

BPC Development Meeting Notes

TUESDAY June 2nd @ 6pm via "Zoom"

Attendees: Barbara Goebel, Beth Bell, Becky Hall, Carol Lawrence, Cathy Campbell, Che Olson, Dotti Betty, Gaby Gaiz, Gary Danilson, Gary Peterson, Jamila Melius, Jerry Smith, Maggi Kriger, Mark Livingston, Marv Marston, Peter Homann, Rick Anderson, Scott Matthews, Stephen Dillon, Terri Vossbeck

Next meeting date wasn't set. It will depend if we want to meet as we approach Phase 3, or need to regroup sooner.

SYNOPSIS: The meeting consisted of updates, some hot off the press, and a robust discussion regarding Phase 2 return to play protocols for Cornwall Park. There was debate about preferred approach, and 8 people stayed to discuss for an added 45 minutes. 11 participants agreed to continue via email over the next 18 hours to determine the best approach for final submission to Park Dept for returning to play, (in agreement with City of Bellingham requirements).

In the end there was consensus among all who hashed it out that our original plan is the only one that is feasible at this point, given the restrictions. There is no approach that will please everyone, and we hope that people will be gracious and supportive in order to make it work, while realizing that this is time limited in nature (hopefully just 3-4 weeks).

Please see third page for details on submission to the Bellingham Park Department for final approval.

Board Member Changes, Plus Nominations Sought for August Board Member Elections

Catharine needed to step down to heal from a concussion, and will not be seeking re-election.

Mark Livingston was appointed by Barbara to fill vacancy. Mark brings passion & skill in group process & player dev't.

Maggi informed fellow board members in January that she will not be seeking re-election next term. She still plans to continue to support BPC.

BPC seeks nominations for board member elections which are held annually in August.

This can be self-nomination or nomination of others. Please send nominations to bellingshampickle@gmail.com , bagoebel@gmail.com , Stephendillon@gmail.com , or share with any board member.

A nominations committee will be appointed by July, so let us know if you are interested in participating on that.

Annual Member Renewal & New Member Drive (May-June)

We've had 60 renewals & 5 brand new members. We'd love to get up to 100 in June.... Only members may participate in the shared (opt-in) contact directory, and vote in the August Board elections. <https://bellingshampickleball.org/membership/>

Update on Opt-in Member Directory

A website update has begun in order to include a member portal & directory. For the next several weeks, it will likely just be a google sheet contact directory shared with those who have opted-in since May.

Whatcom YMCA Update: Many staff, including Courtney, have been let go. The lease on the Ferndale Y facility has ended. The Locker Room gym & KoenLock LLC now own the building. BPC has reached out to them to express interest in pickleball continuing, and to offer collaboration, but received an auto-reply stating that they are currently closed. If anyone has a relationship with Jake Locker, Michael Koenen, or Dane Thorpe, please let us know!

Birch Bay Activity Center: BBAC hopes to open for Phase 2 on June 8th on two outdoor courts, solely on a reservation basis (for up to 4 people). \$3 per person per session. During your visit, you must wear a mask at all times when you cannot be six feet apart, or while a doubles partner with a non-household member. For more details, go to: <https://share.getcloudapp.com/X6uokBRB>

Semiahmoo Resort & Spa: They hope for June 12th opening on outdoor tennis courts with pbball lines. Bring own net.

Lynden City Park has an open pickleball court. **Bender Field in Lynden** with 4 courts may open sometime in June.

WWU and the Port Waterfront court developments are on pause due to the Covid-19 situation.

Bellingham Park Department Updates (And Interface of Park Dept, BPC, and Others)

There is lots of important information below.

The Park Dept looks to BPC for suggestions which fit their guidelines, and then decides what will be allowed.

During Covid-19 the communication lines remain open, but timing of responses is often extremely delayed.

1. BPC had multiple communication on Tuesday 6/2 with the Park Dept, and finally have some updates
2. The good news is we have been told that during Phase 2, in addition to singles, it's likely that doubles will be allowed.
3. Padden & Elizabeth have been pressure-washed and lines painted on each tennis court for pickleball play with tennis net. There are no additional lines for use with portable nets. Parks had originally approved that, but changed their minds. Chalking at Elizabeth will likely happen informally, & BPC will request to spray-chalk like last year, but may be denied.
4. The Cornwall tennis courts are currently being pressure washed & will be restriped for both tennis & pickleball as "multi-purpose" courts. This will be completed sometime next week.
5. Opening date of courts is unknown, but likely between 6/5 – 6/15. County submitted phase 2 application, & will probably have a response by Thursday. We anticipate Phase 2 being approved, but don't yet know court opening date.
6. The Park Dept will NOT allow any type of reservation system for the time being. This is disappointing, but not a surprise.
7. The Park Dept will remove the nets from the middle two pickleball courts, and play will not be allowed on those courts.
8. The Park Dept will post universal sport-court signage for Phase 2, likely with: Max occupancy five people & Don't share equipment. Included in another universal park sign, "6 feet" and "Please wear a mask in public spaces."
9. BPC will submit wording on Wednesday for additional signage for Phase 2 court area protocols.
10. The Park Dept approved a path outside of the courts from kiosk side entry to other side entry. The path is delayed due to Covid-19, but the grass will hopefully be mowed to provide ease of walking around courts.
11. Park staff cleaned up graffiti in 3 spots, & BPC had a replacement sign made for the broken one.
12. Phase 3 pickleball will need to meet criteria for under 50 people, so it will not be back to normal until Phase 4.

See Next Page for BPC Approach to Return of Play in Bellingham Parks

BPC Approach to Return to Play in Bellingham Parks (in collaboration with Bham Parks & Rec Dept)

Bellingham Park Department Phase 2 Universal Guidelines for All “Sport-Courts” & Surrounding Areas:

- Recreate & gather in a group of no more than 5 people.
- Avoid sharing equipment or belongings.
- Maintain 6 foot distancing between non-household members.
- Please wear mask when 6 foot distancing from non-household members isn't possible.

Rationale:

The elements below adhere to Phase 2 restrictions and requirements. Importantly, they allow each individual who comes to play to control their own health, safety, and risks, without endangering others. It's not ideal because there is no way for small groups to know when good times to arrive are, which creates potential for frustration, but it is the best we have for now. This isn't going to meet everyone needs, but it was determined to be the best choice given all of the associated requirements. Each person must assess their own risks.

Our hope is that people will be gracious and supportive, knowing that it is for a limited time (hopefully 3-4 weeks). We are responsible for self-monitoring so let's make sure the courts can stay open, and all of us healthy!

REMEMBER:

PRE-ARRANGE TO MEET UP WITH 1-4 OTHERS TO PLAY;

NO DROP-IN, LARGE GROUP PLAY, OR ROTATING BETWEEN GROUPS

- 5-person maximum allowed for play group or for gathering.
- Keep 6-foot distancing with non-household members or wear a mask when not possible.
- Only one waiting group at a time per court. The group or representative waits outside that specific court.
- While others are waiting for your court, play is limited up to one hour. Please be considerate.
- Singles (including skinny singles), or doubles allowed. Your choice.
- Each court to be entered & exited separately. No passing through occupied courts.
- Players can bring a net to set up on a “multi-purpose” court. *(Same rules apply)*.
- Court play should be staggered from dusk to dawn to minimize waiting and congestion.
- All relevant local and state guidelines are in effect.

