

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
 REGULAR BOARD MEETING JUNE 15, 2017
 BAINBRIDGE ISLAND AQUATIC CENTER**

CALL TO ORDER A quorum being present, the meeting was called to order at 6:02 pm by Chair DeWitt.

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

STAFF MEMBERS PRESENT: Terry Lande, Perry Barrett, Bryan Garoutte, Dan Hamlin, David Harry, Lori Mejia, Elizabeth Shepherd, Amy Swenson.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Resolution 2017-09 was moved to the top of the agenda.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Public comments related to the disc golf proposal were made during the agenda item "Proposed Disc Golf Course at Battle Point Park".

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the June 1, 2017 regular board meeting other than the following typos Commissioner Cross submitted for correction, Chair DeWitt stated the minutes stand approved. p. 2: change "June 1" to "May 18"; change "2105" to "2015"; p. 3: change "restraints" to "constraints"; p. 4: correct spelling of Sakai.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Cross/Kinney: Vouchers audited and certified by the auditing officer as required by RCW 42.24.080, and those expense reimbursement claims certified as required by RCW 42.24.090, have been recorded on a listing that has been made available to the Board. As of this date, the Board, by a unanimous vote, does approve for payment those vouchers included in the above list and summarized as follows:

Batch Dated	Batch Amt	Fund No.	Fund Name	Fund Amt	Pre-Approved
5/16/17	22,414.41	001	General	16,481.25	6/1/17
		300	Capital	5,933.16	
6/9/17	41,917.81	001	General	40,910.95	6/9/17
		300	Capital	1,006.86	
April	Payroll	001	General	370,814.11	
May	Payroll	001	General	373,500.41	
May	Payroll	001	General	2,747.56	
6/13/17	68,960.13	001	General	57,265.45	6/12/17
		300	Capital	11,694.68	

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

PROPOSED DISC GOLF COURSE AT BATTLE POINT PARK: Park Services Director Dan Hamlin said the disc golf proposal has been discussed at three prior board meetings including the public hearing held on 6/1/17. The proposal is on the agenda tonight for possible approval. Disc golf proponent Greg Scharrer said in response to the comments from the 6/1/17 public hearing, that the disc golf group is voluntarily modifying their course design to include only the nine holes in the south end of the park. The revised course would not go in the north end of the park designated for

passive use. If possible, he said they would still love to see an additional four to six holes in the central area of the park north of the turf fields. The audience responded with applause to the course being modified to nine holes in the south, but objected to having any additional holes north of the ballfields. Several questions regarding the proposal were raised by members of the public some of which included: 1) Will there be protective netting? No, since the course has been laid out carefully to ensure there will be sufficient buffers; 2) What is the cost to use the course? No cost, unless as staff pointed out, there is an organized event; 3) Will the holes by the south pond be used during periods of bird migration? This would be addressed by staff as an operational matter; 4) How many holes in the south end have discs being thrown towards the ballfields? None, people's backs are to this area when throwing discs; 5) Who deals with insurance? Coverage is provided through the Park District's insurance.

Chair DeWitt then opened the agenda item up to public comments.

Paul Wright, President of the West Sound Disc Golf Association, said he was asked early on for assistance in designing this course. He relayed his extensive experience with disc golf and designing courses. As a retired fire chief, he is very conscious of safety, and outlined special considerations needed for a multi-use park. He pointed out the limitations of online research noting it can give people a sense that they understand disc golf without providing awareness of what is actually involved. He said a disc golf course is a work in progress with adjustments made as it is used. He is committed to helping make the course at Battle Point Park an asset to the community.

Tim Hoppin, island resident, has played disc golf for 20 years and taught his son to play. He supports the proposal for two reasons: 1) Limited lack of options on the island that are free and unstructured. Team sports become more competitive as children get older and not everyone makes the team. Disc golf is inclusive, available for all skill levels, casual and free. 2) Parks are common ground for everyone. They are places to share, where respect and consideration for others can be learned. Disc golf requires people to develop safe and respectful behavior. Denying programs like disc golf reduces the opportunities available for people to practice the ideals our community holds dear.

