

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING JANUARY 3, 2019
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Lee Cross, Ken DeWitt, Jay Kinney, Michael Pollock, Tom Swolgaard.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS:

Public comments were taken at the time of the agenda item. Due to the number of people attending, the Disc Golf and Pickle Ball agenda topics were moved to the beginning of the meeting.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES: (Followed the Pickleball Presentation)

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the December 6, 2018 regular board meeting, Chair Kinney stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the December 27, 2018 special board meeting, Chair Kinney stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: Pollock/DeWitt: I have reviewed the following vouchers, warrants and electronic payments and move that they be approved for payment.

Batch Date	Fund Number & Name	Warrant Numbers	Total Batch Amount	Pre-Approved
12/11/18	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	17589-17634	90,917.41	12/10/18
12/18/18	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	17635-17691	85,645.19	12/14/18
12/26/18	001 General Fund 002 Imprest Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	17692-17744 & 113019	136,896.04	12/21/18

UNFINISHED BUSINESS (followed the Intern Presentation)

2019 BOARD OF COMMISSIONER OFFICER ELECTIONS:

MSC: Swolgaard/Pollock: That Lee Cross be appointed as Chair.

MSC: Cross/DeWitt: That Tom Swolgaard be appointed as Vice-Chair.

MSC: DeWitt/Cross: That Michael Pollock be appointed as Secretary.

MSC: Swolgaard/Cross: That Ken DeWitt be appointed as Treasurer.

MSC: Cross/DeWitt: That Jay Kinney be appointed as Member at Large.

2019 BOARD COMMITTEE ASSIGNMENTS:

Committee Assignments:

Prior to making committee assignments, Commissioner Pollock asked for clarification about the function of these committees since they do not seem to meet that often. Other board members informed him that while the committees are standing board committees, they meet on an as-needed basis when various issues come up. Assigning board members to the committees at the beginning of the year ensures commissioners are in place if and when a topic

comes up that needs to be looked into more fully before coming to the full board. No decisions are made at the committee level and there are no regularly scheduled meetings. The committees do not address operations. Committee members gather information and report back to the full board.

Governance:	Cross/Swolgaard	(incoming Chair and Vice-Chair)
Capital Facilities:	Swolgaard/DeWitt	
Program:	see motion below	
Budget & Finance:	DeWitt/Pollock	(Treasurer serves on this committee)
Personnel:	Cross/Kinney	(outgoing and incoming Chairs)
Sakai Site Planning:	Swolgaard/DeWitt	(ad hoc committee established at 11/3/16 board meeting))

Discussion was held over how necessary the Program Committee is, since there is seldom need for it to meet, and any issues that come up could be addressed through an ad hoc committee. **MSC: DeWitt/Cross: That the Program Committee be removed from the list of standing board committees.** (note - See 1/17/19 minutes, motion was struck & replaced)

Board Liaison Positions

Prior to making board liaison assignments, discussion was held over assigning board liaisons to work on improving intergovernmental communications with COBI as brought forward at the 11/1/18 board meeting. The board opted to go ahead with this and agreed the purpose of this liaison position is to facilitate communication and cooperation around policy issues with the City of Bainbridge Island.

Park District Parkland Acquisition Cmtte & Trails Advisory Cmtte:	Cross/Swolgaard
BI Parks Foundation:	DeWitt/Pollock
COBI Multi-Modal Transportation Committee:	Kinney/DeWitt
Intergovernmental Work Group (IGWG)	Cross/Swolgaard
Park District Dog Advisory Committee:	Kinney/Pollock
Intergovernmental Policy Liaison to COBI	Kinney/Pollock

MSC: Swolgaard/Pollock: That the above board committee and liaison positions for 2019 be approved.

