

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING AUGUST 7, 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: Ken DeWitt, Jay Kinney, Kirk Robinson, Tom Swolgaard. Absent: Lee Cross.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Caroline Clucas, island resident, questioned why prices are so high for children to participate in summer programs and asked specifically why it costs \$100 for children to play soccer. She said there are lots of families on the island that are not rich. They cannot afford these outrageous prices, yet are not poor enough to qualify for assistance from Helpline. She said her children and grandchildren could always go to parks in the summer to play, and everything was free. She noted that the only facility on the island to offer free programs is the library, and that this doesn't address the need for children to be active. She asked the Park District to consider having some free programs next year.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Doug Hatfield, island resident, expressed thanks to the Board and all who participated in making the wonderful off leash dog park at Strawberry Hill Park. He said his dog loves it, and that it is a great addition to the Park District.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the July 24, 2014 regular board meeting, Chair Kinney stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

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:

Batch No.	Batch Date	Batch Amt	Fund No.	Fund Name	Fund Amt	Pre-Approved
72914	7/29/14	111,004.78	001	General	78,767.60	7/25/14
			300	Capital	32,237.18	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BATTLE POINT PARK PASSIVE & ACTIVE USE AREAS: Park Services Superintendent Dan Hamlin said the new off leash dog park at Strawberry Hill Park is open and being heavily used. The grand opening is this Saturday. The Dog Advisory Committee is discussing further ways to educate the community on issues pertaining to dogs, and is eager to move forward with establishing the next dog park which they think would be best suited at Battle Point Park. The Committee ^{would like to consider} selected Battle Point Park after considering a number of factors, and think there is a need at this park due to its large number of dog walkers and because the greatest number of reported incidents have occurred there. In addition, there is under-utilized open space in the center, as well as parking and water available at Battle Point Park. Staff concurs with the Committee on this, and recommends drainage improvements to provide year round use, a location that is away from established use to reduce user conflicts (i.e. north pond, Kid's Up Playground, soccer fields, etc.) and a location adjacent to parking. Commissioner Robinson said traditionally the park has been designated for passive use in the north and active use in the south. He asked if an off leash dog area is a passive or active use, and noted the City considers it to be a passive use. Commissioner Kinney thinks an off leash area is needed at Battle Point Park to bring off leash dogs into one area. He did not want to spend a lot of time discussing active versus passive use

definitions, saying an off leash dog area is not an active sport like roller hockey. It does not involve putting in concrete or constructing a ballfield; if it doesn't work out, the fence can be removed. Commissioner Kinney also said the center of the park is under-utilized and spoke favorably of having a good size dog park there. Commissioner DeWitt said the north pond area is not a good location for the dog park since there is heavy use there, and the northeast corner is too wet. He concurred that drainage needs to be addressed in any area designated for a dog park. Commissioner Swolgaard expressed concerns with how busy Battle Point Park is already and would like to pursue the site at Vincent Road since this could be a large park designated exclusively for off leash dogs. Commissioner DeWitt agreed with Commissioner Swolgaard about Vincent Road, but did not think having a dog park there would solve the problem of off leash dogs at Battle Point Park. It was agreed that the Committee will do a thorough assessment of Battle Point Park considering all the factors that have been discussed, and will bring a recommendation back to the Board on a possible location(s) for an off leash dog area at the park. In addition, Dan Hamlin asked that the Board address at a future board meeting, why a leash law is needed in parks so that the Committee has solid direction from the Board in this regard.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Services Superintendent: Mike Mejia: There will be a Girl Scout camp-out next week at Battle Point Park; the Bluegrass Festival took place last weekend with approximately 1000 people attending; the August camp host for Fay Bainbridge Park cancelled, so he has been filling in until the new one arrives; the new group camp at Fay Bainbridge Park has been well utilized this summer; overall camping is up \$3000 from last year and is likely to exceed what was anticipated; some trees on the Gazzam Park property along Baker Hill road will be coming down soon as agreed to with Puget Sound Energy last fall.

Recreation Services Director: John DeMeyer: Summer programs are up overall by 5% with outdoor & boating programs up by 25%; the fall catalog will be going out next week; this is the month for the Senior Center to assess if any changes are needed to the annual agreement between the Senior Center Non-profit and the Park District; the Ray Williamson Pool has been drained, repaired and cleaned; the District's insurance company is asking for full reimbursement of District expenses related to the boiler that malfunctioned and needed to be replaced last spring.

Senior Planner: Perry Barrett: Yesterday he made the final RCO grant presentation for the Hidden Cove Park & Dock Project down in Olympia; results should be known in the next few weeks. John DeMeyer also went to Olympia and commended Perry Barrett for his dynamic and amazing presentation.

Park Services Superintendent: Dan Hamlin: The Advisory Dog Committee met this week at the new Strawberry Hill dog park; the steady flow of people using it made it clear to the committee how much it has been needed; several art classes are making murals for the fence; the grand opening will be this Saturday; he commended the committee for their efforts to design a state of the art dog facility. New trail maps are underway; reconstruction of the Hilltop bunkhouse walls and roof will be finished soon; construction of the lower field at Rotary Park is going very well; the contractor is extremely competent; the new building at Rotary Park will be moved soon to its foundation. Owen's Playground funding has reached the \$47,000 needed to guarantee the Rotary Club match; Ann Lovejoy will provide plant expertise for playground landscaping; the ground breaking ceremony will be September 20. He just met with IslandWood to discuss Phase 1 of the Blakely Harbor Park project and how their class participants might be able to help; the permits for the Gazzam and Hilltop pasture trails should be in hand soon.

Executive Director: Terry Lande: It's been learned that while a City road right-of-way, the maintenance of Deerpath Lane is the responsibility of the adjacent private landowners. Any needed road repairs will most likely need to be done by the Park District (owner of Gazzam properties) in collaboration with neighbors. The City is working on its sewer

system is crossing Hawley Cove Park; he hopes to work with the contractor on defining the trail route that will be developed following construction.

After the Director's Report, Chair Kinney provided an opportunity for others to speak who came in after the public comment period was over:

George Stege, island resident, said he is a former Park Board Commissioner who served on the Board in the 1980's. He commended the District for its many changes for the better since then. He lives near Battle Point Park, and said he has never had any trouble with dogs. The biggest challenge he sees with having a dog park there is the need to enforce dog owners to clean up after their dogs. Commissioner DeWitt said Mr. Stege was also on the Trails Committee and that the trails in the Grand Forest were put in largely through his efforts. Once again Mr. Stege congratulated everyone on everything that has been done in the parks.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: August 9: Strawberry Hill Dog Park Grand Opening; September 20: Owen's Playground Groundbreaking Ceremony.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Robinson raised the question of whether in this dry weather a no smoking policy in parks might be needed as a safety and fire preventative measure
- Commissioner Robinson ran into Jim Reilly who informed him that fundraising for the playground at Schel Chelb is up to \$25,000 to \$30,000.

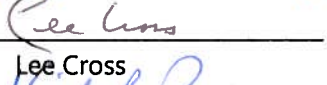
MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 7:06 pm for discussion of real estate and litigation, with announced time to reconvene at 7:40 pm.


MEETING RECONVENED at 7:40 pm and **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 7:41 pm for continued discussion of the above items, with announced time to reconvene at 8:30 pm.

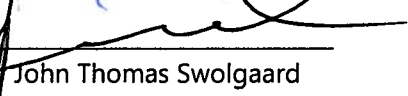
MEETING RECONVENED at 8:30 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 8:31 pm.


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

BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

BY: 
Lee Cross

BY: 
Kirk B. Robinson

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard

ATTEST: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt