

Candidates for Election to the BBIA Steering Committee

- 1) **Candidate Name:** Jonathan Mallahan **Neighborhood:** Central Reaches
Statement: I consider Birch Bay my home, it is where I grew up. I graduated from Blaine High School and earned a bachelor's degree from Gonzaga University. Professionally, I worked for the City of Spokane for 12 years in various leadership roles overseeing departments responsible for neighborhood engagement, community development, planning, development, human services, and customer service. For the last 5 years, I have worked for a not for profit organization that serves vulnerable people through services and housing. In addition to these roles, I have volunteered as board member with Spokane Neighborhood Action Partners, United Way of Spokane, and the Spokane Low Income Housing Coalition. My wife and two children spend much of our free time in Birch Bay and we plan to make it our long-term home.
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- 2) **Candidate Name:** Caprice Pine **Neighborhood:** Birch Point Village Reach
Statement: • Bachelor of Arts Degree from Willamette University, Salem, OR (Spanish Literature and International Studies, German Literature and International Studies)
• Master's Degree from University of Washington, Seattle, WA (Germanics)
• Human Resources Professional, consultant to dozens of organizations over 40 years
• Board President at Edgebrook Swim and Tennis Club (Bellevue, 2012-2016)
• Birch Bay Village resident since February 2021, active in the community:
• Sport Courts Committee Chair
• Service and Social Club Co-Chair (Chair as of January 1, 2024)
• Building and Grounds Committee Secretary
• Pickleball and Tennis enthusiast

My husband and I joined Birch Bay Village in February 2021 when we bought a vacation getaway on Skeena way. We visited many times that year, and became full-time, year-round residents in Spring of 2022. We love living in the Village and have made a number of friends here, many of the Pickleball persuasion. I have been active on various committees since moving here – I like to get involved to help improve things. I care deeply about the Village and Birch Bay, and I would love to have the opportunity to serve on the BBIA Steering Committee if you elect me.

In addition to serving the community in Birch Bay Village, I have community service experience from my time on the Edgebrook Swim and Tennis Club Board of Directors. Edgebrook is a member-owned neighborhood club in Bellevue with upward of 600 members. After serving on the Tennis Committee and chairing the Aquatics Committee I was elected to the Board and selected as its President. During my tenure at Edgebrook we hired a new General Manager and a new Tennis Director, created a new performance review process, conducted member satisfaction surveys for both summer and year-round members, trained staff on HR issues, upgraded the club website and improved communications between management and membership. Difficult decisions and strong feelings on all sides are familiar territory for me. My fellow Board members and I tried to be proactive in anticipating and addressing member concerns, of which there were plenty.

My professional experience as a human resources consultant working with the leaders of privately and publicly held companies has given me a good understanding of the issues that organizations face at the “big picture” level. As an HR leader through boom and bust cycles, I developed skills for change management that I can use to help Birch Bay position itself for a bright future.

I believe my business experience in general, and my HR expertise in particular, will be of benefit to Birch Bay if I am chosen to serve on the BBIA Steering Committee. Thank you for your consideration.

