

**BAINBRIDGE ISLAND METROPOLITAN PARK & RECREATION DISTRICT
REGULAR BOARD MEETING MARCH 7, 2019
STRAWBERRY HILL CENTER**

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

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT: Ken DeWitt, Dawn Janow, Jay Kinney, Michael Pollock, Tom Swolgaard.

ADJUSTMENTS TO AGENDA: Move Board Consent/Board Committee Adjustments after the Pickleball Presentation.

PUBLIC COMMENTS ON AGENDA ITEMS: Taken during agenda items.

BOARD CONSENT

APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Upon making the following revisions to the minutes of the February 7, 2019 regular board meeting, Chair Kinney stated the minutes stand approved as corrected: 1) p. 4: change \$10,000 to \$10,000,000; 2) p. 4: add "on 2/28/29" after "special board meeting". Commissioner Pollock withdrew objections indicated at the 2/21/19 board meeting.

Upon hearing there were no corrections to the minutes of the February 21, 2019 regular board meeting, Chair Kinney stated the minutes stand approved as submitted.

APPROVAL OF PAYMENTS: MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: 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
3/4/19	001 General Fund 300 Capital Improvement Fund	17949-17993	45,495.18	3/4/19

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

ACCEPTANCE OF COMMISSIONER CROSS RESIGNATION: Chair Kinney said formal acknowledgement of Commissioner Cross will be made at an upcoming board meeting. Commissioner Swolgaard said her great services will be missed. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: To accept the resignation of Commissioner Lee Cross.**

APPOINTMENT OF NEW COMMISSIONER: MSC: DeWitt/Pollock: To appoint Dawn Janow to fill the position vacated by Commissioner Lee Cross.

OATH OF OFFICE: District Notary Elizabeth Shepherd administered the Oath of Office to Dawn Janow who has been appointed by the Board of Commissioners of the Bainbridge Island Metropolitan Park & Recreation District to fill Position 1 as vacated by Commissioner Lee Cross.

BOARD COMMITTEE ADJUSTMENTS: Chair Kinney addressed first the question of Board Officers and suggested that Commissioner Janow assume the position of Board Treasurer since this has been a practice of the board to help a new commissioner become familiar with the Park District. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: That Commissioner DeWitt step down from his roles as Board Treasurer and member of the Board's Budget & Finance Committee, and that Commissioner Janow assume these positions for the rest of the year. MSC: Swolgaard/Pollock: That Commissioner DeWitt assume the position of Member at Large.** Chair Kinney then raised the question of committee assignments that needed adjusting with the resignation of Commissioner Cross. **MSC: Swolgaard/DeWitt: That Commissioner Janow assume the board liaison positions to the Parkland Acquisition Advisory Committee and Trails Advisory Committee.** Discussion then turned to a new park board liaison position proposed by

Commissioner Michael Pollock. He said the City of Bainbridge Island has a Climate Change Advisory Committee that provides policy direction to the City and ways to bring the community in sync with larger efforts underway at state and national levels. He has been attending these meetings. Since there is a City Council liaison to the committee, he thought it might be a good idea to have a Park Board liaison attend as well since this would be a way to work synergistically on these important issues with the City. He expressed interest in serving in this capacity. Commissioner DeWitt asked if the City has invited the Park Board to have a liaison to the Climate Change Advisory Committee. Commissioner Pollock noted that while several have suggested this, it might be good to double check with the full City Council. He offered to check into this. The Board agreed to table the matter until Commissioner Pollock reports back to the board.

