



CITY OF BAINBRIDGE ISLAND

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City Manager Announces Leadership Team

BAINBRIDGE ISLAND, September 15, 2010 – Interim City Manager Brenda Bauer announced today the makeup of the leadership team that will manage the City of Bainbridge Island through the difficult decisions presented by the upcoming biennial budget process and the challenging economy.

New appointments include City Attorney Jack Johnson, who joined the city staff in August, Morgan Smith as Deputy City Manager, and Ellen Schroer as Finance Director. Both the Deputy Manager and Finance Director positions will be part-time in recognition of the fiscal challenges the city faces.

Smith's experience includes work as Chief of Strategic Planning and Director of Fiscal Policy for the City of Atlanta. In these positions she advised Atlanta on key fiscal and economic trends and major initiatives. Smith also has extensive experience in revenue forecasting, economic development, and as a consultant advising on public policy initiatives. Smith is a Bainbridge Island resident and currently works as the Executive Director of the Bainbridge Island Arts & Humanities Council. She will join the city staff in mid-October.

Ellen Schroer has worked for the City of Seattle since 2002, serving as a member of the Finance Department and as the Financial Planning Manager for one of the most fiscally complex departments of the city. She was responsible for a budget of \$150 million and 558 employees. She constructed detailed cost recovery models and allocation strategies, and developed creative options for preserving services while reducing agency costs. Her experience will be of particular benefit as the City of Bainbridge Island moves forward with an examination of the alignment of general fund and utility fund functions. Schroer is also a Bainbridge resident and will begin work at the end of September.

Lance Newkirk will take on the role of Director of Public Works. Newkirk has served as Interim Director of Public Works for over a year, during which he has stewarded the department through significant shifts in the scope of projects and staffing levels. He has also assisted with the

evaluation of proposals to transfer one or more of the utilities to dedicated utility agencies. Newkirk has a Masters of Public Administration in Public Policy and has worked in the public works department since 1997.

The position of Deputy Director of Planning will continue to be filled by Christopher Wierzbicki. For the past year, Wierzbicki has split the responsibilities of this position along with assisting with the duties of City Engineer. He is a licensed civil engineer and has a Master of Science in Community and Regional Planning.

Director of Planning & Community Development Kathy Cook, Information Technology Manager Steve Miller, and Chief of Police Jon Fehlman will continue in their current roles.

“It is important, as we go into this difficult budget season, that we have a solid team in place to help the Council with decisions and to ensure that the organization operates as effectively as possible,” said Ms. Bauer. “After a little more than three months on the job, it is clear to me that there are very talented and capable staff here. With the key remaining vacancies filled, we are better positioned to address the many issues ahead,” she said.

Going forward, the city faces significant fiscal constraints during a time in which it also must address many outstanding policy issues. These include questions about the management of open space properties and shares in the Islander Mobile Home Park, transfer of certain park properties, development of management strategies for farm properties and a possible open water marina, resolution of longstanding property issues with the Washington State Ferries, the potential transfer of utilities, the evaluation of core city functions and service levels, and other significant matters.

“The current economic climate compels the Council to contemplate a number of changes for the city. Clearly, staff has significant work ahead to help support these decisions and to successfully implement any changes that result,” said Ms. Bauer.

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