

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING JUNE 12, 2008  
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

**CALL TO ORDER** A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm by Chair DeWitt.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Lee Cross, Ken DeWitt, Kirk Robinson, Dave Shorett, and Tom Swolgaard.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Tom Kilbane said the Board indicated some time ago that 30-60 days would be spent looking at alternative sites for the Senior Center, and asked what had been learned. Chair DeWitt asked the Commissioners involved in this research to present their findings at the first board meeting in July.

**BOARD CONSENT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the May 22, 2008 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Shorett/Cross: Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing that has been made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board, by a unanimous vote, does approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and summarized as follows:**

<b><u>Fund Name</u></b>	<b><u>Fund No.</u></b>	<b><u>Batch No.</u></b>	<b><u>Batch Date</u></b>	<b><u>Amount</u></b>	<b><u>Pre-Approv by Exec.</u></b>
General Fund	94952	337440	5/27/08	38,097.82	5/16/08
General Fund	94952	Payroll	June 2008	204,162.14	
Capital Imprv Fund	94955	337497	5/27/08	20,585.41	5/16/08

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**COMPREHENSIVE PLAN:** Comprehensive plan consultant Tom Beckwith reviewed the survey results with the Board, saying the 100 participants were randomly recruited from the voter registration list. He said that of those who chose to participate, 78% were over 50 years of age. Sixty-eight percent of those surveyed have lived on the island for over 10 years. He said very few from the younger age brackets responded to the survey, which contributes to why children's programs, fields and courts are all rated as a low priority. He said the high percentage of low interest rated for many activities and programs is unusual, and reflects the economic uncertainty of the times. He said the highest priority is for those items that preserve and give access to the island. He said the results show impact fees to be the preferred method for off-setting the cost of growth. He said that while the results in the areas of priority are conservative, survey participants are willing to pay for those items they want. He said the District can still offer those items rated a low priority, but that it may need to work harder to show how these costs are recovered. He said the survey results will be posted on the District website, and that these results do not include data collected from the 450 people who participated in a self-selecting survey posted several months ago on the Park District website. Board discussion followed with some concern expressed over the validity of the survey since it does not pick up the opinions of younger age groups. It was noted this survey is one tool, and it is up to the Board to determine how to interpolate the data. It was also noted that several other surveys have been done in the community recently, with one based on more demographic but less random selection. Tom Beckwith said these surveys showed similar trends with the environment and trail development all ranked a high priority. He recommended including them as appendices in the Park District Comprehensive Plan as opposed to trying to synthesize the data into one document. Following a discussion on the timeline, it was agreed Tom Beckwith will have the Comprehensive Plan ready for adoption at the

next board meeting, in order to can meet State RCO grant deadline requirements. Following this an additional Board work session will be held to allow a more detailed review by the Board with the understanding adjustments can be made up until October 1 when it must be given to the City in its final form.

**COMMUNITY TENNIS PROPOSAL:** Ross Eaton, Tennis Pro and Program Consultant, said Bainbridge Community Tennis Association, is a newly formed organization dedicated to promoting tennis on the island. He said tennis is the only traditional sport that has been growing over the past four years, and that it's a great lifetime sport that builds community. He introduced the group's officers, Chairperson Julie Riely, and Secretary Jean Welch. He said their goal is to build more courts on the island, and in particular four to six more at Battle Point Park. Julie Riely said they chose Battle Point Park because it is centrally located and there are two courts there already with room to add more. Because tennis is a community based sport, it is their priority to first expand the number of courts at Battle Point Park, with a secondary goal of adding more neighborhood courts. Clustering courts also makes it possible to hold tournaments, which is a good way to generate revenue. In response to questions, Ross Eaton said it would cost approximately \$70,000 to build two new courts at Battle Point Park, and that any new courts at the park would not be lit. Jean Welch said the group is committed to fundraising and helping the Park District build more courts, and asked if the Board was interested. Chair DeWitt asked the group to put together a proposal for review first by the Capital Facilities Committee, and then by the Board.

**STRAWBERRY HILL PARK PLAYGROUND RENOVATION:** Dan Hamlin introduced landscape architect, Susan Murray, who has offered to help with the concept plan for renovating the playground at Strawberry Hill Park. He said \$20,000 is slated for this project in the Park District's Capital Improvement Plan for 2009, and that they want to hit the ground running when the new year comes. He said a community meeting will be held July 8 to discuss playground components, elements, location, and the possibility of fundraising for additional project funds.

