

Discovery Bay Women's Club

Work Session Minutes

February 19, 2026

By Zoom

Call to Order: 10:01 a.m.

Members attending: 45

Board Members present: Judith Wright - President, Sherri Poindexter - Vice-President, Kena Warrick - Secretary, Sam Blake - Treasurer, Kate Blagdon - Member-at-Large

President's Statement - Judith Wright -

- We had a really good turnout for the Community Meeting on January 31, and an excellent presentation by Emmy -aka Half Hitch, and Cruz, both from Dykes on Bikes. As follow up to that:
 1. The Board Staff Liaisons and staff will develop a protocol in the event that aggressive Strangers show up at the gate or office. They will post that protocol so we can all get familiar with it in case staff is not present in the office but we are.
 2. A small group, preferably the Safety Committee, will devise an alert system that can be used in the event that the Strangers come down into the residential area of the Park. The Safety Committee has previously dealt with emergency response with their Street Sisters planning and have already been discussing the pros and cons of various methods. If they want to expand the group beyond the Committee, they could do that. I say use everything we've got for an alert - bells whistles, drums, car horns, car alarms! A wild cacophony that would alert all of us and would never be used in any other way!

I'm asking that they also find ways to publicize and familiarize us with what our responses should be as observers and keep reminding us of the safety precautions we need to take that were addressed in the community meeting.

 - 3. Women who are struggling with their emotions regarding all of this unsettling content can create an opportunity to gather and share their feelings and support one another. A couple of concerned members can reserve Radclyffe and announce the opportunity to the Community. We don't need a committee, a task force, or any other formal organization to do this - anyone can do it! Taking action always helps reduce our sense of powerlessness.
- Following up on our options to recover damages we have experienced from the septic system failures, "The Board has thoroughly explored whether it makes financial and legal sense to sue the designers and installers of our septic system. After consulting with legal counsel and an engineer, we have learned that while there may have been design shortcomings, the legal path available to us is narrow, expensive, and uncertain. Given our system has been used for nearly six years, and most claims are time barred after 2 to 4 years, the claims remaining to us require a clear contract and remedy, which unfortunately we do not have. After careful review with our attorney and experts the Board

recommends focusing our resources on rebuilding the system and protecting ourselves with better contracts in the future.”

Upon the advice of our attorney and to protect attorney-client privilege, the statement above was prepared for us to share with you by our attorney.

Sherrie P. and Penny Rand with Tanya’s assistance, have taken a great role in writing and developing tight contracts that we are already using. We have asked our attorneys to review our contract format to assure that they are comprehensive and viable.

- LARC is in the process of reviewing and revising the standards so this is the time to send the committee a detailed email if you would like to see the Committee make a particular change.
- Thank you to the Pet Committee, Document Review and the Web Team for getting the Pet rules revised, updated, and posted on our web site!
- The best way to be part of the Park, to make changes or just to have a sense of accomplishment, join a committee!! More about that later...

Report from Facility Manager - Tanya Yada

Tanya reported that next week we will have excavators digging pits in the meadow to monitor ground water and to do soil analysis to determine if the meadow may once again be used as a drainfield for the septic system. The pits will be well marked and covered. Before 2019 most of our waste water was draining into the meadow. We are researching that history to also help determine if the meadow will be the best place for the new drainfield. If we are able to re-locate it to the meadow, it will be an improved system that will allow us to maintain pipes at certain junctures where there are openings and make it possible for us to keep them free from the sludge and biomass that clogged our old system. Part of the testing is meant to assure that the meadow will be able to handle all of the water from the septic system as well as the runoff from the hill. If we receive approval from the State and County to use the meadow as our drainfield, it will not affect our ability to use it as we do now and it will look the same once the work is completed and the grass has had a chance to grow.

Report from Office Manager - Julia Zorthian

In addition to her daily tasks, Julia has been helping Tanya with a variety of research tasks including finding tiles to replace broken ones in the pool. She has also been working on the protocol for how anyone who is in the office should respond to unwanted visitors. Additionally, she has been assisting LARC by editing and creating new forms for LARC and assisting Karen with bookkeeping tasks.

