

MEETING MINUTES

October 5, 2010

Orcas Island Park and Recreation District Commission
Special Meeting, Tuesday, October 5, 2010
Enzo's 365 N Beach Rd, Eastsound
8:00 A.M-9:00 A.M.

I. CALL TO ORDER (8:00)

Martha Farish, Chairman

Roll call:

Seat 1: Vicki Vandermay - present
Seat 2: Bob Eagan - present
Seat 3: Martha Farish - present
Seat 4: Jim Bredouw - present
Seat 5: Ian Lister – present

II. OLD BUSINESS (8:00)

Review and edit of Frequently Asked Questions and Responses for the November ballot levy vote.

Draft and edits posted with addenda.

III. NEW BUSINESS (8:58)

Review letter and petition from tennis users.
Draft Oct. 13th letter

IV. PUBLIC COMMENT (9:35)

none

Motion: To adjourn

- Martha, 2nd Bob
- deliberations: some minor edits
- unanimously aye

V. ADJOURNMENT (9:35)

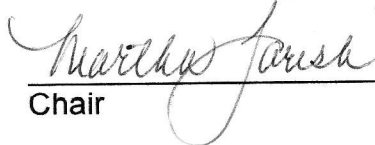
Addenda:

Paper document: Frequently Asked Questions, 3 pgs.

Paper document: Buck Park Tennis News Summer 2010, 2 pgs.

~~Regular~~ ^{Special} Public Meeting minutes for October 5, 2010
Approved by motion on this 18th day of October, 2012
Signed and attested this 18th day of October, 2012


Secretary


Chair

There will be a levy vote on this November's ballot to fund your Orcas Park and Rec District

These are Frequently Asked Questions about it

1. Didn't we already vote on an Orcas Island Park and Rec District (OIPRD)?

Yes. Last year, in 2009, 77% of Orcas voters approved the formation of the District and elected 5 volunteer commissioners, but not its funding. Since then these Commissioners, via public meetings, have worked to create a budget for proposed recreational programs, services, maintenance and repair of facilities that they feel make sense to be included in the proposed budget. (You can view this at "OrcasParkAndRec.com"). You are being asked to approve 10 cents per \$1,000 of assessed property value.

2. How much will this cost me?

If you don't own property, nothing. If you own property on Orcas, you'll pay \$5/month for a \$600,000 property assessment. Much of it will also be paid by non-residents who own property here. After the life of this levy expires, which will be in six years, the cost will reset back to zero, unless the public votes to extend it at that time.

3. What are we paying for?

You are paying for programs that have proven their value and popularity to a wide variety of people on Orcas. Outdoor programs like tennis, soccer, volleyball, sailing, basketball and swimming; indoor programs that give kids a constructive place to be after school and on weekends and chances for adults to play basketball or volleyball in a gym throughout the winter. You're also paying for the opportunity for adults, seniors and kids to take classes in subjects like computers, music and art.

(Alternate answer)

Many things. Outdoor programs that focus on myriad sports (soccer, baseball, sailing, tennis, volleyball, basketball, swimming) and other activities; indoor programs that give kids a constructive place to be after school and on weekends, as well as health and education-related programs for seniors; ongoing education classes for adults and kids (music, art, computers, etc.) and some maintenance of some of our park areas; Buck Park being initially a primary focus.

4. How did you come up with your budget?

In the months since the formation of the District, the Commissioners have looked at community recreational needs, what has worked in the past, what programs seem essential, and where we could gain financial efficiencies by working to mutual advantage with other community organizations. We determined likely costs for repairing Buck Park and resurfacing the tennis courts. We built a budget that will address the current needs and yet will be solid and flexible enough to respond to opportunities as they arise.

WHY IS BUCK PARK PART OF THE BUDGET

5. Buck Park is technically school property. Why should the public pay anything more to maintain it?

Buck Park was a substantial gift to the community that was ^{N'T} never intended to be owned nor maintained by the school district. ^{IT} They agreed to accept it when it was donated in 19__, as there were few other alternatives at the time, with the understanding that it would eventually be maintained by public monies. Because the school district is primarily focused on educating our children and has its own significant budgetary challenges, Buck Park is understandably ^{NOT} one of its ~~lowest~~ ^{HIGHEST} priorities and its upkeep and maintenance consequently suffers substantially.

