

VASHON PARK DISTRICT (VPD) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

MEETING MINUTES

Teleconference, 7:00 pm
DATE: Tuesday, June 8, 2021

Commissioners attending: Hans Van Dusen, Bob McMahon, Doug Ostrom, Josh Henderson, 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	None	
5.25.20 Minutes; 5.22.21 – 6.5.21 Preliminary Vouchers	Bob: Motion to accept. Abby: Second Pass 5-0	Motion to approve the 5.25.20 Minutes; 5.22.21 – 6.5.21 Preliminary Vouchers Pass 5-0
Lisabeula Camping	<p>Elaine: Last week I received a call and an email from a community member, Oli Christophersen, who wanted to discuss some concerns he has about the camping at Lisabeula, and particularly the partnership between the Park District and Vashon Adventures as it relates to Lisabeula Park. He would like us to consider discontinuing our relationship with Vashon Adventures at Lisabeula. His primary concern is VPD allowing a business to exploit our parks for their own profit at the expense of the Vashon taxpayers, as its business model almost entirely caters to non-residents. He feels the partnership is not for the benefit of islanders who pay taxes to the Vashon Park District.</p> <p>My responses:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In our phone conversation, I shared how the relationship came to be in 2012, where we solicited Requests for Proposals for the management of the kayak operations at Jensen Point. Vashon Adventures responded and was awarded the contract. The operations include all things kayak-related, so adding kayak camping management at Lisabeula and Point Robinson seemed like a natural fit. 2) Oli was concerned about our parks being used for camping. I explained that camping has been allowed at Lisabeula and Point Robinson for years in relationship to those sites being on the Washington Water Trails system. 3) Oli asked why the switch to having camping now managed by Vashon Adventures. I explained that for many years, the Lisabeula neighbors have complained about loud noise and illegal campfires being a problem from campers (and other park users). Since Vashon Adventures manages the campsites at Maury Island Marine Park, having them also manage our campsites was one way of controlling those problems. Vashon Adventures' 	

experience is that campers who register and sign agreements to the park rules tend to be better behaved. Too, they tend to be "eyes and ears" against people coming into the park after hours (despite the locked gate) and causing problems. Since having Vashon Adventures manage VPD campsites, I have not received a single complaint from the neighbors.

- 4) Oli is concerned about our parks being exploited by a for-profit business. I explained that management services do not come for free, and VPD does receive 10% of the income generated.
- 5) Oli was concerned about the amount of signage now at Lisabeula. It is true -- signage has increased significantly in the past couple years. We did this in response to numerous complaints from the neighbors who asked for (and received approval for) the increase in signage in an effort to curb nefarious behavior.

In general, key RATIONALE for our partnership with Vashon Adventures:

1. Park utilization has not risen due to the engagement of Vashon Adventures; utilization was already high, leading to misuse and complaints from neighbors.
2. The safety of kayakers using the Water Trails system was also a concern as this is a key stop for those traveling through.
3. Vashon Adventures engagement is limited to operating as the reservation system for the 2 overnight camping spots in the park at \$17.50 per night each
4. Operating a reservation system for a handful of campsites is not cost effective for the PD, and the use of concessionaires is common in the industry
5. Vashon Adventures has the insurance, infrastructure and experience to manage these sites. They also have contracts and relationships with County and State park systems

RESULTS

1. Vashon Adventures built and donated the Kayak rack at the park to the PD
2. Kayakers now have the ability to ensure their safety by reserving the campsites at Lisabeula, the only Watertrails site on the west side of Vashon
3. Vashon Adventures has the contact information of guests and has been able to contact and correct overnight users in response to complaints.
4. Complaints and miss use issues have decreased substantially.

I don't want to overspeak for Oli, so Oli, you can speak to the issues if you would like.

Oli Christophersen: It seems like a weird year based on the lack of use, and therefore, lack of complaints.

