

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT  
REGULAR BOARD MEETING SEPTEMBER 19, 2013  
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:** Lee Cross, Ken DeWitt, Jay Kinney, Kirk Robinson and Tom Swolgaard.

**ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA:** Add to Board Consent: Minutes Announcement and Approval of Minutes for the September 12, 2013 Blakely Harbor Park Public Hearing.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:**

Robert Dashiell, island resident, said he was speaking as a representative for himself and also the Bainbridge Beach Naturalists. He was here to present a project to the Board regarding the beach at Fay Bainbridge Park that he hoped could be completed by next April or May. It is in response to the appalling destruction to the eel grass beds that occurs when throngs of people arrive to harvest horseshoe clams.

Maradel Gale, island resident and coordinator of Bainbridge Beach Naturalists, said eel grass is an amazing plant that is critical to the health of the environment, Puget Sound and the oceans. It serves as a nursery to young fish, is habitat for laying eggs, provides a magnificent food source, and it stabilizes the shoreline. Unlike seaweed, it is an actual plant with roots that grows in soil. She noted a series of articles this week in the Seattle Times regarding the problem of ocean acidification and the impact excessive carbon dioxide is having on marine life. Crabs cannot create shells; oysters cannot survive long enough to harden. Eel grass beds have not been cared for or valued in the past and a new emphasis is being placed on restoring them. In addition to the benefits she just mentioned, an article that came out of Australia in August this year indicated that sea grass is exceedingly important in that it sequesters carbon dioxide. She said protecting the eel grass beds is a way to resolve some of the acidification that is being caused by our way of life.

Robert Dashiell, who is trained along with Maradel Gale as a beach naturalist by the Seattle Aquarium, said they have contacted the WA State Department of Natural Resources (DNR) to see what can be done to protect the eel grass beds at Fay Bainbridge Park. The response they received back from Lindie Schmidt at DNR is this: *"DNR has no jurisdiction in the park property, since the tidelands are not State owned aquatic lands. The Bainbridge Island Metro Parks District has all the property rights to the tidelands, and can exclude uses which are not consistent with their management of the property."* (8/16/13 email) He provided copies of the email correspondence, photos of the eel grass damage, marine signs, and rules to establish marine reserves. He said what they are asking the Park District to do is to designate Fay Bainbridge Park as a marine reserve. This in turn would stop the harvesting of clams and any other activity the District might decide to restrict as part of its beach management. Robert Dashiell said the damage to the eel beds at Fay Bainbridge is extensive, with huge holes up to 2 feet deep dug. The holes are not filled in and when the dirt that is dug up is piled on the beds, it kills the eel grass. Executive Director Lande said staff also has been concerned about this issue and has discussed it with the board. He said this discussion has been very helpful. Commissioner DeWitt said anything the District does to establish a marine refuge must have the backing of the City since the Park District does not have enforcement authority. Robert Dashiell thought the City Council would support this, and offered any help he could provide as well. Maradel Gale concurred with his offer to help saying the Bainbridge Beach Naturalists are always devastated when they see the damage that is done to the eel grass beds at Fay Bainbridge Park.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:**


Maradel Gale, spoke again, this time on the subject of Blakely Harbor Park. She encouraged the Board to seriously consider removing the Generator Building. She said it's an eyesore, it doesn't do anybody any good, and it's a place for mischief to occur.

## **BOARD CONSENT**

**MINUTES ANNOUNCEMENT:** Executive Director Lande said staff recently asked the Municipal Research and Services Center (MRSC) for clarification on approval of board meeting minutes. It's been learned from MRSC that based on Robert's Rules of Order, approval of the minutes does not require that a quorum of those attending the meeting be present in order to approve them, nor do board members need to have attended a meeting in order to sign their approval of them.

### **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the August 1, 2013 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the September 5, 2013 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: Page 1: correct spelling of Dian O'Brien. Page 2: change "introduced the formation of" to "said she is participating in"; change "swells" to "swales"; change "more in program fees" to "more in net program revenues". Page 3; change "embattlements" to "batteries". In addition, Commissioner Robinson clarified a comment he made on page 4, saying that while he did not think a change to the minutes was needed, he would like <sup>to see that none of</sup> ~~no more~~ of the current functional bike racks <sup>(inverted U)</sup> to be removed. 

