

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING APRIL 6, 2017
 STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

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

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Lande, Perry Barrett, Mark Benishek, Bryan Garoutte, Dan Hamlin, Elizabeth Shepherd, Amy Swenson.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add approval of mower invoice.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Edith Hartmann, neighbor of Hawley Cove Park, said she has been waiting a long time for a connection from Hawley Way to Hawley Cove Park. Chair DeWitt encouraged her to contact Park Services Director Dan Hamlin for an update on the project. She also said she hopes that the Park District will not compete for the same clientele as the BI Senior Community Center non-profit now that the two entities have parted ways. She then said she has heard the Park District may take on Pritchard Park, and after speaking to the Environmental Protection Agency is concerned about how much it costs to replace the gravel as the beach recedes.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Edith Hartmann, island resident, said that after all the effort to involve the community in the Sakai planning process, it seems premature to place a train and track on the Sakai property since no one has asked to have a train there. She expressed concerns about liability and maintenance requirements.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the March 16, 2017 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: p. 1: Change Chair DeWitt to Vice-Chair Kinney.

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 Dated	Batch Amt	Fund No.	Fund Name	Fund Amt	Pre-Approved
03/21/17	123,148.98	001	General	97,478.11	3/20/17
		300	Capital	20,838.87	
		310	Land Acquisiti	4,832.00	
03/28/17	66,636.71	001	General	31,372.43	3/27/17
		300	Capital	34,247.88	
		310	Land Acquisiti	1,016.40	
February	Payroll	001	General	373,744.61	
March	Payroll	001	General	361,807.47	

MOWER INVOICE: Approval of an additional invoice is needed to authorize payment of a Jacobsen HR600 Mower in the amount of \$57,567.57. The mower was included in the 2017 General Fund Budget. Board Treasurer Kirk Robinson has reviewed the invoice and recommended that it be paid. **MSC: Robinson/Cross: To approve payment in the amount of \$57,567.57 to RMT Equipment for the Jacobsen HR600 Mower.**

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

MINIATURE STEAM TRAIN ATTRACTION FOR CHILDREN WITH QUARTER MILE TRACK AT SAKAI PARK: Tom McCloskey, representing the Rotary Club of Bainbridge Island, introduced model train enthusiast Roy Murdock who on behalf of the Rotary Club would like to donate to the Park District a model steam locomotive, and several riding and rail cars. They understand there can be no commitment to the project until it is approved by the board, and are here this evening to provide information about it. Valued at \$25,000 to \$30,000, the donation would also include 1500 feet of track and five switches. He said Roy Murdock is forming a non-profit called Bainbridge Live Steamers that will work with the Park District to maintain and operate the train. The locomotive's engine is small, requires fuel that can be hauled in a gas can, and is similar to maintaining a lawn mower. A similar endeavor has been made in Port Orchard that is very popular with children. The cost to the Park District is minimal with some labor needed to prepare the track bed and gravel surface. The need for a train station has caught the interest of a Bainbridge High School teacher who wants to involve students in the design and construction of not only the station, but also building facades to simulate a historic village. This has led to students doing research, and the involvement and support of the Bainbridge Island Historical Museum and the Bainbridge Public Library. The Rotary Club would provide funds for the building materials, and it's possible a new neighborhood program with the City of Bainbridge Island could provide additional funds and assist with permitting. The only building that would house people is the train station; it would provide a place for people to wait for the train. Any other structures would be a façade only. All buildings would be constructed so they could be easily taken down. The train and track is also relatively portable and can be moved as needed. Everyone they have spoken to about the project has been very enthusiastic.

Edith Hartmann noted that if she had been part of the public process for Sakai Park, she would be very concerned about placing a train there since it has not yet been determined what will go in the park. She is also concerned about liability and maintenance. Executive Director Terry Lande said the District's insurance company has been contacted and approved the train. Assistance with maintenance and operations will be provided by the group Roy Murdock is forming. Donations received for riding the train could fund possible part-time high school positions. In regards to the public process for Sakai Park, he said the site plan is currently being developed and should be done in June or July. The site plan consultant is aware of the train. Terry Lande noted that those involved with the public planning process understood they were providing recommendations for the park. The train is an opportunity that has come up since then that is consistent with the active use envisioned for the upper part of the park, as well as with the interest expressed in providing areas for children. It would provide a way for people to utilize the park prior to anything substantial being built. Little negative feedback has been received on the proposed steam engine, even with a front page newspaper article and a very clear agenda topic highlighting Sakai Park has a possible location. Tom McCloskey said building anything at Sakai Park will require a bond measure, so it is necessary before then to draw people to the park and educate them about the vision for the park. The steam train is an open opportunity to build public support because it provides a way for people to access the park.

