

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING APRIL 19, 2012
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

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

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

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add to Unfinished Business: Shoreline Management Update. No executive session.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON NON-AGENDA ITEMS:

Fred Grimm, former Park Commissioner, commented on the many accomplishments that have taken place since he was on the Board during the District's formative years, and expressed opposition to the introduction of mountain biking into the Grand Forest. Having been on the Board during its acquisition, he noted the intent when acquiring the Grand Forest was to preserve a quiet and relaxing forest environment. He said hundreds of people walk the trails every week and that injuries are certain to occur when they encounter bikes traveling 10-15 mph with poor sight lines. He encouraged the Board to establish a committee to consider the impact this activity would have on the Grand Forest, and to explore other sites that might be more suitable.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Martha Turnbull, island resident, said she is overwhelmed by the positive things that are being done by the Park District, and expressed particular appreciation for the way Fort Ward Park has been taken on. She said that as a trail steward, she works with Dan Hamlin, and commended him highly for his work. She had two suggestions related to dogs. 1) Set hours for walking dogs off leash in parks; 2) Provide dog mitt dispensers at trailheads. She said it is very different to walk with a dog off leash as opposed to on leash, and said she'd much prefer to walk with her dog off leash on trails rather than be stuck in a dog park. She commented that as a taxpayer she pays for many facilities she doesn't use, and that while she doesn't object to this, would appreciate having some funds directed towards facilities that would be available for activities that are of interest to her.

Dale Spoor, island resident and dog committee member, said what is needed now is a timeline and specifics on who is doing what. He encouraged the Board to do more research on whether the transfer station site is a feasible location for a dog park, saying many people have said they would not go there.

Catherine Purves, island resident, said she jogs with her dog every day and admits that she along with many others is not in compliance with the leash laws. She gets a lot of joy out of running with her dog off leash as do a lot of others, and urged the Board not to punish these people due to a few exceptions. She understands some people don't want to deal with dogs or are afraid of them, and is supportive of setting off leash hours in parks. She said the Park District has done such a great job, that she's sure it's within the District's ability to make it possible for dog owners to be able to use the parks in a way that they also enjoy. She said she's heard a rumor about citations being issued for off leash dogs, and hopes something can be done so it doesn't come to this.

Mark Hufford, Executive Director of PAWS for Bainbridge Island and North Kitsap, said they have been serving on the District's dog committee and stand as a resource for the District since they've dealt with pets on the island for 37 years. They are currently conducting a survey to acquire opinions about pets which includes questions on what people think about dog parks. Once tabulated, they will share the results with the Park District. In addition, on April 27, they will be producing a publication called a pet resources guide, which is a 48 page magazine that will include all regulations for pets in the surrounding municipalities. It will be distributed as an insert in the Sound Publishing newspapers and will be accompanied by a copy of the survey and a full page ad run by the Park District encouraging responsible pet ownership.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the April 5, 2012 regular board meeting, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: P. 1: Change "No work on the lower field" to "Work on the lower field. P. 2: Change "Walt McGraw's well" to "Walt McGraw's easement".

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Kinney/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
040312	4/3/12	136,450.58	94952	General	22,629.63	3/31/12
			94955	Capital Improvemt	16.15	3/31/12
			94956	Land Acquisition	113,804.80	3/31/12
041012	4/10/12	33,974.62	94952	General	23,441.62	4/5/12
			94955	Capital Improvemt	533.00	4/5/12
			94956	Land Acquisition	10,000.00	4/5/12
032112	3/21/12	1,238.50	94952	General	1,238.50	3/21/12
	April		Payroll	94952	General	238,115.61

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

DOG COMMITTEE REPORT: Arlan Elms introduced the dog committee's report which is titled the "Dog Owner Awareness and Education Program". The committee consisted of citizens and staff, and has been meeting since January this year. The scope of the committee's work is included in the report and covers a variety of ways to educate the public on dog-related issues. The program developed by the committee includes eight goals, and strategies for implementation around each of these. The report concluded with a review of the Park District's role in the implementation of this program. Board discussion followed during which Commissioner Robinson addressed goal number two, providing information on why the rules are necessary. He said the dogs on leash rule has been in effect since 1972, and that it might be worthwhile to go back and see what factors contributed to this becoming a rule in the first place. Aside from being District policy, he said there could be conservation easements, protection of wildlife, active recreation areas where dogs off leash are not appropriate. These concerns need to be put on the table so people know why the leash law exists. He also said dogs and bikes need to be addressed. Commissioner Cross said it's important to specify which properties have legal restrictions on them that require dogs to be on leash and were conditions for the property's acquisition which the District is legally obligated to enforce. Committee Member Commissioner Kinney commended staff for compiling a report that considered the wide variety of viewpoints represented on the committee. He said the District's rule is that all dogs in parks must be on leash, and it has become necessary to get off leash dogs in parks under control. This could be reached through voluntary compliance, and if this is not successful some means of enforcement will be needed. He said there are policy-related, environmental, and public safety issues at stake. He said rules are needed for irresponsible dog owners and responsible dog owners must pay the price. He noted that some off leash dogs are a hazard and the District cannot ignore this because people get hurt. He said there was a terrible accident several months ago where an off leash dog bit a horse in Manzanita Park and when running away from the dog, the horse was impaled on a stick. He said wildlife also suffer and mentioned the disturbance of nesting birds. He said the District is aware of the need for dog owners to exercise their dogs off

