

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MARCH 1, 2012
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, Jay Kinney, Kirk Robinson, and Tom Swolgaard.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the February 16, 2012 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: p. 1: Change "Dept. of Energy" to "Dept. of Ecology"; p. 1: correct spelling of "Penny Lane"; p. 4: Correct spelling of "Knudsen".

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Kinney/Swolgaard: 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
021412	02/14/12	28,299.30	94952	General	21,708.30	2/6/12
			94955	Capital Improvemt	5,411.00	
			94956	Land Acquisition	1,180.00	
	January	Payroll	94952	General	238,375.98	
	February	Payroll	94952	General	227,982.68	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

BLUE GRASS FESTIVAL BEER GARDEN REQUEST: Recreation Services Director John DeMeyer noted this is the third time this request for a beer and wine garden during the Bluegrass Festival at Battle Point Park has come before the board. The coordinator Jeff Hemmat has since provided the written information requested by the Board at the last board meeting. John DeMeyer said a motion is hoped for this evening that will allow alcohol to be served during the festival with stipulated safeguards. The following were identified as some of the necessary stipulated safeguards: fencing to secure the area; police onsite; shuttle; admittance requirements; contracting out the service to ensure alcohol is served in compliance with State law. In response to questions from the Board, Norm Johnson, the prior festival coordinator, provided background on the festival's revenues saying when it started in 2006 there were significant donors in the community that contributed funds. The total revenues produced by the festival exceeded costs with left over funds given to the Transmitter Building renovation project. Since then, the economy has changed significantly and by 2010, the festival was at a break-even point. Local businesses are not in a position to make donations at this time and additional revenue sources are needed. It costs \$7000-\$8000 to hold the festival. When asked if beer and wine gardens are typically done in conjunction with bluegrass festivals, Norm Johnson provided a definite yes. While most festivals last 3-4 days and provide camping for bluegrass followers, the festival on Bainbridge Island has lasted one day and is geared to the local community. Commissioner Robinson said he'd be more inclined to support the request to serve alcohol if the festival proceeds were being donated to something that is park related. He expressed concern that serving alcohol during the Bluegrass festival at Battle Point Park could send the District down a road it may not want to go. Commissioner DeWitt saw this as a normal part of a festival, and since the Bluegrass festival has become a part of the summer fabric of this community said he would like to see the event be successful. Commissioner Cross said this event is a good opportunity to try this out, saying if it is not successful it will provide a

basis for saying no in the future, and if it is successful it has the potential of increasing revenues for an event that is of benefit to the island. **MSC: Kinney/Cross: That the beer and wine garden be allowed for the July 28 Bainbridge Bluegrass Festival at Battle Point Park with the following provisions: that it be in a secure, fenced-in area with limited entry and exit points monitored by trained and qualified individuals at some distance from the kids' activity area; that entrance be allowed only with identification, that the area be secure and completely off-limits to minors; that no alcohol be allowed outside the enclosed area; that the event provide insurance of \$1million/occurrence, \$2 million aggregate with the District named as an additional insured; and any other stipulations the Executive Director decides are needed to provide a safe and wholesome bluegrass festival. (3 ayes – 2 abstain: Swolgaard/Robinson)**

SOLAR THERMAL FOR AQUATICS CENTER: Recreation Service Director John DeMeyer said this discussion about a solar thermal system for the pool will need to wait until after the manufacturer has been out next week to look at the facility. He said he should have more information at the next board meeting. In the meantime, the pool blanket has been ordered for the Ray Williamson Pool, the big fan has been ordered, and they are getting bids for the variable frequency drive.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recreation Services Director: John DeMeyer: an Art Walk will be held at the Commons tomorrow night; this Sunday an Art Contest sponsored for the first time by the Park District will be held at the Pavilion; the Outdoor Program Coordinator Jeff Ozimek is applying for a \$1500-\$2500 grant from the Bainbridge Community Foundation to purchase backpacking equipment. **MSC: Robinson/Swolgaard: That support from the Board be given for the Outdoor Program Coordinator's grant application that is seeking funds for backpacking equipment from the Bainbridge Community Foundation.**

Park Services Director: Arlan Elms: The dog committee dealing with the educational component related to dogs will be meeting again in mid-March, so the committee report will not be ready for the Board until April. A draft conceptual design has been developed for the potential dog park near the transfer station which will be reviewed with the City for their input prior to being shown to the Board. The Hilltop lease is still being discussed with the Land Trust and clarification of the agreement's final details are underway. The septic option selected by the Board for Fay Bainbridge Park has been submitted and is under review by the County. The neighbors next door to T'Chookwap Park are remodeling and have inquired into whether they can take down the current fence separating their property from the park and construct a new fence. They would build it on their property, maintain it, and plant trees on the park's side of the fence as specified by the District. At the Fort Ward Park upper meadow area, the asphalt slab is being assessed for removal. It appears that this could be done for a minimal amount of cost. Dirt and grass would replace it, making it more attractive for the neighbors. The Weed Warriors will be at Fay Bainbridge on Friday and Saturday removing blackberries.

