East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

DRAFT

May 5, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Boys & Girls Club
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Capron, Councilmember Gooding, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Hummer, Councilmember Kasner (via telephone)

ABSENT: NONE

STAFF: NONE

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Chair Capron presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

The Deputy City Clerk called the roll. All Councilmembers were present.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Councilmember Hummer led the flag salute.

4. COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL

Responding to Sherry, a resident of the Phantom Lake neighborhood, Chair Capron described the jurisdictional boundaries of the East Bellevue Community Council. The area extends roughly from NE 8th Street to Bellevue College, and east to west between 156th Avenue and 145th Place SE/Glendale Golf Course. He said the Spiritridge and Phantom Lake neighborhoods are not within the community council boundaries.

Mr. Capron said there was a Sammamish Community Council in the past. The community councils were established when the areas were annexed by Bellevue and must be reauthorized by the voters every four years. The only other one in the state is Kirkland's Houghton Community Council.

5. REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

(a) Community Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Hummer reported that she uses www.publicstuff.com to report graffiti, and it is removed within a few days. She also submits photos of vegetation in the public right-of-way that is either nuisance plants (e.g., blackberries) or that she believes is not planted by the City. She

said City staff respond to her and address the concerns. She said the My Bellevue app accessed from a smartphone is another way to submit complaints and concerns.

Councilmember Hummer reported that she attended the Transportation Commission meeting. She demonstrated to the community council how she accesses information about Boards and Commissions on the City's web site, www.bellevuewa.gov . She noted the City's public outreach efforts as well as the information gathered through these activities that is provided on the web site. She said a large part of the City's capital budget is allocated to projects in the Bel-Red corridor, including the new Spring District.

Ms. Hummer said she attended the Parks and Community Services Board meeting. Agenda items included the strategic plan and the marketing/communications plan. She said the City is reducing the volume of printed materials and focusing more heavily on providing information via the Internet.

Ms. Hummer said she also participated in the Planning Commission's walking tour of the Downtown. She said this was helpful in learning about sidewalks/pedestrian amenities and land use planning.

Councilmember Hughes expressed concern about traffic congestion at 145th and SE 12th Street. He also noted the traffic impacts related to the opening of the new Chick-fil-A business downtown.

Mr. Hughes said he attended the Lake Hills Community Club meeting, which was held in the newly redeveloped Lake Hills Shopping Center. He said the developer is starting to lease retail spaces and the townhouses, and underground parking is provided.

Councilmember Gooding noted his involvement in planning the traffic calming project on 154th Avenue.

Councilmember Hummer said she attended the beginning of the Lake Hills Community Club meeting and heard a discussion about Bellevue College's efforts to rent townhouses at the shopping center for students.

Chair Capron recalled that he spoke during the previous month's meeting about a house fire at 619 155th Avenue SE. The site is a code enforcement case with the City and security fencing has been installed as required. The owners have applied for a building permit, and construction of the new home is expected to begin this summer.

Chair Capron said he met with a man from the school district and received a tour of Odle Middle School and Sammamish High School, both of which are undergoing redevelopment. The new portion of the high school will be ready for students in the fall, and additional work will continue into next year.

Councilmember Kasner reported that he attended the meeting held by the Lake Hills Community Club, which elected new officers. He said residents are starting to plan the neighborhood picnic to be held in July.

Mr. Kasner said he attended meetings of the City Council and of the Parks and Community Services Board. The Parks Board discussed the renaming of Bovee Park and the planned completion of Downtown Park.

Mr. Kasner attended the Eastside Transportation Alliance meeting, which included a discussion of the Mobility 2021 plan.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved by consensus.

Chair Capron said the Lake Hills transmission line project will be coming before the community council for the June meeting. He cautioned that this is a quasi-judicial matter and the community council must base its decision upon the Hearing Examiner's record. The application is to be reviewed to ensure that it complies with the City's regulations. If the community council determines that it does not, it has the option of denying the application. However, if the application is found to comply with applicable Land Use Code provisions, the application shall be approved.

Mr. Capron said Councilmember Hughes has a copy of the Hearing Examiner's report, and Councilmembers received electronic versions of the report as well. Members of the community council may not discuss the case privately with other members or the public. All discussion will occur during the public meeting.

Responding to Mr. Hughes, Mr. Capron said the City Council approved the Lake Hills transmission line application the previous evening. Mr. Hughes opined that the City Council did not treat the case as a quasi-judicial matter. He said the City's legal department and the Clerk did not respond to his past inquiry regarding the case.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

None.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

None.