- For the 10%, I did some math if everything was booked out every day. The park district would only make \$600. It doesn't justify allowing Vashon Adventures to advertise our parks, that Vashon taxpayers pay for. VA would make \$6,000. It doesn't make financial sense. VPD does everything - mows the lawn, collects the garbage, and VA gets all the profit.
- As a taxpayer, I don't want them promoting our parks. Advertising already overcrowded parks. I have lived on Vashon 42 years now, next to Lisabeula, and I have seen the difference. The signage makes it even worse. That is a result of the overcrowding, other people coming. Growing up, I knew the neighbors on both sides. Clearly that has changed – it's a larger community. I don't think it makes sense for a business to profit off our parks and to market to off-island consumers.

Susan Good: I understand this is about Lisabeula, but VA has a presence all over Vashon. I take point with Elaine making it sound like, when we had a Board meeting asking for help from VPD, because of the noise. The kayak campers were never the problem. The problem was that the park was not properly closed, so people stayed in the

park way too long. In the past, there used to be 5 spots for the campers. Now there are two. They have to compete with VA reserving spots, which, with the weird COVID year, we don't know how that is going to play out. I see some issues with them having to compete and to have to pay for it. On the marine trail system, I know many sites must be paid for, but Lisabeula was not one of them. It is true people can call for VA, but they don't have a presence in the park. They don't check in the people in person. To Oli's point, the Parks people are there and maintaining it. That is something to think about, as well.

Hans: The genesis of our relationship with VA was really about Jensen Point to support kayaks and paddle boards for the community and others. The ebike thing is not related to us, since it is not done on our property. In relation to the park facilities, that is the lion's share of our partnership and allows for resources for islanders and off-islanders. The camping part is more recent and quite tiny in comparison and can be reviewed in any number of ways. It would be good to know how much use there is at the two sites – also at the lighthouse. And you do the County property. It would be good to know if its islanders or off-islanders.

Erin: Just to step back a bit, our interest originally was more about kayak safety. The majority of people who rent our kayaks are not expert level needed to get around the island. Very few rent kayaks and make that trek from us. It is true kayak campers are pretty chill people. We heard from the WA Water Trails people, because we work with them at the MIMP. They liked that the MIMP had reservations, so they could be guaranteed a space when they got there. That was the genesis to bringing it to the Park District. It was something we could help manage for the kayakers when they come around.

This is not a big money maker for us. It is a passion for us. Putting the kayak rack there, there are a lot of people who lose boats to the high tide. We want people to be safe and have a good time – that's our jam.

As far as our communal business, 40% comes from islanders and the guests that they bring, so we are very island focused. Last year we did zero advertising, because we didn't want people coming to Vashon. We are still very minimal in what we do – we're on social media, we don't buy advertising. Our business speaks for itself – just offering fun activities for people to do. My feeling on this is, we just do the two sites at Lisabeula – two vs five – I don't know where we came up with that number. The beach was one, and the second site was put in behind the trees. I didn't realize it changed from five to two. I wasn't part of that change.

Having some accountability for those staying the night – we provide the camping list to Eric and Shawn, and they pass it on to the gatekeepers, which provides some acknowledgment of who is in the park after dark. We are finding it is helpful at MIMP – the kids having beach fires. The camping presence helps deter that. Whether or not that is happening at Lisabeula, I would bet it helps.

We are here to support the Park District – we are great partners. If you want to take this down, we will support what you decide. We did it not as a money maker but as something good for the paddling community. I have to say I'm a little stunned to hear that we are only about profit and bringing people to the island. The people who do come over spend a lot of money supporting island businesses, and we support the Park District with our concession for the kayaks we rent. I feel it is a healthy relationship and good to bring good, healthy fun to the island.

Hans: How much usage is there for Lisabeula reservations?

Erin: Last year, we didn't start until late in the summer. There were 13 reservations for all of 2020. To date in 2021, including advance bookings, 24 reservations at Lisabeula. Pt Robinson is probably equivalent.

Bob: I would guess that, if VA wasn't managing this, somebody from VPD would have to, and that would increase our costs. VA is more of a subcontractor than an independent business. This money would be paid, anyway, to support employees we would hire to do it. I don't view it the same way as you do, Oli. What is really behind this? Is it overuse

of the park? Where the money is going?

