

# VASHON PARK DISTRICT BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

## MEETING MINUTES

Ober Park, Evergreen Room, 7:00 pm

**DATE: Tuesday, January 12, 2016**

Commissioners: Lu-Ann Branch, Karen Gardner, Scott Harvey, Bob McMahon, Doug Ostrom.

Staff attending: Jason Acosta, Elaine Ott

ISSUE	DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME	FOLLOW UP
<b>Call to order &amp; agenda review</b>	<b>The meeting was called to order by Karen Gardner. She reviewed the agenda.</b>	
<b>Public Comment</b>	<p><b>Scott: I have a motion to increase the line and drag fees. Seems like you are trying to limit public comments.</b></p> <p><b>Karen: Do we need public discussion about calling the question? Comments?</b></p> <p><b>Scott: No. I did some research.</b></p> <p><b>Lu Ann: We need a second to call the question.</b></p> <p><b>Truman: Three things. Roberts Rules – I was an airline pilot where you learn a set of rules. When things go bad, you go back to that. Take that same approach with Roberts Rules.</b></p> <p><b>Public Comment: Yes, limit it. When you are finished with an item, don't let people jump in and re-raise it.</b></p> <p><b>Mary: A community needs to have a fire district and a school district. A park district is not required. Citizens are a big part of VPD. We depend on the community. In the past, the community voted for more control of the parks. More citizen involvement.</b></p> <p><b>Bob: How many people come here?</b></p> <p><b>Mary: You don't have a lot of community here all the time. They show up when their issues are before the Board. Some of us try to come to every meeting.</b></p> <p><b>Capt. Joe: There is confusion about public comment. I bring experience and a lot of knowledge about the VPD and the people it serves. Comments, suggestions and recommendations are critical. When we talk about public comment, it is important that it is open at the beginning and with issues on the agenda. This has been seen as fair play.</b></p> <p><b>Karen: We have to learn from you. I have been to some chaotic meetings. I can't have that.</b></p> <p><b>Hilary: You are a new board. I am agreeing that whatever the conversation, you open it up.</b></p> <p><b>Barb: Comment, board discussion, comment. Otherwise there is a lack of hearing.</b></p> <p><b>Lu-Ann: We develop our personalities as we go.</b></p> <p><b>Bob: It should be fact based and fact driven.</b></p>	

<b>Approve December Minutes</b>	<p><b>Scott:</b> I move that we adopt the December minutes.</p> <p><b>Doug:</b> Second.</p> <p><b>VOTE:</b> 5-0 in favor of the motion.</p>	
<b>Gifts for Outgoing Commissioners</b>	<p><b>Elaine:</b> We have been kicking ideas around. Some suggestions so far have been to do plaques at VES or a party. Joe thought the party would be nice. Another idea is a photo of VES.</p> <p><b>Truman:</b> We never had anything like this in the past. I believe there would be push back on naming the fields after Joe.</p> <p><b>Elaine:</b> The Commissioners felt that would be inappropriate.</p> <p><b>Scott:</b> Pictures might be appropriate. The public might want the VES subject gone.</p> <p><b>Bob:</b> Wasn't Bill more involved in everything?</p> <p><b>Karen:</b> I think giving a simple plaque would be good.</p> <p><b>Scott:</b> For Bill, I thought about a picture of the lighthouse</p> <p><b>Lu-Ann:</b> Joe and David were the brain children of the VES fields. Joe spent hundreds of hours volunteering.</p> <p><b>Mary:</b> Bill created the Commons.</p> <p><b>Karen:</b> I think a thank you plaque would be appropriate.</p> <p><b>Scott:</b> Basically, thank you to Bill for the Commons, Joe for VES fields.</p> <p><b>Bob:</b> I agree with the plaque idea.</p> <p><b>Lu-Ann:</b> I like the photo picture idea.</p> <p><b>Karen:</b> We could come up with a preliminary photo plaque.</p> <p><b>Elaine:</b> So you would like me to look into an engraved photo and plaque?</p> <p><b>Karen:</b> I would like the Board to see it.</p> <p><b>Lu-Ann:</b> We could send it around.</p> <p><b>Karen:</b> We don't need an event. The existing board could present it to them.</p> <p><b>Lu-Ann:</b> How about at Concerts in the Park?</p> <p><b>Elaine:</b> That would be too late.</p> <p><b>Lu-Ann:</b> We could have a volunteer recognition night.</p> <p><b>Scott:</b> I have never heard of anybody thanking anybody before.</p> <p><b>Lu-Ann:</b> I will work with Elaine.</p>	
<b>Policies</b>	<p><i>1) Fundraising/grant Application by Outside Parties</i></p> <p><b>Bob:</b> Elaine says there are outdated policies.</p> <p><b>Elaine:</b> I want to make changes. This is the first on these in particular.</p> <p><i>2) Tree Disposal Policy</i></p> <p><b>Elaine:</b> A neighbor at Paradise Ridge is concerned about unhealthy trees bordering on her property. She wants to pay to remove them but wants to keep the wood.</p>	