PICKLEBALL PRESENTATION FOR BATTLE POINT PARK: Executive Director Terry Lande said he was filling in for Park Services Director Dan Hamlin who is out ill. He thanked everyone for coming tonight saying this is a difficult issue. He said each sport, pickleball and tennis, are racquet sports. They are great activities that can be played by all ages and the Park District supports both. The pickleball proposal to convert the tennis courts at Battle Point Park to exclusively pickleball is viewed by pickleball as a chance to better utilize courts that are underutilized. Tennis views the proposal as a loss of two tennis courts. At the same time, he said each group has empathy for the needs of the other. He said staff has discussed this extensively and has come up with a recommendation that the board direct staff to work with pickleball on location and design options for new pickleball courts that do not displace the existing tennis courts at Battle Point Park and to bring a proposal to the April 4 board meeting for possible approval. He said this proposal would address budget, site options, a funding plan and permitting requirements. Pickleball proponent Clay Roberts first heard of this today and said while a surprise, it sounds like a great idea at first glance. He said this is really about a higher calling than pickleball or tennis. It's about a healthy community and getting people out to play; it's about good stewardship and management of resources. He pointed out several pickleball player concerns. 1) Urgency. There is a need to fast track the project since the last living founder of pickleball is 93 years old and the project is a way to honor him. 2) Funds. He said that while the pickleball group raised almost \$40,000 in 7 days to repurpose the courts and has put their skin in the game, it is unlikely they could come up with another \$100,000 for new courts. He also said their proposal has two phases. In addition to repurposing the Battle Point Park courts, there is a historic phase. He said pickleball was born on Bainbridge Island, is played world-wide, and has community significance. While pickleball does not expect the Park District to fund this aspect of the project, board approval for the historic element is critical. He asked the pickleball players in the room to raise their paddles if they were in support of the recommendation proposed tonight. Paddles were raised in indication of widespread support. A motion was made and seconded by the board to move forward with the staff recommendation. Board discussion followed. Commissioner Swolgaard said it is a great idea. Commissioner DeWitt agreed and expressed relief since he didn't like the idea of taking away two tennis courts. Commissioner Janow said it was a great solution and acknowledged the importance of the historical aspect. Commissioner Kinney indicated support saying softball and baseball have separate fields and he understands the need for tennis and pickleball to have separate courts. Commissioner Pollock said he's often heard the term having "skin in the game" used and noted everyone as a taxpayer is a contributor and has skin in the game. Commissioner Kinney said this is true and also noted there is a limited budget. He said the Park District has a history of user groups stepping forward to contribute and fundraise for projects they propose. Prior to hearing public comments, the following motion was made: **MSC: Swolgaard/DeWitt: To stay the motion on the table.** Chair Kinney invited the public to speak.

Patrick Galbraith, island resident and Board Chair of the US Tennis Association, proposed that USTA develop a site plan for one large tennis/pickleball facility at Battle Point Park. The USTA Pacific NW Section which does programming would take care of everything including liability and background checks on coaches; 20% of the net profits would be shared

with the Park District. USTA grant funds could be obtained from both the national and section levels. He thought the USTA proposal could be ready by the April 4 board meeting and could include a re-do of the existing two tennis courts, six pickleball courts, and two new tennis courts. He said USTA programming has indicated four tennis courts work better for them. These additional courts could also increase the amount of grant funds awarded.

Anthony Gibbons, island resident, said the problem has been solved with the proposed recommendation. He thinks there is a misunderstanding over how much tennis uses the Battle Point Park courts. When he went through the numbers, he found tennis is played there four hours a day.

Ian Proffer, island resident, said the proposed recommendation is the perfect solution, and encouraged the board to take advantage of the USTA proposal.

John Hussey, island resident, said he travels often and while Bainbridge Island is known as the home of pickleball, there is no place to play here. He also noted the benefit to the island's economy if tournaments are brought here.

Irva Cooper, island resident, said she is thrilled with the USTA proposal and doesn't think displacing the tennis courts at Battle Point Park with pickleball is a good solution.

Eric Draluck, island resident, was pleased to hear how things are being worked out and appreciates the consideration being given to tennis since opportunities to play have decreased over the years, especially with the restrictions on the high school courts. He asked that the court at Strawberry Hill Park also be fixed up.

Mary McCombs, Junior Varsity Tennis Coach for Bainbridge High School, said kids are turning out in record numbers for tennis and questioned the idea that the tennis courts at Battle Point Park are not being used. She stressed the need for having public courts, since not everyone can afford to join a private club. She loves what has been proposed.

Loanne Harmeling, island resident, spoke in support of the proposed recommendation and emphasized the importance of having public courts available for both tennis and pickleball players.

Henry Milander, island resident, said he represents an underserved age group on the island, early twenties. During the time he was growing up on the island, he said tennis has been on the decline, saying fewer courts are available and the park courts are not being maintained. He questioned timing based on urgency saying public funding decisions should not be based on the dying wish of one old man who could die any day. He said opportunities such as the USTA proposal should not be passed up for the sake of urgency and called for a more thorough public process with environmental review and consideration of the long-term investment.

Mark Garcia, island resident, said he better understands the concerns of each group now and encouraged the community to solve things that come up on their own before bringing these issues to the park board. He said it is always possible to find a win/win solution.

David Franklin, island resident, said that as a tennis player, he has been bumped from courts and can't afford a private membership. He was concerned with how decisions were being made on this issue and likes where the conversation is going. He encouraged taking the time that's needed to come up with a win/win solution for everyone and to consider the long-term impact. He said this is an opportunity to practice the values we'd like to see in the larger world such as cooperation and collaboration.