Executive Director: Terry Lande: Senior Planner Perry Barrett will be out of town due to family illness for the next week or two. The fundraising for West Gazzam is likely to exceed its goal, and there is need to clarify how any excess funds would be used. The Board agreed that any excess funds would be used for the benefit of Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve, and go towards stewardship of the park or the acquisition of additional acreage to the park. The Woodworker's Group now known as the Artisan's Group is shifting its interest in the Hope Center to the Suzuki property at the corner of Sportsman Club and New Brooklyn. Terry Lande met with Sallie Maron and Jeanne Huber to discuss this and suggested they work with the Capital Facilities Committee to explore this matter further.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: Commissioners DeWitt and Cross will miss the March 15 board meeting. The other three Commissioners expect to be there. An IGWG meeting is scheduled for March 19.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Kinney said some people on the dog committee are questioning whether people will like an off-leash dog area at the transfer station site. He suggested a survey might be a way to get input from the community but was concerned that people might not be able to envision the possibilities for the site. He also suggested a pilot project designating the southeast corner of Battle Point Park as an unfenced off leash dog area to see if it would be used. It was noted that the dog committee consists of only a few voices, and that evaluating the site at the transfer station was not within the scope of its work. Commissioners Robinson and Cross indicated the need for a public meeting before proceeding with the transfer station site. In regards to an off-leash area at Battle Point Park, Executive Director Lande referred to the master plan process undertaken several years ago during which a number of people asked that any new uses for the park be offset by removing a use already in the park.
- Commissioner Kinney attended a recent Little League meeting and said Little League has put \$25,000 into planning for the Rotary Ballfield project and will be contributing another \$20,000 in the near future towards engineering costs related to storm water run-off. He said Little League and the Rotary Club of BI are willing to contribute one third each to the overall project cost which has been reduced slightly since the project was first proposed at \$750,000 last summer. He understands Perry Barrett is going to apply for grant funds, but putting this aside, said the Board needs to decide if it is willing to come up with its share of the costs for the project. Executive Director Lande said the Board has never committed to contributing \$250,000 to the project, and that the District's intent has always been to contribute the funds set aside for the play area at the park in addition to staff resources and any grant funds awarded. He said if the Board wants to come up with \$250,000 up front with grant funds used as a back-up, this will be a significant shift in the budget. He said this is the question the Board must address, and which the Board acknowledged must be fully vetted prior to any decision being made. A discussion followed in which it was noted the Park District has many needs with the additional parks it is taking on and its backlog of capital improvement projects. It was discussed that any decision to allocate additional funds towards the Rotary Ballfield project must be made in the context of what will not be done if this project is undertaken. It was mentioned that Little League is driving the size of the project, and that perhaps this is more than the District can afford. It was suggested that perhaps the District should be responsible for paying infrastructure and restroom expenses, with Little League paying for the community building and kitchen if this is something they want. It was agreed that staff input is needed to come up with possible options, and that these options will be looked at by the Finance Committee and Capital Facilities Committee which will then make a recommendation to the full Board on how to proceed.
- Commissioner Cross said she recently had a conversation with the Peters sisters whose family once owned property that is now part of the Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve. They expressed concern over the number of off-leash dogs in this park, saying it is a nature preserve and off-leash dogs disturb the wildlife. They suggested signage to alert people that this is a protected area and offer an explanation for why the restrictions exist. Discussion followed during which the Board asked staff to research the restrictions on the Gazzam property and the feasibility of signage. They felt there is an obligation on the part of the District to inform the public of any restrictions that apply to park land. Executive Director Lande raised the question of evaluating restrictions that come with a piece of property prior to accepting it as park land. If the District does not have the ability to enforce them, perhaps the District should not accept the property.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:01 pm for discussion of real estate, with announced time to reconvene at 8:30 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 8:30 pm and **ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION** at 8:32 pm for continued discussion of the above items, with announced time to reconvene at 8:50 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 8:50 and **ADJOURNED** at 8:51 pm.

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

BY: _____

Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: _____

John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: _____

Jay C. Kinney

BY: _____

Kirk B. Robinson

ATTEST: _____
Lee Cross