Open Forum for DBWC Members *(At this time, members are encouraged to bring up issues of concern or interest involving the Park or community, ask questions of the Tanya or make other brief comments.)*

- Kerrie McMillan - It’s better to be prepared than to think that “it” won’t happen here. The Safety Committee is working on the finishing touches of a plan for an alert system and guidance for how members should respond if aggressive strangers go past the gate and office into our residential and common areas. Recently “peep holes” were installed in both doors in the office. One Call will be important to us. We will not send Street Sisters out into the Park.

- Board Response:
 - Judith - The “Know your Rights” documents and power point that were provided during the community meeting have been posted on the website in the Safety Committee section.
- Sherrie P. - The emergency lift chair is now located in the office lobby. If you need to take it, please sign it out on the log. If you have not been trained, please do not use it. There is a laminated sign attached with the 3 questions for which the answer must be “Yes” before you use it. This device should not be used if the person who has fallen cannot scoot onto the chair herself.
 - Board Response:
 - Judith - The training is short and fun. It’s a fascinating machine. Thank you to the Sherries.
- Jeri Solomon - Being on the corner of West and 6th Street and at the bottom of the hill has given Jeri the experience of observing vehicles speeding in that area. Recently someone endangered the people who were walking there. Jeri is asking that a speed bump be placed in that area in the hopes that people will slow down.
 - Tanya’s Response - Drivers of delivery and other business vehicles are also speeding in the park. Should we consider reporting these drivers to their company?
 - Member Comments:
 - Deb W. - Maybe we should attach a 5 MPH sign right to the front gate.
 - Cindy K. - Fed Ex is far worse than the other delivery people. The people in the Park whom she notices are speeding are not in these meetings
 - Penny B. There was a scary encounter with the speeder on the corner of 5th and West Streets.
- Kosha - Questioned the attorney-client privilege comment made by Judith in her report. Aren't all members of the Club clients of the attorneys? Kosha is concerned that this blocks transparency,
 - Board Response:
 - Judith - According to our attorney, the Executive Board is considered the only client. This makes sense for confidentiality and other practical reasons. In our conversations that we have with our attorney that are protected and cannot be disclosed to an entity that could be an adversary in a legal action.
- Gale S - Isn't the procedure we are using to clean the water now going to result in much cleaner water if the drainfield is moved to the meadow?
 - Tanya’s Response: Yes the current system results in very pure water by the time it ends up in the drainfield.
- Jackie Lanum - Should the Green Team / Sustainability Committee that has not been meeting for a few years be reactivated? It seems that now is the right time to revisit the topics and examine new issues. Jackie says she will do her best to recruit members.
 - Board Response:
 - We will put a sign up sheet for the Green Team out with the other committee sign up sheets.

Discussion Topics

- Board response to Joanie McCarthy's RFA recommending that to empower committees to operate with consistency and autonomy that Board Liaisons attend committee meetings as observers.
 - Board Response by Kena - The Board has discussed this issue via email. We believe the goal of Board Liaison's attendance at DBWC advisory committee meetings is to provide support for the work of committees and have identified multiple ways the Board may do this by:
 - Being present at meetings
 - Providing communication between the Board and committees
 - Offering guidance regarding Club and Park governance and processes (by-laws, CC&R's, DBWC Rules, DBR rules, history)
 - Assisting with meeting facilitation when the process is "stuck"
 - Facilitating communication with Park Staff (facilities, office and bookkeeper)

The BOD recommends the following practice be adopted by all committees:

As new liaisons are assigned, committee members will discuss with liaisons their expectations and share what level and kind of supportive participation would be helpful to the committee.

- RFA - Marianne Nolte and Kelly Gorley - Requesting that members who decorate a common area in the Park notify Facilities in writing when the decorations will be put up and also when they will be taken down. Marianne stated that the lights in the Ramada were incredibly beautiful and a gift of love given by Lynn Brem on the ladder while she was recovering from surgery and chemo. Whereas in the past when we had 33 people here in the winter we now have over 70. She is asking via this RFA that when a small, unofficial group wants to decorate a common area that the community be advised about when the decorations will go up and come down. Additionally, the timing for when lights are on needs to be carefully managed. Recently, the lights in the Ramada, because electrical outages affected the timer, were going on in the middle of the night and waking up members who live near the Ramada.
 - Member Response:
 - Lynn Brem (representing Nanci as well) -

"I'm glad the community is having this discussion, because it's good for us to talk it out when people have different opinions about something that affects all of us. So I want to thank Marianne for writing the RFA. I also want to acknowledge that Marianne and Kelly live much closer to the Ramada than the rest of us, so the way this affects them matters a lot and deserves our care.

