

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING FEBRUARY 26, 2009
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER

A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 5:00 pm by Chair Swolgaard.

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

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Debbie Lester, island resident, said she attended the Joint City Council/Park Board meeting earlier this week and said the transfer of City parks to BIMPRD will be a great improvement. She said she understands the proposed shoreline plan for Strawberry Packing Plant to be coming mainly from the City, and expressed the following concerns stemming from her observations of the joint meeting: The charrette process was not opened to the public in a good way; the proposed shoreline plan was loaded and reflects the preference of City staff; the plan contains design errors (ex. placement of parking in middle of park). In addition, she said a community pea patch gathering will be held on March 2, and wanted the Board to know there is interest in working with the Park District to create garden plots for community use.

Doug Hatfield, island resident also at the Joint City Council/Park Board meeting, said water is a part of the current site, and that this water is taken away from the public with the restoration plan. He said anytime marshes are involved, there is less contact with the water. He said salmon and people can co-exist and questioned whether there might be other alternatives. He said the upside is free grant money; the downside is, the money comes with restrictions. He said water access for the general public is pretty dear, and asked if the community could rebuild the site in such a way that would preserve the water.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the February 12, 2009 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as submitted. *(Commissioner DeWitt clarified the last bullet under Board member items, saying BIMPRD is not accepting conservation easements unless relevant to the District).*

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Robinson/DeWitt: 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	350008	2/9/09	31,686.41	1/30/09
General Fund	94952	350265	2/17/09	14,412.91	2/4/09
Capital Imprv Fund	94955	350050	2/9/09	5,175.54	1/30/09
Bond Redemp Fund	94957	350051	2/9/09	607.00	1/30/09

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

2009 DISTRICT GOALS: Commissioner Robinson said he updated the 2009 District Goals with input from the Board Retreat in January and asked the Board to look it over. Several revisions were made which Commissioner Robinson will include in an updated version.

BOARD EXPECTATIONS FOR PARKLAND ACQUISITION COMMITTEE (PAC): Commissioner DeWitt said Neil Johannsen is offering PAC members a tour on March 14 of candidate properties nominated for acquisition in the Greening Winslow report. He said that unless directed otherwise by the Board, the focus of PAC is on two areas: 1) Making recommendations for the acquisition of park land and providing suggestions for the development of these parcels; 2) Making recommendations for the development and phasing of parcels acquired through the City's open space plan. Commissioner Robinson questioned whether the second item had been determined to be a part of PAC's charge. Commissioner DeWitt said it had been discussed, but no formal decision had been made. Following discussion, Board Members agreed that while PAC can be used as a resource on the open space parcels, making recommendations on the development and phasing of the open space properties will not be part of the Parkland Acquisition Committee's charge. Discussion was also held over the allocation of levy funds, noting that a minimum of 75% must be set aside for acquisition of new parkland or major development of existing parkland. It was noted that generally decisions on levy fund allocation will be made during the budget process in the fall, but that this year these decisions will be made in the spring through an amended 2009 budget process. Executive Terry Lande said the first reading of the Amended 2009 Budget is scheduled for the March 12 board meeting. At this time, the Board will determine what percentage will be set aside for acquisition and major development (75% or more). The Board will then determine how this amount will be split between acquisition and development. Once the Amended 2009 Budget is adopted, PAC will know how much funding is allocated in 2009 for parkland acquisition, and the District will know how much is allocated for major development of existing parkland. Community meetings can then be scheduled to gather public input on both acquisition of new parkland and development of existing parks. Commissioner DeWitt asked what acquisition priorities the Board would like to give PAC. The following were ranked as the highest priorities: 1) Winslow core; 2) Additions to existing parks outside Winslow; 3) Recreation trail easements and right-of-way acquisition with focus on connecting parks and providing access to parks; 4) Park land around the designated commercial centers, Island Center, Lynwood Center, Rolling Bay. Parcels with water access were also a plus. Board members were reluctant to limit acquisition priorities to a numerical sequence, saying they must be open to opportunities that come along. Commissioner DeWitt said he will write this up and present it at the upcoming Joint PAC/Park Board meeting on March 10.

