

# VASHON PARK DISTRICT (VPD) BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS MEETING MINUTES

Teleconference and In person, 6:15 pm  
DATE: Tuesday, July 15, 2025

Commissioners attending: Bob McMahon, Hans Van Dusen, Joshua Henderson and Keith Prior  
Staff attending: Tim Stapleton

ISSUE	DISCUSSION AND OUTCOME	FOLLOW UP
<b>Call To Order – Review Agenda</b>	Joshua Henderson called the meeting to order at 6:15 and reviewed the agenda.	
<b>Public Comment</b>	No public comments.	
<b>Steve Richmond Presentation on Managing Invasive Species</b>	<p>Steve Richmond presented on the state, as he has observed, of our Parks invasive species condition.</p> <p>Steve: I was contracted to do some eradication of ivy at Wingehaven. We were successful in the work we completed out there but I recommend focusing resources on other areas. The North End of the Island is far gone already. Large land owners need to also consider how they can include their neighbors in the treatment solutions.</p> <p>Steve provided a robust and informative presentation on the following topics.</p>	

Commendations and Recommendations  
by Steve Richmond: Garden Cycles LLC - contractor

1. Wingehaven Park:
  - a. 2022 VPD restoration - \$28,000 for 1 acre comprehensive invasive removal; plus 17 acres of ivy rings for infested trees (deer browse hides ivy density)
  - b. Rethought plans to restore entire park due to reinfestations from neighboring seed sources (invasive “seed rain”).
  - c. VPD letter campaign to neighbors: held a workshop, limited response
  - d. *Suggestion: Solicit volunteer stewards to maintain restoration investment*
  
2. North end of Vashon “too far gone” to be worth restoring (according to King County experts).
  - a. Pointless to do expensive restoration unless nearby seed sources are controlled
    1. *Suggestion: At least inject invasive trees and large ivy vines across all VPD properties (\$200 per acre; 80-90% effective for large fruiting invasives)*
    2. *Start with parks having a chance of success:*
      - a. *Burton Acres (isolated peninsula, active steward)*
      - b. *Lisa Buela: 40 acres of nearby restoration work*
      - c. *Point Robinson in off-season*
  
3. *Suggestion: Cajole other public-land managers to do invasive seed reductions*
  - i. *Vashon Land Trust: Staff and Board*
  - ii. *King County Parks: [laura.hartema@kingcounty.gov](mailto:laura.hartema@kingcounty.gov)*
  - iii. *King County Noxious Weeds: [Steven-J.Burke@kingcounty.gov](mailto:Steven-J.Burke@kingcounty.gov)*
  - iv. *Water District 19: [sethwater19@gmail.com](mailto:sethwater19@gmail.com), [jmartinak@water19.com](mailto:jmartinak@water19.com)*
  
4. *After seed reductions on managed lands:*
  - a. *Solicit private-land cooperation:*
    - i. *Beachcomber Op-ed*
    - ii. *Direct mail outreach to private properties near parks*
  - b. *Post public education signs: Point Robinson Troll traffic*
  - c. *Cost-share effort for private infestations*
    - i. *Funnel donations through Vashon Parks Foundation or Land Trust*
  
5. *Herbicide forum: Sponsor an island-wide forum to announce invasive predicament and address herbicide concerns*

*Saving our parks is linked to saving our island*

Steve also demonstrated how herbicides can be applied with a lance, reducing the need for spraying.

Steve: We must all work together to help educate the community regarding the seriousness of the problem.

**Approval of Minutes from June 24, 2025 Meeting**

**Keith: Move to approve the previous meeting minutes.  
Hans: Second  
Pass 4-0**

**Motion to approve the minutes from the previous meeting.  
Pass 4-0**

**Financial Report: Preliminary Vouchers through July 3, 2025**

**Hans: Move to approve the preliminary vouchers.  
Keith: Second  
Pass 4-0**

**Motion to approve the preliminary Vouchers.  
Pass 4-0**

**Staff Report Community Projects List**

Tim: In your packet you will see the community projects list which I have updated with current timelines. Tim then went over the project list below:

VPD COMMUNITY PROJECTS & FUNDING (7/2/2025)

1. Tramp Harbor Dock Cost – \$3.3M Plan - 2022 Design - 2023 Build – 2027

Funding Source	Amount	Apply	Award	Spend
WA ALEA Grant 2024	\$0.9M	May – Aug 2026	July 2027	2027 - 2029
KC Park & Open Space	\$0.6M	Mar 2026	Nov 2026	2026 - 2027
WA WWRP Grant - Water Access	\$1.7M	May - Aug 2026	May 2027	2027 - 2028
Community Fundraising	\$0.3M	Begin 2024	End 2027	2027 - 2028
District CIP 2027-2029	\$0.2M			2027-2028
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$3.3M</b>			

2. Pickleball Courts (2 courts at BARC) Cost - \$350k Plan/Design – 2026 Build - 2027

Funding Source	Amount	Apply	Award	Spend
WA WWRP – Recreation, Local Parks	\$175k	May 2026	May 2027	2027
Community Fundraising / VPD	\$175k	Begin 2025	End 2025	2025
<b>Notes</b>	<b>Requires availability of space after septic permitting.</b>			
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$330k</b>			

