

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

October 7, 2002
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Degginger, and Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Lee, Mosher, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Degginger opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to executive session for approximately 90 minutes to discuss two items of property acquisition, one item of pending litigation, and one item of labor negotiations.

The study session resumed at 7:30 p.m. with Mayor Marshall presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Bellevue 50 Fest Update

City Manager Steve Sarkozy introduced the Bellevue 50 Fest Co-Chairs: John Valaas, First Mutual Bank, and Anne Taylor, Meydenbauer Center. Public Information Officer Ron Langley said the 50 Fest Committee will provide periodic status reports to Council over the coming months.

Ms. Taylor noted that Mayor Marshall and Kemper Freeman, Jr., are Honorary Co-Chairs with the primary tasks of fundraising and representing the committee at public functions. The Bellevue 50 Fest Committee is supported by citizen volunteers, a paid event coordinator, and City staff as well. The purpose of the yearlong celebration is to promote Bellevue's evolution into a great city, encourage patronage and tourism, build community bonds, create lasting legacies, and to have a lot of fun. The 50 Fest theme is "Making History," which will be incorporated into all marketing materials.

Ms. Taylor reviewed some of the proposed citywide events:

- March 31 reenactment of incorporation ceremony.
- *Dance as You Were* sock hop at Bellevue Community College.
- *50 Trees for 50 Years* event on Arbor Day.
- *Bellevue Motorama* – Summer 2003.
- Summer fun run, possibly in conjunction with Seafair.
- *Beat of Bellevue* concert at the Theatre at Meydenbauer Center.

Additional functions include neighborhood celebrations and possibly an outdoor movie theatre. The 50 Fest theme will be offered to existing neighborhood events and traditional annual events such as Best of Bellevue, Family 4th of July in Downtown Park, and Bellevue Arts and Crafts Fair. Proposed special projects include a historical video, portable history exhibit, historical timeline book, a time capsule, and related history articles.

Mr. Valaas said the Bellevue 50 Fest kickoff event was held last week at Bellevue Art Museum. Approximately 50 volunteers have been recruited to date. Primary sponsors include:

- City of Bellevue,
- Ilium Associates - providing all graphics support,
- King County Journal Newspapers/Eastside Journal – sponsoring a History Hunt,
- Bellevue Community College and KIXI/KLSY radio stations – sponsoring the sock hop,
- Factoria Mall – sponsoring a neighborhood event,
- Pacific Northwest Bank – sponsoring the March 31 incorporation reenactment, and
- Bellevue Art Museum – sponsored the kickoff event.

Cash donations have been received as well from the City of Bellevue, Kemper Development, First Mutual Bank, Rabanco, Sterling Realty, and Wallace Property. The 50 Fest strategic plan and budget will be refined during October, and final event and project decisions will be made this fall. Mr. Valaas said the subcommittees are still looking for additional volunteers and event/project sponsors. Citizens interested in volunteering should contact Paul Gordon at (425) 454-4817 or email 50Fest@ci.bellevue.wa.us. If interested in becoming a sponsor, contact Mayor Connie Marshall at (425) 452-7810 or use the 50 Fest email address provided above.

Mayor Marshall thanked the citizens who helped launch the 50 Fest initiative and the Co-Chairs for their energy and enthusiasm. She praised the fun-filled kickoff event at Bellevue Art Museum.

Mr. Langley said the contract for the 50 Fest event coordinator, who has not yet been hired, will be presented for Council action later this month.

(b) Downtown Implementation Plan Update – Draft Environmental Impact Statement

Mr. Sarkozy asked staff to provide a status report on the Downtown Implementation Plan Update process.

Kris Liljeblad, Assistant Transportation Director, said the City issued a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the update of the Downtown Subarea Plan and Downtown

Implementation Plan on October 3. He noted that update activities were initiated approximately 22 months ago, culminating in the publication of the draft EIS. The document is available on the City's web site or copies may be purchased at City Hall for \$5. Citizens may also review the report at the City's Planning and Community Development Department and public libraries. An upcoming newsletter summarizing key EIS findings will be distributed to 14,500 Bellevue addresses west of I-405.

Mr. Liljeblad said the Downtown Implementation Plan is focused on providing appropriate infrastructure within the downtown subarea through 2020. The draft EIS is a programmatic document designed to identify the environmental impacts of five DIP alternatives: 1) roadway emphasis, 2) transit emphasis, 3) intercept parking emphasis, 4) hybrid alternative, and 5) no action alternative. All alternatives incorporate urban design elements with the common goal of making the downtown more livable.

Mr. Liljeblad noted that last year's planning process was based on projections for significant congestion in and around the downtown area. Based on a revised growth forecast discussed with Council on September 23, potential projects to increase arterial capacity will not be needed for the next 20 years. These projects were evaluated in the draft EIS but will not be included in the final plan update.

Mr. Liljeblad encouraged public comments on the draft document. All comments will be addressed in the Final EIS this winter and ultimately contribute to the selection of a preferred plan in 2003. Comments on the draft EIS will be accepted until November 18 by the City's environmental coordinator. In addition, a meeting is scheduled for October 22 at the First United Methodist Church, 1934 108th Avenue NE, with an open house beginning at 5:00 p.m. and a public hearing at 7:00 p.m. Upcoming related meetings, all open to the public, include:

- October 9 – Downtown Implementation Plan Citizen Advisory Committee – 5:30 p.m. at First United Methodist Church.
- October 10 – Transportation Commission – 6:30 p.m., Leavitt Building, 301 116th Avenue SE.
- October 30 – Planning Commission – 7:00 p.m., Bellevue City Hall.

At 7:50 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared recess to the regular session.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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