East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

July 7, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Boys & Girls Club
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Capron, Vice Chair Kasner[1], Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Hummer

ABSENT: Councilmember Gooding

STAFF: None.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. with Chair Capron presiding.

2. ROLL CALL

The Deputy City Clerk called the roll. All Councilmembers were present, with the exception of Councilmember Gooding.

3. FLAG SALUTE

Chair Capron led the flag salute.

4. COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL

Bart Goft expressed concern about air quality, noting an odd smell in the area for the past several months. Responding to Mr. Goft, Councilmembers said they had not noticed an odor and were unaware of an issue.

Mr. Goft reported that he called the City's Code Enforcement office regarding a house that has been empty for approximately one year since there was a fire of the structure. He expressed concern about visual impacts and the potential for vermin on the site. He has been told that the owner has been trying to obtain permits from the City for trucks to come into the area. Mr. Goft requested an update on the site. He observed that large trucks were on the same street when work was underway on Lake Hills Boulevard.

Chair Capron said the last news he heard was that the owners had applied for a demolition permit.

[1] Councilmember Kasner participated remotely via speakerphone.

Councilmember Hummer suggested that Mr. Goft try using www.Publicstuff.com to report the home. Mr. Goft said he would like City staff to come out to the neighborhood to speak to residents about the situation.

Chair Capron recalled that the Community Council received an update on the house a few months earlier. He suggested that Mr. Goft call the City's Code Enforcement office again, noting that staff might not have gotten back to him over the past week due to the 4th of July holiday.

Responding to Councilmember Hughes, the Deputy City Clerk said she would talk to staff about the issue. She recalled that staff's update indicated there were permits for the rebuild, as well as a permit application for a debris removal route. Mr. Capron suggested that Mr. Goft call the King County Public Health Department if he is concerned about issues that would fall within their authority. Councilmember Hughes offered to make the call, if necessary.

Don Boettiger said Chair Capron wrote a nice article for the *It's Your City* newsletter that is mailed to residents. He commented on the Lake Hills transmission line project, noting that there are both distribution and transmission lines on 140th Avenue. He said Puget Sound Energy has indicated they could not place the new transmission line on 164th Avenue due to an existing distribution line. He thanked the East Bellevue Community Council for the decision to deny approval of the project application, and he distributed copies of photos of the existing lines.

Responding to Irene Fernandes, Chair Capron said he anticipates that Puget Sound Energy will appeal the decision. Keri Pravitz, PSE Community Projects Manager, concurred that an appeal is likely.

Steve Fricke noted Seattle's efforts to modify its single-family zoning and said he hopes Bellevue will not follow in that direction. Mr. Capron said the Bellevue City Council is protective of its single-family neighborhoods.

Barbara Benson said the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association is holdings its annual picnic on Saturday, July 18, 11:00 AM to 3:00 PM, at Evergreen Park.

Councilmember Hummer asked Glenn Kost, Parks Department Planning Manager, to comment on his letter that was referred to in discussions regarding the Lake Hills transmission line project.

Mr. Kost said he manages capital projects and planning for the Parks Department and is not qualified to speak about whether the Lake Hills transmission line is needed or not. The Parks Department participated in commenting against a proposed routing option through Robinswood Park. He noted there were objections from residents for all of the routes along major arterials. Residents would like underground lines, but PSE's policy is to not bury the lines.

Mr. Kost said the Parks Department's natural resources division became involved in evaluating PSE's preferred route along 148th Avenue. He said he worked closely with staff who were developing mitigation proposals for the necessary tree removals. He determined that this was not a desirable option and was counter to the City's practices to preserve tree canopy. He recalled that he submitted his comments at that time as a citizen and not as a City employee.

Mr. Kost observed that 164th Avenue is a jungle of poles and wires, and using that route for the transmission line project could be an opportunity to improve the infrastructure. He said this conflicted, however, with PSE's policy against paying to underground service lines. Mr. Kost opined that the mitigation costs associated with the tree removal on 148th Avenue will be more than what it would cost to underground the service lines.

Chair Capron thanked Mr. Kost for his comments.

Councilmember Hughes expressed concern that information presented to the EBCC indicated that all City departments agreed with PSE's decision. When he went through the Hearing Examiner's files, he found a lot of information that was not presented to the EBCC.