Oli: It is the overuse of the park. The history of how it was managed in the past, it was no fee. No reservations. It was a space where, if you were a kayaker, you were allowed to camp. There was no management until this past year. It didn't cost the Park District anything, because it wasn't an organizational program. My concern is that, as taxpayers to the island, we all pay for the parks. I don't understand why we need to create a camping potential at these parks. That would go for MIMP, but I'm more concerned about Lisabeula, because that is where I grew up. To see a whole bunch of new signage is disturbing, particularly for those managed by a company. VA renting bikes and kayaks – that's totally fine. And 40% to islanders, that's fine. You're running your business – that is not what this is about. This is about bringing that business into a park that is funded by Vashon residents. Clearly, your website is geared to off-islanders.

Bob: Your thinking is, because of the way it is being managed right now, we have more users that we would otherwise. That's something we have to find out.

Oli: Inevitably, you are going to get more users with the advertising campaign. Before, it was never marketed. My idea is to nip this in the bud before it gets going. I don't want to take business away from Erin, but what benefit is this to us? We're adding to the crowding of our parks.

Bob: Your goal is to limit usage regardless of why it's happening?

Oli: Not to limit usage. It's not to advertise usage. Lisabeula is a great spot, because it is not a KVI. There is no way I would go on social media and advertise Lisabeula, because I love Lisabeula.

Erin: A couple things: for marketing, the Water Trails advertises it in their book for marine trail use. People are aware of it; more people are getting into paddling; they are trying to find safe, circumnavigations; they're looking for things from Tacoma and Des Moines. That is the biggest source where people are coming from. Secondly, it is a bike in access, as well, and there are many Vashon residents taking their families by bike and camping a way to do things close to home. There is a lot of utilization by islanders. I don't think it's a bad thing to let people know about the after dark opportunities in the park. It's a different group of people. The island is getting bigger, and the parks are being utilized more. Getting a little revenue to the Park District is helpful, even if it's small.

Hans: Susan, do you have an anecdotal sense of camping usage over the last few years?

Susan: I have only been here five years. The kayakers were far and few between. It wasn't an everyday thing. If you look on the Marine Trail website, it even states that Lisabeula is known for drunken parties. It's not helpful advertising. It's another reason we approached you for help. We want a quiet environment. Kayakers don't want to put up with drunken behavior in the park who are not made to leave. When VA first started their business, there were complaints. I spoke up for our neighbors, because they were allowing car campers who were a big problem during the night.

Oli: When did the bike camping start?

Susan: As soon as VA made themselves the overseers of camping.

Elaine: As long as I have been here, we have allowed bicycle camping. The key thing was not allowing people to drive in.

Susan: Now I have seen a lot.

Elaine: It may have increased, but there were inquiries in the past, and we have allowed it. If I can add my two cents worth, I was never aware there were 5 campsites down there. There has always been the one at the beach, then we added the back one. The key thing I was attracted to when we first discussed this, it was the eyes and ears issue. The gatekeeper has been a huge help. But I liked the idea of people making a paid reservation have a vested interested in

following the rules and making sure others follow the rules.

Abby: Our parks, even though we pay for them as Vashon residents, are really for everybody. I think this should be an ongoing discussion.

Doug: We discussed this not that long ago. I don't remember hearing what the breakdown would be for what VPD got and VA got. Oli made a convincing argument to me that most of the expense falls on the VPD. I'm curious why the cost breakdown is that way. Also, how does this compare to MIMP? The camping at MIMP is more typical of camping in a park where it cannot be seen. It is not a comparable environment. Why can't we move the campers back into Lisabeula? I also had a reaction to the advertising. The question is who is the park for? It should primarily be for those who pay taxes. If others come here, that's great, but we don't have to go out of our way to attract them. I can see where Oli is coming from on this.

Elaine: In response to your questions, the fee was established based on the current agreement we have for the Jensen Point concessionaire that has been in place since 2012. For simplicity sake, we kept the percentage consistent. Also, the campsites cannot be in the woods due to how wet it gets, and also trees and branches falling as a safety issue.

