

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING JUNE 25, 2009  
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

**CALL TO ORDER** A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chair Swolgaard.

**BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:** Ken DeWitt, Kirk Robinson, and Tom Swolgaard. Participating by phone: Lee Cross. Absent: Dave Shorett. It was noted Commissioner Cross is out of town and has asked to participate in the board meeting by phone. The District's attorney Ryan Vancil said there is not a clear answer in the State statutes on whether phone participation is permitted. However, he said that after conducting research and looking into Robert's Rules and the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC), everything seems to indicate phone participation is permitted if supported by policy. He said the Board could make such a policy tonight. Board members noted a distinction between participating by phone and voting by phone. They agreed to allow Commissioner Cross to participate by phone this evening, but said a policy must be in place before voting is permitted. The Board agreed it was not appropriate to make such a policy this evening, and suggested the Governance Committee prepare a draft. Other items discussed related to phone participation were: effectiveness of using a cell phone; difficulty recording comments; and whether a quorum can be reached when commissioners are present by phone.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**

Charles Schmid who served as Co-Chair of the Pritchard Park Design Advisory Committee, said he attended the City Council meeting last night, and that off-leash dogs at Pritchard Park were discussed, and a follow-up meeting was set for Monday morning with the COBI Community Relations Committee. He said the City Council voted in favor of the two plans for Pritchard Park which Peter Best is presenting this evening, and encouraged the Park District to make an official stand. He also said the City Council voted to transfer T'Chookwap and Hidden Cove Parks to the Park District. Len Beil island resident and Weed Warrior commended the Park District for its work removing noxious weeds, and said if the state parks don't stay with the State, he'd like them taken on by the Park District rather than another jurisdiction.

Laura Sachs island resident said the island's state parks are amazingly beautiful, and that she voted for the lid lift so the District could respond to these opportunities as they come along.

Mark Hinkley said he also voted for the lid lift and that the island's state parks should be the District's highest priority. He said he understands the State has taken action to transfer the parks, and thinks they will be maintained at a higher standard if taken on by the Park District.

Barb Trafton, Co-Chair for the Pritchard Park Design Advisory Committee, said the Committee recommended a policy for dogs which limited off-leash hours to specific times. She agreed with Len Beil's comments on noxious weeds and hoped the Park District would help educate the City about removing them. She supports the Park District taking on the State Parks, and suggested taking them on one at a time so as not to overextend the District's capacity.

**BOARD CONSENT**

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the June 11, 2009 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: Cross, p. 4: change "...has taken back on the administrative aspects" to "...has taken back responsibility for the administrative aspects".

**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		June Payroll	222,483.48	
General Fund	94952	356280	6/15/09	28,787.07	6/5/09
General Fund	94952	356568	6/22/09	38,378.12	6/11/09
Capital Imprv Fund	94955	356721	6/15/09	14,766.34	6/11/09
Capital Imprv Fund	94955	356356	6/15/09	15,563.93	6/15/09

### **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**STATE PARKS POTENTIAL TRANSFER:** Executive Director Lande said the District has received a resolution from the WA State Parks and Recreation Commission supporting the transfer of Fay Bainbridge and Fort Ward State Parks to the Park District., and that it includes \$130,000 in State funds to assist with the transfer. Depending on whether the resolution was received, July 7 was set at the last board meeting for public comment on the potential state parks transfer. Commissioner Robinson said the two Commissioners that are not present this evening have indicated they'd like to delay the public meeting until September, but that he would like to see it take place as scheduled. He suggested a second meeting as well to allow more people to attend. He said that while somewhat disappointed with the State's process, he has come to the conclusion that the transfer is inevitable. He said the State Parks Commission has made the decision to transfer the parks, and the Board should move forward unless there is a resounding "no" from the community. Commissioner DeWitt said the State Parks Commission was somewhat liberal in its wording of the resolution when it said the Park District "has expressed interest" in taking ownership of the island's state parks, since the Board hasn't taken any formal action. Commissioner Swolgaard said this is a matter of interpretation over the word "interest", and reminded him that the Board sent a letter to the State legislators in February expressing interest in taking on the state parks if they were going to be closed. Commissioner DeWitt said he'd like to know next year's property valuation in the event District funding is decreased due to lower property values. He said an assessment of costs must be done as well as a parks master plan to see how the state parks fit into the overall scheme. Commissioner Cross said she thinks it's important for the public to understand there will be tradeoffs. She said Executive Director Terry Lande has made it clear the District can afford to take on the island's state parks, but she wants people to know other items may need postponing. She said that due to the short notice for the July 7 meeting, she supports a second meeting on July 21, and said this would give the Board a good idea of what the community wants by the end of July. She said the ball is in the District's court and that they can't keep State Parks waiting forever. The Board agreed to a second meeting on July 21. Executive Director Lande said staff has put in a huge amount of time researching the state parks, assessing their value as parks and the possibilities they hold for recreational programming. He said he'd like to go on record and say that staff strongly recommends and endorses the state park transfer. He said the transfer would be a tremendous benefit to the island, and there may not again be the opportunity to acquire two parks as beautiful as these. He said the budget staff prepared does not take funds for operating new parks out of the monies allocated for acquisition and development. The cost to operate additional parks comes out of a different pot of money. Commissioner Robinson said the passage of the lid lift gives the District the ability to operate additional parks, and reminded everyone that with the passage of the levy lid lift, money will be available every year for acquisition and development. Commissioner Swolgaard said he supports taking on the state parks. He confirmed the two dates of the public meetings: July 7 and July 21.