DISC GOLF COURSE AT BATTLE POINT PARK: Greg Scharrer with the Bainbridge Island Disc Golf Club updated the board on the disc golf course at Battle Point Park, noting the board had at the 6/15/17 board meeting approved a nine-hole disc golf course at the park in the south end. It was approved by the board on a temporary basis due to safety concerns expressed by some during the public comment period and the Commissioner's understanding that the impact of the course on other park uses would not be known until tried. Since then an agreement between the Park District and Disc Golf Club was signed, the course was constructed with approximate costs of \$3800 split between the Club and the Park District, and a grand opening was held. The course has received a lot of play with many positive comments heard, and there have been no reports of safety concerns by park users. Mulch for the tee pads was initially used as approved by the board, but this resulted in injury to players who were slipping and falling in the loose material. In February of 2018, the mulch was replaced with a sand and gravel mixture with the hope it would compact into a firm flat surface and provide a safer surface to throw from. This did not improve the safety of the tee pad surface since the pivot action made when driving discs still made significant depressions in the sand/gravel surface, and slips, falls, and pulled muscles continued to occur. The West Sound Disc Golf Association standard for a tee pad is a 4'x10' concrete surface that is 3.5 inches thick with etched surfaces and no rebar. The cost to convert the existing tee pads to concrete would be approximately \$900. He said the BI Disc Golf Club has three requests for the board this evening: 1) To remove the temporary status of the course; 2) To update the current 4'x8' sand and gravel tee pads to 4'x10'

concrete pads with etched surfaces; 3) To begin investigating for the board's future consideration additional holes at Battle Point Park.

John Mitchell, park neighbor and regular park user, began by quoting Commissioner Pollock who during his 2017 campaign said "board members already have their minds made up and...aren't really interested in what the public has to say..." Mr. Mitchell noted that he had an example of this. He said he attended the 6/1/17 special board meeting on disc golf and the 6/15/17 regular board meeting at which time the board approved a nine-hole disc golf course at Battle Point Park. At both meetings he expressed his concerns over the safety of disc golf at Battle Point Park and asked that a citizens advisory committee be appointed to advise the board on the suitability of a disc golf course in this park. He said his concerns and requests were ignored by the board and claimed the board's decision about the disc golf course had been made before public comments were heard at the 6/15/17 board meeting. The basis for his claim was an email Commissioner Robinson had sent the board on 6/8/17 since unable to attend the 6/15/17 board meeting. In this email, acquired by Mr. Mitchell through a public record request, Commissioner Robinson proposed a nine-hole course in the south end of the park. John Mitchell claimed Commissioner Robinson as Board Chair had single-handedly worked out the board's decision and in the process denied the citizens of Bainbridge Island the right to be heard before a decision was made. He said he's rarely seen anyone use the course and there is no objective data showing use. He asked the Board to revoke the temporary approval and eliminate disc golf from Battle Point Park entirely.

Kirk Robinson, island resident and former park commissioner, offered a correction to Mr. Mitchell's comments saying he was not the board chair at the time of the disc golf proposal. He also indicated that his efforts had gone towards finding a compromise for the community to what had initially been proposed. He went on to provide comment on the presentation this evening, saying he agreed with much of what BI Disc Golf had said. He then suggested that hole 6 be relocated since it is too wet for a winter hole. In regards to investigating additional holes, he said when this process was underway a year and a half ago, most comments received by the board were from people who supported disc golf at Battle Point Park provided the holes were not located in the north end of the park. He said the north end has traditionally been the passive area of the park, and as commissioner he worked to defend this when active uses were proposed for the north end. He said that when he walked the proposed course (originally eighteen holes throughout the entire park), he laid out the concerns people were voicing about the north end. As disc golf proponents became aware of the public's desire to maintain the passive area of the park, they were willing to modify their proposal.

Commissioner Cross said she had no problem with making the course permanent and installing concrete pads. She had no objection to investigating future holes provided they keep in mind the north end of the park is passive. She has serious reservations about putting any additional holes in the north end. She made a motion to remove the temporary status of the course. Before calling for a vote, Chair Kinney asked for discussion.

Several commissioners had questions regarding usage of the course and its safety record. Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said usage is not tracked using hard numbers, but anecdotal observation indicates constant use during the summer. He said one complaint has been received since the course was installed, and that had to do with disruption of a spot used for meditation by an individual. Most comments received have been positive.

Commissioner Swolgaard told Mr. Mitchell that the board did listen to his concerns, and that he was not influenced by Mr. Robinson's comments or email. He said the board wasn't totally sold on the project which is why they decided to try the disc golf course out on a temporary basis.