Oli: I would add that there are two picnic tables in addition to the two campsites. So if the camping is reserved for a week, the picnic tables are effectively reserved for a week.

Erin: There is a one night maximum.

Susan: Were the other parks previously day use only other than the Marine Trail use?

Elaine: Pt Robinson has always been on the Marine Trail in the same way as Lisabeula. I think MIMP used to be day use only.

Susan: Pt Robinson is also closed at night, correct? I was not part of the discussion to allow this type of camping. In my mind, Lisabeula is a day use park. So it's not any more.

Hans: No change in camping policy at Lisabeula. If there is a car in there, we kick them out.

Susan: People were parking at the top of the road.

Oli: Why did the District decide to add the camping potential at the other two parks?

Hans: Pt Robinson has been there a long time. MIMP is the County. My thoughts: on the revenue side, this is a non event to both parties. We're not in it for the money. We could choose to modify the arrangement. The 10% is just built off the arrangement with Jensen Point, which is a good resource for the community. We could charge \$5 a night if we felt the arrangement is out of scope, whatever Erin felt is right for them. As Elaine said, this was motivated by wanting better information on who is coming and going – another set of eyes and accountability due to impacts on the neighbors. We don't have good data on that. As Elaine said, we have not had complaints since, but that's tricky to say it's causal.

Oli: The locked gate sounds like it is more of a factor.

Hans: As Abby and Doug suggested, there is the question of whether camping is tied to the core mission of the District and for those who pay taxes for the District. There is no right answer there. The mission statement speaks to the health and well being of our taxpayers. For some that includes providing camping on the island. We know there is hardly any outside these spots. As public land owners, I think it is good we provide some camping but with limitations. Promotion could be looked at. Opportunity camping is one thing; promoting camping is another. Safety is another issue for the kayakers. Whether we should have a role in providing that for kayakers. The signs question – there are signs referencing camping, but there are a lot of other signs. Some of those may be more dear to Susan's heart. We worked hard with the community to get that right – primarily for day use. We can look at that, but it was

	<p>in response to challenges from other users. I get it feels different. My thought is Elaine has had challenges managing the use with the neighbors, so having that contact point helps. We could gather better data. If we want to modify our arrangements in any fashion, so it has a better vibe. The \$17.50 – we set that relative to the charge at MIMP.</p> <p>Oli: Why don't you create a calendar and keep the additional 90%?</p> <p>Bob: If we did that, it would go toward paying a new park employee. It nets the same. It's just a question of who is managing it – is it VPD or a subcontractor?</p> <p>Oli: VPD is doing everything and getting nothing.</p> <p>Abby: But that's for the good of the park. Others use that park. It's not a fair comparison. We do it whether there are campers or not.</p> <p>Oli: The camping creates more garbage and more use. Last summer is not a fair comparison. Going forward, it could be booked every night. This partnership creates that potential.</p> <p>Hans: That's a good question – how much more use it is creating.</p> <p>Abby: I think we need more data after this summer. I would be concerned if the garbage collection increased. We need more information before we change our partnership.</p> <p>Josh: I agree with Abby.</p> <p>Hans: And for context, the staffing model has changed. Years ago, VPD did a lot of programming. Then there were financial challenges, and the staffing got cut way back. That included Jensen Point – we got out of the kayak business entirely. We are down on staff due to COVID. We are not in the mode to do more with our current people. It's possible in the future.</p> <p>Bob: Unless we get new information, I suggest we move on.</p> <p>Hans: We will get data and discuss in the future.</p>	
<p>Board Vote</p>	<p>Bob: Move to accept the Commissioner Code of Conduct Policy</p> <p>Josh: Second</p> <p>Pass 5-0</p>	<p>Motion to accept the Commissioner Code of Conduct Policy. Pass 5-0</p>
<p>Grievance Resolution Policy</p> <p>Reporting Improper Governmental Action & Whistle Blower Protection Policy</p>	<p>Hans: We felt we should look at policies to where, if an employee had concerns, who would they take them to? We want to clarify that for staff.</p> <p>Elaine: These two policies were pretty standard amongst a lot of agencies. The Grievance Resolution policy specifies chain of command – go to your immediate supervisor, if not resolved there, it comes to me and stops with me, because it is operational. On the Whistle Blower policy, this would potentially go to the board if there is something potentially injurious to a person or property or against the law, that should include board involvement. These are in response to the one employee who asked to meet with the board.</p> <p>Bob: That one employee – was that a grievance?</p> <p>Hans: Josh and I met with him. It was framed as maintenance thoughts. It was significantly about maintenance – about how things can be maintained differently. There was some element of management choices.</p> <p>Bob: In the Grievance policy, the buck stops with the Executive Director. There is no provision that it ever goes on to the Board. Should there be a path to the Board?</p> <p>Elaine: I did not see that in the policies I looked at. It stopped with the City Manager. In my opinion, it seemed similar to my role as the top authority in management. It seemed it should not go to the Board, since it has to do with</p>	