**PRITCHARD PARK SHORELINE RESTORATION:** Perry Barrett said COBI planner Peter Best is presenting two projects this evening for Pritchard Park. One of the projects involves relocating the clean-up site driveway, which

Perry Barrett confirmed will be done on the portion of land owned only by the City. Peter Best said his scope of project requires action from both the City and the Park District, and said some time ago, the Board adopted Resolution 2007-10 approving a feasibility study for the 2 projects. Since then it has been determined the projects are feasible, the City Council approved the two projects last night, and the next step is permit submittal subject to Board approval. Peter Best asked that this item be placed on the agenda for action at the next Park Board meeting. He presented the projects as follows:

West Beach Shoreline Restoration Project: This project extends along the western portion of the beach and begins near the site of the Japanese American Memorial. It was included as an option in the final design recommendation presented by the Pritchard Park Design Advisory Committee to the City Council and Park Board. It involves the removal of debris, the restoration of beach habitat, and includes a path to the beach with an overlook area. The project is almost entirely funded by the Elliot Bay Trustee Council. Executive Director Lande asked if a second access point and overlook could be developed in the future. Peter Best said the rights for something like this would need to be reserved beforehand, and said it could be done in such a way that a specific site is not nailed down. He said he doesn't recommend another access point, since he believes it would fragment the habitat and is unnecessary. Park Services Director Arlan Elms said the concern is that if future possible amenities are not stated now, they will be prohibited at a later date. Peter Best suggested coming up with a list of standard rights before covenant restrictions are put in plan. This list could be applied to other shoreline restoration sites on the island (Blakely Harbor Park, Strawberry Packing Plant, etc.).

East Bluff Shoreline Restoration Project: This project is driven by the failing bulkhead on the east bluff where the current driveway to the clean-up site is located. A decision was made several years ago to relocate the road further inland as opposed to shoring up the bulkhead and facing a constant battle with erosion. The project will be done in stages: 1) Construction of new driveway; 2) Bulkhead removal, decommissioning current drive on Creosote Place. The stages are necessary since access to the clean-up site must be maintained during construction. Peter Best said the risk of the current driveway falling apart is high, and emphasized the need to keep the project moving. He said the new driveway will continue to be used long term, since the clean-up site will have on-going needs which require the use of large equipment (i.e. treatment, hauling out material, etc.) The road is intended more for use by the clean-up site than for the general public.

**MEETING ADJOURNED** for a short break at 7:55 pm and **RECONVENED** at 7:58 pm.

**CITY PROPERTY TRANSFER:** Executive Director Lande said he wasn't at the City Council meeting last night and has not learned whether the City property transfer was discussed last night. He was encouraged to learn from Charles Schmid's comments earlier this evening that the City Council agreed to transfer T'Chookwap and Hidden Cove Parks. Commissioner DeWitt said he is concerned that stormwater management fees could come with the properties, and would like to see this addressed. Board members decided that the Finance Committee will look into this.

**BOARD BRAINSTORM ON POTENTIAL DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS:** Executive Director Lande said the Board requested this agenda item at the last board meeting. He said he has asked Kent Scott to facilitate the discussion as a preface to the upcoming public process he will conduct to gain community input on development projects. Kent Scott asked the Board to engage in "blue sky thinking" saying it is good to have larger goals in mind when brainstorming project possibilities. He asked for words and ideas rather than just a list of projects. Commissioner Robinson said he has five pages of projects that he keeps adding to, and that with the lid lift passage there is now a possibility some of these can be done. He said the Board needs to weigh in on possible projects sooner than later. Some ideas generated by the Board included: grouping similar uses; making parks accessible; user friendliness; master plan for parks and use of Comprehensive Plan in this effort. Some projects generated by the Board included: street