leash, so work is underway to open up another dog park. Commissioner DeWitt offered several experiences he's had with off leash dogs, and noted frustration with owners who do not pick up after their dogs have defecated or who do pick up after them but leave their plastic bags along the trail for someone else to dispose of. He gave examples of off leash dogs attacking other dogs and the subsequent vet bills, mothers who get upset when off leash dogs approach their children, people slipping and falling after stepping in dog excrement or tripping over off leash dogs who approach them while running. He said these are the kinds of issues the Commissioners are faced with. It was acknowledged that this report is a work in progress and it serves as a starting point for the District to begin getting some control over this problem. Executive Director Lande said the District's efforts to address off leash dogs consist of three components: education, enforcement, and dog parks. Commissioner Robinson said that while he thinks the report on dog education is good, prior to adopting it he'd like to see the areas he brought up discussed, along with a clearer understanding of what the other two components will include. He said the report will become a meaningless document unless off leash opportunities follow close behind. Executive Director Lande suggested the report be adopted so staff can begin working on the plan, with additional items incorporated as they come up. Arlan Elms said despite limits on how much additional work staff can take on, it is feasible to undertake the following aspects of the program this year: signage, use of website and flyers for public education, and continued efforts to explore dog park direction. **MSC: Swolgaard/Kinney: That the dog report presented by Arlan Elms dated April 19, 2012 be adopted. (4 Ayes, 1 Abstain-Robinson)**

POSSIBLE DOG PARK LOCATIONS: Arlan Elms provided a review of what has taken place in the past related to dog parks. An outcome of a dog committee report adopted by the Board in November 2010 was to explore existing parks for possible off leash dog areas. Following research, staff approached the Board last summer with several options for existing parks: an upgraded off leash area at Eagledale Park and 3 options for Battle Point Park (south pond area, northeast corner, central area where horse jumps used to be). Tonight he presented a fourth option for Battle Point Park that is in the same area as the horse arena. He explained Battle Point Park is being considered as a possibility because it would provide a place to direct the many people with off leash dogs at this park. Executive Director Lande pointed out the benefits of this fourth option over the south pond, saying it is an area that will stay dry as opposed to the south pond area that fills with water and attracts ducks and wildlife. It is also an underutilized area in the park. Executive Director Lande recalled back to when the arena was first proposed, saying proponents presented the project as a multi-use area for both horses and dogs. Board members expressed support for the fourth option at Battle Point Park. They agreed that a public hearing would be needed and were open to initially trying the area out through the use of temporary fencing. Arlan Elms then presented the option of a site near the transfer station which is an area owned by the City of Bainbridge Island. He reviewed a possible layout for an off leash dog park there and spoke to the site's many benefits. It includes a large meadow area for dogs to run and chase balls, possibilities for trail expansion into a forested area, ample room for parking, a kiosk, and room for other social amenities to encourage interaction between dog owners. It includes 4-1/2 acres with the possibility for expansion, existing fencing and drainage, and a cleaned-up site that is capped and safe. It was agreed that a public meeting would be set up to discuss three options for off leash dog areas: 1) Battle Point Park south pond option; 2) Battle Point Park arena area option; 3) Transfer site option.