	<p>Jason: That is wrong. Those tree were topped in 2013. That is why some have come down. She wanted to remove them and plant shrubs.</p> <p>Elaine: I ran this by MRSC. They said we should have a tree removal policy. We have to decide whether we sell or give it away.</p> <p>Jason: Anything in the forest we leave. If it comes down, we leave them there for the environment. Anything taken down we write on it free; we don't advertise it, but people driving by will take it.</p> <p>Elaine: I think that we should advertise it on our website, so the community knows to look for it.</p> <p>Scott: Fair market value is important. We shouldn't subsidize entrepreneurs.</p> <p>Elaine: If the cost and nuisance value is too much, than it should be free. We need a policy.</p> <p>Doug: It doesn't just go to the adjacent property?</p> <p>Scott: Partner with the Food Bank.</p> <p>Doug: The Catholic Church will take wood away and take it to people who need it.</p> <p>Hilary: It is through the Homeless Council.</p> <p>Elaine: That would be considered inappropriate gifting. It must be made available to the whole community.</p> <p>Jason: We have a certain amount of skills. If they are hazard trees, I will call people in. I don't take trees that I don't know are on our property.</p> <p>Elaine: We could put it on our website. You can make a motion and come back.</p> <p>Doug: I MOVE that we adopt the proposal as presented.</p> <p>Scott: SECOND.</p> <p>Karen: We want to read these more carefully as a new board.</p> <p>Bob: Why do we have a two-week delay in voting?</p> <p>Lu-Ann: It is so that we can give it adequate time.</p> <p>Truman: It is a policy.</p> <p>Karen: I would like to put these on the back burner. I need a context.</p> <p>Elaine: What more do you need from me?</p> <p>3) <i>Program Co-Sponsorship</i></p> <p>Scott: Our policy seems implied. It needs to be clearer. Anything over 1k, give to the Board.</p> <p>Lu-Ann: I so MOVE.</p> <p>Doug: SECOND.</p> <p>Capt. Joe: This is a change to a policy that affects all user groups. I want to be able to understand comments.</p> <p>Hilary: Is this on the web site? Please e-mail policy changes to user groups.</p> <p>Bob: We seem to get proposed policy issues a couple of days before the meeting. If there is a motion to accept a policy change, a more reasonable policy is to see it,</p>	<p>MOTION, SECOND TO ADOPT TREE DISPOSAL POLICY 16-01 Agenda Item?</p> <p>MOTION, SECOND TO ADOPT PROGRAM CO- SPONSORSHIP POLICY. 16-02 Agenda Item</p>
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	<p>discuss it, in two weeks to get comments and then we get to the next meeting and will have had time to go over it.</p> <p>Karen: I agree with that.</p> <p>Scott: That will take two weeks more.</p> <p>Doug: This is a distinction without a difference.</p> <p>Karen: There are four policies and I have not had a chance to really look at them. I haven't had a really good opportunity to look at them.</p> <p>Lu-Ann: If it is a problem, let's change it. Let's wait to see.</p> <p>4) <i>Reduced Fee Award</i></p> <p>Elaine: I will tell you the context. Most awards are small and should not require board approval. Our existing policy is grossly out of date. In 2012, we received a state audit that said that we cannot give reduced fee scholarship funds out of levy monies; only from donations. I will have about \$200 left in 2016. This would be a good subcommittee – seeking donations for the RFA fund.</p> <p>5) <i>User Fees</i></p> <p>Scott: We need a motion on user fees. The actual fee amounts should be increased. It is a nominal amount. I am talking across the board, everything.</p> <p>Karen: We would gain 7k. What kind of flack would come from the community?