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But despite a thorough search of their records, school district officials say they can find no documentation of the Rossers' easement claim to the eastern edge of the property and in fact unearthed a 1957 document that appears to counter it. What's more, both a title search and a survey by long-time Island surveyor Jerry O'Hare show that the driveway belongs to the school district, with an easement that allows the Rossers to use it, not the other way around.

Without documentation, school Superintendent Michael Soltman said, the district can't give an easement on the eastern swath to the Rossers, as that amounts to giving away public property, a violation of state law. The park district, however, has crafted a settlement proposal that would give the Rossers use of the strip on an as-needed basis. The Rossers, according to Hackett, have declined the offer.

On Monday, a King County court commissioner will decide if there's enough merit to the park district's claims about the property's boundaries to issue a temporary restraining order, preventing Gay Rosser from blocking the driveway again or taking other similar actions. The issue will then go to a judge, who will "quiet the title," or determine exactly where the property's boundaries are.

Hackett said the park district did not want to take the issue to court, as it will cost the district several thousand dollars in lawyers' fees. But he said a series of incidents has forced the district's hand. Last spring, for instance, Gay Rosser removed portions of the park district's fence and drove her car onto the park district's fields, according to an affidavit signed by park district Executive Director Wendy Braicks and filed in King County Superior Court.

"We have a project to complete, and Gay Rosser is standing in the way of it," Hackett said.

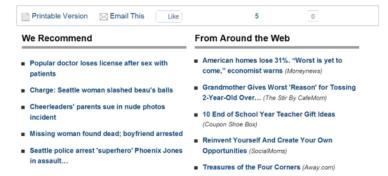
Ray Aspiri, a long-time Islander who stepped in last year to try to help resolve the conflict, said he's sorry it's come to this.

The Rossers, he added, "genuinely feel they've been taken advantage of." Initially, he said, park district officials didn't communicate as well or clearly with the Rossers as they should have. But the settlement the park district has come up with seems to make sense, Aspiri said, and he's disappointed the Rossers won't agree to it.

"I feel badly that they can't find a resolution. I thought we got the school district and the park district to reach out to them, but it wasn't enough to satisfy Gay and Margaret," he said.

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