

Meeting Minutes

Orcas Island Park and Recreation District Commission Special Meeting

Friday, January 20, 2023 – 10:30 AM
Buck Park – Baseball/Softball Fields
Eastsound, WA

I. **CALL TO ORDER** 10:38 a.m.

Bob Eagan, Chairman

Roll call:

Seat 1: Denis Dahl - absent

Seat 2: Bob Eagan - present

Seat 3: Barry Madan – present (arrived 12:05 p.m.)

Seat 4: Justin Paulsen - present

Seat 5: Deborah Jones – present

Staff present: Terri Rodgers, Alfred Bentley

II. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Public members present:

Don Campbell (RWD Landscape Architects), Ron Griffin, Kyle Griffin (Griffin Yard Works)

Lilly Rodgers (OISD Softball Coach), Eli Sanders (OISD Baseball Coach)

III. **NEW BUSINESS**

1. On-site visit to Buck Park Baseball and Softball Fields with RWD Landscape Architects to discuss conditions of ball fields.

Commissioners and staff present met with RWD Landscape Architects representative, Don Campbell to walk and visually inspect the baseball and softball fields. Ron and Kyle Griffin with Griffin Yard Works were in attendance to provide input on previous maintenance. Discussion points included the following:

Field elevations and slope

Drainage

Past maintenance and history of the ball fields

Irrigation and water well system

Don Campbell stated he would be looking at the fields from the perspective of fairness for all teams and players, playability, and safety. During his visit, Don will take elevations, field measurements, soil samples and assess compaction in the infield and outfield.

The group discussed short-term and long-term goals and the possibility of phasing improvements based on the final assessment report and projected costs. RCO grants were also discussed. The next opportunity to apply for the grant is in 2024.

Lilly Rodgers and Eli Sanders joined the group at 12:00 noon to provide their input as head coaches of the high school softball and baseball teams. They shared their experience on the field and both noted excessive rocks in the infield, drainage issues, safety issues when players slide to bases on their respective fields. During the discussion, Justin suggested that Field 1 would also be a priority in case Field 2 or Field 3 were not playable. Eli Sanders did not understand the context of Justin's comment. Eli became agitated and was combative and expressed very aggressive language. Eli also stated while pointing at Justin, "I'm coming after your job". After several people tried to de-escalate the conversation, Eli finally calmed down and left the field. Deb left the meeting at 12:00 Noon. Barry joined the meeting at 12:05.

Don Campbell noted that he didn't see any significant issues that could not be addressed on the baseball field and all and all the infield looked pretty good. Again, he stated that the soil testing will be an important part of his assessment.

The group walked over to the softball field and Don immediately stated the elevation difference between the pitching rubber and home plate was obvious. The infield was also saturated and spongy. Don noted the large lip between the infield and outfield and several humps in the outfield. Don stated the softball field is in worse condition than the baseball field.

Don stated that he would continue with his assessment and take soil samples from both infields and outfields (approximately 5 gallons). The soil testing will take approximately 4 weeks and will give us information on what will be needed to achieve ASTM standards for infield material. Don indicated that OIPRD would receive the written assessment report by the first or second week of March.

IV. ADJOURNMENT

Motion to adjourn at 12:43 p.m. by Justin, Second by Barry. With no further discussion the meeting was adjourned at 12:43 p.m.

Addenda:

None

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Approved by motion on this

9th day of February 2023

Signed and attested this

9th day of February 2023

Justin Paulsen, Commissioner #4
Secretary

Bob Eagan, Commissioner #2
Chair