</p> <p>Scott: During budget discussions, not a single user showed up. Nobody complained. I MOVE that “in recognition of increased maintenance and operation expenses, that all user fees will be increased by 5%, rounded up to the next \$0.25, effective January 1, 2016. It is further moved that after December 31, 2016, user fees will be increased by 5%, rounded up to the next \$0.25, when the cumulative CPI for the Puget Sound Region reaches 5%, or every three years, whichever occurs first. At no time will user fees exceed the median amount of the fees paid for similar services in Park Districts in King and Pierce counties.”</p> <p>Doug: SECOND.</p> <p>Lu-Ann: There was a time when there were no user fees. How do we want to fund VPD? User fees vs. levy money?</p> <p>Mary: David Hackett devised new numbers for user fees, regardless of the facts. He wanted to vote on it. We said that you can't have us vote on stuff that we haven't even looked at. We wanted to look at all the fees again.</p> <p>Scott: By the way, this has been delayed for years.</p> <p>Hilary: Susan McCabe laid out fees for each activity.</p> <p>Mary: If you drop the fees, people will be less agitated.</p> <p>6) <i>Line and Drag Fee Policy</i></p> <p>Scott: My second motion is consistent with what other park districts do in the area,</p>	<p>MOTION, SECOND TO INCREASE USER FEES 16-03 Agenda Item</p> <p>.</p> <p>MOTION, SECOND RE: LINE AND DRAG FEE POLICY</p>
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	<p>charge line and drag fees. I MOVE that “contrary to prevailing practices at neighboring park districts, the Vashon-Maury Island Park District will not charge users for the labor costs associated with lining or dragging athletic fields. However, users will reimburse the district for all related material costs, if the sport in question chose to have the district purchase the needed materials. Payment will be made midseason, based upon the estimated cost to prepare the fields for the remainder of the season.”</p> <p>Doug: SECOND.</p> <p>Karen: Lacrosse pays for materials and does it themselves.</p> <p>Jason: Charley and his boys provide their own paint. We provide paint for soccer and chalk for baseball.</p> <p>Karen: Why can’t we charge them for it when we drag and line?</p> <p>Jason: It is done before basketball season. Their games are on Saturdays.</p> <p>Lu-Ann: Baseball has a horrible field.</p> <p>Jason: Line and drag is a cost. All we do for baseball is drag.</p> <p>Lu-Ann: This is only for materials.</p> <p>7) <i>Deferred Maintenance</i></p> <p>Karen: I am concerned about deferred maintenance.</p> <p><i>Tramp Harbor</i></p> <p>Elaine: There is a lot to plan. If we don’t get funding sources right, it will cost us a lot more.</p> <p>Scott: Why isn’t this King County’s problem?</p> <p>Elaine: With Tramp Harbor, our attorney says we may have some liability and an ugly battle ahead if you wanted to put this on King County. If it was just black and white, we could potentially win, but it is complicated. They have deeper pockets.</p> <p>Scott: So let’s just say, so sue me.</p> <p>Lu-Ann: That is the last resort. Whatever we do, we need to feel comfortable.</p> <p>Elaine: King County deeded us the property without transferring the lease. King County will also not renew the lease. We have to enter into the lease with the state. Because if we get a grant with RCO, the lease has to be in place. Sharon Nelson may put us into the 2017 budget. We have to submit the application by 2016. An RCO grant can’t be applied yet. In the meantime, it could take a year to get the lease.</p> <p>Bob: Do we want the dock?</p> <p>Elaine: If we don’t want the dock, it will cost us to remove it. I am attempting to get the whole thing done for as little cost to VPD as possible. State appropriation plus grant, but we need some skin in the game, 100K. Nelson wants fundraising. I am hoping the Sportsmen’s Club will raise money. We can cut it off. An engineering group is giving us a proposal on both. I need to get your approval to</p>	<p>Agenda item.</p> <p>16-04</p>
