



PARKS AND RECREATION ADVISORY BOARD

August 14, 2024, Meeting Minutes

- PRESENT:** Brian Bressler, Steve Walker, Asa Deane, Ray Dellecker, Jeannie Gilbert, Maggi Kriger, Scott Pratschner, and Jessica Sankey
- ABSENT:** Jed Holmes and Zarah Manju
- STAFF:** Nicole Oliver, Gina Austin, Melissa Bianconi, Darby Galligan, Peter Gill, Steve Janiszewski, Paul Knippel, Bree Park, Laine Potter, Caryn Regimbal, and Lauren Woodmansee
- VISITORS:** Dina Dickerson, Nathan Eldridge, Nick Hartrich, Neil Schaner, Eric Roeder, and Skip Williams.

The meeting was called to order at 7:31 am by Chair, Brian Bressler

- I. **AGENDA REVIEW:**
There were no changes to the agenda.
- II. **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**
There were no announcements.
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT:**
There were no public comments.
- IV. **JUNE MEETING MINUTES:**
A motion was made to approve the June meeting minutes. Motion passed.
- V. **NEW BUSINESS:**
 - a. **Pickleball Club Report:**
Eric Roeder, the Bellingham Pickleball Club Vice President, provided a brief information presentation regarding the current pickleball usage. The Parks and Recreation Department and Bellingham Pickleball Club created a Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) regarding pickleball court use and operations for facilities at Cornwall Park. The MOU allows Pickleball Club members to assist in identifying times for organized drop-in play, provide introductory orientations and skill lessons, and help these high demand courts function in the best interest of the community
 - b. **GAC Trails & Wayfinding Subcommittee Report:**
David Stalheim presented their subcommittee findings regarding existing connections, markings/signage, mapping routes for pedestrians and bicyclists, and what they identify as primary recommendations.
 - c. **Little Squalicum Pier Name:**
Gina Austin provided information regarding the renovation work on the pier that is anticipated to start in this permitting work window from August 2024 through February 2025. The pier is expected to be open to

the public in the Spring of 2025. That prompted staff to solicit names from the public in accordance with City policy, which used Engage Bellingham. A motion was made to recommend the naming of the pier to Little Squalicum Pier. Motion passed.

d. Lee Memorial Park Stairway Mural:

The City has allocated substantial resources over decades to enhance the vibrancy of downtown, and this year launched a new grant program using lodging tax and general funds to support projects that activate and beautify the district. Darby Galligan provided an overview of a series of murals on three staircases leading into Lee Memorial Park at the downtown library. A motion was made to approve the Lee Memorial Park Stairway murals. Motion passed.

e. Membership:

A motion was made to recommend Scott Pratschner for re-appointment on the Parks and Recreation Advisory Board. Motion passed.

VI. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

There will be a Park Board Field Trip scheduled in the upcoming future that will be led by Lauren Woodmansee and Melissa Bianconi. More details to follow. The Sportsplex has officially paid back their money owed and is in the middle of new lease negotiations.

VII. EXECUTIVE SESSION:

The board adjourned to Executive Session at 9:14am. The meeting was called back to order at 9:19am. A motion was made to purchase the easement on property #1. Motion passed.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT: The August 14, 2024, Parks & Recreation Advisory Board meeting was adjourned by consent at 9:27am.