Ross Eaton, tennis pro for 30 years, pickleball pro, former tennis director of the Bainbridge Athletic Club, BCTA board member, said he lived on the island for 25 years and while he now lives in Poulsbo is still very active in the tennis community. He encouraged the board to consider the USTA proposal and offered his assistance as a tennis consultant. He said he'd like to see something that works for both the tennis and pickleball community.

Paul Sullivan, island resident and teacher who has served on BCTA and Little League boards, said it is great where this is headed. Regarding whatever is built, he'd like to see a contingency for maintenance set up, saying the courts in parks are in horrible condition and consideration must be given to how the funds will be created to maintain courts, whether tennis or pickleball.

Clay Roberts, island resident, said he had planned to present the pickleball proposal this evening and was concerned that given this, pickleball players had not signed up to speak. He asked that they have an opportunity to speak.

Taylor Gibbons, island resident and former varsity captain of the BHS tennis team, said he liked this win/win solution, and that replacing a use at the Battle Point Park courts would mean there would be a winner and a loser.

Julie Riely, island resident and Chair of Bainbridge Community Tennis Association, said she will be away during the April 4 board meeting presentation, and encouraged the board to consider the USTA proposal.

Chair Kinney invited others to speak that had not signed up.

David Williams, thanked the Park District for coming up with what appears to be a good solution for everyone. He was bothered about something said earlier, saying Barney McCallum is one of the finest people you can ever know and invented the game of pickleball. It is sweeping the world and has become the fastest growing sport in the nation. It's an amazing story and one of the great stories of Bainbridge Island. He thinks there is some urgency, so Barney can be thanked for what he has done. He thinks the timeframe is realistic and encouraged the board to move forward.

Jerry Hanaran said he lives here on the island and has spent much of his life in Arizona. He commented on how widely Bainbridge Island is becoming known as the home of pickleball and yet there is nothing here to acknowledge this, not even a court.

Cheryl Tetlow said she loves tennis but can no longer play, so now she loves to play pickleball. She commented on what a welcoming sport pickleball is and said she is glad work is underway to get pickleball courts.

Jill Steret thanked the Park District for coming up with a great solution and encouraged a holistic solution where consideration is given to what the best place physically is to put both pickleball and an expanded tennis facility.

Bill Schilling, said it's great to have an opportunity to promote both sports. He too travels and is aware of the draw pickleball has, the interest people have in coming to Bainbridge Island to play pickleball, and the benefit this would bring the community, economic and otherwise.

MSC: Swolgaard/DeWitt: To put the motion back on the table.

MSC: Swolgaard/DeWitt: That staff be directed to work with the pickleball group on design and location options for new pickleball courts that do not displace the two existing tennis courts at Battle Point Park, and that a proposal, including budget, site options, funding plan, and permitting requirements, be brought to the April 4 board meeting for possible approval. Commissioner Pollock said there is a budget process in the fall during which community needs are prioritized. He encouraged people to come then to make their pitch, saying this is an odd time of year to make a major budget change. Commissioner DeWitt said everyone is welcome during the budget process and encouraged people to come. Commissioner DeWitt asked to have the moratorium at Battle Point Park lifted. At the 9/9/10 board meeting, a motion passed indicating no further development would take place in the southeast end of Battle Point Park until the question of relocating the maintenance facility had been resolved. **MSC: DeWitt/Swolgaard: To lift the moratorium at Battle Point Park and have Battle Point Park considered in this process.**

MEETING ADJOURNED for a short break at 7:06 pm. **MEETING RECONVENED** at 7:20 pm.

COMPREHENSIVE PLAN TIMELINE: Senior Planner Perry Barrett said the Park District's Comprehensive Plan, which must be updated every six years, is up for renewal in 2020. The document is required by several state agencies, one of which is the granting agency, RCO (Recreation & Conservation Office). He said updating the comprehensive plan also provides the opportunity to check in with the community on park priorities. He presented a preliminary timeline that projects the work needed to complete the plan in 2020. He reviewed the different elements involved and said work to inventory parks and facilities has begun, with a public component coming up this spring to solicit feedback from the community. Executive Director Lande noted that the Park District's current comprehensive plan was well received and that it will be done again this year in-house.