operations. Shawn and I met with the employee yesterday, and it was a very productive conversation. I pointed out that a lot of time was wasted with all these meetings, when he could have come to us in the first place.

Abby: Did he say why he didn't?

Elaine: The main complaint was something he came to me about a year ago. I instructed him then to take that project on for himself. He did not. I reminded him of that yesterday.

Bob: It bothered me that he was allowed to go to the Board. If an employee chooses to go the wrong way as called out in a policy, that would be cause for discipline. But maybe there needs to be a path to the Board if it can't be settled otherwise. If the staff is really unhappy about a decision by the Executive Director, we'll see it in the Beachcomber. It is clear in the Improper Governmental Action, but maybe it should be in the Grievance, as well. Too, if a member of the staff has some suggestions as a citizen, there should be a way to allow that, as well.

Abby: They can always come to a meeting as a citizen and speak during public comment. I agree there should be a path to the board for a grievance. Sometimes people just want to be heard without getting mired in operations. I would rather it be in a meeting than an email. It was awkward.

Bob: One of our policies does say it can go to the Board with the permission of the Executive Director.

Hans: The policy allows staff to come to the Board on behalf of the majority of the staff in a Board meeting. I am an advocate of allowing people to be heard. In this case, he simply said he wanted to discuss maintenance issues. It was unclear if it was coming from a taxpayer, employee, or a specific grievance. After talking with Elaine, I figured it would be about opportunities he couldn't have, but he didn't describe it this way. In this case, saying no, we would not meet with him, would not have been productive. If somebody wants to share a concern about a facility with the Board, as long as there is good communication with the Executive Director and the Maintenance Director, I don't have a problem with that. This wasn't really a grievance, so even if we had the policy, I don't know that this would fit. It was good in this case. It is better to let people share their thoughts. I have no interest in interfering with operations or Elaine's relationship with her staff. But allowing for conversations about facilities and operations is fine.

Bob: I agree that communication and transparency is important, but I don't want to undermine anybody. I want people to know what the proper paths are, so we don't have to have any guesswork about the proper way to do it. In this case, if a staff member has a problem with maintenance, it needs to go to the Maintenance Director and then Elaine. She will decide if it needs to come to us. It needs to be clear to the employees what the path is.

Elaine: The Grievance Policy process is pretty explicit, stating a person needs to start by putting it in writing. So a person needs to think about it. They can't just arbitrarily say they want to talk about something. I suppose a third step, if not resolved by me, can be that they come to a public meeting, because they can't meet with the Board outside that.

Josh: I like that.

Bob: And it's not just a grievance. Change the title to Grievances and Suggestions.

Elaine: It's actually in there in the opening line, but we can add that to the title.