Commissioner Cross asked to speak to Mr. Mitchell, saying that while she has not met him and he has never spoken to her, she wanted to be very clear. "No one directs my vote on this board", she said.

Commissioner Pollock said he does believe Mr. Mitchell's comments about the board not being attentive to diverse opinions have some validity and is surprised by the lack of quantitative data on use of the disc golf course. Given the controversy, he suggested a public hearing be held, so people can come forward, and the board can make a more informed decision on whether to lift the temporary status.

Chair Kinney responded to Commissioner Pollock saying the topic is on tonight's agenda, which is publicized, and people can provide public comment. He noted that Commissioner Pollock was not on the board when the disc golf proposal first came up in 2017. He said a large meeting was held at the Aquatic Center and the board heard from a lot of people. He said he finds it offensive that Michael Pollock would say the board does not listen to minority opinions. He said the board listened to everyone and made a well-informed decision. They approved the course on a temporary basis to see how it would work out. The Park District does not have the funds to have someone on-site to record each time someone uses the disc golf course. He said lifting the temporary status does not make the course permanent and that concrete can be removed.

Commissioner Pollock responded saying it's not just this issue. In general, he thinks the board lacks decision making criteria and a good process for informing people of upcoming issues. Chair Kinney noted that this discussion is for another day, and that there is a motion on the table. **MSC: Cross/DeWitt: To remove the temporary status of the disc golf course at Battle Point Park. (One nay - Pollock).**

Chair Kinney asked if anyone wanted to make a motion related to the request for concrete tee pads. There was a question from the board about who will pay for the concrete and it was noted the agreement calls for a 50/50 split between the Disc Golf Club and the Park District. **MSC: DeWitt/Cross: To authorize the installation of concrete tee-pads with no rebar for the existing holes.**

Chair Kinney turned to the Disc Golf Club's request to investigate for future board consideration additional holes. He said based on input received from the public during the June 2017 board meetings, there was a consensus among the board to not have disc golf holes in the north end of the park. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: To authorize an investigation, conducted jointly by staff and the Disc Golf Club, of additional disc golf holes at Battle Point Park that do not intrude into the passive area of the park.**

MEETING ADJOURNED for a short break at 6:45 pm and **RECONVENED** at 6:50 pm.

PICKLEBALL PRESENTATION FOR BATTLE POINT PARK: Park Services Division Director Dan Hamlin said people who play pickleball approached the Park District last year about the need for pickleball courts on the island. It is a growing sport in this community as well as nationally, and it was founded on Bainbridge Island. Since then staff has added pickleball lines to the tennis courts at Battle Point Park, and the courts have received a lot of pickleball activity. He introduced Bill Walker and Clay Roberts who represent the pickleball group on the island. Bill Walker thanked the Park District for the new pickleball lines on the Battle Point Park tennis courts, saying use of the courts by pickleball has grown steadily. He said that while the average age is 65 years, the sport is played by all ages and includes both men and women. They expect growth to continue in the future and want to reach out to seniors, provide clinics for beginners, hold summer sessions for kids, and have local tournaments. Clay Roberts said some of the challenges include: 1) Confusion created from multiplicity of lines/color coding on the courts; 2) Access to nets since they are portable and must be set up, put away and locked up after play; 3) Conflicts over shared space with tennis players. He noted that when tennis is played on one court, four pickleball courts cannot be used. Tennis played on two courts provides play for four tennis players, while preventing 16 people from playing pickleball. He said shared use makes sense when there are no other options. He said there are other regulation tennis courts on the island while there are none for pickleball. He noted the irony of this given pickleball was founded on Bainbridge Island. He said the pickleball

group is proposing that the two existing courts at Battle Point Park be converted to six permanent pickleball courts and the project be named the Founders' Courts on Bainbridge Island. Phase one would include resurfacing and repainting the courts and installing six permanent nets and a windscreen. Phase two would include developing a historic display at the entrance to the Battle Point courts honoring the pickleball founders and Bainbridge Island's history and contribution to pickleball. Phase one would cost approximately \$30,000 and would be paid for through private donations. He said all the founders have passed except for Barney McCallum who is now 93 years old. It would be great if he could be there for the ribbon cutting when the project was completed. Their proposal addresses a clear documented need and is a cost-effective way to repurpose an underutilized resource. He said there are not many competitive sports for people over 65 and that this would serve a demographic that is not currently served. It also honors Bainbridge Island's unique connection to the game. He encouraged the board to consider moving this forward and said they would bring a formal proposal to a future board meeting.