Rich McClelland, park neighbor for 19 years, is an avid park user and disc golf player. When playing, he's had nothing but positive interactions with people, and said the discs don't go as far as people think. He said a number of the schools on the island support the sport, and he'd love to see the kids have a place on the island to play.

Peter Kepler, island resident and long-time user of the park, spoke in support of the proposed disc golf course. He noted that most opponents seem to be concerned because they've gotten their information from the internet or through reading and don't really know what to expect. He said that those making this proposal know disc golf can work. It's been successful all throughout the county. They have been throwing this course at Battle Point Park for months and had no problems. They are ready to be flexible, and want it to be something that can work for everyone.

John Mitchell, park neighbor, said he spoke against the proposed disc golf course at the 6/1/17 special board meeting, and asked then that the board reschedule tonight's consideration of the proposal until later this summer. Without comment, he said the board denied his request. He said the only notice of the proposal was given to the neighbors, and that the deadline for comments was prior to newspaper coverage. He said there is the appearance that the board is fast-tracking this proposal. He made two requests: 1) Postpone the decision on the proposed disc golf course for two months; 2) Appoint a citizen's advisory committee to study the proposal. If his request is denied, he requested that the board state publically why they continue to deny adequate notice of this proposal to the citizens of Bainbridge Island.

Ken Guy, island resident for 38 years, encouraged the board to support the proposal, saying disc golf has many benefits and is another way to enjoy the park. It also supports new school programs that are being developed for disc golf, which he said his wife, Cindy Guy, a PE teacher at Woodward Middle School, has been involved with. He thinks

the questions that are being asked by the community are fair questions for the board to consider, and thinks the proposal adequately addresses them. He said this is a way to support innovative recreational opportunities which is a part of the Park District's mission.

M. Osius, island resident, asked the board to vote against the proposal saying he has two little girls he likes to take to the park. He knows that while there are good intentions, the idea that there won't be accidents and discs won't go errant is somewhat naïve. Other activities in the park are contained or regulated with penalties for mistakes. Approval of this proposal will result in others having to avoid the park, making Battle Point Park an exclusive park.

Tanya Powers, park neighbor, agreed with the prior comments saying there are lots of good intentions. She thinks there is a wide age range of people who haven't been heard and doesn't think people have had adequate time to consider what is going on here. She said it is the end of the school year with lots of activities going on, and mothers of young children can't get to this meeting. Her two sons are older now, but she knows that mothers with young children must be focused on their children and cannot be watching out for something to hit them. She said a man in his wheelchair can only go on the paved path by the turf field. She said it is important to think about what is fair for everyone.

J. Routendijt, island resident, said she was hit once by a disc when she was sitting on a bench and it was extremely painful. She does not think discs are safe; they can injure people. She said a child in San Francisco was comatose after a disc hit him, and another woman somewhere else lost her sight. She said the space in the park that will be affected by this park is much more than the indicated 4% because you must consider where the discs will be flying. A large number of people will be stopped from using the park. She would not be able to take her grandchildren to the park because of the possibility that a flying object could hit them and cause them to go unconscious or die. Other areas on the island can be used for this activity.

Julia Graves, island resident for 26 years, said she has two sons who introduced her to disc golf recently by inviting her to play with them. She views it as multi-generational, saying it's a great activity for getting families outdoors to exercise together. She is excited about disc golf, and for Mother's Day was given her own bag of discs. She supports the proposal.

Rich Weaver, island resident for 25 years, has played disc golf before but in facilities isolated from other users. He opposes a disc golf course specifically at Battle Point Park saying it will profoundly change the park's role of providing open space for passive use recreation. The peace of the park enjoyed by a majority of users will be adversely affected to benefit a small minority. With much of the island covered with forests and parking lots, Battle Point Park is one of the few parks with precious light. It is a safe place for people to jog, stroll, and picnic. He would not feel relaxed walking there with discs whizzing by. He does not think sufficient time has been provided for comment, and would expect studies to be done before a decision is made.