Doug: Communication is key. In this case, we didn't know what it was. It may have been nothing and thrown back to Elaine, or maybe it was something else. It was important for one person to find out. Then it could be that board member's decision to pursue it further. I think the way this was handled was right. I'm not saying what he did was right. I think we have a question of communication, so the Board can make informed decisions. I know there are chains of command, but we need to know what is happening. If a maintenance person has a different perspective on what's happening, we need to find that out. It doesn't have to be a grievance. It could be a comment or praise. The more ways the Board can find things out, the better. Hans is the top elected official, like a mayor. It is not the city

Action Item

manager you would go to, it's the mayor.

Abby: I agree.

Hans: We don't know how each elected official would handle it. Some elected officials try to get too deep. Have too many ideas about what the Executive Director should or shouldn't do. They say they will not interfere, but I think some Commissioners will want to hear about different areas – like Doug said. I have absolute faith in and support for Elaine, but I don't know that we can tie her hands on who we would or wouldn't hear from. We want to know this is a successful organization and support an appropriate dynamic of communication.

Bob: If somebody calls one of us, we are automatically involved. The question is, what do we do with it? My first thought would be that Elaine needs to know about this before I do anything further.

Elaine: The concern I have about a grievance coming to the Board – a suggestion is one thing, but a grievance is something else. You wouldn't have a year's worth of perspective that I have in dealing with somebody. What are you going to do with that information? Even if this person comes to a Board meeting, and states their case, airs the dirty laundry, or is bugged about something, what kind of decision would the Board make when you don't have the operational background or history that I have with that individual?

Abby: Doug's point is that we all got that email and thought it was really odd. We knew we had to tell Elaine, but what do we do in the meantime? We wouldn't do something without telling you. There has to be some trust between the Board and the Executive Director. I don't know that you can put that into policy.

Josh: Elaine, you asked what would we do without having context? My answer is that I would ask you for that context. Then the Board would consider those things.

Elaine: But again, it's fine that we talk about it, but who makes the ultimate decision? After talking to this guy yesterday, he full out admitted what his motive was. And there is nothing you could have done about it. What do you do with that information other than just hear it?

Bob: That other policy not before us states that they could only come to the Board with your permission once other avenues have been explored. If proper channels hadn't been followed, it would be shot down immediately. If it gets to the Board, it will have been controlled, and permissions given.

Elaine: I have no problem with an employee coming to the Board and informing you of something or making a suggestion as long as, ultimately, the decision rests with me if it's an operational issue. Does that make sense to you?

Bob: Sure.

Hans: It's a broad question, 99% of the time. But if it's a policy change, we should be allowed to address that. I can't make an umbrella statement about you always making the call. But you have our support in running the District.

There are two issues here: the whistle blower one and the grievance one. We're spending our time talking about the grievance. The whistle blower one is a good thing to have – it just came up due to this situation – what do you do if somebody sees impropriety? This seems reasonable.

Bob: I think the Whistle Blower Policy is well written and handles the problem.

Josh: I agree with Bob.

Hans: The Grievance one is more challenging. "A grievance is a complaint by a regular employee or group of regular employees alleging a violation of a section(s) of the District's policies, employee guidelines, or department rules and regulations which pertain to the terms and conditions of such employment by the District." I don't know what that last clause applies to. I don't how broad the situations are. "A complaint by an employee...alleging a violation of the District's policies" – that seems like a broad opportunity – opens up a can of worms.

Bob: Anybody mind if I take a more detailed look at this? Work with Elaine?

Action Item

Tramp Harbor Dock

Elaine: Following up on issues from the last meeting:

- In discussing the offer of sale of the south property, Bob asked about the barge unloading activity that is occasionally there and if the property owner is paid for that. Answer: yes, they are paid \$1,000 - \$2,000 annually. The present owner feels it would be easy for us to maintain that activity. He would be happy to come talk to us about it. Offering \$50k for the property, which includes 300 feet of tidelands.
- In terms of who controls the area between MLT and ELT, according to DNR, it is us. We own to where the green line starts. Our land manager confirmed that it is defined in Exhibit A of the lease (which is a lot of gobbly goop terminology, but it does say “below the line of extreme low tide”) in addition to the deed from King County (same language). This means the lease starts at the ELT line. Anything over the ELT line, including a floating dock or even a moored boat that crossed that line, is subject to the lease.

