

South Whidbey Parks and Recreation District
May 17, 2017 – Regular Meeting Minutes

Regular Meeting Minutes

I. Call to Order

Commissioners Present: Mark Helpenstell, Dennis Hunter and Matt Simms
Staff Present: Doug Coutts, Tom Fallon and Peggy Nelson

Mark called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. The attendance sheet is attached for permanent records only.

II. Public Comment

No public comment.

III. Approval of Minutes

The minutes of the Regular Meeting on April 19, 2017, were unanimously approved in a motion made by Matt and seconded by Dennis.

IV. Treasurer's Report/Voucher List Approval

Matt reviewed the Treasurer's Report with the commissioners.

The ending fund balances, per Island County, were as follows:

- The Maintenance and Operations Fund was \$427,045.70.
- The Capital Fund was \$500.64.
- The Reserve Fund was \$207,451.02.
- The Bond Fund was \$158,153.41.
- The Property Fund was \$20,193.53.

Voucher Approval

In a motion made by Dennis and seconded by Matt, the Board unanimously approved the Maintenance and Operations Fund Vouchers #8161 through #8206 in the amount of \$49,490.72 and electronic tax payments in the amount of \$3,932.60 and the Property Fund Voucher #17 for \$330.00.

V. Staff Report (to be attached for permanent records)

Doug reviewed the Staff Report with the commissioners.

VI. Unfinished Business

A. Comprehensive Plan Programs

This agenda item was discussed during the Staff Report.

B. Campground Status Update

Doug said he reached out to Representative Norma Smith regarding the campground grant and he was told that the grant status had not changed. Doug said he was working

on the campground pre-application and was hoping to submit it to the County by Friday, May 19th.

C. Langley Middle School Opportunity - Discussion

Doug said he did an analysis on moving the Park office to Langley Middle School (LMS) and he said if the Park District was responsible for maintaining the sports field at LMS, we would need to hire at least a seasonal maintenance person and possibly a fulltime person. Doug said the District could not afford to take over the LMS property within our current budget and he did not recommend the Park office move to LMS. Matt said the District should be a participant in conversations about LMS but not pursue moving the Park office to the site.

VII. New Business

A. South Whidbey Parks and Aquatics Foundation – Report/Discussion

Doug said he met with Andrea Newton and Shawn Fowler from the South Whidbey Parks and Aquatics Foundation about what the Park District could do to help the Foundation. Doug said he thought it would be a good idea for the Foundation to have a more regular presence at the Park District Board meetings so he invited them to attend the meetings every two months. Andrea said the Foundation has had unexpected rapid turnover within their board so they are in the process of refocusing and restructuring their board. Andrea said they have organized a few successful fundraising events and the five members of their board are now focused on building a swimming pool on south Whidbey along with promoting other recreational activities. The Foundation board has decided that they will require that if the Foundation is supporting an activity that deviates from building a pool, one board member will need to support that activity. Andrea said the Foundation might partner with Shelly Ackerman to purchase the land behind the Elementary School and work with the turf field committee. Shawn Fowler said she wants to work with the Park District to host the Beat the Heat Waterworks to promote the Foundation. Shawn said the Foundation might have an entry in the Maxwelton Parade to create awareness for the Foundation. Doug said he suggested to the Foundation that they branch out into other activities besides the pool to generate a broader public interest in the Foundation. Matt said that in order for the Park District to complete a capital project such as building a pool, the Park District usually has to go to the public for a bond although the District applied for a grant to build the campground. Matt discussed the Project Matrix with the meeting participants. Mark said he recommended that the Foundation stay in touch with the Park District as they work on projects so that the hours they work can be applied towards a grant. Andrea said she went to a build-a-pool conference and the costs and methods of building pools are continually changing and she offered to pay for someone from the Park District to attend the conference this fall in Denver. Mark requested a written report from the Foundation before the next Park District Board meeting they attend.

B. Potential Park Property – Discussion/Matrix

Doug displayed an aerial view of the property site that is for sale (next to the trails behind the Elementary School). Doug said he met with Shelly Ackerman, Save the Trails coordinator, and the property owner (a Waterman family representative) to

discuss the property for sale. Doug said the Park District has already extended itself by purchasing the campground property but wanted to present the property to the commissioners. Doug said if the commissioners wanted to purchase the land, the District could have a ballot measure on the ballot to purchase the land or work on raising funds through a capital campaign. Matt asked if the owner had a preference on who purchased the property and Shelly said the owner wants the purchaser to keep the land in the same condition that it is in now and is willing to wait until November until the Park District ran a ballot measure. Doug said the Waterman family has applied for a permit to log the property. Matt said the purpose of one of the grants programs is to preserve land so this piece of property is the type of property that would score well for this grant program. Shelly said she did not think that the property owner was in a hurry to sell the property. Matt said Shelly could work with the Foundation and the Park District to create a committee to work on purchasing the property along with building a grants package. Doug said they should work on an accompanying capital campaign which would help the grant application. Matt said they should keep someone from the School District engaged in conversations about the property.

VIII. Adjournment

There being no further business the meeting was adjourned at 7:25 p.m.