

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING APRIL 23, 2009
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lee Cross, Kirk Robinson, Dave Shorett, and Tom Swolgaard. Absent: Ken DeWitt.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Add to Unfinished Business: School District Message; Add: Executive session personnel.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Jerry Elfendahl island resident presented more history on the Strawberry Packing Plant site including information on Captain Tilton and the Moji family farm.

Mark Cowan island resident presented a petition on the pending closure of Fort Ward State park with approximately 80 signatures asking the Park District to accept ownership of the park. He urged the Board to take on both Fort Ward and Fay Bainbridge State Parks saying they are both slated for closure, meet the Park District mission, and are a once in a lifetime opportunity. He said they are minimally maintained by the State and offer more potential than any other park on the island. He said the lid lift provides funds for their development, and that 90% of those signing the petition said they'd be willing to help maintain them. He urged the Board to seize the opportunity and take action now.

Doug Hatfield island resident asked the Board to keep the asphalt at Strawberry Packing Plant, saying it is a great place for kids to ride bikes and let kids be kids.

Richard LaBotz island resident urged the Board to keep the asphalt saying the community has not had a chance to consider alternative uses for the area. He said a higher priority should be clearing out invasive species and uncovering the understory in order to gain a clearer feeling for what opportunities the park provides.

Barbara Winther, former Chair of the Historic Preservation Commission, said removing the asphalt takes away more of the cannery and that a display/kiosk could be placed there. She asked that at least a portion of it be left.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the March 26, 2009 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved once corrected as follows.

Accepted corrections from 4/9/09 regular board meeting: Page 2: Change spelling of "Chafant" to "Chalfant"; change "Commissioner Lee" to "Commissioner Cross". Page 3: Change "The motion did not pass" to "The motion did not receive a second"; change "MSC: Lee/DeWitt" to "MSC: Cross/DeWitt". Page 4: Change "the M&E tree farm" to "a portion of the M&E tree farm". Page 5: Robinson: Commodore Trail: Insert "he supports the concept of a trail but noted" before "this trail is primarily for transportation".

Corrections from 4/9/09 regular board meeting after tape was listened to: Page 2: Robinson: Strawberry Packing Plant: Insert "begin the process to" before "hire a landscape architect."

Revisions and inquiries not substantiated by tape – No change to minutes: Page 2: Cross inquiry on: "to see Fort Ward turned into Kampgrounds of America (KOA) site". She asked if she said "Fay Bainbridge". The tape indicates that she said "Fort Ward". Page 5: DeWitt: Commodore Trail: requested that "Board must act quickly" be changed to "City must act quickly". Commissioner DeWitt on tape said: "What I would like to know is the thoughts of what the other board members are. If this is going to happen, we need to get moving on it."

Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the April 9, 2009 regular board meeting, Chair Swolgaard stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: Page 5: Cross, eliminate ", and" at top of page. Page 4: Robinson, correct spelling of "remuneration".

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Robinson/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:

<u>Fund Name</u>	<u>Fund No.</u>	<u>Batch No.</u>	<u>Batch Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Pre-Approv by Exec. Director</u>
General Fund	94952	353219	4/13/09	20,344.06	4/2/09
General Fund	94952		April Payroll	221,854.41	
Capital Imprv Fund	94955	353223	4/13/09	5,319.96	4/2/09