PERS ELIGIBLE PART-TIME BENEFITS SICK LEAVE: John DeMeyer proposed a new benefit for possible inclusion in the updated Personnel Policies, now in their final stages of revision before coming to the Board. He said when the District enrolled in the State PERS retirement program last year, a new group of District employees was created as a result of PERS eligibility requirements: PERS Eligible Part-Time Employees. He said there are five part-time employees in this category who now have retirement but no other benefits. The proposed benefit would give employees in this group sick leave based on 8 hours per month and pro-rated to reflect the amount of hours worked. The sick leave must be used within the year, and it would not be eligible for cash-out when leaving employment with the District. The additional cost to the District in 2009 is a possible \$2000. Cultural Arts Manager Sue Hylen said part time employees are the District's bread and butter, and that this benefit would be good for morale. Commissioner DeWitt questioned whether this is the right time to increase expenses given the current state of the economy. Commissioner Robinson questioned the logistics and asked if a trade system could be set up. It was noted no decision was needed this evening, but that if decided upon, the change would need to go into the revised Personnel Policy Manual.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: 3/10/09: 5:30pm Joint PAC/Park District Meeting.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeWitt said is he upset about the Strawberry Packing Plant saying it was pitched to the public as an active use park, and that at some point along the way the City has determined it will be passive. He said he wouldn't have a problem with the shoreline restoration plan if this was initially brought up when the property was traded. The restrictions came after the property was transferred, and he doesn't think this was honest or open. He said he will have difficulty voting to approve the final plan if it is accompanied by deed restrictions that prohibit zoning variances from being granted in the water zone for items like a picnic table. He asked why there should be a waterfront park if the public can't have access to the water. Commissioner Shorett said he thinks the worries are bigger than what is likely to happen. He said the Shoreline Management Act that applies right now has buffer requirements that limit use. He said the John Nelson property was not a park, and that while active use may have been a possibility there, it was a difficult site for the public to access. He said trading it for the Packing Plant was a much better deal and that some active use will be permitted there. He said the City has had the Strawberry Packing Plant now for 4-5 years, nothing has happened there, and that we're looking a gift horse in the mouth. He pointed out that the waterfront at Strawberry Packing Plant is already inaccessible in that it's a mud flat and not a sandy beach. He agreed with Commissioner DeWitt saying he also does not want deed restrictions. He said this and other items like private property issues must be researched further. Executive Director Lande said that when the Strawberry Packing Plant was taken on, it was agreed that the City and Park District would jointly plan the park, with the City taking the lead on the shoreline, and the Park District taking the lead on the recreational functions. He said staff has researched the transfer documents, and it is not clear when the word passive was introduced into the process. Commissioner Shorett said the main concern is with the shoreline, but it is the grantor determining where the boundaries must be, and that if the City and Park District want the funds they must work within the grant constraints. Executive Director Lande said the Board passed a motion at the February 24 Joint meeting of the City Council and Park Board meeting authorizing the Planning Department to move forward with the preferred concept plan. He said the project is moving forward at this moment unless the Board agrees to change what it has already authorized.
- Commissioner Robinson said he will be out of town March 1-10.
- Commissioner Shorett said he will be gone March 20 to April 4.
- Commissioner Shorett said he didn't like reading in the Sun when he got back that the Park District was going to take on the State Parks. He said he hasn't agreed to this and that there are negotiations to take place and issues to address prior to taking them on, such as camping at Fay Bainbridge. Executive Director Lande read from the article, which said the Park District "may" take on the State Parks. He said what has been discussed is maintaining similar uses in the parks to what there is currently, and that keeping camping was requested by the State legislators when the Park District met with them. Commissioner Shorett also expressed concern about the impact of losing State Parks on the island and the draw they have for attracting people from off island. Terry Lande said he has talked with State Parks about maintaining a link to their website if BIMPRD takes ownership of Fort Ward and Fay Bainbridge. Chair Swolgaard suggested sending Commissioner Shorett the list the District has formulated for negotiation with State Parks prior to assuming the transfers.

- Commissioner Swolgaard asked for an update on Camp Yeomalt and the Battle Point soccer fields. Executive Director Lande said the first phase of Camp Yeomalt is nearing completion, and updated the Board on negotiations that took place with the contractor regarding the removal of perforated pipe at the soccer fields.

MEETING ADJOURNED AT 6:35 pm. (Meeting was followed by Board Work Session on Comprehensive Plan)

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

BY: _____
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: _____
Lee Cross

BY: _____
Kirk B. Robinson

BY: _____
Kenneth R. DeWitt

ATTEST: _____
David L. Shorett - Secretary