**LITTLE LEAGUE BRICK FUNDRAISER:** Jay Kinney with Little League said he is pleased with how the field at Strawberry Hill Park turned out and expressed appreciation for the District's help. He said that while it was not done in time for this season, it will be ready to go next year. He said Little League used money from its reserve fund to renovate the field, and is seeking to replenish the account through the sale of bricks. He presented a sample brick, saying they are selling for \$100 each and being given to coaches as gifts. He said the bricks will form a wall behind the dugout, which Little League will be responsible for constructing. Terry Lande commended Jay Kinney for his work on the field renovation, saying his efforts went above and beyond all expectations. **MSC: Cross/Shorett: That the proposal to sell bricks as a fundraiser to replenish Little League's reserve fund following its use for the renovation of Strawberry Hill Field #3, be adopted.**

**BOARD MEETING LOCATIONS:** Strawberry Hill Mini-Gym: June 26, July 10 & 24 - Aquatics Center: August 14 & 28

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 2008-15: HONORING JEAN WELCH:** Chair DeWitt said that while a ceremonial copy of this resolution commending Jean Welch for her 27 years of service to the Park District was presented at her retirement party on May 30, official adoption of the resolution is still needed. Commissioner Shorett praised Jean Welch as a tireless advocate for kids playing sports and reflected on her many accomplishments including the Transmitter Building renovation, better known by many as the "Jean Dome". Jean Welch said it has been a pleasure working with the Park District all these years and a great joy having a job where she could do what she loves: sports. **MSC: Shorett/Swolgaard: That Resolution 2005-15, honoring Sports Manager Jean Welch for her 27 years of service to the Park District, be adopted.**

## **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Recreation Service Director: John DeMeyer said summer classes start next week; a new passenger van is arriving soon; a retreat with the Senior Center Board was held recently at the Yonder House; resurfacing of tennis courts is being done at Battle Point and Strawberry Hill Parks; the ozone tank at the old pool is leaking and may need replacement if it can't be repaired; the mural on the Aquatics Center is underway; paid advertisements for services consistent with the District's mission statement will be included in the next brochure to offset printing costs; the School District has asked to tie the drainage system for its new turf soccer field into the Aquatics Center storm drain line. Terry Lande said \$3000 from the Director's discretionary fund will go towards resurfacing the tennis courts, since it allowed a third one to be done at a significant discount.

Park Services Director: Arlan Elms said the Bainbridge Classic horse show took place this past weekend, and that while the event went well overall with 40 fewer horses than last year, there was less traffic control than in the past and some turf damage due to recent heavy rains.

Senior Planner: Perry Barrett said a State required archeological study at Blakely Harbor Park has resulted in a scaled down scope of improvements possible at the park: reduced size of parking lot, portable restroom site. He also said the SEPA comment period for the Battle Point Park soccer fields is beginning and will be published in this Saturday's Review.

Executive Director: Terry Lande said the City may propose that the Park District mow and maintain the retention ponds on the island in lieu of paying storm water management fees. He said the equipment and amount of staff needed to do this is may be beyond the scope of what the District can provide. He said City and Park District staff are looking at what it would take to transfer the City's involvement in parks to the Park District, and compiling one global agreement between the two agencies which outlines what each agency is doing for the other.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:** City Council/Park Board joint meeting: tentative date July 16

## **BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:**

- Commissioner DeWitt asked for comments on the Trust for Public Lands survey conducted by the Mayor's office. Given the high rating of over 80% approval for the Park District, discussion focused on the Park District being the most likely agency to successfully run another open space bond measure, and the urgency to begin planning for this if it is going to be on the ballot soon. Terry Lande urged the Board to delay making any decision on this until there has been an assessment of the District's needs, and whether running an open space bond measure now would preclude running other levies in the future for basic operations. Mayor Kordonowy thanked the Board for attending last night's meeting to hear the survey results.

## **BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:** Commissioner Cross said the committee will be meeting soon to look at whether something different can be done with the District's current bonds.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 8:30 pm.**

Elizabeth R. Shepherd  
Terry M. Lande  
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN  
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY: \_\_\_\_\_

Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Kirk B. Robinson

BY: \_\_\_\_\_  
Lee Cross

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_  
David L. Shorett - Secretary