(Alternate answer)

Buck Park was a gift to our community and was never intended to be owned by the school. They are not in the park maintenance business—they exist to spend precious dollars on educating kids. When the park gift was made, the school was the only organization capable of managing the property, so they accepted it. We are proposing that the community take financial responsibility, through the Park and Rec District to help repair and maintain this valuable community asset.

^{WOULD}
6. Wouldn't all these programs and services be better provided by a non-profit?

There are over 60 non-profits on Orcas doing yeoman's work for the community, all vying for precious donor support. None have the mission of providing broad recreational opportunities to the community-at-large and none are financially able to assume maintenance and repair of public facilities, nor are any non-profits likely to step into this breach anytime soon. The programs and ~~services~~ proposed are slated to be de-funded by the County and the facilities mentioned are in jeopardy of falling into worse repair without public support. After years of support almost solely from hundreds of volunteers and generous donors, these programs, facilities and services now need public ~~support to survive.~~ ^{HELP}

(Do we want to use any of Keith's quotes? This is from Bullwings coverage of our OIPRD May 5 mtg: Keith Whitaker, a recent Orcas School District (OISD) Board member and now OISD Business Manager, pointed out that Orcas Rec Program was "an anomaly; it was not a stand-alone 501c3; it was a hybrid with the county. "Buck Park is another anomaly; it's an unusual situation because the school should not have taken ownership or operation of Buck Park; it is excessive real estate with no funding to maintain it. "At the time, [the school district] was able to preserve the park for the community," Whitaker said, but added that in future, due to school budget and state funding considerations, **it was likely that the school "would have to shut the park for liability reasons."**

Two optional questions that Martha felt weren't necessary:

What about the Village Green?

§ The County committed to maintain this in the 2009 levy lift that passed for the following 6 years, so it is not on our budget.

Is the budget cast in stone?

§ No. The amount the public will pay cannot increase by more than 1% annually, so it is virtually fixed. How the money is spent is not, however, and will be flexible and, if funded, will be adjustable pending a combination of public comment/sentiment and the commissioners regular review of how successfully and effectively the public's money is being allocated.

BUCK PARK TENNIS NEWS SUMMER 2010

There was quite a bit of activity in July & Aug at the courts at Buck Park. There were many days when there eight players on the courts and others waiting. The ten or twelve local women who have been a year round presence, were out again regularly, and The Saturday and Wednesday pick up games were well attended. We were treated too by some very excellent players, of all ages, who showed up from off Island.

The Orcas Island tennis association ran for all of July and couple weeks in August a junior clinic. There were over 15 different kids, ages 8-12 who showed up on a regular basis. Many thanks to Thomas, Lydia, Beth, Liz and all others who helped put this together. It is our hope that this may hatch a group of young players.

There too was some maintenance done. Patching of holes in the courts, some fence, net and bench repairs. The landscaping on the south end still goes on, there were seven or eight new trees planted. The washing of the playing surface was not done this year, due to the fact that the surface is now very worn and thin. The windscreens were not put up, we have only enough for one end, and they too are well worn.

The information in this letter is a call-out to the school, park & rec. dept, and the community to acknowledge that the courts at Buck Park are a resource used by the school, many members of this community and a good many visitors. The facility has been there a long time and is in need of some care, maintenance and upgrading. Perhaps it is now time to look into adding a third court on the asphalt between the courts & Mt. Baker Rd. There are organizations out there which have funds for helping small communities with upgrading sports facilities, we are pursuing that.

We encourage the park & rec. people to step up and help us preserve this facility.

Thank You:

Name	Phone	Email
Cindy Elliott	4462	celliott@Orcas.k12.wa.us
Jeanne Lieblin	3285	lieblinxx@netscape.net
Zee Roemer	2708	ZR@centurytel.net
Midge Kraetzer	2373	Kraetzer@centurytel.net
Nichelle Homan	2188	
Konnie Millsap	2188	
Thomas Lieblin	3063	liblik@ORCONLINE.WA
John Miller	4050	flash@rockisland

Name

Phone

Email

Rosedarie Cadet

danice61@yahoo.mail.

Jonatha White

3346

Miri Plowman

2858

MIRI PLOWMAN@GMAIL.COM

Mary A Howe

376-2945

howeart@centurytel.net