FAY BAINBRIDGE PARK SEPTIC OPTIONS: Park Services staff member Roger Belieu noted that this is a follow up to the Board's decision at the February 2, 2012 board meeting to approve one of three septic options presented by Dave Ghylin with Dave's Septic Services, Inc. for Fay Bainbridge Park. He said Dave Ghylin was there this evening to provide an update on the beach option selected by the Board and the Kitsap County Health Department's reaction to it following their study of the option. Dave Ghylin said it's been clarified now that this project will involve dealing with

the City of Bainbridge Island in regards to shoreline permits, vegetation approval and any altering of the shoreline. The County Health Department has narrowed what can be done in the park to two options. They will not allow a combined drain field/filtration device as proposed in the selected option. They will allow the drain field to be located at the berm, but not the treatment function which needs to be located elsewhere, possibly in the restroom area. A mechanical system as opposed to a sand based system will most likely be needed. The County and State Health Departments do not want the dump station to remain active. This is primarily due to concerns over the chemicals used in motor homes that would flow through the septic system. To keep a dump station would require a whole new holding tank scenario that would have to be pumped out and disposed of as it fills up. He questioned whether this would be economically feasible for the District. He said the two options have been put out to bid, and once the numbers are received, the Board will need to make a decision on which way to go. Executive Director Lande said neither option is exactly what the Board approved last February but both are variations of it. Since these are the only options acceptable to the County the Board will have to choose between them. Once a decision is made, the application will be submitted. Presentation of the two options and board approval for one of these is anticipated at the next board meeting.

SHORELINE MANAGEMENT PLAN: Chair DeWitt said the Planning Commission has approved the Shoreline Management Plan as presented by City staff, and it is now moving on to the City Council for approval. Any Park District interaction must now be with the City Council. He and Commissioner Cross will be meeting with City Council Member Steve Bonkowski next Tuesday to discuss the Board's concerns with the plan. Executive Director Lande said he, Perry Barrett and Arlan Elms met earlier today with Ryan Ericson, COBI's lead staff for the Shoreline Management Plan. Terry Lande said he communicated frustration to Ryan Ericson over the process and let him know the Board is very upset over a number of matters related to the SMP. He said it was a good initial discussion and several issues were addressed. Some of these included the need to consolidate those portions of the plan which relate to parks, and an explanation on why parks were categorized as island conservancies. The Board then discussed a number of concerns over the SMP, some of which included: the City's disregard for the Park District's standing as a public entity and the island's largest owner of waterfront property; the City's disregard for the District's mandated responsibility to provide water access to the public; the need to ask the City Council to direct City staff to work more directly and in partnership with the Park District over SMP issues; the City's view that providing public access cannot be compatible with ecological responsibility; the authority given City staff by the SMP to dictate what can be done on designated properties; the subjective nature of the SMP and how open it is to anyone's interpretation. Of particular concern to the Board was a sudden change in the designation of Blakely Harbor Park's meadow from "island conservancy" to "natural". This change took place without Board consent during the Planning Commission's review of the document, and was included in the SMP that was approved by the Planning Commission even though it had not been vetted by the Park Board. The Planning Commission indicated that if the Board did not agree with the new designation, they would have to ask the City Council to change it. **MSC: Robinson/Swolgaard: To inform the City regarding its Shoreline Management Plan, that the Park Board of Commissioners does not accept a "natural" designation for Blakely Harbor Park, or any part of Blakely Harbor Park, and that the designation for this park should remain the way it was originally designated as an "island conservancy".** Chair DeWitt will send a letter to the City Council regarding the Blakely designation next week, and he and Commissioner Cross will draft a letter to the City Council addressing the Board's overall concerns with the SMP for approval at the next board meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2012-10: INTERFUND LOAN: MSC: Robinson/Cross: That Resolution 2012-10, authorizing an interfund loan from the General Fund to the Land Acquisition Fund in order to pay expenses related to recent property purchases, be adopted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recreation Services Director: John DeMeyer: the brochure for summer classes is out and registration begins next week.

Park Services Director: Arlan Elms: the Land Trust is paying to have the meadow mowed this week at Hilltop, staff has put together flyers for Fay Bainbridge and Fort Ward Parks; the public meeting for the Unocal site went well with Johnpaul Jones presenting two options that were well received and will be brought to the Board and City Council in upcoming weeks; an Earth Day work party is scheduled for Pritchard Park. He also informed the Board of a recent accident that occurred at Battle Point Park when the brakes on a riding lawn mower failed as it approached the garage. The lawn mower plowed through the garage door and fortunately the staff member operating the mower was not seriously injured.

Senior Planner: Perry Barrett: West Gazzam closed this afternoon; grant applications are underway; EPA and the Corp of Engineers are conducting a five year mandatory review of Pritchard Park's clean-up site.

Executive Director: Terry Lande: It was determined during the West Gazzam closing that only one well easement is needed, not two.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Robinson reported on a recent Earth Day EPA work party that widened a trail.
- Commissioner DeWitt passed on thanks to the District from Bill Hunt the realtor for the Knudsen property purchase who said it was a win-win situation for all.


MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:45 pm.

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

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: 
Jay E. Kinney

BY: 
Kirk B. Robinson

ATTEST: 
Lee Cross