East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Special Meeting/Retreat

April 5, 2016
5:00 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Capron, Vice Chair Hummer, and Councilmembers Gooding[1], Hughes, and Kasner

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: None.

1. **Council Retreat**

The meeting was called to order at 5:09 p.m., with Chair Capron presiding.

Marci McReynolds presented and facilitated a discussion about the function of the East Bellevue Community Council and its involvement with the community.

Chair Capron expressed an interest in reaching a consensus on whether the Community Council should be more proactive or reactive.

Councilmember Kasner said he would like to see the EBCC be more proactive in learning about issues and involving the community earlier in the process.

Mr. Capron said he would like to see individuals who plan to submit applications for projects within the EBCC boundaries coming early in the process to the Community Council meetings to discuss their plans.

Councilmember Hughes questioned how the EBCC could work with the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association to be more effective within East Bellevue. While the Community Council has authority over certain land use decisions and is subject to specific rules as elected officials, the EBCC and LHNA share common goals and interests.

Vice Chair Hummer said she began going to meetings of City Boards and Commissions and other regional entities in recent years to learn about issues and how she could best serve her constituents. She would like to see increased community involvement in issues and in the EBCC's meetings.

[1] Councilmember Gooding arrived at 6:15 p.m.

Councilmember Kasner wants to learn about issues and projects as they emerge early in the planning processes. He said a number of areas in Bellevue have strong neighborhoods associations that are actively involved in advocating for their priorities. Mr. Kasner said the LHNA typically involves approximately 15 people, and there are too many issues for those individuals to follow. He observed that the EBCC has credibility in the neighborhood and should be at the heart of coordinating residents' efforts. He would like more courtesy hearings on City-related projects and issues. Mr. Kasner opined that the EBCC's legal advice is interpreting state law regarding municipal corporations/community councils too narrowly.

Chair Capron concurred that the EBCC should be informed about projects and policy issues as they emerge.

Councilmember Hughes said he is particularly interested in issues and policies that affect East Bellevue more directly.

Councilmember Kasner said it is frustrating when the EBCC is not informed about or included in issues and projects. He opined that the administrative conditional use permit option is a process that enables the City to make certain decisions without the Community Council's involvement.

Ms. McReynolds asked the Council to think about what it wants and what it feels it can and cannot do, including within legal constraints. She questioned the Councilmembers' interests as citizens as well.

Mr. Hughes said he wants East Bellevue to be treated equally with all of Bellevue's other neighborhoods.

Mr. Kasner said he wants transparency regarding upcoming permit applications and land use decisions.

Ms. Hummer said she would like continued education on zoning requirements, codes, and policies. She would like City staff to have more interaction with citizens in individual neighborhoods.

Mr. Capron observed that the City does not show the EBCC appropriate respect.

Upon Councilmember Gooding's arrival, Ms. McReynolds provided a brief overview of the discussion:

- The EBCC would like East Bellevue to be treated equally to other neighborhoods.
- The EBCC would like greater transparency regarding permit applications and potential land use issues, including information on the benefits and risks of specific proposals.
- Ms. Hummer requested ongoing education regarding zoning requirements, codes, plans, and policies. She would like to see more interaction between City staff and residents.
- The EBCC feels the City does not treat them with respect.
- The EBCC would like to learn about projects and issues early enough in planning and permit processes to access full information and to provide meaningful input.

Ms. Hummer said she would like to clearly establish the Community Council's focus.

The following topics were identified for future retreat discussions:

- What is the focus of the EBCC? What are the EBCC's expectations and directions?
- Capital Investment Program (CIP) Budget
- Community outreach and citizen engagement
- Ability for a quorum of EBCC members to attend other meetings (e.g., LHNA). Would the meetings need to be publicly noticed?
- EBCC issues versus individual citizens' issues. How can EBCC members address issues as individual citizens within the constraints of the Community Council's bylaws?

Possible solutions to discuss further:

- EBCC to work in a systematic way to build relationships with City staff, the City Council, Boards, and Commissions.

At 6:30 p.m., Chair Capron declared recess to the Regular Meeting.

Charmaine Arredondo
Deputy City Clerk

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