

VASHON PARK DISTRICT (VPD) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

Teleconference, 7:00 pm
DATE: Tuesday, January 12, 2021

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

ISSUE	DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME	FOLLOW UP
Call To Order – Review Agenda	Hans called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. and reviewed the agenda.	
Public Comment	<p>None</p> <p>Abby: Since I missed the last meeting, I want to say I think it is worth thinking about, even though our House Bill isn't us raising taxes, it does effectively raise taxes. I gathered from the conversation that people think it is a good idea to put that out. I agree that we should put that out.</p> <p>Elaine: I did. I didn't specifically state that in our letter to the user group leadership. I just took the statement out that said we weren't raising taxes. The truth is, taxes go up by the difference it is over the \$5.90. You are right that we should be transparent about that. No doubt that will come up in discussions with the legislature.</p> <p>Bob: It is not a result of anything we are doing. It is a result of the Hospital District.</p> <p>Elaine: I think we can make that statement, too. But it definitely is not fair to say taxes will not go up, whether it's the fault of the Hospital District.</p> <p>Abby: I wrote to the Hospital District to get information from them about their financials. It was difficult to get that information from them.</p> <p>Elaine: I was going to report on this in the Local Taxing District section of our meeting, but I'll say it now. I was heartened by some exchanges I have had with Eric Pryne. He contacted me. He wants to form a committee of the taxing agency leadership, including the School District, to have better communication and transparency.</p>	
12.8.20 Minutes; 12.6.20 – 1.7.21 Preliminary Vouchers	<p>Abby: Move to accept.</p> <p>Karen: Second.</p>	<p>Motion to approve the 12.8.20 Minutes; 12.6.20 – 1.7.21 Preliminary Vouchers; Pass 5-0</p>

<p>Board Positions</p>	<p>Hans: Is the understanding that board positions are for one year? Elaine: You can certainly keep them as they are. Karen: Since I am trying to retire for the Board, I am happy to stay at large and not be an officer. Bob: I move that we leave them the way they are. Abby: Second. Hans: Abby, do you have any thoughts? Abby: I don't care. Doug: I am good with leaving them as they are. Hans: Abby, aren't you chomping at the bit to be Board Chair? Abby: It's my last year. Hans: I'm flexible about this. Either way, I'm glad to do this, but it would be nice for Abby to be the chair. Bob: Abby, are you going to run for another term? Abby: I think I will. Bob: You'll have the opportunity to run the show. Elaine: You can vote at the next meeting in case somebody decides they have a burning need to be chair.</p>	<p>Motion to leave the Board positions as is.</p>
<p>Staff Reports</p>	<p><u>Marshall</u> Elaine: You all know the sad news about Marshall. From a business standpoint, we will not be replacing him for the time being, since he has been working from home pretty much full time, and it would be too difficult to recruit and train. Most of Marshall's job needs to be in-house; he was effectively working part-time, anyway. Eric, Sue and I have divided up his duties. We will wait until the COVID fog lifts enough to where we are actively renting space again. That said, lodgings takes up most of Eric's time, and he needs some help there. We'll see how this goes in the coming months. Doug: In case people ask, his accident wasn't at all job related? Elaine: Oh, no. It happened on a Saturday evening. They were over town at the time. Hans: Is there anything the part time employees can do to help Eric? Elaine: Not really. He is managing okay, but our concern is when reservations pick up, since Eric is handling RecPro. The change from the Governor yesterday hasn't changed much of anything for us, so I don't anticipate the need kicking in any time soon.</p> <p><u>House Bill 1034 – Local Taxing Districts</u> Elaine: I just received notification today from Rep Fitzgibbon that the first hearing before the House Finance Committee is January 21. I will definitely be there. I did some quick research on "How to Testify Before Committee" on the Washington State Legislature website and also asked our lobbyist for pointers. I also asked if it is wise to have lots of supporters there or just me, so I'll let you know. Hans: Are you the only one testifying at this point? Elaine: Yes, so far. The lobbyist stated it would be good to try to find another P&R agency to testify. I have reached out. Doug: This would be a statewide measure, so theoretically, somebody from Moses Lake could complain that their taxes would go up.</p>	

Elaine: That is true. In the spirit of transparency, I will be pointed about that. Interestingly, I did not hear back from any P&R District this time as I did last year – heard from about 8 who were supportive.

