

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
PUBLIC MEETING: PUMP TRACK PRESENTATION FOR BATTLE POINT PARK
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER - MAY 5, 2016**

CALL TO ORDER: A quorum being present, the public meeting was called to order at 6:03 pm by Chair Tom Swolgaard.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken DeWitt, Kirk Robinson, Tom Swolgaard. Absent: Lee Cross, Jay Kinney.

Chair Swolgaard welcomed everyone, saying a presentation for a pump track at Battle Point Park was being made this evening that would be followed by a public comment period.

PRESENTATION

Park Services Director Dan Hamlin began by providing background on tonight's presentation. The pump track was first proposed to the Park Board at the May 1, 2014 board meeting by the Gear Grinders and Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance. The board asked for additional information and an inventory of preferred sites. At the March 3, 2016 board meeting, the group came back with the results of their research and proposed four sites as possible pump track locations: Battle Point Park, Strawberry Hill Park, Fort Ward Park, and Hilltop. Battle Point Park was their first choice due to its central location and access to trails. The board agreed with this choice and asked them to bring back a proposed concept plan for a pump track at Battle Point Park. This is what will be presented tonight.

The first part of the presentation was made by John Benjes, head coach of the middle school Gear Grinders Mountain Bike Team and president of the Bainbridge Island Mountain Bike Club. The project includes two pump tracks, one that can be used to introduce people to mountain biking, and one that is larger. The track will have two entry points. It will be made of dirt, and will consist of berms and rollers with grass and vegetation alongside the track. It is a basic pump track designed for families and is intended to get kids into mountain biking. Mountain biking is one of the fastest growing sports for youth in the country, and pump tracks are a great way to develop mountain biking skills.

Fundraising has begun and he is confident the club will be able to cover the cost of the material. Brian Kilpatrick with the West Sound Chapter of Evergreen Mountain Bike Alliance is involved in building high quality pump tracks. He said this design is not complicated to build, and when done, people will barely know it's there. Because of the fundraising and volunteer efforts of the various groups, there will be no cost to the District for the pump track.

Board members asked several questions including a request for clarification on the size of the pump track. John Benjes confirmed that the size will be 125' x 150' as the board was previously told.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Following the presentation, Chair Swolgaard opened the meeting up to public comments.

Mary Romeo, Battle Point Park neighbor, asked whether there will be lights and what the noise level will be. She was told there will not be lights, and that any noise from the pump track will come from kids having fun. The pump track can have approximately 6-7 kids on it at once, and is not built for competition or contests.

Connor LaCroit, a youth mountain biker, spoke in support of the pump track saying it will increase training options for kids and help develop balance. It will provide better visibility for coaches when training kids as well as parents who want to keep an eye on their children as they start biking.

Heidi Watson, island resident, spoke in support of the pump track saying it will be a great addition to the island that can be used by both kids and adults.

Jason Wilkinson, island resident, spoke in support of the project, saying he is new to the island and pleased with this great volunteer effort.

Kelly Muldrow, island resident and Gear Grinders ride leader, spoke in support of the pump track and specifically the banked turns it will include. The island currently does not have a place where kids can learn how to do banked turns, and this will provide a way to develop confidence and make riding safer.

David Parker, island resident, said bikes with fat tires work great on pump tracks.

Darlene Kordonowy, island resident, spoke in support of the project saying it will provide a great way for kids and parents to learn together, and that groups like the Gear Grinders develop not only skills and confidence in children, but also leaders.

Phillip Powell, island resident, expressed concern about injuries occurring when there is a lack of supervision, and the subsequent burden of litigation costs. He asked if skateboarders could use the pump track, and was told it's unlikely that they would want to since the pump track will be made of dirt and skateboarders prefer a smooth surface.

Connor LaCroit, a youth mountain biker, commented on the concerns just expressed saying injuries are more likely to occur on trails where people can't see what is coming up, than on a pump track.

Gordon Black, Gear Grinders coach and Park District instructor, expressed enthusiasm over the pump track and its benefit for summer park activities.

Micki Wilkinson, a young mountain biker, said he often rides to Battle Point Park and it will be fun to have something to do when he gets there.

Jessica Henderson, island resident, said she just moved near Battle Point Park and loves having another option there for the kids.

CONCLUSION

Following the public comment period, John Benjes said the pump track should not take long to build and that they hope to have it underway this summer. Park District Executive Director Terry Lande said the pump track will replace the rarely used volleyball court in the park, so one active use will replace another. Commissioner Robinson said one of the appeals for this project is that it doesn't require cars to get there; people have the option of riding their bikes on trails to reach the pump track. Chair Swolgaard thanked everyone for coming.

Meeting concluded at 6:36 pm.

Elizabeth R. Shepherd
Terry M. Lande
BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN
PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT

BY:  _____

John Thomas Swolgaard

BY:  _____

Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: _____

Lee Cross

BY:  _____

Kirk B. Robinson

ATTEST: _____

Jay C. Kinney