Brianna Kosowitz, island resident and new Executive Director for the BI Historical Museum, spoke in support of the proposal and said they are very excited to be hosting a historical pickleball tournament this next August.

Loanne Harmeling, island resident, said she loves pickleball but is a tennis player. Losing the two courts at Battle Point Park on top of the two courts at Waterfront Park would mean a loss of four tennis courts on the island. In addition, the high school courts can no longer be used when school is in session. She said the tennis community needs a place to play and urged the board to keep Sakai Park in mind if they eliminate the courts at Battle Point Park.

Justin Gallant, said he is 12 years old and has played pickleball for two years. He said he enjoys the sport and has played with many people and it's helping his social life with older people.

Julie Riely, island resident and chair of the Bainbridge Community Tennis Association, said tennis is a big group that plays all year round. She loves pickleball, but she also loves tennis and represents a lot of people who play tennis. She said she wants pickleball to have dedicated courts. When she saw the pickleball lines painted on the tennis courts at Battle Point Park, she said it was heartbreaking. However, she said she is willing to deal with pickleball lines just to have tennis courts. She understands why pickleball wants designated courts but would like an opportunity for the tennis community to give input on their proposal to change the Battle Point Park courts to solely pickleball.

Bill Schilling, island resident, said he plays pickleball all over the country and people want to come to Bainbridge Island to play pickleball. When they come, it has an economic impact on the community. He said pickleball is a fast-growing sport and to have courts on the island where it was invented would be wonderful.

Park District Executive Director Terry Lande spoke to clarify an issue that had been raised. He said the Park District does not own Waterfront Park and had nothing to do with the removal of tennis courts from this park. The two tennis courts were taken out by the owner of Waterfront Park, the City of Bainbridge Island. He said the Park District has not taken out any tennis courts.

Commissioner Pollock asked about the degree of conflict between tennis and pickleball at Battle Point Park. Clay Roberts said the BPP courts are not heavily used by tennis. Julie Riely disagreed, saying they are used, especially in spring when there are no courts available at the high school at all.

Commissioner Swogaard said he'd like to see the two groups get together to work out a schedule. He acknowledged the need for more courts, possibly at Sakai, but said reality must be faced. It takes a long time for new courts to be built; the permitting process alone takes time.

Bill Walker pointed out that there are no stand-alone pickleball courts on the island anywhere, while there are stand-alone courts for tennis on the island. Julie Riely said she would love to work on a committee with pickleball because

her goal isn't to not allow pickleball at Battle Point; it is to make sure tennis players have courts. Clay Roberts said they tried working with the tennis association earlier and the association didn't want to work with them.

Chair Kinney said no action will be taken tonight and that this issue will be addressed more at a future board meeting at which time more input from the community can be given. He asked the tennis community to provide more input about their usage of the Battle Point Park courts.

Terry Lande said short of building new courts, and he noted that no one has come forward with the funds to do this, there are three options for the courts at Battle Point Park: 1) tennis only; 2) pickleball only; or 3) shared use. Anthony Gibbons said the tennis association offered years ago to build two new courts at Battle Point Park and was turned down. He emphasized the need to build new courts on the island.

MEETING ADJOURNED for a short break at 7:35 pm and **RECONVENED** at 8:40 pm.