Caprice Pine, Senior Consultant, Swift HR Solutions

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- 3) **Candidate Name:** Matt Berry **Neighborhood:** Cottonwood Reach
Statement: I am excited to express my strong interest in serving on the Steering Committee for the Birch Bay Incorporation Community. As a Realtor, Real Estate Appraiser, and Director of the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce, I bring a unique blend of professional experience and community involvement to the table.
- My unwavering commitment to Birch Bay and its residents is my driving force. I firmly believe that the path to protecting our community lies in the establishment of the City of Birch Bay. This conviction has inspired me to step forward and offer my dedication and enthusiasm to this important cause.
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- 4) **Candidate Name:** James R. (Bob) Aiken **Neighborhood:** Central Uplands
Statement: 72 years old. I'm retired and have been a resident of Birch Bay since 2004. I've had a varied career over the years; Graphic arts designer, Commercial driver, Auto mechanic, Janitor, Free-lance writer, among other trades.
- Education includes high school and a Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Louisiana at Lafayette (formerly, the University of Southwestern Louisiana).
- I hold an ASE Master's Certificate, a Private Pilot's Certificate, and a CPR/first aid rating.
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- 5) **Candidate Name:** Cecil Robinson **Neighborhood:** Cottonwood Reach
Statement: blaine high school grad, work in sales, looking to incorporate Birch Bay
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- 6) **Candidate Name:** Jim Shaver **Neighborhood:** Birch Point
Statement: Diploma in IT. Work in cybersecurity. Served on several boards and committees. Part of the website committee.
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- 7) **Candidate Name:** Patrick Alesse **Neighborhood:** Central Reaches
Statement: I was a school teacher in Blaine for 30 years. I have a Business at Birch Bay that my wife and I started in 1971. I have been involved with the Birch Bay community in various ways including the 1991 incorporation effort. I have held office in the Birch Bay Resort Association, the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Birch Bay Water & Sewer District.
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- 8) **Candidate Name:** Lisa M Fisher **Neighborhood:** Central Reaches
Statement: OHPE, CPO, General Manager Birch Bay Leisure Park (2 years) 13 yrs managing State Parks in VT, 6 Years managing Membership Resorts on East Coast, Para Educator, Author, 4-H Leader, Shooting Sports Leader (Archery), Outdoor Recreation Co-Ordinator and teacher, substitute teacher grades 1-12. Create and manage budgets, hire, train and de-hire staff, Create programs for training and recreation programs, building company cultures and building community relationships.
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- 9) **Candidate Name:** Chuck Kinzer **Neighborhood:** Cottonwood Reach
Statement: I best describe myself as leaning toward incorporation, but not fully having made up my mind. If you've seen my posts on Nextdoor, you'll know that I am very much in favor of collecting and sharing good data before making this decision. Maybe that's because I was a professor for 20 years at Vanderbilt University, then for another 15 at Columbia University. My background includes data collection and analysis, grant and report writing, communicating with government agencies, and survey construction, all wrapped up in a love of Birch Bay. I've been trained to look at evidence before making decisions—especially decisions that aren't reversible. I'd like to help collect good data and if it turns out incorporation is feasible, would make every effort to communicate effectively with the County and State so that we present the best case possible for becoming a city. Having been a part of Birch Bay on Birch Bay drive since I was 12, when my parents bought the property on which my wife and I now live, I remember speed limits of 5 miles per hour, the amusement park, roller rink, riding stables, swimming pool, the air force base and the original location of the C-Shop. Birch Bay has changed since then, and significant changes will happen as it continues to grow. Incorporation may be the best way to ensure changes that

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are not haphazard. As a long-time planning committee member of Wings Over Water Northwest and a volunteer photographer for The Northern Light, I believe it's important to balance what Birch Bay is now with the benefits incorporation might bring. I'd like to be a part of the steering committee to help explore how incorporation can work to the benefit of all in our community.

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- 10) **Candidate Name:** Brooks Friedland **Neighborhood:** Central Reaches
Statement: BS Western WA University, WA State EMT, Mariner Cove Condo Association Board Association Member, U of W engineering-3 D printing, San Juan Island Emergency Services,
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- 11) **Candidate Name:** Michael Edward Rutkowski **Neighborhood:** Hillsdale
Statement: iworked dhs for 18 years was in navy for 22 years
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- 12) **Candidate Name:** Michael Stringam **Neighborhood:** Birch Point Village Reach
Statement: Residence: Purchased property in Birch Bay Village in 2006, started construction in 2013, became resident in 2015.

Education: BSc (Civil Engineering) 1971

Career: More than 400 projects as a consulting engineer in the United States, Canada and Europe, including comprehensive municipal plans, downtown plans, and community plans. Appeared before City Councils, Planning Commissions, hearing examiners and appeal boards. Served as adjunct professor at the Department of Environmental Design of the University of Calgary.

Community service: Previous board member for the Snohomish County Red Cross, board member for Okanagan Gleaners, board member YMCA Snohomish County, Volunteer for Habitat for Humanity (Whatcom County), Driver for Meals on Wheels (Whiterock)

Relevant Experience: Previous vice-president for Snohomish County Committee for Improved Transportation, member of City of Calgary Planning Commission. Current member of the Architectural Control Committee (ACC) of Birch Bay Village.