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

STRAWBERRY PACKING PLANTSITE VISITATION RECAP: Senior Planner Perry Barrett began his update on the project by saying SEPA comments on the shoreline project are due May 1. City Planner Peter Best said notification of the comment period was posted in the Bainbridge Review, on the City’s notice board, and that letters were sent the neighbors. Parry Barrett noted that in May, NOAA begins the 106 federal review of all archaeological and historical data on site. Perry Barrett referenced the April 14 site visit by the Board and asked for comments. Discussion followed including: 1) Extension of pier beyond the current 128’ would complicate permitting and affect the view from shore. 2) COBI will remove asphalt at no cost to the Park District if BIMPRD accepts the fill (fill will be clean). Subsequent cost savings would be \$80,000-\$100,000. If all asphalt is removed, the parking envelope will be retained as a possible option (gravel could be used). Whether public process is needed prior to removing asphalt and timeframe implications since decision is needed in May. Constraints on park planning if asphalt is left, and whether asphalt is conducive to a park in this location. Confirmation by Peter Best that if asphalt is removed, the volume of fill is adequate to create gradual slope to water with berms along property lines; any excess would be hauled away by City. **MSC: Robinson/Shorett: That the City be directed to remove all asphalt to the end of the driveway, and replace it with clean fill up to the 2% grade as detailed in the plan and with berms along the property line, and that the City will be responsible for removing excess fill. (3 ayes – 1 Nay Swolgaard)** 3) Preservation of view corridor is a Board priority. Peter Best concurred with this. 4) Design work for pier and bridge needed soon to stage work on these items with what City is doing, and prevent damage to plantings.

STATE PARK/COBI PARK PROPERTIES:

State Parks: Commissioner Robinson said a recent meeting was held with Regional State Parks Director Don Houk, who has provided the information the Board requested, and indicated his direction is to transfer the parks. Board discussion turned to the sewage treatment system at Fay Bainbridge State Parks. Commissioner Shorett said the sewer system is a worthy project and that accepting Fay Bainbridge should be contingent on a State commitment to build it. Commissioner Robinson asked if this is a risk the Board wants to take, and that is possible to indicate a willingness to house the facility at the park and work more with this issue in the future. Executive Director Lande said the sewer issue is separate from the state parks issue, and is one that the local legislators need to represent. District staff has an operating plan that deals with park sewage in a way that does not require the sewage treatment system. Commissioner Cross said she is concerned that the District is being asked to take on two state parks, and wants to be sure the District can maintain and operate them. She said her preference is to see the parks stay in state ownership. Mark Cowan said this is a once in a lifetime opportunity, and to pass it up is unbelievable. He said Fay Bainbridge derives income and is basically self sufficient. He said Fort Ward is only minimally maintained by the State, and if the Park District does only this, it would be acceptable. Commissioner Robinson said they are waiting to see what Olympia decides about the parks, but thinks that with minimal investment, the Park District could do a better job of maintaining the parks than the State is doing. Commissioner Shorett said he only wants to take on the parks if it becomes a necessity. Mark Cowan said this is an opportunity, that the State has never done anything with the parks and is unlikely to in the future. He said the potential for these parks is tremendous. Commissioner Cross indicated that she wants to be in a position to take on the parks if the State decides to close them. Executive Director Lande said it is possible the State will not close the island’s state parks but will transfer them to an entity willing to take them. It was noted there may be others interested. Park Services Director Arlan Elms said staff has determined it will take \$112,000 to maintain the two state parks. Commissioner Robinson asked if the Board was willing to walk away from what

could be two of the crown jewels of the Park District. Arlan Elms referenced the operational plan outlined during the budget process in March, and said he has no doubt that the District can take on these parks. Executive Director Lande said the money is available for these parks if the Board chooses to allocate it for this purpose, and that the two parks will be maintained at a higher level than what is currently done. He said it boils down to a philosophical approach by the Board. He said staff believes these two parks will be a wonderful community asset that will enhance the Park District and those who live on the island. He said that if owned, the parks could be used for recreational programs, trails could be built, volunteer programs implemented. **MSC:**

Robinson/Cross: That staff be directed to continue its research and due diligence in regards to potential issues and concerns related to the State Parks so the Board can be prepared to respond to State Parks if the decision is made to divest the parks.

COBI Properties: Terry Lande said the District's attorney is continuing his review of the title searches and preparing an interim operational agreement for the maintenance of COBI properties by the Park District until the transfer is complete. It is hoped the agreement will be ready when staff next meets with the City Administrator. The properties for transfer are slated for the City Council meeting on May 13 and the Park Board meeting on May 14. Once approved by the elected bodies, the property transfers will undergo a SEPA process. He also said he gave the T'Chookwap resolutions to the City Administrator and told the City the Board has directed him to sign the transfer documents.