Doug: To them it may be just a theoretical concern, since they have not been prorated.

Elaine: Last year, Anderson Island had been prorated. Most of the others are relatively small. I heard back from the sizeable ones last year.

Hans: It would be good to ask the lobbyist when their support would be most helpful.

Elaine: He already said support going into this would be helpful.

Hans: Is there a senate bill?

Elaine: No, Senator Nguyen has been surprisingly quiet through this. Therefore, it will start in the House then move to the Senate.

Doug: Since it is a revenue bill, I wonder if it must start in the House.

Hans: I think it could go either way.

Elaine: Today I co-presented a webinar on “ProRationing in Washington State” with the EDs from Metro Parks Tacoma and Mt Si View – both Metropolitan Park Districts -- for members of the WRPA. My portion was on how a P&R District is affected in addition to promoting our Bill. So I’m doing all I can to garner support throughout the industry. Too, I serve on the WRPA Legislative Committee, so we will be promoting the Bill in individual meetings with the legislators in early February when we discuss all park-related issues requiring their support.

I did learn from the Mt. Si View guy that they have been pro-rated in the past and were successful passing state legislation that protected a portion of a MPD’s rate. It also resides in the 50 cent gap and is a notch ahead of us in priority. He said to expect revisions that might limit it to a population size or time frame. They often attempt to make it relative to your specific district.

Doug: There was a bill passed by our Legislature for the Vashon School District. The bill limited its scope to a large island in King County west of the rest of King County. How many are there?

Elaine: Maybe they will do that for us!

Elaine: We have learned that the Library will not be doing a lid lift this year.

Karen: What about Roads?

Elaine: Hans reached out to Joe McDermott’s office and learned that Roads will likely not do anything in 2021 unless late in the year. They are waiting until the economy improves.

Hans: I also reached out to John Taylor. He has not responded yet. McDermott’s staff confirmed Library not running and Roads toward the end of the year. There are gaps in the Roads budget that needs to be addressed, likely at the end of the year. She should keep us posted. She mentioned McDermott is on the committee that would handle it; he was not last year. He has a closer tie to it. Our push would be that they keep us whole via a Buy Down. Our goal is to be aware, be present, and potential buy down. I reached out to Eric Pryne, as well, to be a better partner. I suggested the EDs/Chief and one commissioner to be in that group. We need to consider who would be the best representative. Anyone interested?

Abby: Is there a purpose other than better communication?

Hans: Better coordination amongst the taxing districts, so we can better serve the tax payers. One motive for me is that, come next November, we will have made our position clear if, say, the Hospital District, after having said they may have more capacity to give a little in 2022, we hold them accountable if they do

something different. It creates an environment where we are being cooperative and good partners throughout the year.

Abby: I would be interested.

Bob: I would be interested.

Chum Run

Elaine: This turned out to be a surprising success! We ended the fundraiser with 90 registrants and received \$1,270.00 in donations. After expenses, we anticipate we will be in the ballpark of \$2,000.00 to add to our youth scholarship program. Eric anticipates that the swag (medals, t-shirts, bibs) will all be here within a week. Eric will be including personal thank you notes to our donors.

Doug: My wife had a suggestion – why not next do the Chum Swim? In the pool or Puget Sound.

Elaine: Or the Chum Triathlon with a bike component.

Tramp Harbor Dock

Elaine: I turned in the signed and notarized copies of the leases with the required insurance documents last week. They then do yet another final evaluation before they sign and make the lease official. They may make new requirements, reconsider the terms, whether it should be issued, and if new conditions must be met. Until I receive the final execution, I feel it is best not to set up meetings with the tribes yet or contract for the survey.

