



Fidalgo Park and Recreation District Board of Commissioners

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Highly Qualified Candidates Motivate Pool Commissioners Jeremy McNett and David Way to Step Down For Multiple Board Appointments

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Date: March 23, 2026

ANACORTES -- Commissioner Andrew Olson's departure in February 2026 after 23 years on the Board triggered the search for candidates to fill the unexpired seat. The response from community members was heartening as five qualified and experienced residents stepped forward. With the assurance that they would leave the Board of Commissioners in good hands, Commissioners McNett and Way decided at the meeting on Thursday March 18, 2026 to step down, effective the next day for Commissioner McNett, and no later than May 1 for Commissioner Way to ensure the Board retains a quorum as new members are appointed. Current Board Chair Ken Hansen and Commissioner Cindy Marvin will continue to serve. All three outgoing commissioners have pledged to share their history and expertise with the new Board to assure continuity for the Fidalgo District.

These steadfast and dedicated leaders have given our community, our pool & fitness center, and our patrons over a dozen years of service on the Board. Their passion for this facility and associated programs started in their youth, when learning to swim, swimming competitively, and working as lifeguards. As members of the Board, they worked to improve capacity and infrastructure through a capital campaign and attempts to establish a metropolitan recreation district that would have eliminated the 6-year levy to assure the facility could remain open indefinitely. Their leadership and knowledge of the facility guided the District through the chaos of the pandemic. Their lives juggling work, family, sport coaching and other passions challenged them with thoughts about stepping aside. Seeing the career and leadership backgrounds of the candidates, mostly retired, gave them assurance that this was the right time to make room on the Board for others who have the same passion with more time to dedicate to the organization.

"Receiving five letters of interest for last month's Board vacancy was a pleasant surprise, although it was the backgrounds, skillsets, and enthusiasm from all the candidates that was the most impressive," said Chair Ken Hansen. "Jeremy and David saw this as an opportunity to replace themselves with motivated retirees who have the experience and capacity to benefit the Board, Pool, and community."

Based on the interviews conducted at the March 18 meeting, the Board posted a notice today naming Kathleen Brueger as its primary nominee to fill the Olson vacancy, with Dawn Bachmann and Tory Haschak as alternates. Registered voters in the District may submit additional nominations to the Board within 15 days, as detailed in state law. The Board will hold a special meeting on April 13, 2026 to appoint a candidate to fill the Olson seat. The expanded Board will then sequentially nominate candidates to fill the McNett vacancy, post another 15-day notice, make an appointment to that seat, and then repeat the process to fill the Way vacancy.

A community reception is being organized (at a time and date to be announced) to honor and thank all of the outgoing commissioners, and to welcome the new commissioners.

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