

KEY PENINSULA METROPOLITAN PARK DISTRICT

d.b.a. KEY PENINSULA METRO PARKS

P.O. Box 70, Lakebay, Wa. 98349

Special Issue Public Meeting

Monday, January 17, 2005

The meeting was called to order at 6:30PM at the Peninsula Light Company meeting room, 13315 Goodnough Drive, Gig Harbor (Purdy area) by Paula DeMoss, President KPMPD.

Commissioners Present: Paula DeMoss president, Jerry Schick vice president, Kip Clinton clerk, Ross Bischoff member-at-large, Caril Ridley member-at-large.

Citizens Present: Larry Wakefield, Nancy Wakefield, Sue Tebeau, Tony Tebeau, Betty Garrison, Paul Garrison, Mike Salatino, Allen Yanity, Jack Morgan, Anna J. White, Russ Humberd, Kristin Sasseen, Betty Ormbrek, Bruce Murray, Jane Hoffecker, Bob Ryan, Dorothy Jimenez, Nancy Lind, Jan Wolcott
Pierce County Park and Recreation Director.

Topic: Old Wauna Post Office Building

Presentation by Friends of the Old Wauna Post Office: Nancy Lind, representing the Friends of the Old Wauna Post Office presented their vision for the building. They had Terry Nettles, civil engineer, survey the building in spring of 2004 and his study indicated that it could be restored but it did not include a cost estimate. One of the FOWPO members estimated that materials needed to secure the building would cost \$6200.00 (which is under the \$59,000 rule for sanitation). They need to have an architect design and estimate actual restoration costs. Sewage from use of the OWPO would be pumped to another location across the highway away from the waterfront. Land would have to be acquired for this use. They plan on accessing the water system used by the closest neighbors. Part of the building would be rented for office use (insurance agent?) with the remainder used as an information kiosk. Nancy Lind cited, as an example, the Sa'qad Interpretive Center (a renovated old barn) in Silverdale, Kitsap County near Dyes Inlet and along their Clear Creek Trail. They have no solution for the project's impact on Hwy 302 traffic or Wauna Boat Launch parking. FOWPO need a public agency to sponsor (own) the project and to insure for liability. Their prospective sponsors are KPMPD, (Gig Harbor) Peninsula Metropolitan Park District or the Gig Harbor Historical Society. FOWPO promise that no restoration funds will come out of the sponsoring agency's budget. They would not begin the project until they raise \$100,000.00 but they have no firm plans for the funding sources.

Public Comment: Most Key Peninsula residents spoke against restoring the Old Wauna Post Office Building. They are concerned about additional impacts on traffic and parking from any use of the building. They feel that it is dangerous to encourage additional pedestrian traffic at that location without major changes to the highway (which probably will not happen in our lifetimes) and are worried of liability to KPMPD. The neighbors say that powder post beetle and rot are throughout the structure and a bulkhead is needed. With the need for sanitary facilities, access and improvements to the community water system and land acquisition for a drainfield in addition to building repair, several people stated that \$100,000.00 and matching grant funds would not begin to cover the building's costs. They feel that the new metro park district should not take this project on simply because of the liability and the cost of the project (no matter promises by FOWPO). Many of the citizens present use the Wauna Boat Launch. They feel the vacant building currently impacts the usefulness of the boat launch; most people there would prefer that the Wauna Boat Launch be repair instead of the building repaired. Nancy Wakefield is the water manager for the Wauna water system. She said the OWPO building has water rights in their system, but any commercial use would require that their private system would have to be substantially upgraded as required by code. She wondered who would bear those continuing costs. The consensus of the citizens present was to remove the building and replace it with a historical marker/kiosk (while improving the boat launch—which is a Pierce County Public Works facility).

Pierce County Park and Recreation Department Comment: Jan Wolcott, Director of Pierce County Park and Recreation, stated that the Old Wauna Post Office building is part of the Purdy Sandspit Park. He said that several years ago PC Parks went to the Landmarks Commission at Pierce County Planning and Land Services to request that the OWPO be removed from the landmarks register so that PCPR could tear the building down. He said that Pierce County Park and Recreation is in the park and recreation business, not historic preservation. The LMC contacted the KP Historical Society which formed FOWPO to save the building and that is what got us all to this point. PCPR would still like to tear the building down. He said that over the 15 to 20 years that they have possessed the OWPO, commercial interests have talked to them about occupying the building, but that it has proven too costly for those businesses to repair the building and bring it up to code. He did say that Pierce County Park and Recreation is interested in transferring the Purdy Sandspit and any adjacent county park properties to KPMPD. (He recommends that KPMPD not get in the boat launch business—that is Public Works responsibility.) Jan Wolcott kindly took questions from the citizens present. The citizens indicated interest in going the Landmarks Commission themselves to request removal of landmarks designation for the OWPO and removal of the building.

Resulting Action: Friends of the Old Wauna Post Office, withdrew the proposal. The neighbors will support KPMPD when they wish to acquire the Purdy Sandspit as a park. They think a historical marker or kiosk about the old Goldman Store and the Mosquito Fleet is appropriate at that spot. They would like the KPMPD to partner with various Pierce County Departments to improve the Wauna Boat Launch. They would also support the development of some sort of secure, safe, public restroom facility on the Purdy Sandspit. It is possible that they may be persuaded to form a Friends of Purdy Sandspit Park when KPMPD acquires the land.

Meeting Adjourned: The meeting of January 17, 2005, was adjourned at 8:10PM. The next single topic (Civic Center) KPMPD meeting will be at the KPSCF (Volunteer Park) Annex at 7:30 PM on Tuesday, January 25, 2005. The next regular KPMPD meeting will be on Tuesday February 1, 2005, at 7:30PM at the KPSCF Annex. The next KPPRD meeting may be on Monday January 24, 2005, at 7:30PM at the KPSCF Annex.

Respectfully submitted by Kip Clinton, Clerk/Financial Officer KPMPD.