INTERN PRESENTATION-REVIEW OF 2018: Recreation Superintendent introduced Bryan Peterson, Chair of the Park District's Intern Committee, who presented a review of the internship program this past year in 2018. He said the program began in 2014. Between then and 2017, there were 35 applicants with 8 interns accepted. In 2018, there were 21 applicants with 5 accepted. Over the course of the program, applications have come in from 20 states as well as several from abroad. He reviewed the 2018 goals some of which included streamlining the intern application process, connecting interns to the larger community, and fostering enthusiasm for careers in the park and recreation field. This past year a flow chart was developed for tracing the application process with the website updated to include a timeline. Many of the Park District's interns are going into park and recreation fields with 25% of them hired by the Park District to continue in positions here. He introduced Nick Prevo who worked as an intern from January to May 2018 and is now coordinating the ski bus program as a staff member. Henry Milander, who is a current intern, was also introduced and is developing a purchasing manual for the District and working with planning. Both expressed appreciation for the opportunity their internships have provided them in professional development and preparation for a future career. Bryan Peterson thanked the intern committee, the board, and the 2018 interns for their support and involvement. The board expressed their enthusiasm for the program, and Executive Director Terry Lande commended staff for their hard work, saying it is because of their efforts that the District has attracted such qualified applicants.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Park Services: Division Director Dan Hamlin said staff has removed those horse jumps from Manzanita Park that had immediate safety concerns. The equestrian community is putting together a plan for the remaining jumps that will designate which ones they'd like to keep and have repaired. Blakely Harbor Park bird blinds are under construction. The flooring at the Strawberry Hill Center is being replaced.

Recreation: Division Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said winter/spring registration began today; improvements have been done to the Eagledale Pottery Studio by Park Services staff, competition season is underway for gymnastics, tennis is being offered by the Sports Department in the Commodore Gym using portable nets; the ski bus program starts this Saturday; work on summer programs is underway. Division Director Mark Benishek said 92% of all registration done today took place online with \$64,000 in revenue brought in during the first hour; he commended the front desk staff at the Aquatic Center saying this is the first registration since customer service was moved down there from the administrative office and it went very well; the internet and phone system at the Aquatic Center is being upgraded to a commercial connection next month; the new diving stand has been purchased with grant funds received; the Dynamic Aging program this spring has caught the interest of KING news and two speakers for the conference will be waiving their fees.

Administrative: Senior Planner Perry Barrett said the engineering calculations for the Blakely Harbor Park jetty bridge are being worked on; discussions with COBI are underway regarding the Sakai Park trail permits and the Hawley Cove permit amendment. Division Director Amy Swenson said the audit is almost over and the exit interview is coming up soon. She said Park District revenues are approaching the threshold amount that requires agencies to have an audit every year versus every two years. Executive Director Terry Lande said the bands have been lined up for the summer concerts, and that the Community Outreach Manager position is now part of recreation and is reporting to the Recreation Division Director. The Department of Ecology is in receipt of the Park District's letter responding to DOE's letter regarding clean-up at Blakely Harbor Park. He and Mark Benishek met recently with the School Superintendent to provide an overview of the pool options Coates Design Architects is working on. He said there are four issues related to whether a new pool can be built at the site of the current aquatic center. 1) How large a bond measure will be needed; 2) How much Aquatic Center operational costs will increase; 3) Whether it will fit on School District property given lot coverage requirements, and whether the School District will allow it to be built; 4) Whether a use agreement between the School District and Park District can be reached prior to moving forward with any new project. He said if a new pool is wanted, and it cannot be built on the school site or if an agreement with the School District cannot be reached, the Park Board may need to revisit its decision from the 9/7/17 board meeting to not build a pool at Sakai Park. The Coates presentation of pool options will be made at the 1/17/19 board meeting. The board agreed to hold the board meeting at the Aquatic Center since there could be a large crowd attending.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:


- Commissioner DeWitt said he will not be able to attend the January 17 board meeting. A quorum for the meeting was later confirmed. Commissioners Cross, Swolgaard and Kinney will attend the meeting. Commissioner Pollock will not.
- Commissioner Swolgaard thanked City Manager Morgan Smith for getting pedestrian signs posted on Miller Road where the trail crosses the road.
- Commissioner Cross asked about the Pritchard Park transfer. Executive Director Lande said COBI has indicated the exhibits they need to send will be done in two weeks. It was noted that once NOAA receives them, there could be further delay due to the current federal government's shut-down.

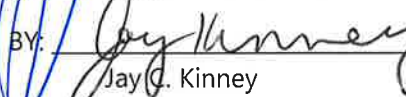
MEETING ADJOURNED at 9:14 pm.

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

BY: 
Lee Cross

BY: 
John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: 
Kenneth R. DeWitt

BY: 
Jay C. Kinney

ATTEST: _____
Michael Pollock