Bob: So to be clear, even though the property line doesn't go beyond MLT, we actually control out to ELT. That's written down someplace.

Elaine: Yes, it is referenced in the lease.

Bob: You would think it is included in the deed.

Elaine: It is in the deed.

Bob: So we can do whatever we want dock-wise up to the green.

Hans: Inclusive of the green with our current lease.

Doug: And we would not be subject to the creosote requirements, then? Anything else required?

Elaine: We can do whatever we want up to the green. We can leave it just as it is (subject to repairs for insurance, of course) or pile wrap – up to the green line.

Bob: There is such a short distance between the intersection of the green and the purple and the intersection of the green with the gray, it hardly seems worth it. We can't be in the gray, so why would we want that other measly little section?

Abby: What is the water depth of where we can go to?

Bob: At ELT, that would be the few times a year that would dry. Most of the time, the low tide would be between the ELT and MLT. If we just went to the green line, most of the time there would be water there. And at high tide, it would be up to the road. Are you thinking about whether or not people can fish off it?

Abby: Yes, and in case there was an earthquake.

Hans: MLT is about ½ the dock; ELT is about 70% of the dock. The geoducks are at about 85% of the dock.

Abby: For salmon fishing, does it drop off more significantly there?

Hans: The best salmon and squid fishing is at high tide, habitat wise. That's when those species are most likely to be caught. It's not because there is lots of water.

Bob: That, and night time, too.

Doug: When I was growing up, white people on Vashon caught geoducks. At the time, commercial geoduck harvesting would never happen, because it required massive amounts of equipment. Eventually it happened. People didn't go into boats, they went into ELT. If we have control over the ELT area, geoduck harvesting would be possible. Even in this area, the geoduck tract is larger than Pt. Heyer.

Hans: There is a permit season.

- DNR has not heard back from the Tribes with a definitive yes or no, but they feel we should call another meeting to receive that final determination. The Tribes are actually considering new information provided by DNR that

supports pile wrapping. DNR supports an approach they call “pile restoration,” and it includes the vendor I have been speaking with. It is a piling repair process that utilizes concrete, epoxy, fiberglass, and rebar, which essentially repairs the structural integrity of a worn out pile. Through the repair process they encase the existing pile with new material which thereby reinforces its structural integrity so they meet DNR’s habitat stewardship standard for encasement plus adds a very long life to the pile. With a fiberglass restoration they assume a 50 year life added to a rotted worn pile.

DNR notes that projects that do pile restoration are incredibly expensive BUT the one time huge sum ensures that they won’t have to do much if any maintenance for decades after the work is done. From their habitat stewardship perspective, this method is so much more cost effective than having to replace piles every 15-20 years, and it meets DNR’s standards for encasement.

- As for the community group, I reached out to three of the members who have all agreed to a meeting to discuss design. Do you feel we are ready to have that meeting? Or do you want final word from the tribes first?

Bob: Just about being in the geoduck bed?

Elaine: Yes. From our meeting, if they decided to allow us to be in the geoducks, they wanted 100% assurance pile wrapping would not leach creosote or resin.

Bob: But they are also concerned about having anything over their heads when they harvest, so it sounds like nothing in the gray.

Elaine: That was one of their emphatic statements, but it sounds like they have not yet fully decided that.

Bob: I think we need to know their final decision before we meet with the group for design considerations.

Hans: Our last sentiment was we thought there was a 5% chance they would allow us to be in the geoduck tract. Do you feel like that has changed?

Elaine: Yes, since they have not come up with a definitive answer yet, and now they are considering this pile wrapping alternative.

Bob: And we are asking them for pile wrapping plus a floating dock over the geoducks?

Hans: There was no benefit for the floating dock according to the tribe. That was DNR’s thing.

Elaine: My sense is that the tribe may allow pile wrap or nothing. They don’t want the floating dock.

Hans: Is there a ballpark cost estimate of what this pile wrap would cost?

Elaine: No, DNR’s general statement was that it tends to be pretty expensive.