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the September 12, 2013 public hearing, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

**APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS:** No vouchers were submitted for approval this week; the financial staff members are away at a finance conference.

## **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**BLAKELY HARBOR PARK CONCEPT PLAN AMENDMENTS:** Senior Planner Perry Barrett said this meeting was a follow up to the 9/12/13 public hearing in which amendments to the Blakely Harbor Park 2001 Concept Plan were discussed and those attending had the opportunity to provide comment. The public comment period ended on 9/17/13 and any written comments received by the District have been distributed to the board. Included among these were comments from biologist Wayne Daley. He views the current jetties to be beneficial in that they provide habitat for young salmon that would not exist if they were removed. Commissioner Swolgaard asked for clarification on a comment made about the jetties at the public hearing. It was noted that while the jetties were rebuilt with the large rocks in the 1970's, they have been there in some fashion since the late 1800's. Perry Barrett said he contacted the WA State Department of Fish and Wildlife as the regulators of this project to see if they wanted to provide input at this point in the process, but no comments were received from them. Perry Barrett corrected a memo distributed in the board packet saying one of the proposed amendments to the plan is to move the Mac's Dam Creek bridge west, not east. In regards to the Generator Building, there was overwhelming interest by the public in modifying the plan to include not only the option of adaptive re-use but also the option of eliminating it. Executive Director Lande said these two options will be assessed at a later time after research and cost estimates have been done for each one. The option of adaptive re-use would likely preserve the basic footprint of the structure while lowering the walls to a height of about 3 feet. He said a question that must be addressed is the impact of the Generator Building on the salt marsh, and asked whether a designated trail or boardwalk through the salt marsh should be indicated on the plan for consideration if the Generator Building is not eliminated. He said people tend to travel through the salt marsh to get to the building, and to avoid renegade trails it is better to clearly define access. Protection of the salt marsh was discussed by the Board as a priority for the park consistent with what was expressed by the public at the hearing last week. In addition to the amendments already presented, the Board discussed several others. These included the

possible closure of 3-T Road and addressing storm water drainage coming off the hill above 3-T Road. It was noted that removal of the Generator Building could provide mitigation opportunities for the park that could offset other projects like the jetty bridge.

Following discussion, the Board agreed to the following amendments to the 2001 Concept Plan:

1. Bridge spanning the jetties.
2. Moving the Mac's Dam Creek bridge west and inward from its 2001 design location near the mouth of the creek and log pond.
3. Compost toilets on the north side of the park.
4. Barrier-free trail access, and redesign of the park trail approaches at 3-T Road.
5. Reconfiguration of overlooks as shown (5 overlooks around log pond).
6. Generator Building: adaptive re-use including appropriate access or its elimination
7. North shore vegetation and restoration, culvert removal/bridge and day-lighting of the drainage creek/storm water improvements.
8. Investigate closure of 3-T Road.
9. Restoration of salt marsh including potential removal of the Generator Building and installation of protective fencing.

**MSC: Robinson/Cross: To approve amendments to the 2001 Blakely Harbor Park Concept Plan as outlined above.** Frank Stowell thanked staff for a great meeting last week. He commended Perry Barrett for his efforts to inform people of the meeting and ensure that all the different viewpoints were discussed. Executive Director Lande agreed and complimented Perry for his impressive work. Permit submittal will take place in October and November with a separate permitting process planned for the jetty bridge.

**STUDENT CONSERVATION CORPS UPDATE:** Barb Trafton, Director of the BIMPRD Student Conservation Corps said this is the fourth year of what is now an official Park District program that employs students to remove invasive weeds from parks. She passed out a 2013 Financial Report to supplement the 2013 Program Report distributed in the board packets. Initially a daunting task, it is clear now that progress is being made. She said the first step to removing invasive vegetation is control. The second step is containment, and the third step is eradication. She said initially the emphasis was just trying to get control. Now they are seeing increasing areas of containment and some eradication. This year they worked in a total of five parks, as opposed to one park in the first year. In addition to the current funding sources, a gift has been made for a five year program to entirely eliminate Scotch Broom from these District parks. She also noted the addition of a spring break session this year. She expressed many thanks to the Board for their support of the program. The Board reciprocated their thanks to Barb Trafton commenting on the extraordinary work she is doing.