3. Pool Rebuild (liner, deck, gutter, etc) Cost – TBD Design – 2025 Build - 2027 or 2028

Funding Source	Amount	Apply	Award	Spend
WA YAF - Renovation Only; covered pool TBD	Up to \$1.5M	Mar 2026	2027	2027 - 2028
Fed Land Water Cons Fund Grant - Renovation only. Retractable roof TBD. Need forever lease.	Up to \$2M	May 2026	2027	2027 - 2028
Fundraising/VPD CIP/KC Grant - 10%	Up to \$350k	Begin 2026	End May 2026	2027 - 2028
<b>Total</b>	<b>TBD</b>			

4. Pool Rigid Roof – Cost TBD. Potential future CIP? Build 2030?

5. Dog Park – No VPD location or cost identified. I am helping Bonneville Seattle Media Group explore a partnership with King County to utilize their acreage at the radio station. Interest on this ebbs and flows.

6. Inspiration Point – VPD paid \$19,436 in 2024. VPF paid \$4,500 in 2024. Future work TBD. Parks Foundation secured a grant for additional signage at ~\$14,000.

Tim: A few weeks ago, I met with the Foundation and we committed to creating a communications plan tied to a specific timeline at the beginning of August. Our goal is to build on the energy and not dilute the messaging over the next several months.

Hans: That makes a lot of sense. The fundraising portion can be complicated.

	<p>Tim: I agree. We want folks to know that we are still working towards this goal and that their money will be put to an amazing use.</p> <p>Bob: And where do you think the remainder of the money should come from on the Tramp Harbor Dock project?</p> <p>Tim: I think it is grants. We need to let our legislators know that we intend to apply for grants though.</p> <p>Hans: There are essentially two paths. First, to ensure they robustly fund these grants. And the other path is direct appropriation, correct?</p> <p>Tim: Yes.</p> <p>Tim: Regarding pickleball courts, we are still in a holding pattern with BARC and will be for a long time.</p> <p>Tim: On the pool, I've been covered up. I need to get a community meeting on the calendar sooner than later. I have additional info from Innova to share but have not yet. I need to get through the Strawberry Festival.</p> <p>Bob: What have you heard from the engineers? And will we have another meeting with them before the community meeting?</p> <p>Tim: We have a better vetted list of options at the pool and I do not think we need to meet with the engineers before we talk to the community. I hope by the end of next week to get the community meeting scheduled. My one concern is the Federal Funding piece that we have in this finance schedule. I have not applied for the Land Water Conservation Fund Grant.</p> <p>Joshua: I was reading that and did not think "pool."</p> <p>Tim: Me either. I thought it was largely for duck habitat, so, a lot to learn.</p> <p>Tim: On the dog park, I'm staying engaged with the radio station to help them understand what private/community partnerships look like. And, as we know, we are grateful for the work the Foundation put forth for improved signage at Inspiration Point.</p> <p>Bob: What radio station?</p> <p>Tim: KIRO. King County and FIDO are pretty committed to coming to an off-leash dog park solution together. I don't think any of our properties work for that use. That said, I'm staying engaged as a resource.</p> <p>Josh: A lot of the parcel area at the radio station is a wetland.</p> <p>Tim: Yes, and that brings some challenges.</p>	
<p><b>Unfinished Business: Performance Reviews Template</b></p>	<p>Josh: I agree with Hans's suggestions for edits.</p> <p>Tim: And something Keith brought up, is that it is important to do this in a fillable PDF.</p> <p>Hans: Any questions from you, Tim?</p> <p>Tim: None from me. I feel very comfortable with this template.</p> <p>Bob: I would like to add a performance metric based on the conditions of the Park. Josh, would you agree that the ED is responsible for our parks condition?</p> <p>Josh: Yes, I think that is Tim's expectation as well.</p> <p>Tim: I agree and I will add another metric to capture that need.</p> <p>Josh: Thank you for completing this, Tim. This really matters at an organizational level.</p>	
<p><b>New Business: Strawberry Festival Sign Up</b></p>	<p>Tim: We have coverage for the festival for the entire event. Please come at your convenience and share in staffing the booth.</p> <p>Bob: Can you send out a signup sheet?</p> <p>Tim: Yes, I will do that before I leave tonight.</p>	

<b>Agenda Items for next meeting</b>	<p>Josh: Any agenda items for the next meeting?</p> <p>Hans: We should report out on how the Commons Committee Meeting went. It is this week.</p> <p>Tim: I will add that to the next agenda.</p>	
<b>Adjourn 7:00 pm</b>	<p><b>Keith: Motion to adjourn.</b></p> <p><b>Hans: Second.</b></p> <p><b>Pass: 4-0</b></p>	<p><b>Motion to adjourn.</b></p> <p><b>Pass 4-0</b></p>

Minutes by: Tim Stapleton