Board discussion followed. Commissioner Cross noted that while she was initially hesitant about placing the train at Sakai Park, she understands it could be a temporary placement, and moved or removed if it did not work out, and that it would have minimal impact on the site. Commissioner Robinson mentioned concerns someone had expressed to him about vandalism and safety. In response, Roy Murdock commented on Port Orchard's model steam engine

attraction, saying vandalism does happen but tends to dissipate. The engine and cars are protected in a container when they're not used. Any damage tends to be to the tracks which are inspected prior to the train being run. The speed of the train is approximately 4 miles per hour, slow enough for someone to walk alongside it. Commissioner DeWitt said anything that is done on the site will require a bond measure and is probably several years down the road. In the meantime, he said the park is sitting there, and it would be nice to have some kind of activity there. Commissioner Swolgaard questioned whether Sakai Park is the right spot, but said it may be worth giving it a try. In response to a question from the audience, Roy Murdock said the train runs on diesel. There is no smoke when it burns, and no diesel exhaust. No holding tanks are required for fuel. **MSC: Swolgaard/Robinson: To direct staff to develop a feasibility study including a site plan for the location of the model railroad at Sakai Park and to come back with that feasibility study so the board can further review the project and make a decision on whether or not to put the train in Sakai park.** Executive Director Terry Lande asked for clarification on what the board wanted, and was given the following parameters to include in the feasibility study: Cost to Park District; site plan lay-out; any City requirements or issues such as permit to operate, parking, land use stipulations, or transportation impact fees.

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND LAND TRUST TRANSFER OF HILLTOP PARCEL TO PARK DISTRICT: Senior Planner Perry Barrett said the first review of the Hilltop Parcel B transfer documents was done at the 3/16/17 board meeting, and he has since responded to the board on the one question they raised. Having received no additional questions since then, the documents are ready for final review and approval. David Harrison, board member and former president of the BI Land Trust, introduced the current BILT president Connie Waddington, and the former Executive Director Asha Rehnburg. They came tonight to celebrate this momentous occasion during which the final parcel of the Hilltop property will be transferred from the Land Trust to the Park District. David Harrison said the acquisition of the Hilltop property, which connects the two portions of the Grand Forest, is one of the most magnificent achievements the Land Trust and Park District have ever done together. It came about through the partnership, hard work, and financial contributions of each party, as well as the 800 islanders who donated \$3 million dollars to preserve this property. He looks forward to future endeavors with the Park District. Connie Waddington presented a photograph of the Hilltop property to the Park District, and expressed thanks for the many hours spent working together to bring this about. She said the Park District and Land Trust have been working together for almost 30 years, and that the transfer tonight provides a benefit to the public that has become one of the most beloved properties on the island. Asha Rehnburg said it has been a privilege to work with everyone, saying negotiations with the family began in 2008. She expressed gratitude for the willingness to join like minds and take on this risk, saying it was not certain whether all the funds could be raised. She is grateful not only for the preservation of the property, but also for Pru's House and the related history that has been preserved. Commissioner Swolgaard expressed his thanks to everyone, and commented on what a wonderful person Pru was. He mentioned how exciting it is to have this property that she lived on and enjoyed, become the link between the two parcels of the Grand Forest where so many children (and adults) can now play. Commissioner Cross said she was on the board of the Land Trust when negotiations for the Hilltop property began. She thanked everyone for their commitment over the years and their willingness to stay with the transaction even when it was difficult. She said the Hilltop property provides a benefit for both the island and the environment, and having it all come to fruition is a reason to celebrate. Many additional thanks were exchanged between the two parties. **MSC: Swolgaard/Cross: To accept and approve the transfer of Parcel B and the remainder interests on the additional Hilltop parcels with authorization given the Executive Director to sign all related documents.** After the motion passed, there was a loud round of applause.

ROTARY PARK BALLFIELDS INSURANCE CLAIM: Administrative Services Director Amy Swenson said the person from the District's insurance company wanted to be here in person to present the check for the Rotary Park Ballfields insurance claim, but was detained and unable to attend. In lieu of this, District staff has completed a form that will allow the check to be released.