### **DIRECTOR'S REPORT**

Recreation Services Director: John DeMeyer: the recent Art Walk featuring Park District students at Bainbridge Arts & Crafts and Park District instructors at the Bainbridge Museum of Art was a huge success; fall classes have begun with participation up 9% from last fall; the Teen Center open house is tonight; the annual recreation staff retreat is coming up and will be held at Hilltop; a staff website committee headed up by Georgia Browne is looking at the District's website to see what can be done to revamp and upgrade it.

Park Services Superintendent: Mike Mejia: trail work is underway at Blakely Harbor Park; 50 people from the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance collected trash at Pritchard Park recently; repairs are being done on the Kids Up play structure;

mowing is going on at Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve to preserve the meadow areas freed up several years ago when the Scotch Broom was pulled; the scout project at the Fort Ward batteries is coming along with grass seed coming up and pressure washing underway; several trees endangering structures were taken out recently at Strawberry Hill Park and Ted Olson Nature Preserve with the work done in exchange for the logs.

Senior Planner: Perry Barrett: three public meetings will be scheduled in October and November for people to give input into the Comprehensive Plan about their preferences for parks.

Executive Director: Terry Lande: the topic of upcoming levy and bond measures was discussed at the IGWG meeting this past Monday; he met last Friday with City Manager Doug Schulze, Sally Maron, and Clarence Moriwaki to discuss the Japanese American memorial – there was confusion about who those involved with the Memorial should report to; he and Doug Schulze agreed that for now they need to report to both the City and the Park District, but at some point in the future, it is possible the City will transfer its portion of the ownership to the Park District; the 2013 budget work session will be held the night of the October 3 board meeting; he met recently with Connie Waddington interim director of the BI Land Trust to discuss the relationship between the two agencies; the Rotary Park sewer easement agreement was approved by the City Council last week and signed by Terry Lande on Friday.

#### **BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:**

- Commissioner DeWitt responded to the request this evening to make Fay Bainbridge Park a marine reserve, and made a motion to direct staff to look into ways to protect the tidelands at Fay Bainbridge Park and other waterfront parks. Commissioner Cross seconded the motion. Following a discussion on whether staff should focus initially on Fay Bainbridge Park or include other tidelands like those at Rockaway Beach or Fort Ward Park as well, Commissioner DeWitt amended his motion. It was thought best to use Fay Bainbridge Park as a template so that what is learned there could be applied to other parks in the future. Commissioner Kinney mentioned a marine reserve may not be necessary; it could be as simple as saying shellfish cannot be harvested on Park District beaches. **MSC: KeWitt/Cross: To direct staff to look into ways to protect the tidelands at Fay Bainbridge Park.**
- Commissioner DeWitt commented on the rental of the District's mobile stage by the Taste of Lynwood this past weekend, saying the stage provides good advertisement for the District.
- Commissioner Robinson said he liked the Aquatics Center tour that was held before the last board meeting, and encouraged facility tours be held as a way of refreshing the board before they discuss topics related to them.
- Commissioner Robinson said he will go to the October 2 public meeting that will be held by the City to gain public input on possible uses for the Vincent Road site. This is the site proposed by the Park District for an off leash dog area, but before committing it to a specific use, the City is required to get input on how the public would like to see the site used.
- Commissioner Robinson said the Reilly's have met this year's \$5000 fundraising goal for the Schel Chelb playground.
- Commissioner Swolgaard asked about what the possible impact on the Park District could be when the City Council changes next year. Executive Director Lande said that while he does not know all the candidate's views, several of the City Council candidates support transferring park properties to the District. He also said City Manager Doug Schulze has indicated his intent to continue with the transfers. Terry Lande said the next site slated for transfer is the Lovgren site, with the Meigs and Lumkin parcels to follow.

**UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS:** Commissioners Robinson and Kinney will not be at the 10/17 board meeting. Commissioners Cross, DeWitt, and Swolgaard confirmed they will be there to meet the necessary quorum requirements.

**MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 8:25 pm for discussion of real estate, with announced time to reconvene at 8:40 pm.

**MEETING RECONVENED** at 8:40 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 8:41 pm.

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

BY:   
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY:   
Jay C. Kinney

BY:   
Lee Cross

BY:   
Kenneth R. DeWitt

ATTEST:   
Kirk B. Robinson