

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
PUBLIC HEARING/MEETING HIDDEN COVE DOCK, MAY 16, 2013
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER: A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:16 pm by Chair Swolgaard.

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

INTRODUCTION: Senior Planner Perry Barrett introduced the project for Hidden Cove Park, saying it is a 6 acre park with a deteriorating dock. Replacing the dock is the primary object of the project with some small park amenities included as well.

PROJECT PRESENTATION: Perry introduced consultant John Small with Anchor QEA who apologized for being late and said the current configuration of the dock is not an option for construction since it is not likely to be permitted and is not easily accessed. He presented two options for replacing the dock. Option 1: new dock stays within the District tidelands and extends as far out into the water as the current dock. The downside to this option are the required pile stops that would keep the float suspended above the water by approximately three feet when the tide is low (10-15% of the time during the summer). This drop between the float and the water would make it more difficult and dangerous for people using small boats. Option 2: new dock is extended approximately 100 feet further out into the water beyond the District tidelands into State DNR tidelands. No pile stops would be required, so the float would move up and down with the water and provide better access for people using small crafts. The cost would be about 10% more than the first option. A DNR tidelands lease would be required on the State owned tidelands, but it would be a free lease. He noted that the design work done to date on these two options has been minimal until direction from the board is given on how to proceed.

PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Mark West, park neighbor, said his family has lived there many years and thinks the park is great. He commented on the difference of the bay between when he grew up there as a boy and now. As a child, there were few docks; now there are more and more docks at ever increasing lengths. He said long docks affect people who want to row or sail on the water. He questioned the impact an additional 100 feet would have, saying the further out you go the less intimate the swimming area. He said the current length of the dock is tucked into the cove, less exposed and safer for swimming. The longer the dock, the more swimmers are put in the way of boats. He commented on the 10-15% of the time the float would be suspended above water, saying this is not that much time each day and it could be viewed as a part of being at sea. He suggested enclosing porta-potties in a wooden structure to make them more attractive.

John Whitlow, park neighbor, thinks the project is fabulous and was open to either Option 1 or 2. His concern with Option 2 was that the longer dock might encourage bigger boats to tie up for the day prohibiting local users from using the float for swimming and other activities. A shorter dock might encourage local use of the float versus use by the incoming boating community that gets very large in the summer. He expressed concerns about the park's security and while he said having a caretaker there changes the character of the park, he thought a gate would prohibit cars from coming into the park at night. He also asked for signage around the dock and park that would address the issue of people dropping permanent buoys.

Executive Director Lande commented on the importance of replacing the dock given the increased use of the float by kids during the summer. It was noted that the current dock configuration allows kids to sprawl out over the float as well as that portion of the dock leading out to the float. This portion that leads out to the float would be eliminated in both options presented this evening, raising the question of whether a larger float might be needed. He said the issue of security is one the District is still looking at, saying having a caretaker there has changed the feel of the park and a

gate is problematic since it requires someone to open and close it. Terry Lande said that at this point neither Option 1 or 2 has been selected for replacing the dock. He expressed appreciation for the community's input this evening.

Perry Barrett said the deadline for written comments is May 28, 2013.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 7:00 pm.

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

BY: 


John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: **NOT PRESENT**

Jay C. Kinney

BY: 

Lee Cross

BY: 

Kenneth R. DeWitt

ATTEST: **NOT PRESENT**

Kirk B. Robinson