STAFF REPORT: Chair Kinney said he met recently with Commissioner Pollock and Executive Director Lande, and Commissioner Pollock has suggested several ways to change the order of board meeting agendas. 1) Have a written report from staff once a month versus an oral report each board meeting; 2) Hold the Director's Report when the board meeting starts at 6:00 pm so staff could leave afterwards and have agenda items follow at 6:30 pm. Commissioner Pollock noted his suggestions stem from observing procedural process and that he is always looking for ways to make things more efficient. A written report would simplify the minutes and provide information ahead of time for commissioners to prepare. He also noted that everyone is fresher at the beginning of the meeting and with a fixed time, there would be more pressure for staff to be brief. Commissioner DeWitt said he likes interacting with staff at board meetings, saying hearing from them personally gives him a better feel for operations and provides information for when he is talking with people. Commissioner Swolgaard said he has great respect for the work staff does and enjoys hearing from them at the board meetings and being able to ask them questions. Executive Director Lande said written reports have been tried in the past, and given how busy staff is, it is difficult for them to find time to prepare them. Staff has also indicated to him that they enjoy the chance to interact with commissioners at board meetings, find it builds comradery, and that if they left early, they would not be there to answer board questions. Edie Hartmann commented as a member of the public on how informative the oral staff reports are. When asked if he wanted to make a motion, Commissioner Pollock said he saw this more as a discussion and as something to think about. Chair Kinney said it has been a good dialogue.

DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Recreation Division: Division Superintendent Bryan Garoutte said the summer catalog has more pages and will be posted soon on the Park District website; class registration starts March 27; an egg stuffing party for the mEgga Hunt will be held on March 22; the 2019 WA State Men's Gymnastics Championship Meet will be hosted by the Park District and held on the island March 16-17; a partnership to offer kayak classes is moving forward with Western WA University's Olympic College Poulsbo Center; staff met recently with BI Arts & Humanities to discuss marketing Park District art classes; "I Used to Swim a Long Time Ago" is a new adult class being offered at the Aquatic Center; the aquatics competition season is in full swing; softball season is starting up and yoga classes are growing.

Park Services Division: Executive Director Terry Lande filled in for Dan Hamlin saying staff recently lifted the slate roof of the Fort Ward bakery building and repaired the trusses, clean-up work following the snow storm continues.

Administrative Division: Senior Planner Perry Barrett said the City is moving forward with moving the outfall at Pritchard Park as stipulated in the settlement agreement with McNabb; the entrance to the road leading to the superfund site at Pritchard Park is moving west; because federal superfund funds are paying for the road revisions, the project is exempt from local permitting requirements. Division Director Amy Swenson said a review of the employee salary scale/job descriptions is underway and is being done in part due to minimum wage changes. Executive Director Terry Lande met with City Manager Morgan Smith and said she is very good to work with.

BOARD MEMBER ITEMS:

- Commissioner Swolgaard attended with Commissioner Kinney the IGWG meeting last week and commented on how impressed he is with City Manager Morgan Smith.
- Commissioner Pollock said he missed the Dog Advisory Committee since not able to find the meeting location.
- Commissioner Pollock said COBI's Climate Change Advisory Committee would like to make a presentation to the park board and agreed to check with them to determine the best date.
- Commissioner DeWitt attended a recent COBI Multi-Modal Transportation Advisory Committee retreat and updated the board on several projects of interest to the Park District. He said the committee is a dedicated group with Council Members Deets and Schneider attending as liaisons.
- Commissioner DeWitt attended a recent BI Parks Foundation meeting and provided an update to the park board.
- Commissioner Janow commented on how excited she is to be on the park board.
- Commissioner Kinney commended staff for their pickleball/tennis recommendation.
- Commissioner Kinney attended the recent Dog Advisory Committee meeting and said the committee will be bringing a recommendation to the board on other off-leash possibilities in parks.

BOARD MEMBER COMMITTEE REPORTS

CAPITAL FACILITIES: Commissioner DeWitt said the Capital Facilities Committee met with staff, the Kitsap Public Facilities District (KPUD), and the BI Land Trust to discuss KPUD requests related to their water easement at Gazzam Lake Nature Preserve near the Deerpath entrance. This meeting followed up on prior KPUD presentations made to the board. KPUD will be coming back to the board at some time in the future with another presentation.

WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

A number of written comments were received pertaining to pickleball and tennis.

MEETING ADJOURNED at 8:53 pm.


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

BY: 
 Jay C. Kinney

BY: 
 John Thomas Swolgaard

BY: 
 Dawn Janow

BY: 
 Kenneth R. DeWitt

ATTEST: 
 Michael Pollock