

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

July 5, 2005  
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Noble, and Councilmembers Balducci, Chelminiak, Davidson, Degginger and Lee<sup>1</sup>

ABSENT: None

1. Executive Session

At 6:01 p.m., Deputy Mayor Noble opened the meeting and announced recess to Executive Session for approximately one hour and fifteen minutes to discuss one item of potential litigation.

The meeting resumed at 7:29 p.m. with Mayor Marshall presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Tour of New City Hall

[The tour of the New City Hall construction site was postponed.]

(b) Lewis Creek Park Update

Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran introduced Kurt White, Parks and Community Services Board Chair; Terry Higashiyama, Assistant Parks Director; Ken Kroeger, Project Manager; Jerry Nissley, Resource Management Division Manager; Dan Dewald, Natural Resources Manager; Laura Hughes, Assistant Park Ranger; and Bob Schafer and Geoff Bradley from the Natural Resources Division.

Mr. Kroeger opened the presentation regarding the 56-acre Lewis Creek Park. Land was acquired for the park from 1990 to 1997, and the final portion of the site was acquired in 2003. Public outreach from 1999 to 2002 included public meetings to discuss plans for the park,

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<sup>1</sup> Mr. Lee joined the resumed Study Session at 7:32 p.m.

resulting in public advocacy for athletic fields, trails, preservation of the natural environment, and community meeting and gathering space. The park will be constructed in phases, with the first phase consisting of two Little League fields, one soccer field overlay, an outdoor basketball court, playground space with age-related areas, trails, and a 5,000-square-foot visitor/community meeting center. Future development of the park will include a picnic area with multiple shelters, an equestrian facility, and additional trails.

Construction of the park began in April 2004 and is in its final stages, with the opening of the park scheduled for July 9. City staff and project contractors have been working to protect the natural environment and water quality throughout construction. The overall project budget is approximately \$12.3 million (\$6.7 million for land acquisition, \$1.4 million for planning and design, and \$4.2 million for construction). Funding sources include the City's Capital Investment Program (CIP), grants, King County bonds, and conservation futures.

Mr. Kroeger described low-impact development techniques utilized for the project including a natural water filtering system, a green roof on the visitor center, stormwater infiltration trenches, and bio-filtration swales that allow water to be collected, cleaned, and dispersed over larger areas. Sand-based sports fields facilitate water drainage. More than 80 percent of the site preserves the natural setting. The visitor center, constructed of sustainable building materials, provides 3,500 square feet of public space and 1,500 square feet of maintenance space.

Mr. Nissley said building and site maintenance will be provided through a mix of contracted services, City employees, and volunteers. The basketball court and playground will be open on July 9 but the sports fields will not open until Spring 2006. Mr. Nissley described the plan for promoting healthy turf as well as a combination of native and ornamental vegetation. Succulent plants on the roof of the visitor center will help filter water and provide insulation to the building as well. Windows are functional and the building is not air conditioned.

Mr. Dewald described programs and activities to be offered at Lewis Creek Park. All Bellevue parks are open dusk to dawn, and the visitor center will be open Wednesday through Sunday, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Citizens may sign up as volunteers to staff the center or join the Lewis Creek Park Habitat Enhancement Team. Staff is working with Eastside Heritage Center and others to develop exhibits at the center depicting the history of the area. Residents are asked to stop by and complete a visitor use survey.

Mr. Dewald described the Well KEPT (Kids Environmental Project Training) program that employs 12 teenaged youth within the parks system. A Well KEPT 2 program at Lewis Creek Park will begin work immediately on the park and Lakemont area trail system. Additional activities include three summer camps (July and August), nature walks, and facility rentals. Mr. Dewald thanked Councilmembers for their support of Lewis Creek Park.

Responding to Councilmember Degginger, Mr. Nissley said the parking lot lights will be set on a timer according to events scheduled at the park and visitor center. The latest the lights will stay on is 11:00 p.m. Mileage markers will be installed on the trails.

Mayor Marshall noted the high level of enthusiasm within the community about this park.

Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Nissley said the sports fields will not have lights and the hours of the visitor center could be extended in the future. The building will be available for rental during non-operational hours.

Mr. Chelminiak thanked the Parks and Community Services Board for its role in the creation of Lewis Creek Park.

Mr. Foran commended the persistence of the community, since the 1980s, in working toward the preservation and development of this park.

(c) Parks and Community Services Programs and Special Events

[Item postponed to future meeting.]

At 7:58 p.m., Mayor Marshall declared recess to the Regular Session.

Myrna L. Basich  
City Clerk

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