Elaine: Since Eric is on this call, he can be part of this committee to address issues in recreation programming.

Doug: It would be useful to enlist a person who has experience with this to point to areas we haven't thought about. An outside person.

Elaine: So, like a consultant?

Doug: That sounds expensive.

Hans: Asking outside people is a good idea, whether that is doing some community surveying or inviting different people to the group. The general goal is getting the input.

Elaine: How do you want to go about this committee idea? More than 2 Commissioners is a public meeting.

Hans: I think it is fine as a public meeting. With a Zoom call, it is easy for us to gather.

Bob: There is homework we can do, like reviewing our policies through this lens. Things might jump out that we didn't see before four years ago.

Elaine: I'll dig through our policies and see if there is anything that relates to this to send to you. Abby can send the School District policies. Eric and I can brainstorm on some recreation angles.

Abby: We can reach out to the Racial Justice group on the island -- SURJ. There are people on the island who focus on this. No sense re-inventing the wheel.

Eric: Right before COVID, I reached out to VTFS for connections to the Latina community. It fell by the wayside when school was cancelled, but I can pick that up again.

Hans: Tuesdays work well. Maybe alternate with our regular board meetings.

Bob: I would be happy to go through the policies.

Abby: I will reach out to the members of SURJ.

Hans: We can decide if we need a statement of intent – our awareness of our current conditions and our intent to respond. Action is of primary interest to us.

Abby: I think it is necessary, but not right away. We need to get our focus together. Then we can make a cohesive statement that is genuine.

Action Item

<p>Staff Reports</p>	<p>Ober Park Playground Survey Elaine: As of today, 185 responses total. Option 5 of the playground equipment is in the lead by 1 vote; 3 is a close second. Color – rainforest is in the lead – a dark green, which is interesting, because #2 is Shine (red), and #3 is Jungle (a darker green), #4 Papaya (yellow), and #5 Deep Space (blue) Fitness equipment – Option 1 is #1, Option 3 is #2, Option 2 is #3 Fitness Equipment color – Rainforest #1, Allegiance #2 (dark blue) I’ll put out another Facebook blast tomorrow. The Senior Center has been promoting it through their email list. Bob: I have been worried about saying this, given my age, but I could not make it work. It got locked up. Elaine: I’ll send you the scanned version of it. It tended to work best on a laptop or PC.</p> <p>Point Robinson Coast Guard Lease/Project Status Elaine: I was really hoping to have a report on this, but I cannot get a response from the Coast Guard to save my life. You may recall, the CG lease expired July 31, 2019, and as a condition for renewing, we were required to provide the Coast Guard with safety protocols that would prohibit the occurrence of future accidents at the lighthouse. We met with Jeffrey Zappen and dialed up the plan. I submitted that plan mid-July, 2019 – meeting the required deadline. I have not heard from the CG since, despite having emailed at least monthly, called and left messages, and emailed Zappen for his help two weeks ago. All roads point to Beverly. I have searched for senior CG members’ emails, but everything goes to and through Beverly. I have googled Beverly! I have reminded Beverly of our grant for the lighthouse decking and asked if the lease is in hold-over tenancy – nothing. Just letting you know that I am trying. My next step is to reach out to Captain Joe. Bob: The harm to us is that we can’t effect repairs. Operationally, nothing changes. Elaine: A few months ago I asked for her to confirm the lease is in holdover tenancy – no response. When we last renewed the lease, it was long overdue, and they said it was in holdover tenancy. I am putting everything in writing, just to show I am doing my part. I will reach out to Captain Joe for help. Eric: Have you considered writing them a letter? Elaine: I could try that. Hans: And we have a grant deadline? Elaine: It is through 4Culture, and they are good about no deadlines. But they do get itchy if it goes on for too long. Hans: And you don’t know who her superior is? Elaine: I have tried to find him, but I can’t.</p>	<p>Action Item</p>
<p>Executive Session – Real Estate</p>	<p>Lisabeula Tideland Donation Status of Surplus Properties</p>	
<p>Adjourn 8:30 pm</p>	<p>Bob: Move to adjourn Abby: SecondPass 4-0</p>	

Minutes by: Elaine Ott-Rocheford