9. RESOLUTION

None.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

None.

11. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None.

12. NEW BUSINESS

(a) Potential Future Agenda Items.

Chair Capron said potential future agenda items include permanent regulations on recreational marijuana, the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) Update, the Comprehensive Plan Update, and subarea planning.

Mr. Capron said the City Council deferred action on permanent regulations for recreational marijuana pending action by the state legislature on both medical marijuana and recreational marijuana.

Responding to the Chair, the Clerk said the SMP Update will likely be presented to the community council in August. The Comprehensive Plan Update will come to the community council in July. The City Council anticipates action on the Comprehensive Plan Update in June. subarea planning will be scheduled in the future.

Chair Capron encouraged the public to become involved in issues of concern by providing input to the City Council, Boards and Commissions. He said the public is more likely to influence decisions and planning earlier in processes through these bodies. The community council typically addresses items later in the process.

Councilmember Hummer concurred with Chair Capron's statements and suggested contacting City staff as well. Concerns about the upkeep of private properties can be submitted to code enforcement. Ms. Hummer observed that attending City Council, Board and Commission meetings has been helpful in learning about the restrictions and requirements applied to developers and commercial land uses. She said it is important for concerned residents to continue communicating with the City and other parties if they wish to influence decisions.

Councilmember Kasner said the Comprehensive Plan Update includes a proposal to change some of the boundaries and names of subareas. He said the boundaries of what is currently the Southeast Bellevue subarea will change slightly and the area will be renamed the Lake Hills subarea.

Chair Capron said the EBCC boundaries will not change despite the subarea changes.

Continuing, Mr. Kasner said the proposed Lake Hills subarea is one of the largest in the city with a higher percentage of the population.

13. CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS

Don Boettiger observed that the community council has the easy position of approving anything that the City Council has already approved.

Chair Capron said that what the City approves and presents to the EBCC is generally an improvement over current conditions. However, the community council does have jurisdiction over certain land use decisions.

Councilmember Kasner said the community council has rejected seven ordinances in the past. One was the so-called "blue tarp rule" that prohibited the use of blue tarps visible in residents' yards. The community council did not approve the prohibition.

Responding to Mr. Boettiger, Chair Capron said only quasi-judicial matters require a strict legal basis to deny a land use application. However, the community council is allowed to deny certain types of zoning applications and land use proposals.

Chair Capron noted the issue regarding individual room rentals in single-family neighborhoods. While the ordinance approved by the City Council was not considered perfect by all residents, rejecting the ordinance would have allowed the continued business practice that has raised serious concerns among residents over the past few years. Accepting the ordinance is a significant improvement, and the law can be amended in the future to continue to address concerns and impacts.

Chair Kasner said community council courtesy hearings on issues that will go before the City Council is one way for the community council and the public to provide input before decisions are made.

Chair Capron said the City begins working with the community council earlier in the process regarding land use proposals that will ultimately come to the community council for action.

Councilmember Hughes observed that the community council has been effective in providing input on a number of issues including single-family room rentals and recreational marijuana. He acknowledged that the quasi-judicial process is different and applies to only a small number of items.

Councilmember Hummer suggested it would be beneficial for the community council to visit meetings of the City Council, Boards and Commissions to provide input on issues. She believes the community council should be advocates for residents within its boundaries.

Councilmember Hughes said his understanding was that Mayor Balducci would be the liaison between the City Council and EBCC.

Councilmember Kasner said the EBCC has the opportunity to speak to the City Council during all of its meetings, including under Agenda Item 4 during Regular Meetings on the 1st and 3rd Mondays. He suggested that they participate more frequently in this type of communication.

Moving on, Chair Capron said the City should have more than one dog park (Robinswood Park).

Chair Kasner suggested that the EBCC submit an article for the *It's Your City* newsletter sent to residents. Chair Capron concurred and said he would work with Councilmember Hughes on that.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION

None.

15. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(a) Summary Regular Meeting Minutes - April 7, 2015

Councilmember Kasner suggested a revision regarding the section on resolutions. Instead of referring to them as Agenda Items 8(a) and 8(b), he suggested writing the titles of the topics.

Councilmember Hummer moved to approve the minutes of the April 7, 2015 meeting, as amended. Councilmember Gooding seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

Councilmember Hughes requested information about proposed redevelopment at the former Top Foods site in the Crossroads area. Chair Kasner noted an upcoming open house and request for general public input regarding the potential for a rezone of the site.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Capron declared the meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Charmaine Arredondo
Deputy City Clerk

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