Projects:

○ Village Green Entry

Elaine: Ken Fulton has teamed up with the Heritage Museum to serve as the 501©3 for accepting donations for the project. We executed an MOU for all parties to be clear about roles and responsibilities. That said, Ken has not raised any funds yet. I recently reminded him that the permit is good only through April, so I don't know where this is going to go.

Abby: Do I remember correctly that it will be @ \$15k?

Elaine: Most will be in kind, but they monetary component is just a few thousand.

○ Ober Park

Elaine: All the playground and exercise equipment has arrived. It had to ship by end of December to be eligible for the grant discount through the vendor. We are STILL awaiting the Clearing and Grading permit, applied for in September. I discovered in December that all my emails sent to them went into a quarantine folder (same with the state – tagged as a phishing email address), so that partially explains the delay. Same with the building permit for the:

○ VES Restroom

I have a terrible feeling we will lose this grant due to the building permit delay. The grant must be closed by end of June.

I am going to reach out to the director, Jim Chun.

I will be setting up the scheduled 2021 projects with staff this Friday: Burton Acres Ivy Remediation, Fern Cove dormer repair/painting/foundation repair

Action Item

King County Grant

Elaine: A new grant cycle has been released through KC for project funding up to \$300,000 with no match requirement. It must be for something related to Youth activity, so I felt we should attempt to chip away at the pool needs.

During Budget prep for 2021, Randy noted the following big ticket items I thought we would go for:

- 1) Exterior parking lights
- 2) Hot water heater
- 3) Natural gas burner for the boiler
- 4) Solar system – one side still operational
- 5) Resurface the pool bottom
- 6) Slide

Randy, Derek, and Mike are working on the cost estimates and details of what is needed. My guess is we'll be close to \$300k based on what we know and the ORB Engineering estimates from 2016. The Seals will be co-sponsoring the application.

Bob: You're talking about a complete resurfacing of the pool bottom?

Elaine: Yes, it will entail hiring a hydrologist to gauge the water table before emptying the pool, then the costs of emptying and refilling the pool.

Eric is also going to apply for this grant to enclose the BARC building, which is open on the back corner but sealed off with fencing and tarps. We have a huge problem with kids breaking into the building, both there and by breaking down the front door (last week they used an impact wrench to remove the front door). We would want the grant to improve the security of the building (including cameras) and enhance its comfort for broader use.

I'm not holding my breath on either being awarded. They are expecting a huge turnout.

Abby: What's your timeline for leaving? Have you found a replacement?

Karen: No, I want to start on that. If we could find someone to take my place, that person would have a better chance of being elected as an incumbent. We have lots of time, but I would like to begin the search.

Hans: My guess is you'll have to give us a deadline.

Karen: Is two months enough?

Elaine: Did we run something in the Beachcomber last time?

Abby: I think we did.

Hans: We could reach out to the user base.

Karen: I will reach out to a couple people in the horse community.

Elaine: I can put something out to the user group leadership.

Hans: We can also do an update of the latest: Chum Run results, other updates.

Abby: Maybe after the inauguration. Maybe first of February?

Bob: I think you're right, Hans. We need a deadline.

Hans: It would be okay if we have a gap like after Scott Harvey left. Maybe include BARC and Pool updates.

Action Item

	<p>Elaine: Btw, the reason BARC and the pool are still closed is staff. People have either moved on to other things, or they don't want to work due to COVID risk.</p> <p>Bob: The old guard lifeguards will be more motivated after the vaccinations roll out. It would be wise to get someone from the equestrian community.</p> <p>Hans: I don't think we typically get a lot of interest, so it would be good to widely spread the word.</p>	
<p>Adjourn 8:00 pm</p>	<p>Abby: I move to adjourn.</p> <p>Karen: Second.</p>	<p>Motion to adjourn; Pass 5-0</p>

Minutes by: Elaine Ott-Rocheford