Chris Powers, island resident, is a frequent park user with his family. He said Battle Point Park is one of the most beautiful parks on the peninsula and this proposal would overlay it with a golf course. If the board decides to go with the nine holes in the south end of the park, he asked that they not consider more holes north of the turf fields. This large grass area is "Imagination Central" where happy kids play Tag and Cops & Robbers. He also expressed concern over who will police the behavior of the disc golfers, questioning how realistic it will be to expect staff to do this as the proposal indicates.

Scott Daniels, park neighbor, spoke in support of preserving the natural areas of the park, and said a balance between active and passive recreational use is needed. He found it encouraging to hear the disc golf proponents willing to roll

back their proposal to nine holes in the south end. He said the natural fields in the north are a gem, and he would be concerned about any intrusion of active use into this area.

Ethan Hoppin, Bainbridge High School junior, said he supports the disc golf course, saying he's played disc golf for 8 years and has introduced his friends to it. He said they don't get to play that often because of the long drive to a facility and they all have rigorous school schedules. He's passionate about the sport and would like a place on the island where they can play. He thinks people will respect the rules.

Dirk Smith, island resident, spoke in support of the proposal. He has used Battle Point Park for years in all capacities, understands it is a multi-use park, and believes it would be compatible with disc golf. It's a low cost, non-competitive activity which is what should be in parks. He thinks many of the opponent's comments are based on fears of what might happen. He said some of the examples people have given to show the types of injuries that might occur are not a fair comparison. After researching them, he found that these incidents occurred in much smaller high density parks or places where the course was poorly designed. He thinks the course for Battle Point Park has been well thought out.

Dawn Moore, island resident for 50 years, opposes the proposal. She said disc golf facilities are in Poulsbo and Silverdale and are not that far away. She commented on how the south pond is used by birds and other wildlife, as well as kids when the water freezes over. She said disc golf is not bad. It just needs to be somewhere else. She said there needs to be more of these meetings so the public can give comment. She doesn't feel like enough people have been included.

Linda Sohlberg, island resident, said she said she is neutral about the proposal which she only heard about recently. She thinks there should be more opportunity for public input, and encouraged the board to take more time before making a decision. She thinks it would be a fun activity, but is concerned about errant discs. She suggested putting in a course on a trial basis since no one knows how it will be.

Nick Masla, island resident for 31 years, supports the proposed disc golf course saying a lot of thought has been put into this. He said what is being talked about tonight is 9 pipes in the ground for baskets with chips used for trial tees. He said the impact on the park would be minimal, and hopes the board will hear the need for a positive constructive use of the park.

Leslie Rosenberg, island resident for over 30 years, said she uses Battle Point Park daily and enjoys its pristine tranquility. She is very concerned about disc golf in the park, even at the south end. She didn't like hearing about it only from the Kitsap Sun, and doesn't feel she's had adequate time to digest or think about the proposal.

C. Austin, island resident, said she's been in tears about this a few times because it's a very special park to her. She's seen the park chipped away over the years as new uses have been added to it, and has been against the whole proposal. But, she said, everyone needs to share, so she can go with it if the disc golfers have their nine holes in the south end, and they stick to only these nine.

Barb Trafton, Executive Director of the BI Parks Foundation, said she was here to speak to another item on the agenda, but mentioned how great it is to see so many people here this evening participating in this democratic process out of love for the island's parks.

Julie Kepler, island resident, is opposed to the proposal not because she doesn't think it would be a good activity for kids, but because she thinks Battle Point Park is exceptional, and all the empty spaces should not be filled. She is concerned about the number of additional cars the proposal would bring to the park, and putting so many uses into the park. She said more time is needed for people to react to the proposal and talk about it.

Steve Matthews, island resident, said he's played Frisbee all his life, and thinks the park can handle a disc golf course. He agrees that a smaller course would be best to see how the public uses it. It's a low impact activity that is multi-generational and a good thing to do with family and friends. He thinks Battle Point Park is a good place to give it a go.

