

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING JULY 10, 2008
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:01 pm by Chair DeWitt.

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add: 1) Open Space Survey Committee Report; 2) Executive session for potential litigation.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the June 26, 2008 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: On page 1, correct spelling of "Paln" to "Plan".

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Cross/Robinson: 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:

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Batch No.</u>	<u>Batch Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Pre-Approv by Exec.</u>
General Fund	94952	Payroll		213,657.94	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

OPEN SPACE SURVEY COMMITTEE REPORT: Connie Waddington said she was there this evening representing the ad hoc committee appointed by the Mayor in 2007 to work with the Trust for Public Land to determine the best source of funding for acquiring more open space. She said TPL conducted an island-wide phone survey in April of 2008 to assess whether a bond levy could pass in the November 2008 election. She said the survey was statistically and demographically valid, and indicated an 80% approval rating for the Park District. She said that because of the Park District's high approval rating and the lack of interest by City Council Members to proceed with another levy, it is the recommendation of the Committee with agreement from Mayor Kordonowy, that the Park District work with TPL to determine if and when another bond levy or other funding mechanism will go before the voters for the acquisition, improvements and maintenance of open space, trails, and habitat.

SHORELINE RESTORATION PROJECT UPDATE: Before the presentation began, Commissioner Robinson disclosed that his cousin, Clay Patmont, is a principal of Anchor Environmental, the consulting firm the City is using for the shoreline restoration project. City Planner Peter Best updated the Board on the project saying it is currently in the investigation stage and will move next to the preliminary design stage which will require formal decisions by the Park Board and City Council regarding layout and design. He said that following this, the next steps are related to permitting, administration, and construction with final project acceptance also involving the Park Board and City Council. Because the Park District is the owner or co-owner of these properties, Board Members asked that throughout the construction process they be kept informed and involved in the decision making process. Peter Best agreed to report back periodically for Board approval, and also invited Commissioners to participate in the review sessions. He said a significant funding partnership has been formalized with Elliot Bay Trustee Council. Discussion was held over the 4 parcels involved in the project and the plans related to each: 1) Strawberry Plant; 2) Blakely Harbor Park; 3) Pritchard Park East Bluff; 4) Pritchard Park West Rip-Rap. Board Members were pleased to hear that a design charrette for public input will be held for the Strawberry Plant, and that a number of alternatives will be

considered for Blakely Harbor Park prior to any recommendation being made on whether to remove the jetties. Chair DeWitt conveyed the Board's appreciation to Peter Best for his time and effort on the project.

REVIEW 2008 DISTRICT GOALS: Commissioner Robinson reviewed the 2008 District Goals saying this is the second year this new format has been used to assess the District's accomplishments throughout the year, and that it appears to be beneficial. He reviewed all 30 items on the list with staff reporting on the status of each. Some of the highlights include: evaluation of District needs prior to hiring for vacated positions; staff committee working to review and evaluate employee benefits; implementation of WA State PERS retirement program; termination of 457 Deferred Compensation Trust; involvement of many volunteer groups to remove invasive species; attorney review of policies generated by Personnel Policy Committee; Operational Policy Committee work in full swing; Comprehensive Plan update progressing nicely; consensus in community that Park District is best suited to run next open space funding measure; participation in interlocal summit to explore reduction of fuel costs; completion of many capital improvement projects including: renovation of Strawberry Hill Field #3, acoustic panels at pool; Battle Point Park restrooms, Eagledale roof and gutters, Transmitter Building Phase 1, painting of gymnastics room, resurfacing of tennis courts, new roof at Island Center Hall, new carpet in Admin Office. Commissioner Robinson commended staff on their good work and the board concurred.

RE-CAP OF BOARD RETREAT: Board Members agreed that the board retreat held earlier this week on July 8 at 5:00 pm at the Strawberry Hill Center, was very productive. Chair DeWitt gave a recap of some of the items discussed.

1. Comprehensive Plan It was mentioned that the complete document would be available soon and will be distributed in entirety to the Board for review. A work session will be scheduled to discuss whether any revisions are necessary.