Hans: I give it less than 10% still that we’re not allowed in the geoduck. But you convinced me we should wait for the no. I’m not holding my breath for a big design solution. I think the benefit is a pier, not a boardwalk. We’re talking about replacing it with a wrap or concrete with money we don’t have. We should move forward figuring out what it would take to replace it. I am reluctant to leave this in the tribe’s court forever. The outcomes from the tribes are not that complex. Maybe we can move forward on cost options for replacing the dock.

Bob: We need a good idea for what we are allowed to do first. One option is go out with a straight dock and cut it off and call it good. Or we add a T at the end to fish. We get yes or no or maybe, then take it from there and get cost estimates. It has to be something useful.

Hans: You feel we can productively move forward with a 90% chance we don’t go into the geoduck and then if we can, it’s just longer. So Elaine’s question about getting the group together, your answer is yes.

Bob: How long do you think it will take to get an answer from the tribes?

Elaine: I have no idea.

Bob: My suggestion is we reach out to the tribes, and if they don’t have an answer, we go with what Hans says. We’ll

Action Item

	<p>do some sketches based on our assumptions.</p> <p>Hans: That's all I'm advocating for. I don't want this to drag on forever. I think we can do dual track.</p> <p>Doug: Elaine said the south portion we have been offered is 300'. If we add that to what we have plus that north lot, how much would we have altogether?</p> <p>Elaine: I don't know the exact footage, but shooting from the hip, it would about double the length. Maybe 600'.</p>	
Access Staff Wages	<p>Elaine: Per policy, starting wage ranges need to be approved by the Board. The starting wage for Access staff has always been minimum wage, which is now \$13.69 per hour. One of my access persons left during COVID for health reasons, and I need to replace him to fill Tuesday, Wednesday, and Friday evenings. I ran an ad for 2 weeks per policy and did not receive a single response. I am aware of somebody who said they might be interested if it paid Seattle's minimum wage of \$15.00 per hour. So I would like to make that change, which is a 9.57% increase.</p> <p>Now, I have existing staff that are making right around that amount (one less -- \$14.57/hour), so I feel it is only right that I give them the same % increase. The person who left was making \$17.50/hour, so there is somewhat of a tradeoff, although the total increase to the Commons budget would be \$3400. Due to COVID, the 2021 budget for Commons is about \$4k under budget in payroll. Approve?</p> <p>Bob: How many total hours per week for the Access staff?</p> <p>Elaine: Robin is also the scheduler, so she works 30 hours a week total. The other two work one evening a week each, so 2 – 4 hours per week. The new person would take on 3 nights, so it could be 6 – 12 hours per week. \$65 per week.</p> <p>Doug: Motion to approve increasing the starting wage for Access staff to \$15 per hour and a wage increase of 9.57% for the present Access staff.</p> <p>Bob: Second</p> <p>Abby: Motion to suspend the rules.</p> <p>Josh: Second</p> <p>Pass 5 – 0</p> <p>Motion pass 5-0</p>	<p>Motion to approve increasing the starting wage for Access staff to \$15 per hour and a wage increase of 9.57% for the present Access staff.</p> <p>Motion to suspend the rules.</p> <p>Pass 5 – 0</p> <p>Motion pass 5-0</p>
Staff Reports	<p>Ober Playground</p> <p>Elaine: We have the clearing and grading permit. Will go out for bid, hopefully, next week. You all will do the bid opening in a public meeting.</p> <p>VES Lights</p> <p>Elaine: The School District attorney and our attorney are working to get the road issue resolved once and for all. Qualite will be here tomorrow to do the lights. We will attempt laying down plywood for the cherry picker to drive across the east side of the field to access the south lights. If that does not work, we will not do them.</p> <p>VES Restroom</p> <p>Elaine: Scheduled for June 17</p>	
Adjourn 8:45 pm	<p>Bob: Motion to Adjourn</p> <p>Josh: Second</p>	Motion to adjourn; Pass 5-0

Minutes by: Elaine Ott-Rocheford