

12/4/18 Bellingham Pickleball Club (BPC) Development Meeting Notes (@ Gail's)

Attending: Gail McDonald, Rick Hill, Jean LaValley, Karen Hoelscher, Chuck Hoelscher, Lola (Barb) Hudson, Barbara Goebel, Rick Anderson, Maggi Kriger, Pat McDonald, Terri Vossbeck, Carsten Kroon, Dotti Berry.

Next Meeting: Friday 02/01/19 @ 3:15pm @ Maggi's house; 2418 Keesling St., Bham 98225

Introductions

Volunteers of the Month:

Erica Kulm for Meridian HS Gym pickleball concept and support;

Dave Schmalz (aka "Painter Dave") for painting extension lines @ Fairhaven; with thanks for assistance to: Chuck, Dan, Jim D., Maggi, Ed, Catharine, & Rick A.

Board & Club Updates; Finance Report:

BPC reached 100 members! Terri gave a finance report: As of 12/1, we had \$1146 in our WECU account. Major expenses= 2 nets. Future= 2 nets; 2 secure storage boxes. Water broom + blower (if approved by Parks). 12/2 Meridian HS Gym Pickleball: Income=\$628 (+\$135 for new memberships); Expenses=\$608; Surplus= \$20

Indoor Court Updates!

Future Meridian HS Gym Pickleball

NEW: Please Note: Saturday afternoon dates 1-4pm; limited to 20 players for four full-court games.

> Watch for "Whoozin" email invite & Facebook post. To express *immediate* interest, email BellinghamPickle@gmail.com

1/5: Mid-Intermediate through advanced (3.4+); play can be organized by levels, with optional mixer.

1/12: Novice through Advanced Players Welcome. (Play can be organized by levels);

1/26: Advanced Player round-robin (4.0+) on 1-3 courts, by invite; other courts for lower intermediate & up (3.0+);

2/23: Beginner through Advanced Players Welcome. (Play can be organized by levels);

3/2: ??; open to suggestions;

3/23: Women's Day- Novice through advanced welcome! (will be combo of play organized by level, & a mixer).

Cost: Sliding fee scale, you choose. (Any unlikely surplus goes to reduce financial barriers, as needed.)

\$ 5 - \$10 for BPC members who have already paid annual liability coverage;

\$10 - \$15 for BPC members who haven't yet paid for annual (required) liability coverage;

\$20 - \$25 for non-member; includes required BPC membership (though June 2019), & annual liability coverage.

Meridian HS Gym Inaugural Event 12/2 Report: Eight courts and 38 players from novice through advanced.

Successes: well attended, well organized, was great meeting new people, lots of people enjoyed it.

Lessons learned: Much better to have only four full-court games at a time in order to reduce cross-court ball interference and space squeeze in the center. Make sure that nets are regulation height (or use portable nets).

Bellingham Elementary Schools

NEW: Please Note; Sign-up now for Thursdays 6-9pm in January; 2 courts @ Happy Valley Elementary, Bham.

> Contact Barbara G., bagoebel@gmail.com / 360-441-5628, with questions or to sign-up.

Mid-intermediate(3.4) through advanced. \$3-6/session. Organization by levels if desired.

Birch Bay Activity Center (BBAC)

NEW: Please Note; Tuesday 7:30-9:30pm drop-in hours, starting this week, for players 3.5+,

(what BPC calls "upper intermediate", and what BBAC calls "advanced"). <https://bbbparkandrec.org/pickleball/>

To request info or to be put on the "Whoozin" Invite List, contact: info@bbbpr2.com or (360) 656-6416.

Bellingham Fitness (BF)

Sheetrock & insulation have been completed for the area that will house the three pickleball courts (and additional fitness "studios"). If the indoor courts are popular, BF hopes to subsequently add 3-4 outdoor covered courts. Fee likely to be \$60/mo for BPC members, though not yet set. Higher for non-members.

Semiahmoo

Open to Health Club members; & to non-members who agree to strictly follow the guidelines (rules). Four courts. Schedule varies week to week. Currently you have to request the schedule. By January, Semiahmoo hopes to have it posted on their website. The upcoming BPC website will also have a link to it.

Drop-in fee=\$10; Court reservation (if available) =\$25/hr; Club/Spa membership =\$500 + \$65/mo.

Contact SpaDesk@semiahmoo.com or 360-318-2009 for the schedule, or to inquire about court reservations.

YMCA:

> **NEW:** There will be an upper intermediate league starting late-winter/ early spring; Tuesday & Thursday evenings.
>The brand new Skagit Y facility will open in mid-January with a big gym, and various pickleball opportunities.

> Potential new YMCA Facility

A letter was submitted by BPC to Bill Ziels, Whatcom Family Y Director, in support of incorporation of expanded pickleball facilities & opportunities in any new or expanded Y facilities. BPC offered its support for design considerations and fundraising if the Y decided to move in that direction. The letter was well received. Additional info will be available after their 6-month feasibility study is completed in spring 2019.

Thank you to Bruce for initiating this step; and thank you to Gail for drafting the letter.

General: Use of school gyms was discussed including: required insurance, concussion protocol, & payments.

Outdoor Court Updates

Cornwall Park/ MOA: Rick, Maggi, and Barbara G. met with the Park Operations Manager, Steve J., in order to draft a "Memo of Agreement (MOA)" between Bellingham Parks & BPC in regard to Cornwall park maintenance & use. The MOA will be finalized after being reviewed by the city legal department. (The nets will be left up year-round.) We hope to have year-round locking H2O hydrant by autumn 2019, (but not before).

Please let us know if you'd like to offer help with court clean-up, or with input on locations of new kiosk, lock boxes, signage, bike rack, garbage can, etc.

