

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MARCH 6, 2014
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

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

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Under Unfinished Business, Naming Rotary Park Playground, a motion is expected.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Robert Dashiell followed up on comments he made at the November 21, 2013 board meeting, saying he attended the February 7, 2014 State Fish & Wildlife Commission meeting and that the Commission has passed the closure of clamming at Fay Bainbridge Park.

BOARD CONSENT

Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the February 20, 2014 regular board meeting, Chair Kinney stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: p. 2: Correct spelling of Hawley Cove.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Robinson/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:

Batch	Batch Date	Batch Amt	Fund No.	Fund Name	Fund Amt	Pre-Approved
30414	3/4/14	48,658.63	94952	General	45,431.57	2/28/14
			94955	Capital Improvemt	3,227.06	
	February	Payroll	94952	General	320,808.84	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NAMING ROTARY PARK PLAYGROUND: Park Services Superintendent Dan Hamlin referenced the memo included in the board packet that addressed the District's naming policy and provided the basis for staff's recommendation to name the playground "Owen's Playground at Rotary Park". Stacey Marshall, Owen's mother, explained that the idea of a playground came up shortly after Owen's passing and became known as "Owen's Playground" by the community as they contributed to his memorial fund. She said these funds became the seed money for the project and were contributed out of heartfelt generosity from the community. She sees this project as a wonderful opportunity for the island to offer the story of inclusiveness and thinks the name "Owen's Playground" is already recognized in the community. She asked that the story be displayed in a discrete manner, such as a plaque on a rock, with recognition given to all collaborating parties. Dan Hamlin said Owen's story is the inspiration that is bringing this project to the community and will influence the development of future playgrounds in District's parks. Each Commissioner spoke in support of the name and expressed appreciation to the Marshalls for the leadership they are providing and for bringing this issue to the attention of the community. Executive Director Lande said Commissioner Swolgaard who could not be here tonight asked that his support of the name be conveyed as well. **MSC: DeWitt/Robinson: That the new playground at Rotary Park be named "Owen's Playground at Rotary Park"**. Stacey Marshall expressed her gratitude to the Board.

DOG PARKS (STATUS OF, PROCESS, SITES): Executive Director Lande said staff tonight is presenting four sites to the board as possible locations for off leash dog parks. Park Services Superintendent Dan Hamlin said the

requirements for the City's Vincent Road site for engineering, etc. has increased the cost of the project beyond the District's available funds. Given this, the District has decided to look again at its own parks in the interest of extending its limited funds further. The four sites being presented tonight are in parks recommended by a dog committee that was assembled some time ago by the Park District to research this. The four options are: 1) Battle Point North: 1.5 acres off east parking lot. Area is hidden in forest and near parking. 2) Battle Point South: 1.25 acres on high ground above seasonal pond, and 2.9 acres if expanded to include seasonal pond. Area is accessible to parking; 3) Strawberry Hill Park: 2.35 acres west of play area. Large open and forested area with little undergrowth in under-utilized section of park; 4) Madison Avenue Tot Lot: less than 1/4 acre in downtown pocket park, walk-in only. Following Dan Hamlin's presentation, Chair Kinney opened the meeting up to comments from the public.

Larry Sivitz, island resident for 23 years, commended the District for moving forward in this manner, saying he has had to drive off island for years to exercise his dogs. He encouraged the District to consider a rectangular formation for its dog parks, saying a narrow, vertical channel helps to better control dogs. He emphasized the importance of dog parks being usable, saying most people are not interested in trails and want a place near parking where they can go after work or during lunch to exercise their dogs. He was delighted with the idea of multiple sites and encouraged the District to consider sites on the east side of Highway 305.

Katherine Hanson, Battle Point Park neighbor, said that while she greatly appreciates what the District is doing, dog parks won't work for her dogs since one is terrified of other dogs and the other gets overwhelmed when around a lot of dogs. She is more interested in having off leash times in parks and asked the board to give this consideration.

Mary-Lou Vibrans, island resident, asked if any thought has been given to allow dogs to be off leash in parks during specific hours. Executive Director Lande said the Park District has looked at this a number of times, and heard from many people who have concerns about this since it precludes a number of other uses in parks during those times. He said specific hours for off leash dogs in parks is difficult to control and raises issues of enforcement. It is not a strong alternative for the District. Mary-Lou Vibrans said she understood now how management could be a problem. Commissioner Robinson mentioned that dogs are welcome in all District's parks as long as they are on leash.