SCHOOL DISTRICT MESSAGE: Commissioner Cross said this agenda item was requested by Commissioner Shorett at the last board meeting regarding the upcoming school levy. **MSC: Cross/Shorett: That the Park District express concern to the School District that the gymnasium and playground funded through the school bond measure be designed in a way that maximizes public use.** It was agreed Commissioner Shorett would write a letter and Commissioner Robinson would present it at a School Board meeting.

GENERAL BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2009-8: INTERFUND TRANSFER (GENERAL FUND TO CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND):

MSC: Robinson/Shorett: That Resolution 2009-8, authorizing an interfund transfer of \$200,000 from the General Fund to the Capital Improvement Fund in order to pay for projects specified on the Capital Improvement Plan, be adopted.

RESOLUTION 2009-9: INTERFUND TRANSFER (CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT FUND TO GENERAL FUND):

MSC: Robinson/Cross: That Resolution 2009-9, authorizing an interfund transfer of \$9,592.64 from the Capital Improvement Fund to the General Fund in order to pay for payroll expenses related to the Camp Yeomalt log cabin and Aquatics Center steam room projects, be adopted.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recreation Services Director: John Demeyer: Presented Commissioner Cross with appreciation award for her service as the bunny during the recent egg hunt; the event drew over 1000 participants. Grand opening of refurbished Teen Center is May 8; moving out of pool lobby. Upcoming Girl Scout event at Eagledale Park: "Bark in the Park" featuring vendors and information on dogs.

Park Service Director: Arlan Elms: Earth day focus this year was Pritchard Park where 6 dumptruck loads of ivy were hauled out. Yeomalt cabin phase one is complete. Eagledale landscaping in lower area is complete. Blakely Harbor Park improvements to parking area are done.

Executive Director: Terry Lande: Financial Statement and Audit Report received from State Auditor; very complementary with no findings and two very minor suggestions; a copy has been sent the Bainbridge Review. Old District maps are being categorized, inventoried and archived. Soccer field construction continues with earthmoving, curb forms, and leveling. Accepted as head coach for girl's basketball team at High School. Spring tour of parks: possible date May 30. Staff is looking at 4 City surplus vehicles and will make offer on 2 pick-up trucks, 1 dump truck, and 1 van.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: May 14: Commissioners Swolgaard and Shorett will be gone.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Cross said she loved being the Bunny on the recent egg hunt.
- Commissioner Robinson said he went on a tour of the state parks with Terry and encouraged the other Board Members to do so, saying it helps to get out on the sites, hear the ideas of park professionals, and visualize vision for the future.
- Commissioner Shorett said he met with Terry recently and is impressed with his vision for Fort Ward and Fay Bainbridge, and that it was good to see what he had in mind for the parks.
- Commissioner Swolgaard offered to write a letter of thanks to the fourth grade schools for their participation in the recent ivy pull.
- Commissioner Cross said she was invited to a recent Senior Center Board meeting where she conveyed the recommendation that the two parcels occupied by the Senior Center be dealt with separately from the transfer of Waterfront Park.
- Commissioner Cross said a Parkland Acquisition Committee public meeting will be held on May 19 and that the purpose will be to update the public on what the committee is doing and how the nomination process will be conducted. She said the site nominations will be looked at by committee members and brought to the Board in executive session. She said the committee understands its role is to make recommendations with the Board deciding on which properties will be purchased.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A letter was received from School Superintendent Faith Chapel thanking the Park District for use of the pool parking lot during the high school's construction.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 9:08 pm for discussion of personnel, with announced time to reconvene at 9:30 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 9:34 pm.

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

BY: _____
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: _____
Lee Cross

BY: _____
Kirk B. Robinson

BY: _____
Kenneth R. DeWitt

ATTEST: _____
David L. Shorett - Secretary