Our intent for the light display at the Ramada has been to cheer us all up during these dark times, which are both seasonal and political. (Not to mention meteorological - there's a reason they call us Warriors!) Nanci chose the color purple both for its healing properties, and because it's not associated with Christmas.

I've heard four concerns about the lights, which I'll address one at a time.

1) They turn on in the middle of the night.

Yes, I'm really sorry about that. We thought we were being clever to use solar timers for exactly that reason, so power outages wouldn't affect them, but they kept turning on late at night anyway. We finally figured out they were getting triggered by headlights, so I switched back to timers and paid close attention to them. That worked well enough until the electricians had the power over there off so long that I lost track of what was going on. It's my mistake that I didn't just turn off the power strips during that time.

2) It's not right to add to the electric bill when the fee increase is already a hardship for some of us.

I agree. We're using all LED lights over there, but it still costs the park something to buy that extra electricity. Nanci asked Tanya if she could find out how much the lights at the Ramada increase our electrical bill. I am glad to donate those funds. We are also glad to pay for the propane we use for the fires. (They're so magical - you all should come.)

3) Even if the funds are donated, it's environmentally irresponsible to use all of that electricity.

Thinking about this aspect is especially important to our community, because Environment is one of the park's Pillars. Since I grew up in the Pacific Northwest, I'm aware that a lot of the power we generate around here is actually pretty clean compared to other areas of the country. Jefferson County PUD buys all of the power we use from the Bonneville Power Administration, which generates most of its electricity from water turbines on the Columbia River. That method is by no means environmentally perfect, but it's carbon-free and seems pretty sustainable now that the system of dams is already in place.

4) Decorative lights should come down when the holidays are over.

The feedback we've gotten about how long the lights should stay there has been all over the map. There are those who feel strongly that they should only be up for a couple of weeks right around Christmas, and at least half a dozen others have asked if they could be left up all year. More than one woman has even talked about writing an RFA for that, and we've had to tell them that we don't think the lights we're using would last that long.

Nanci and I think it would be great to enjoy them for a few weeks on either side of Winter Solstice, both because they cheer us up in the darkness, and because it's too much work to do for just a couple of weeks. There are several other variables besides dates to explore as we look for a solution that works for everyone:

a) What time do the lights come on in the evening, and for how many hours?

There's a good chance we can squeeze almost as much joy out of a shorter amount of time.

b) Do they light up every night or just for events?

Maybe some hybrid model would meet our needs. That's pretty much what we did this year.

c) Do people like the purple lights or should we mix it up?

The possibilities are endless!

We'll be glad to tell Facilities about our plans if we decide to do this again next year. The question will be what to tell them, which is why we appreciate the chance to hear how the rest of the community feels about it. For Nanci and myself, decorating the Ramada is our gift to the park, so we want to get you something that you like!!!"

- Nanci S.- We communicated with Tanya during the decorating time. Waiting til February makes the weather warmer for removing the lights.
 - Penny B. - There are variables such as weather that could affect deadlines for putting up and removing lights and other decor.
 - Sheryl H. - Thanked Lynn and Nanci for putting up the lights. They are beautiful. She explained that the frustration is that the Ramada is a common area shared by others. For Sheryl it feels like the people putting up decor are taking ownership of that space. She suggested that it might be helpful if people who plan to decorate common areas communicated the plan to the rest of the community. The lack of communication with the members in the park has been a big part of the problem. The fact that only two people knew when the decorations were going up and when they would be taken down made Sheryl feel that her partial ownership of the space was not being respected.
 - Sherri M. - In the past, she has done the decorations. They went up when volunteers had time to do it and came down when they had time and the physical ability. If the lights bother us, we should go take them down.
 - Cindy K. - Thank you to Nanci and Lynn for their work. Can we keep them year round and not use them all the time?
 - Jackie L. - Our potential environmental committee that is getting reactivated might have a comment about this. In the past we have valued not having a lot of lights on all over the place in the park. This has an impact on bird migration as well.
 - Tenna M. - The little LED lights are rated for 50,000 hours. The wind, however, would take a toll on the strings of light. It would be sacrificial to leave them up.
 - Kerrie M. - March 3 is a total lunar eclipse. It would be great if some lights could be out in the park. It might help us be able to see the eclipse.
 - Gale S. - Would a simple RFA be enough to communicate plans?
 - Marianne N. - It's not just these lights in the Ramada. It was also about other lights being put on common property like the road. The big picture is how we manage ourselves in the common areas.
 - Karen K. - For some people outdoor lights are a safety feature for people and animals. Lights on First Street help with safety at night. They have been willing to respond to neighbor's concerns.
- RFA - Kena Warrick - Requesting that we revise Pet Rule 4.5 to allow that pets may be brought into the office. Pet restrictions would remain in place for other common areas.