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- 13) **Candidate Name:** Jason Polverari **Neighborhood:** Central Reaches
Statement: Owner of Lil Sprouts Child Care (began as In-Home childcare in Birch Bay now located in Blaine), BA from Western Washington University, and Birch Bay resident for over 17 years. Community Service/Volunteer experience with local Cub and Boy Scout groups, and Nooksack Salmon Enhancement Assoc.
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- 14) **Candidate Name:** Bryan VanderYacht **Neighborhood:** Birch Point Village Reach
Statement: Self employed over 33 years as one of the owners of VanderYacht Propane We started serving the BirchBay trailer courts back in 1989
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- 15) **Candidate Name:** Wayne Kortlever **Neighborhood:** Central Reaches
Statement: Lived in Birch Bay for the last 35 years
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- 16) **Candidate Name:** Devon M Machuta **Neighborhood:** Cottonwood Reach
Statement: Hello, fellow residents of Birch Bay,

I'm deeply connected to this community, having moved to Birch Bay in 2018 with my husband, and starting our family here with the arrival of our three children. Our roots in Whatcom County span generations, and I see this area as a beacon of potential and pride.

But Birch Bay's journey to becoming its own city is still unfolding, and I'm convinced that, as locals, we are uniquely equipped to guide its transformation. My youth, imagination, and relentless drive fuel my vision for Birch Bay's future. The potential to create an unmistakable, welcoming aesthetic for our city inspires me.

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In 2022, we even expanded our connection with the community by purchasing a neighbor's home and jumping into the world of hospitality through Airbnb. This experience provided valuable insights into the needs and preferences of our tourist population.

I bring more to the table than a passion for Birch Bay; I have a background in customer service, social media marketing, and de-escalation. I've led workplace committees, tackling projects focused on communication, staff involvement, and workflow. My background as the oldest of eight has taught me to manage and excel in roles that require overseeing many moving parts.

Furthermore, my experience as a nursing assistant at St. Joseph's Hospital, particularly my role as Unit Coordinator in the ICU from 2019 to 2021, has refined my skills in coordination and leadership.

What sets Birch Bay apart is our remarkable diversity. This incredible tapestry of perspectives and skills is the very essence of our strength. I believe in the magic of collaboration, uniting all these unique talents into a single vision. I'm convinced that we are more together than we are apart, and it's through working together that we can realize our vision of a thriving, independent city.

A city isn't merely a place on the map; it's a shared dream, a collective endeavor. I'm dedicated to the journey of crafting that dream, and equally devoted to presenting it to our community with the energy and enthusiasm it deserves.

I see Birch Bay as a city of quality, history, freshness, and resources. I envision a revitalized Front Street teeming with diverse businesses, from small shops to essential services like doctors' offices and pharmacies. I'm eager to explore the realm of education, creating schools that cater to our community's unique needs. Additionally, a library that serves our residents is essential, enhancing our access to knowledge and resources.

Birch Bay has the potential to be a bustling and vibrant community, rich in resources and amenities. We have the power to eliminate the inconvenience and confusion that residents and tourists face when they must leave the area for essential services.

As we embark on this journey to cityhood, I'm excited to play a part in shaping Birch Bay's future. Together, we can craft an incredible vision, present it to our public, and set Birch Bay on a path to become a city we can all be proud of.

Thank you for considering me as a candidate for the Birch Bay Incorporation Association Steering Committee. It's a privilege to share this vision with you.

17) Candidate Name: Jim Anderson

Neighborhood: Central Uplands

Statement: Education: University of Nebraska, University of Missouri - Kansas City, Boise State University. Career: 20 years with Trans World Airlines, Field Manager Passenger Services, San Francisco Int'l Airport. 10 years with Alaska Airlines, International Services, Seattle Corporate offices. Various international organizations, board member IATA immigration groups, Montreal, PQ, Canada. Community Service: current President of BayCrest North HOA, Relevant expertise: in depth research into government regulations, negotiations of customs and immigration fines, manage large work force, coordinate sales agreements with foreign airlines and foreign governments.