Denise Laveson, park neighbor, said she is a grandmother and on Mother's Day the family all went disc golfing in Couer d'Alene, including her two sons and a 3 year old. She said it was so much fun. She is excited to hear a disc golf course may be going in at Battle Point Park because it will be something the family can all do together. She also appreciates the silence and beauty of Battle Point Park, so appreciates how the course has been modified to have less impact on the entire park.

David Stallings, park neighbor, said he used to wait at a bus stop next to a disc golf park in Seattle, so he's had an opportunity to see one in operation. The discs took bark off trees, and the residents never went into that five acre park for fear of being hit. He said discs can fly 70 mph; safety is a concern. He urged the board to extend the time to review the proposal and make no decision tonight to approve it.

Commissioner DeWitt said this concludes the public comment period, and turned the meeting to the board's discussion of the proposed disc golf course.

Commissioner Cross said that when the proposed disc golf course first came up, she did not consider it a good use for Battle Point Park. The park is heavily used by a wide age range, many who are seniors, some with mobility impairments, and kids who are all over the place. After researching the subject and walking the course, she has come to believe a disc golf course would be a good addition to the park. She does not think it will have much impact, but noted that the impact will not be known until it is tried. She said the comparisons that have been made to other parks and the incidents that have occurred there can be deceptive because the courses are laid out differently. She thinks the proponents of the proposal have done everything they can to make the course as risk free as possible, but said no physical activity in parks is risk free. Accidents do happen despite efforts to minimize risk. She said if the number of accidents in the park increased after the course was put in, they would consider pulling it out. She said adjustments to the course can also be made as it is used. For example, the course will be modified for the seasonal pond in the south end so that discs are not thrown over the water.

Commissioner Kinney said the south end of the park is one of the few active use parks the District has, and that due to restrictions in other parks, the trees can't be cut down to turn them into active use parks. Safety is always a concern for the board. He thinks the proposed disc golf course is safe, and if it wasn't he would not vote in favor of it. If it is put in on a trial basis, and park users are getting hurt, it would come out. He is in favor of creating opportunities for unstructured activities that all ages can enjoy. If the course were more than nine holes he would most likely say no. He appreciates the offer of the disc golf proponents to remove the course from the north end. He said he is in favor of the nine holes in the south end with bark tee pads versus concrete, since if the disc golf course turns out to be a mistake, it can be easily rectified.

Commissioner Cross commented on the short notice mentioned by some people, saying there is no longer a news media source on the island that everyone sees. In the future, she said there will be adequate notice given with sufficient time to comment. Some in the audience reacted with anger, saying this doesn't help them now.

Commissioner DeWitt said a lot of people have been playing disc golf in the park for years and made up their own courses in different places. Putting the course in one designated spot will create predictable use patterns and cut down on any unfavorable interactions. He said had a chance to walk the course last Sunday and did not see any use patterns that concerned him. He said other areas have been considered for the proposed disc golf course, but almost all of the Park District's 1500 acres are restricted to passive use. He read the Park District's mission statement out loud, and

focused on that part which emphasizes innovative recreational opportunities. He said the proposed disc golf course creates an opportunity for people to get outside and involved in physical activity.

Commissioner Kinney said the people against the proposal have been very eloquent in discussing their concerns at both this meeting and the last meeting, and through the many written comments that have come in. He believes that the board has heard every argument that is out there and he cannot think of any others that would be compelling. He said at some point, a decision needs to be made. He said he'd be more reluctant to move forward tonight if this was not something that could be easily changed. This is being done for a trial period he said, and we will see how it goes. If it goes badly, another decision can be made. On this basis, he is comfortable moving forward with the information that is in front of them this evening.

Since the motion indicates a trial basis, Executive Director Lande asked if the board wanted to include in the motion a time for it to be brought back to the board for review. The board directed staff to determine the appropriate time for this after having a chance to observe use patterns.

MSC: Cross/Kinney: To approve the nine disc golf holes in the south end of Battle Point Park on a temporary basis with chip (bark) tee pads. Commissioner DeWitt thanked everyone for coming.