There is significant need for painted pickleball extension lines on Cornwall tennis courts for use with portable nets (vs. having to constantly re-chalk after rain). Steve J. agrees to BPC doing the extension lines with "non-permanent" marking spray paint/chalk, or chalk with clear *non-permanent* sealer. We will do this in spring 2019 (possibly waiting until after the courts are cleaned). This "non-permanent" compromise is due to Steve's concern that tennis players could object to new lines on the tennis courts despite 6 new pickleball courts.

Additionally, it might be possible for us to paint some interim lines for a few of the new nets, (with approved products), to hold us over until new courts are installed. **If you want to help, please let us know.**

Fairhaven Park

Extension lines were painted by BPC for use with two portable nets on one of the tennis courts

Bellingham Parks Recreation Division

A memorandum of Agreement will be developed in the spring between the Park's Recreation Division & BPC. Preliminary indications are that we will be approved to have a limited posted schedule when we have the new courts, with drop-in play in the mornings and a sprinkling of various lessons, clinics, level-based sessions etc. throughout the week/month scheduled on four new courts. BPC will not be allowed to charge for sessions except through agreement, & fee if relevant, with the city.

Due to the delay in court installation, Bellingham Parks is unsure whether they can commit to a 2019 local tournament because the facilities do not yet exist. Stay tuned for more info at a later date.....

Cordata Community Park

Phase one will be implemented 2019, but the four pickleball courts won't be installed until Phase two in 2012/22.

Logo

The most current version of the draft BPC logo was shared, and feedback requested. The general logo concept was approved, but some font changes were suggested. The logo will be completed by year-end.

We seek input on your font preference @ <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1I43FKtLgRCPSqSBSPQKifzK2Ali-kNI7/view?usp=sharing>

Sponsorship Potential

BPC has been contacted by a Bellingham-based paddle manufacturing company wishing to sponsor some BPC events. After brief discussion, the consensus is to proceed with "*Players Pickleball*" as a BPC sponsor. As such, they will bring demo paddles for sponsored Meridian HS Gym events, as well as provide limited financial support to ensure that events are economically viable despite utilizing four, rather than eight, courts.

Website

Rick Hill has progressed with website development to the point that it is operational. The website is a static HTML platform which supports connection with various Google (and other?) products. The website will "go live" sometime in January, and content development will continue after that. **Catharine, Barbara G., Jill Reimer & Maggi will meet on T 12/18 @ 4pm to do wordsmithing etc. Please let them know if you want to join them.**

BPC is seeking another tech-friendly person to be a helper & back-up for Rick!

Needed Teams or Committees: Identification & “Recruitment”

Physical Maintenance & Improvements

Carsten (lead) Chuck, Karen, Ed, Gabe, Gus, Rick A, Gaby, Penn, Catharine, Peter, Pat, Jill, Bernadette, Marv, David M)
We could use more crew, and one more lead. (Need to ask/confirm Mike B, Dave S.);

Sweeping, blowing, chalking, painting, paddle racks, misc. physical tasks; whatever needed to maintain & optimize courts & nearby areas. There are needs in all seasons. Volunteers could be for a specific season, or year-round.

The courts will need to be regularly cleaned of debris even during the off season to maintain the surface. Squeegees and brooms are a given, and the Parks' Department is looking into the feasibility of installing a frost-free H2O hydrant for access to year round H2O.

BPC will periodically submit summarized volunteer hours to the parks dept, as it helps them with grants, and hopefully with their inclination to support our requests and concerns.

Bernadette will help coordinate a crew if weather & permission allow for line painting for a few new nets.

Maggi & Rick will inquire with Parks about any potential for covered courts if BPC can fund it.

Tech (& Communication Methods)

Barbara, Rick Hill, Maggi, Catharine, Jill, plus could use more folks- tech friendly (& non-techie)
Ellen, Mary G., Karen & Pat agreed to be part of a pilot feedback group; seeking additional folks for this group.
Definitely need one more tech-friendly person to be a helper & back-up for Rick.

In addition to developing a website, we want to figure out the best chat group medium to meet our various needs.

> Cornwall court “protocols”/ discussion re: spring/summer 2019:

Rick A., Ellen, Maggi, Barbara, Lola, Mary G. plus others needed; Jean wants to help with etiquette guidelines;

Help develop the following for 2019 spring/summer:

Cornwall Drop-in Rotation/ Levels of Play/ (“self-rating”?)/ Etiquette/ Protocols/ Support for beginners/ Schedule/ Court “host” responsibilities/ Relevant “signage” messaging/ “lost & found” system.

Work on a method for labeling paddles with names. (Get a labeler. Maybe even a bell to signal court open.)

> Indoor Court Needs & Potential

Barbara, Bernadette, Carsten, ...others?

Barbara, Bernadette, Rick, & Maggi will stay in touch with Bellingham Fitness.

Seeking folks to be helpers for Meridian HS Gym pickleball, (especially January 12th)

> Instructing/ Coaching/ Mentoring; all levels (would like a team by early spring).

Karen, Bernadette, Rick A. plus multiple others are needed (Peter H. and Jean L. are considering....)

We would like to have folks available for informal coaching/mentoring, as well as scheduled clinic or lesson times to address the needs across the spectrum of levels.

> Cornwall Court “Hosts”

Rick A., Barbara G, Maggi, Mary G, Gaby G, Mary E, Catharine, Jill, Gail, plus need 6-8 others (board coordinates).

Board members & committed others to take turns at Cornwall drop-in times. As new systems are experimented with they will diplomatically help with questions, court flow, new folks, beginners, etc. This is a serious responsibility. There will be some type of vest or sash to identify court hosts, and potentially name tags.

Thank you!

BPC Email: BellinghamPickle@gmail.com