

R.I.I.A. BOARD MEETING

FEB. 20, 2023 7:00

All Saints Camp, Raft Island

Board Members Present: Hurley, Crain, West, Scea, Fort, Figueira, Phillips, Flood, Rees, Weiss

Board Members Absent:

Members Present: Barbara Daelman, Susie Roberts, Cliff Quisenberry, Chor Li

Request to Add Agenda Items:

Susie Roberts requests to add a discussion on a change to the by-laws concerning public roads

Member's Request to Address Board:

Gene Barkin asked to address the board concerning the upcoming Special Meeting vote:

Voting for anything without considering all the implications of the decision is unwise. We all want safety and security, and the island has already created a committee to examine the feasibility, engineering challenges, location, and costs (planning, permitting, construction, management, right-of-way issues, maintenance, etc.). After the facts are collected and presented to the membership, *a meaningful vote will be held.*

A cosmetic "declaration of interest" in having a gate opens the door to the results being used to suggest that an informed island membership has voted for a gate and is directing the board to "get it done", when in fact an uninformed voter is merely being asked if they want a gate, without any

consideration of the many factors any voter should be aware of.

WOULD YOU WANT A GATE...

- • If you knew a gate won't actually prevent crime on the island (it may deter some property crime) and gates actually increase some kinds of crime in gated communities?¹ Raft Island has the lowest crime rate on the Gig Harbor Peninsula which has among the lowest crime rates in Washington State².
- • If you learned that installing a gate would trigger the bridge loan being "called" by the USDA, resulting in a lien placed on every homeowner's property for their share of the remaining loan balance (~\$20,000 per household) or forcing the Board to obtain a new loan at much less favorable terms?³
- • If you found out that it was much more expensive than you previously thought? Would you write a blank check for a gate?
- • If you learned that it violated the current bylaws of the island?⁴
- • If you learned that because of the foregoing, previous attempts to install a gate were rejected by island residents, even though they proposed leaving the gates open during peak travel hours?⁵
- • If you knew that a gate will only affect car traffic, and pedestrian traffic will still be able to access the island? That any car can access the island by simply following a resident through the open gate? That the gate will likely remain open during peak traffic hours to alleviate congestion? That bridge jumpers almost exclusively access the bridge from the boat dock, having arrived by boat?
- • If you knew that no one with a locking mailbox has come forward to report their mail being stolen?
- If you learned that many other island improvement projects would remain unaddressed because of lack of funds, since those funds were spent on a gate?

If even one of these considerations gives you pause, please vote NO on the March 21 Special Meeting ballot. Attempts to get a third option "Not enough information to vote yes or no" put on the ballot were rejected, since only the person who requested the special meeting can alter the ballot. The meeting proposal clearly explains that the intention is to glean interest in having a gate without any facts that would permit an informed vote. Vote NO until you can cast an informed vote.

Susie Roberts also asked to address the board:

The October 2022 Gate Committee meeting minutes which were on the web at the end of December timeframe contained misinformation that is reported as fact by the recorder. I went back to print out a copy of these minutes prior to the February board meeting and they had been removed. Those original meeting minutes showed complete and utter bias against having a gate on Raft Island and gave the impression that the gate committee itself was working against a gate, contrary to their assigned purpose. The minutes read to the effect of "Another reason why we cannot have a gate is that it is against the Raft Island By-Laws" This is not what the By-Laws say. The amended By Laws from May 2016:

"All roads and bridges are open to all members and the public. RIIA does not and will not restrict access to the roads or bridge in order to qualify for an anticipated need to apply for a USDA loan for repaving roads"

Islanders who would like a gate, feel like this is "smoke and mirrors". Most reading those minutes would think we cannot have a gate, which is not necessarily true. This contributes to the feelings of many that the gate committee and the board are actually working against a gate. This post on the community page prompted many to speak out on their experiences on the gate committee that they felt the same way. The mistrust comes from the very minutes of the meeting, prompted much discussion on the community page and is actually what led to the request for a Special Meeting because it was felt a true measure of what membership wants was needed.

It happens again in the January meeting (which I attended via Zoom) I was reassured however that there are those on the committee who are honestly working towards fairly exploring all options open to us.... until I read the minutes of the meeting. Again, the secretary mentions the by-laws as not

allowing for the gate in the beginning portion of the minutes. Then Matt Hurley clarifies during the meeting that that is not what the by-laws state but then again towards the end of the meeting the secretary writes there is a two-pronged problem in getting a gate- the USDA access issue and the By-Laws state we cannot have a gate. Clearly she is not getting the message! She continues to purposely slant the meeting minutes against a gate and this kind of bias is at the core of why island members don't trust the gate committee and Island leadership. I was at the meeting, felt it was fair, but reading the minutes again, the message is that the USDA won't allow a gate and the By-Laws don't allow a gate. Pure bias by the recorder.

Minutes should not be posted until they are reviewed for correctness and neutrality. This is a hot button issue and needs to be dealt with fairly.

Approval of minutes:

- Approval of Jan. minutes - approved

Treasurer's Report – Scea sent the draft audit out for review There are no problems with it, so she will sign it.

- Status of legal actions
 - Sprague – no update
 - Sylvain – action is postponed

Old Business:

Snow policy - Rees drafted a snow policy for discussion. Ray Swift, Tom Phillips, Chuck Snyder volunteered to be on the snow team and will meet with Rees to further refine the draft and research where the stockpile of sand and salt can be stored. Bonnie will update the policy accordingly for next Board review.

New Business:

- Bridge Inspection – this is a required inspection and must be done for fire insurance purposes. It will be done this spring.

- Special meeting on gate vote - The date, March 21 and time at 6PM was briefly discussed. The membership was encouraged to vote

Committee Reports

- Roads –There will be a work party to remove the rust from the bridge railings on March 25th.
- Gate Committee – there was a discussion on questions to take to the USDA and whether or not to hire a lawyer to review the questions. The decision was that finding and hiring a lawyer would not fit within the time line the committee wants to initiate a discussion with the USDA Rural Development Office in Olympia.
- Security -
- Parks and Recreation – work party at tennis court park – on April 29th after Tom Phillips has an arborist stop over and give any ideas of what to plant for trees or a general assessment of the area.
- Emergency Planning – Kari Figueira would like to have help as she has not had the time to pursue this like she would like to.

Respectfully submitted,
RJ West
Secretary