2. Open Space & Budgeting It was noted that the Public Land Stewardship Committee Report that was endorsed by both the City Council and Park Board in April of 2007, recommended that any public land that "walks, talks, and looks like a park" should be owned, operated and maintained by the Park District. The report also recommended that as much open space be acquired as soon as possible since its supply is increasingly limited. Since then, there has developed a consensus in the community that the Park District is the best suited agency to present an open space funding measure to island voters for approval. Chair DeWitt said that during the retreat, the Board explored funding mechanisms that would allow the Park District to accomplish three goals related to open space and parks: 1) Acquisition of new open space and park land; 2) Development of open space parcels and park land; 3) Additional staff and operational costs to handle the additional workload required through the acquisition of new land and increased development. It was also noted that due to inflation and rising health care and fuel costs, a lid lift is likely to be needed in the future for basic operational costs of the District. Discussion of a bond levy versus a lid lift was held during the retreat and continued this evening as follows:

Bond: Requires 60% voter approval; is very specific on how funds can be used; doesn't address increased operational costs for additional open space and development. If a bond measure was passed for open space through the Park District, this could preclude passage of a future lid lift which may be needed in the future for basic operational costs.

Lid Lift: Requires 50% voter approval; raising lid from current \$.58/\$1000 to \$.75/\$1000 could generate approximately \$1.3 million each year; a percentage of this (possibly 75%) could be designated for land acquisition and development with the balance used for additional staff to maintain the new parks and to augment the cost of District operations as inflation rises. It was noted that the funds designated for land acquisition and development could be set aside each year until a desirable piece is available for purchase, or it could be used to pay down councilmatic bonds if such bonds are used to finance a sizable piece of property that exceeds the amount of funds set aside for land acquisition.

Board members concurred during the board meeting this evening that a lid lift is the District's best option in that it would meet all the above goals of acquisition, development, additional work force, as well as increased operational

costs for the District. They then looked at what would have to happen to get the measure on the ballot in time for the November election, and discussed the following: The signed resolution with ballot language must be turned into the County Elections Department by August 12; to do this the lid lift would have to be on the agenda for the July 24 board meeting with a possible special board meeting on July 31 to sign the resolution; any requirements for public process must be researched; the City will need to be informed of the District's plans; the Review and Kitsap Sun will need to be notified of the District's plans with a guest column prepared to supplement the news articles; a campaign committee will be needed to educate the public on the reasoning of the ballot measure and what it would accomplish for them; to ensure public accountability, a citizens advisory committee could work with District staff in determining how the funds for open space would be spent should the ballot measure pass. **MSC: Swolgaard/Cross: That staff be directed to draft a resolution addressing a lid lift for the November 4, 2008 election.** An ad hoc board committee consisting of Commissioners Cross and DeWitt was appointed to work with the Executive Director on the lid lift.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Services Director: Arlan Elms said a letter from the City has been received saying a drainage ditch on park property at Rockaway Beach needs repair in August since it has caused flooding in a nearby home; the Kids-Up playground will be closed on July 14, 15, and 29 for a work party; the District is assessing what it would take to maintain the Parade Grounds and the City Hall landscape; new trail signs are being installed next week; a meeting was held on Tuesday to discuss renovating the Strawberry Hill Park playground; some special events taking place at Battle Point this summer include dog agility games and drills with Bark Park, Girl Scout activities, and the Blue Grass Festival.

Senior Planner: Perry Barrett said the City has invited the Park District to get more involved with the tree ordinance.

Executive Director: Terry Lande said Recreation Services Director John DeMeyer is on vacation through the end of July. He also said he met recently with the City's Finance Committee regarding the interlocal agreement drafted by the City on the transfer of the \$300,000 committed by the City to the BI Youth Soccer Club fundraising effort for artificial turf fields at Battle Point Park. He said the District's attorney has concerns with the agreement, and that prior to going before the City Council for approval, the Park Board will need to review and approve it. He said it is becoming increasingly unlikely that construction of the project will be finished this year. Terry Lande also said he received a request from the City yesterday to install an on-going monitoring device in Gazzam Lake today. When he inquired about this, the City told him it was to monitor the level of the lake as well as sediments and hydrology, and that it would gather data on a year round basis. The Board said that before giving approval to do this, they would like to see a proposal from the City that includes drawings so that they can better understand the request, including what the purpose of the device is and where it will be located.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Cross said seniors and others are getting priced out of island services, and asked whether the District should consider making additional discounts available to them.
- Commissioner DeWitt said the City is considering transferring the functions of the Non-Motorized Committee to a new Transportation Committee, and the Non-Motorized Committee is against this.

MEETING RECONVENED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:00 pm for discussion of potential litigation with announced time to reconvene at 9:30 pm. **MEETNG RECONVEND** at 9:35 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 9:36 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