

7/9/20 BPC Development (Zoom) Meeting Notes

Attendees: Barbara Goebel, Stephen Dillon, Maggi Kriger, Terri Vossbeck, Gaby Gaiz, Bob Hei, Mark Livingston, Marianne & Ben Burley, Rick Anderson, Dotty & Marv Marston, Steve Nelson, Laura Weiss, Amy Keiper.

NOTE: 2nd Annual General Meeting & Board Elections SUNDAY AUGUST 9th, 6 – 8pm.

Zoom Link: <https://sbsd.zoom.us/j/99650377092> ; No password needed. RSVP requested, but not required. All current BPC members will receive an electronic ballot by July 30th.

Annual Member Drive

152 people registered during May/June (8 new), which also resulted in board donations of \$620 to the Whatcom Family YMCA, \$275 to Whatcom COVID-19 Helpers, and \$400 to the Bellingham Food Bank! (Note: No BPC funds were utilized for these donations as this is beyond the BPC mission.)

139 opted-in to join the Member Directory, and 44 participated in the Match Making Survey. (Note on 7/18: we are now up to 175 renewed & new members, with 160 joining the member directory.)

Board Election Nominations Are Open Until Saturday July 25th

Please send nominations (of self, or others) to bellinghampickle@gmail.com, or connect with Gail, Neal, Barbara G, or Maggi. General Meeting & Election announcement is being sent on July 10th for required 30-day notice. The cutoff for vote submission will be during the 8/9 general meeting (exact time to be determined), but voting will also be allowed in advance of the meeting.

Bender Field in Lynden Opened Four New Pickleball Courts!

Thank you to Mount Baker Rotary, the Blackburn Family, and all the generous supporters!

Bellingham Park Department Updates

Barbara & Maggi had a great meeting with Lauren Woodmansee (Recreation Coordinator) who will be the designated contact person for pickleball. The idea is for the Park Dept to now have one contact person to provide consistent communication regarding protocols for each Phase, and to connect with the public as needed. Although there had been some misunderstandings and confusion regarding previous phone conversations with the public, we confirmed that BPC and the Park Dept are in agreement on the protocols. The plan is that Lauren will post a Park Dept statement on the kiosk supporting the protocols, including that the parks are open to the public, but drop-in is discouraged.

We discussed consideration of opening the middle pickleball courts, but the Park department is clear that those courts will stay closed throughout Phase 2. We will address the topic again as we approach future phases. Whatcom County won't be moving to Phase 3 soon, but there might be a Phase 2.5.

Cornwall's multi-use courts will be re-cleaned, as they are too slick when damp due to existing surface film.

It is unlikely that there will be any other significant Park Dept. changes during Phase 2 (besides the gate being unlocked between the Cornwall pickleball & multi-use courts).

Elizabeth Park can be chalked for portable nets, but the Park Dept says NO to spray-chalking this season.

Review of Phase 2 Protocols/ Court Options

Everyone present who had played during Phase 2 reported they were satisfied with the protocols and that things seemed to be working quite well, including minimal wait times most of the time. Play is being spread out early to late, and at various venues. Some had successfully used the BPC directory to make connections. We are aware however that some players are having difficulty connecting to pre-arrange play. As a result of this, Mark & Maggi will work on doing a trial of using Spond to form some small skill-level groups of similar level to ease the difficulty of pre-arranging a session for five or less people. Once the glitches are worked out, use can be expanded. We will also resend the links for the optional BPC Member Directory and Match Making Survey.

June Survey Results: Review & Discussion

[Read the Survey Results Summary](#), with comments.

133 people completed the survey. As usual the intermediate levels made up over 50% of the respondents, followed by 30% beginners & novices (levels 1.0-2.5+), and 13% lower & upper advanced (4.0-5.0)

71% of respondents had played during Phase Two. 44% had played at Cornwall. 31% reported playing all they wanted, 40% had played but not as often as they wanted, and 29% weren't ready to play yet. The most common challenge for folks was finding suitable groups to pre-arrange play with. This is what motivates the BPC Board to trial using Spond or Playtime Scheduler that will still result in groups of five or fewer. There is concern about ensuring that a chosen format doesn't slip into informal drop-in.

Survey responses from September 2019 showed that 99% thought they'd be playing at Cornwall this summer, yet the current survey reflects that now only 68% are confident they will play there this summer.

53% of people are interested in skill-level sessions throughout days during Phase 3. An interesting related survey outcome is that during Phase 3 more people are interested in skill-level sessions during the morning than in morning open general drop-in. This reflects concerns of many about the safety of large-scale open drop-in gathering. 49% say "yes, there should be skill-level sessions in the mornings", compared to 19% who say there should not be. 24% didn't know enough to answer.

Although there is interest in volunteering, the commitment level is well below normal due to a high level of uncertainty.

Additional Discussion

Because the start of Phase 3 has been delayed, the meeting ended up focused more on Phase 2 than on Phase 3. Barbara and Maggi reiterated that they will ensure some playing options for anyone who reaches out because they don't know how to get going with pre-arranging a group for playing and/or drilling.

The board acknowledged that while they want to help people play as much as they want, health and safety always needs to be considered a priority.

Date of Next Club Development Meeting to Be Determined by Timing of Transition to Next Phase.