FIREWISE PARTNERSHIP WITH KITSAP COUNTY CONSERVATION DISTRICT: Park Services Director Dan Hamlin said District staff met with the BI Fire Department several years ago during a very dry summer to learn measures that could be taken to reduce fire danger in District forests and parks. Protection of roads, access, and homes were indicated as a priority. Since then an intern began a fuel loading survey to research areas in parks with the most flammable vegetation and materials. The Hilltop/Grand Forest East areas were identified as among the worst. Since then, the Park District has been approached by the Kitsap Conservation District to provide matching funds for a \$17,000 grant awarded the Conservation District to create a Firewise Community in the areas between the Grand Forest East and West. It's been learned that most of the Park District's match can be achieved by contributing labor. The remaining \$2900 would be provided out of the Executive Director's discretionary fund. Park Services Manager Bre Ganne reviewed the work that is needed in the Hilltop area to reduce fuel load and lessen fire danger. She said most of the work done will protect Pru's House, the bunkhouse, barn, caretaker and intern houses, and neighboring homes in the area. Staff will spend six days clearing dry brush and removing dead piles from around the buildings and the forest floor. The roofs of each building will be cleared, and an arborist will be contracted with to prune limbs above the rooftops and reduce the height of dead trees. The board agreed this is important to do. **MSC: Cross/Swolgaard: To participate in the Firewise Partnership grant program with Kitsap Conservation District.**

GENERAL BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2017-07: PETTY CASH: Administrative Services Director Amy Swenson said this resolution is needed to eliminate the petty cash fund that is no longer needed for the Senior Center. An adjustment to the amount in several other funds is also included. **MSC: Robinson/Cross: That Resolution 2017-07, revising the District's petty cash and change funds, be adopted.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Administrative Services: Executive Director Lande said the WRPA conference will be going on during the first board meeting in May, and many staff and possibly commissioners will be attending. Because of this, the board agreed to cancel the May 4 board meeting. Division Director Amy Swenson said she attended a recent meeting initiated by Kate Brown with the City of Bainbridge Island for human resource personnel throughout Kitsap County. Sharing resources among the different agencies was discussed, including shared training sessions for managers. The District's Wellness Committee organized a recent egg stuffing event and staff stuffed over 5000 eggs. Senior Planner Perry Barrett said the Coast Guard has indicated approval for the jetty bridge at Blakely Harbor Park, and the WA State Fish & Wildlife Department has given HPA approval for the project. These are two huge hurdles that have been crossed for the jetty bridge. He attended the 75th anniversary of the Japanese American Exclusion Memorial at Pritchard Park.

Recreation Services: Division Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said spring break classes are going well; summer camp sign-ups are strong; the ski bus program is over for the year; the Transmitter Building lobby is getting painted; and there will be three interns here this summer. Division Director Mark Benishek said District staff formerly at the Senior Center are settling into their new office at Strawberry Hill Park; the pool has been packed during spring break; and registration is up this year by a large percentage for swim lessons, sports leagues, gymnastics, sailing and tennis classes, and summer camps.

Park Services: Division Director Dan Hamlin discussed a proposal for the Blakely Harbor Park generator building that the District recently received from a member of the public. The proposal suggests that the walls of the entire building both inside and out be used as a canvas to display the history of the harbor, and that this be done with no physical changes to the building other than work on the roof and what is needed to preserve the structure. The board questioned whether the building is suitable for occupancy, and asked staff to look into occupancy requirements and shoreline restrictions for the building. Over spring break, the Student Conservation Corps completed a huge amount of work that included the removal of 7 yards of scotch broom from parks and 3-1/2 yards of seedlings pulled from the Hilltop meadow. The Dog Advisory Committee met recently, and it looks like the citizens group, BI Barks, will not be advocating for the use of COBI's Vincent Road site for an off leash dog area.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: May 4 board meeting: cancelled.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner DeWitt said he will not be able to attend the April 20 board meeting.
- Commissioner Robinson said he attended the recent Dog Advisory Committee meeting, as well as three BI Parks Foundation meetings.
- Commissioner Cross asked about the petition requesting that senior exercise classes continue to be held at the Waterfront Park Community Center. She was told the instructor does not want to hold classes there, and that she has worked for the Park District since 1984 and wishes to stay with the District. Commissioner Cross will send a response to the interim Executive Director of the BISCC non-profit, informing him of this.
- Commissioner Swolgaard said three people have contacted him about the Senior Center split, and that while two of them feel better now after he spoke with them, the third person is still not pleased.


WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS A proposal for the generator building at Blakely Harbor Park was received from George Rohrbacher.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:30 pm for discussion of real estate and potential litigation, with announced time to reconvene at 8:50 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 8:50 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 8:52 pm.

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

BY: _____
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: _____

Jay C. Kinney
BY: 
Kirk B. Robinson

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard

ATTEST: 
Lee Cross