skateboard park; more off-leash dog areas; active use parks in Winslow core; renovate Transmitter Building basement; community center; woodworking facility; new maintenance facility; new administration offices with indoor restrooms; more multi-use ballfields; 1-2 more large picnic shelters; Pritchard Park improvements; green space in downtown Winslow core. Kent Scott also suggested that thought be given to future uses and achievements, demographic changes, the fabric of open space. Arlan Elms asked the Board to think vision, larger scale, where they want the District to be in 20 years, sustainability, green. A trails master plan was suggested including: 1) trails in parks; 2) trails connecting parks; 3) trails connecting parks to the larger community. Kent Scott said effort could also be placed on helping people understand what they already have, discovering gems in the community that they may not realize exist. Arlan Elms mentioned staff has also done a brainstorm of potential development projects. The next step is to conduct public meetings to gain community input, and then mesh together all the ideas for presentation to the Board.

**2009 DISTRICT GOALS:** Commissioner Robinson said the 2009 District goals were never formally adopted by the Board. He said that while the goals were established and agreed to, the priority levels and the people responsible for implementing the goals were never completed. **MSC: Robinson/DeWitt: That the 2009 District Goals (Draft V.2 – 1/28/09) be adopted and that the Personnel Committee work with staff to complete the unfinished items.**

### **GENERAL BUSINESS**

**RESOLUTION 2009-11: INTERFUND TRANSFER: MSC: Robinson/DeWitt: That Resolution 2009-11, authorizing an interfund transfer of \$250,000 from the General Fund 94952 to the Capital Improvement Fund 94955 for payment of Battle Point Park Soccer Field Project expenses, be adopted.**

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Recreation Services Director: John DeMeyer: 287 summer programs began Monday including a class to train recreation companions for work with special needs; new windows for Island Center Hall are coming in mid-July and the building will be re-painted in August; work on the fall brochure began today; the Senior Center will use a donated pickle ball court to hold tournaments and promote pickle ball.

Park Services Director: Arlan Elms: a new infield mix has been spread on the ballfields; the irrigation system is working well at Strawberry Hill Park Field # 3; Roger has been working to involve Kent Scott with upcoming special events such as the Blue Grass Festival; staff is very excited about the possibility of taking on the island's state parks; and the BI Land Trust will be installing signs in the parks they helped acquire for the community. Kent Scott provided an update on the Battle Point soccer field project, saying a list of expectations for work to be performed has been sent to the contractor based on what the contract documents specify, and that a response is expected soon. In the meantime, construction on the fields has stopped.

Senior Planner: Perry Barrett: property nominations must be submitted to PAC by June 30; a request to re-zone property on Government Way to the highest zoning possible has been made to the City. He said the property is approximately six acres and that the City requires 20% to be designated for recreational use. Board discussion followed and it was suggested that the District begin working now with the developer to determine what would be the most conducive scenario for recreation.

Executive Director: Terry Lande expressed regret over the sudden death of Carl Williams, husband of yoga instructor Lydia Williams. He said staff will attend the Monday meeting of the COBI Community Relations Committee where a discussion of off-leash dogs at Pritchard Park will be held. Board members questioned why a policy of this nature is being addressed by the City when the park is slated to eventually come to the Park District. Staff mentioned that efforts to restore the shoreline may not be compatible with dogs running off-leash. Terry Lande said the District has

offered to mow Waterfront Park for the City since COBI does not have the funds to do this. He said it seems like a good faith issue as well as a good partnership, given the City is transferring properties to the Park District and selling vehicles to the District at a fair rate.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:** State Parks Public Meetings: July 7 and July 21.

**BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:**

- Commissioner Cross asked that ads for the State Park Public meetings be placed in The Review and Sun soon.
- Commissioner DeWitt said Camp Yeomalt looks great, and mentioned the timeline for the Blakely Harbor Park fence is coming to an end.

**BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS**

**BUDGET & FINANCE:** The Committee met recently with Finance Manager Amy Swenson to discuss a possible refinance of the pool bonds. Executive Director Terry Lande said Amy Swenson met with both James Blumenthal and Dave Trageser to assess their services and said their fees are comparable. He said it is her recommendation the District continue to use James Blumenthal since he has worked with the District in the past. Refinancing the pool bond could save the District approximately \$125,000 over the next 4-5 years. **MSC: Robinson/DeWitt: That the staff be authorized to move forward with refinancing the pool bonds using the services of James Blumenthal.** It was mentioned the bonds may be restructured and leveled out so property tax is collected each year as opposed to alternating years.

**MEETING ADJOURNED AT 9:10 pm.**

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