GRANT APPLICATION TO BI PARKS FOUNDATION FOR BOARDWALK AUGER PURCHASE: Park Services Director Dan Hamlin said grant funds have been received from the BI Parks Foundation to purchase an auger that will be used when constructing boardwalks for trails. He asked that the board approve the receipt of these grant funds. **MSC: Cross/Kinney: That the receipt of grant funds from the BI Parks Foundation for the purchase of a boardwalk auger, be approved.**

GENERAL BUSINESS

RESOLUTION 2017-09: TRANSFER OF MORITANI AND LESLIE LANDING TRAIL PROPERTY: Senior Planner Perry Barrett said staff is excited to recommend acceptance of a trail easement in Winslow that is being generously donated by the owners of the Mortani property and Lesley Landing. The easement extends from Shepard Way to Wyatt Way, and acceptance of this property is consistent with the Park District's Comprehensive Plan. The board expressed gratitude to the owners for their generous donation, one of whom was present, Glenn Haber. Commissioner Cross said this is a great opportunity that supports efforts to develop more trails in Winslow. **MSC: Cross/Kinney: That Resolution 2017-09, accepting the Moritani and Lesley Landing trail easement property, be adopted.**

RESOLUTION 2017-10: OPERATIONAL POLICIES: Executive Director Lande presented the following five operational policies for board approval: Reporting Misconduct, Active Shooter, Artwork District Programs, Logo Use, and Social Media. He they said they represent a lot of work from staff at various committee levels, and have been reviewed by the District's Leadership Team. **MSC: Kinney/Cross: That Resolution 2017-10, approving the above listed operational polices, be adopted.**

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Services: Division Director Dan Hamlin said work on the Seabold Hall septic system is underway; clean-up is taking place in a number of parks including getting Fort Ward Parade Grounds ready for a living history walk and preparing Battle Point Park for summer concerts.

Recreation Services: Division Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said staff is busy preparing for summer programs; over 2800 children have enrolled in summer camps generating half a million dollars in revenue; staff has begun looking into other registration software options, and as they do this are aware of how cumbersome the District's current software is; planning for fall programs is underway and must be turned in for the catalog next week.

Administrative Services:

Senior Planner Perry Barrett said he is working on a number of complex permitting issues. Community Outreach Program Manager Lori Mejia said a movie will be shown for employees in July to try out the new inflatable movie screen; a new intern is putting together the history for the Ray Williamson Pool. Executive Director Lande said the new deck at the Aquatic Center is done; a recent meeting was held with City and Park District staff concerning the Sound to Olympics Trail at Sakai Park. He asked whether there will be a quorum at the July 6 board meeting when Jones & Jones makes their second presentation on the Sakai property. Commissioner Kinney, DeWitt, and Cross confirmed that they will be there. Commissioner Cross will not be here for the July 20 board meeting.

UPCOMING MEETINGS & EVENTS: 6/23/17: Grand opening of Teen Center in new location at Aquatic Center.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Cross said she was very impressed to see how much the kids love the new pump track at Battle Point Park.
- Commissioner DeWitt commented on the earlier disc golf discussion saying he believes the board heard every argument and was fully apprised of both sides of the issue.
- Commissioner Cross mentioned the challenge of communicating these days without a single media outlook. Executive Director Lande said notice of the proposed disc golf course was in the newspaper several times and word of the meeting got out through a variety of ways.
- Commissioner DeWitt mentioned several meetings that Commissioner Robinson will not be able to attend while away, and asked if other commissioners could go in his absence.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

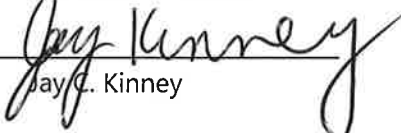
The Board was given any additional written comments pertaining to disc golf that came in after the 6/7/17 board packet deadline.

MEETING ADJOURNED TO EXECUTIVE SESSION at 8:28 pm for discussion of real estate and personnel, with announced time to reconvene at 9:00 pm.

MEETING RECONVENED at 9:00 pm and **ADJOURNED** at 9:01 pm.

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

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

BY: _____
Kirk B. Robinson

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard

ATTEST: _____
Lee Cross