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18) **Candidate Name:** Lisa Guthrie

Neighborhood: Birch Point Village Reach

Statement: Life long Birch Bay lover, resident for the past 20+ years (lifetime Whatcom County). I have worked with the previous BB Steering Committee as an active resident member, as well as a stakeholder representative in Birch Bay development projects. I am a past president of the Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce, and a proponent of everything Birch Bay. My kids and grandkids live here as well and I can deeply about the future of Birch Bay. I believe we deserve to represent ourselves in what that looks like for us and future generations.

19) **Candidate Name:** Barney Yorkston

Neighborhood: Cottonwood Reach

Statement: Resident for over 30 yrs

20) **Candidate Name:** Sharman Burnam

Neighborhood: Central Reaches

Statement: At the age of 5 my Canadian parents purchased our property at Birch Bay. I know the joys of being a child and spending every summer, Easter and Christmas break for 13 years at Birch Bay. It was inevitable I'd marry an American and throughout my adult years, regardless of where I lived in the world, I came back to Birch Bay. In 2019 my husband and I moved permanently to our Birch Bay Homestead on Terrill Creek.

My career in sales and marketing and owning my own business, has allowed me the flexibility to follow my passion of volunteer work. In the past I have held many leadership positions such as Whatcom County Girl Scout Cookie Chairman & Guide leader, for years I was an active PTA Board member of Custer Elementary School. Living in Snohomish County I was active with our local Senior Centers managing their outside travel and work parties. I was a board member of my HOA for over 10 years along with volunteering with Skagit and Whatcom County Habitat for Humanity by helping to raise money for affordable housing. Currently, I am a member and volunteer for our Birch Bay Chamber of Commerce, as well as Treasurer for the Friends of Birch Bay Library.

Rather than sit back and allow Whatcom County to make decisions on our future, I am more than willing to be an active/ working member of the Birch Bay Incorporation Association Steering Committee. I feel my strong leadership and marketing skills, along with my passion for our Birch Bay lifestyle, would benefit our Birch Bay Incorporation efforts.

21) **Candidate Name:** Brian Bell

Neighborhood: Central Uplands

Statement: I retired in 2014 after earning a degree in Computer Science, launching a 40-year career in industrial and corporate IT. (Yes, I was the ultimate computer geek.) My wife and I purchased a rental property in Sea Links (just up the hill from CJ's Beach House) in 2010, and we moved there from Michigan in 2012. I love it here and don't plan to ever move again.

The year after retiring (2015) I was drafted into a plucky band of bibliophiles intent on building a library right here in Birch Bay. We formed a non-profit named Friends of Birch Bay Library (FOBBL). If you've ever traversed Birch Bay Drive, then you've passed the property tagged for library use on the former Vogt homestead. The county bookmobile parks there from 3-7 PM each Wednesday. FOBBL hosts several community-friendly fundraising events each year; believe me when I tell you that's a lot of hamburgers, hotdogs and happy kids! I've served on the FOBBL board since Day One and am honored to serve as its current Secretary and co-webmaster.

I mention FOBBL because a public library is an important example of the things the entire Birch Bay community – notably including our school-age children – richly deserves in return for its copious tax revenues, but still does not enjoy. Whatcom County Council does not always send suitably motivated folks to represent our interests: The recent, egregious failure to adequately represent community concerns on issues like the new stop sign at the entrance to the Horizons development, and the week-long incendiary

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war zone (violating multiple State RCWs) that rages unchallenged on our beach every July beginning Canada Day, are but two examples.

I agree emphatically with my respected friend Chuck Kinzer that the task ahead of the BBIA steering committee must be to (1) refresh the existing, 2008 feasibility study with realistic, current data and assumptions; and (2) advocate strongly for Birch Bay incorporation should the data indicate that doing so would benefit the majority of taxpaying residents. There are plenty of voices anxious to stand up and bloviate their self-interested view that incorporation would be a mistake. I, on the other hand, am with whomever it was who said, "Assertions made without evidence can be dismissed without evidence."

I promise to pursue the facts in this situation, wherever they may lead us. I don't want to pay any more taxes unless in return I see improvements (like the Berm) that I value. Certainly not because someone in Olympia thought they were in our best interest.

22) **Candidate Name:** Gerald Gillespie

Neighborhood: Central Uplands

Statement: High school education and I grew up on a farm then joined the navy. Our community is full of veterans that deserve representation in having our neighborhood to be more like an area that everyone can feel safe and welcome