- Member Comments

- ce. Judy Fields, representing the Pet Committee and herself does not see any problem with this RFA.
 - Sherri M. playing Devil's advocate ask if there are certain hours when this rule would be in effect? She can see how people would misuse this rule.
 - Evelyn R. - Is concerned about people who have allergies to some animals. Dander makes it hard for her to breathe. She is opposed to having pets in the office.
 - Gillian H. - Is uncomfortable with this idea. She builds good relationships with some dogs and not all dogs. It does not feel attractive to her to have to go into the office to have to look around to see which dogs are in there? Owners have enough time with their dogs without having to take them into the office.
 - Sherri P. is in favor of having pets in the office. If someone is uncomfortable, the owner can be asked to remove her dog.
 - Donna S. sees this as a slippery slope. If dogs can be in the office then the next thing will be that dogs will end up in other buildings. Recently her granddog was tied up outside the office. Could we have a post for their leashes to be attached to?
 - Jeri S. - If this were allowed, could we set a time limit for how long dogs would be allowed in the office? What happens if there are events happening in the office? She loves dogs but sees a lot of ways that this can be problematic. In other common areas like the meadow, people are not supposed to take their dog in until they know which dogs are there. This would need to be a rule if dogs were allowed in the office.
 - Paula C. - She loves dogs but her concerns are that owners will not follow through with accidents in the office. Who gets to be the dog police?
 - Tanya - She understands that this might not be approved by the community. Could we have a single day for staff to bring their dogs to work?
 - Penny R. - If we can't have scents in the laundry why would we have this rule for members? She supports a one day a week rule for employees' dogs.
 - Judy S. - supports Tanya's idea.
 - Penny B. - supports Tanya's idea.
 - Lori G.- Echoed Penny Rand's comments. She likes the idea of accommodating staff pets.
- Jefferson County recycling changes - Kena - Starting on April 1 Jefferson County will start weighing and charging for recycling. We may need to look at modifications we want to make in our recycling program based on these changes as well as a lack of volunteers for recycling trips that may now take longer due to the changes at the solid waste facility.
 - Update on Barn Shed - Sherri P. - Progress on the Barn Shed. The electricity has been installed. Food will not be moved in until the Barn Shed is environmentally ready. The expenses for the Shed have been greater than the donations. To get the Barn ready for food, \$4000 is still needed for materials. Volunteer help for the physical work is also needed. The donations for food lags behind the cost of purchases. Once the Barn Shed has been stocked, the team will give the members an inventory of the food there and an estimate of how many individual meals that food represents. The food in the Barn Shed is not meant to replace members personal food and water supplies. GREAT (Grass Roots Emergency Access Team) suggests that members have 3-6 months of food available in case of an emergency. See the

attachment included with these minutes for costs thus far for purchasing and installing the Barn Shed as well as information about donations and fund raising.

Announcements:

It's time for Committee Member sign ups for the coming year. Current committee members are asked to actively recruit others to participate and share their experiences and encourage others to join. Sign up sheets will be available in the office on Monday, February 23. Those members who are not in the Park may email Julia in the office (office@discoverybayresort.org) with their names and committees they would like to serve on.

Motion to Adjourn made by Sherri and seconded by Kate. The meeting was adjourned at 11:42 a.m.

Minutes submitted by Kena Warrick, Secretary