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	<p>apply for a lease with the state. Lu-Ann: We gamble to get the lease. Elaine: What the lease does is show intent. The dock will be ours. Scott: We have a dock and a liability. Elaine: We don't know what the lease will say until we get it. Doug: If we don't apply, we will not get the RCO grant. Elaine: If we choose to renovate, we have to do something about the park on state land. Lu-Ann: The lease commits us to own the dock as opposed to tearing it down. If we want to tear it down, why sign the lease? Elaine: If we apply, we don't have to sign it. I can wait two weeks. I need a motion to get the ball rolling for the fundraising. We have to start. Sen. Nelson applies and puts the application in, she wants to see skin in the game. Lu-Ann: Does our staff keep track of fundraising? Elaine: I would form a committee. Truman: See your new policy. Elaine: If they raise funds, they can hold the funds. Mary: The rule in the community was to not let VPD have any funds. Scott: I MOVE that we start fundraising and apply for the lease. Doug: SECOND.</p> <p><i>Pool</i> Karen: Why is it timing? Elaine: RCO grant would not fit here. It must not be due to lack of maintenance. Rather, a King County grant may work. We were urged to apply. We should put this on the front burner. 50% match, 25% from us. Scott: I MOVE that the company evaluate the pool. If no money is available, advance against the TAN. The TAN is due in May, 150K. Elaine: Up to 150K. Doug: SECOND.</p> <p><i>Water Rights</i> Elaine: We have a water right that allows us to water in the summer. This last summer was very dry. We went over by 90K gallons. DOE says we must apply for a second water right. We hope not. We had to apply anyhow. If we go over, they will make us buy the second water right. They will not process it until the need to do so. A second water right will cost 15K. This is through the Department of Ecology. Jason: We draw water from the well. The main water was to be from Heights Water, but that never happened. They didn't up the acre fee. Irrigation is for</p>	<p>MOTION, SECOND, TO START FUNDRAISING FOR TRAMP HARBOR. 16-05 Agenda item.</p> <p>MOTION, SECOND TO HAVE THE POOL EVALUATED. 16-06 Agenda item.</p>
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	<p>the entire field. Amendments are under way to hold water. We would be top-dressing and it is supposed to keep us from watering all year. We were under the year before. When we got power, we started watering. We have added rain gauges.</p> <p>Bob: What do you want from us?</p> <p>Elaine: Nothing right now on the Water Right. I want you to be informed. We do, however, need a perimeter fence. We need to keep cars off the fields.</p> <p>Scott: I will challenge anything for VES that is not DOE required. I will not support any expenditure for VES or anything fields-related until after a million dollars has been invested in other Island facilities.</p> <p>Lu-Ann: What if a car gets on the field and causes tens of thousands in damages?</p> <p>Scott: Then I guess the sport groups won't have a field to play on, will they?</p> <p>Lu-Ann: We need the Rosser fence.</p> <p>Scott: The rest of the Island is lacking. Anything with the fields should be the lowest priority.</p>	
<b>Board Guiding Principles</b>	<p>Karen: I don't think that we will be able to cover the rest of the agenda tonight.</p> <p>Scott: I MOVE we adjourn.</p> <p>Lu-Ann: SECOND.</p> <p>VOTE: 5-0 in favor.</p> <p><i>(The meeting was adjourned at 9:15 PM.)</i></p>	<p><b>MOTION, SECOND TO ADJOURN. VOTE: 5-0 IN FAVOR</b></p>
<b>2016 Goals</b>		
<b>Next Meeting</b>	<b>January 26, 2016, 7:00 PM, Performance Room.</b>	

Respectfully submitted by:  
Mary Reeves