Robert Dashiell, island resident, said he likes having different locations around the island and asked if a dog park at the Vincent Road site was off the table. Executive Director Lande said it can always come back as a possibility, but at this time, the Park District wants to get something open right away.

Gary Smith, island resident, stated interest in having an adequate water supply at dog parks so dogs can be hosed down and cleaned off before they go home. He also suggested doing one dog park really well, so the District could position itself for future fundraising.

Executive Director Lande said the purpose of tonight was to identify some alternatives for dog park locations. The initial goal is to get some areas fenced in with the District's available funds and to add amenities later with future fundraising. He suggested and the Board agreed that a public hearing would be held on April 3 before the regular board meeting in order to receive public comments on the four proposed locations and other input related to the dog parks. All four sites are currently staked out for the public to view. It is anticipated that the Board will make a decision on which locations to proceed with at the May 1 board meeting. A committee will be formed to work out the specifics with staff, and the goal will be to open several dog parks 6-8 weeks after board approval, ideally sometime in June. Executive Director Lande said if these don't work, changes will be made. The key at this time is to get something on the ground and up and running.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recreation Services Director: John DeMeyer: poetry instructor John Willson received the 2014 Island Treasure award; attendance has increased this year in art, exercise, and youth and teen classes; gymnastics classes are up by 22%, ski

bus participation is up by 48%, and pool rentals are up 40%. Park patrons are having difficulty finding parking at the Aquatics Center since the high school has begun issuing permits for students to park in dedicated pool parking spaces. It was noted this in violation of the conditional use permit that requires the District to have these spaces available.

Park Services Superintendent: Mike Mejia: scouts have cleaned up the garden plot area and put in a picnic table, benches and kiosks; tryouts for participating in the Student Conservation Corp this year are coming up; the heavy rain has caused flooding at Fay Bainbridge Park; the trees at Camp Yeomalt were checked out by an arborist and look good; the City has issued permits for three boardwalks at Fay Bainbridge Park that will be done in phases with the first one to be done by scout David Goon.

Park Services Superintendent: Dan Hamlin: met with a scout today who is submitting a proposal to put in cross island trail markers; the fencing at Rotary Park is done; he and Mike Mejia have looked at the playground equipment mentioned by Commissioner Swolgaard and determined that it can be salvaged and used at Battle Point Park by the ballfields; a permit application for the trails at Gazzam will be submitted soon.

Senior Planner: Perry Barrett: met this week with members of the City's Historical Commission and went over the list of historical conservancies in parks for the Comprehensive Plan; members may be interested in expanding upon the current efforts of the Historical Society at Yama. The District's attorney is investigating a permitting citation reference that was recently received from the City for the Blakely Harbor Park projects; effort is still underway by the Park District to do the work for these projects under two permits as submitted.

Executive Director: Terry Lande: the neighbor to Blakely Harbor Park had electronic equipment stolen from his boat; he met recently with BI Land Trust President David Harrison who wants to ensure that there is a strong partnership between the two organizations; he will meet the new BI Land Trust Executive Director next week; National Park Services representatives were on the island recently to meet with the Park District, City and BIJAM about the BI Japanese American Exclusion Memorial and were interested in building strong partnerships.

He introduced City Manager, Doug Schulze, saying he had a good conversation with him yesterday and that they plan to meet on an on-going basis. Doug Schulze, who attended the meeting with City Council Member Val Tollefson, indicated they were there in support of the dog parks and want to be a good partner to the Park District.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: April 3: Prior to the board meeting, a public meeting will be held on possible locations for dog parks.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Cross asked about a car that had been broken into at the Battle Point Park north parking lot.
- Commissioner Robinson said he visited Harper's playground in Portland, Oregon and commented on the many attributes of the play area. He encouraged other board members to go there as well.
- Commissioner Robinson said he's been introduced to Petanque and learned its playing areas are easier to maintain than Bocce Ball courts. He'd like to find out how much interest there is in the community for Petanque.
- Commissioner Robinson said surplus properties will be discussed at the next City Council meeting. Executive Director Lande said he received an email from Deputy City Manager Morgan Smith informing him that the City will be providing an update on the City's surplus properties to the new City Councilors.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION for discussion of real estate, with announced time to reconvene at 8:10 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 3:30 pm.

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

BY: _____

Jay C. Kinney

BY: *Lee Cross*

Lee Cross

BY: *Kirk B. Robinson*

Kirk B. Robinson

BY: *John Thomas Swolgaard*

John Thomas Swolgaard

ATTEST: *Kenneth R. DeWitt*

Kenneth R. DeWitt