Councilmember Kasner questioned whether the EBCC could participate in a PSE tour of the neighborhood, which was not possible while the application was a quasi-judicial matter. Ms. Pravitz said she would check into whether that would be allowed.

Mr. Kasner said he cares about the overall reliability of the electric system and he wants a better understanding of the project and related issues.

Councilmember Hummer concurred. She would like the City and PSE to consider developing 164th Avenue as a new urban boulevard and/or to consider undergrounding the distribution lines. She is concerned about adverse impacts to the park-like environment along 148th Avenue. She thanked Mr. Kost for his comments.

Responding to Mr. Kasner, Mr. Hughes said Ms. Pravitz has indicated that PSE will likely be filing an appeal of the EBCC's decision. Mr. Hughes commented on the challenge of funding for the undergrounding of infrastructure because neither PSE, the City, or residents are willing to pay for that option.

Mr. Kasner expressed concern that, before the Conditional Use Permit (CUP) application was filed, PSE conducted its own research on alternative sites. He opined that this is unprecedented. He believed that should have been done by a third party or the City.

Councilmember Hummer recalled that there was no consensus on a route during any of the public meetings. Residents were interested only in an undergrounding option, which was not under consideration. She suggested that, for future projects, residents need to organize and communicate concerns to the City Council, Boards and Commissions earlier in the process.

Councilmember Hughes said the EBCC's role is to evaluate the application as presented. The EBCC cannot modify the application or offer alternatives. Unfortunately, the EBCC is asked only to vote to approve or deny the application.

Councilmember Kasner expressed concern that certain information was not presented during courtesy hearings held before the EBCC in the past. He said those are the opportunities to attempt to influence policy decisions. He said the EBCC was never presented with the letters from Glenn Kost or Chris Peters.

Responding to Mr. Goft, Councilmember Hughes said this was a quasi-judicial process and the Community Councilmembers were not allowed to discuss PSE's application with each other or with residents.

Councilmember Hughes observed that there are no visible power and telephone lines in the downtown or new neighborhoods. In a recent trip to Sacramento, he did not see visible aerial power lines. He said one of Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan policies is to work toward undergrounding distribution lines.

Councilmembers discussed how they enjoy the park-like setting along 148th Avenue. Mr. Kost noted that the project affects both residents of the neighborhood and the general public driving on the arterial.

5. **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**: None.

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Hummer moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Hughes seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4-0.

7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

(a) Memo from Mark Poch regarding 148th Avenue Signal Rebuild and Main Street Crosswalk

Chair Capron noted the memo in the meeting packet from Mark Poch, Traffic Engineering Manager, regarding the 148th Avenue/Main Street traffic signal rebuild and the Main Street/150th Place NE crosswalk. The traffic signal project is funded for construction in 2016 and includes paving 148th Avenue SE from Main Street to SE 8th Street.

Councilmember Kasner stated his understanding that the original project included three traffic signals. Mr. Capron said the bid for three signals was too high so signal will be completed as a Major Maintenance project. Responding to Mr. Kasner, Chair Capron asked the Deputy City Clerk to request an update from staff on the other two signals.

Councilmember Hummer suggested taking the EBCC's concerns about the project to the Transportation Commission. Chair Capron noted a consensus that Ms. Hummer address the Commission on behalf of the EBCC.

Mr. Capron said the crosswalk project includes a pedestrian refuge island in the center of Main Street and a flashing LED beacon system to better notify vehicles of pedestrians in the crosswalk. The project is scheduled to go to bid this fall.

8. **PUBLIC/COURTESY HEARINGS**: None.

9. **RESOLUTIONS:** None.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**: None.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**: None.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

(a) Council Reports – Out and About

Councilmember Hummer reported that she met with Glenn Kost regarding his letter, which was discussed earlier in the meeting. She said she attends as many Board and Commission meetings as possible. She suggested that Chair Capron make regular reports on behalf of the Community Council to the City Council during its meetings. She encouraged residents to be active citizens and suggested that the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association work with the EBCC on key priorities.

Councilmember Hughes said he visited the new corner park at NE 24th Street and 132nd Avenue (Bridle Trails area). Following up to Ms. Hummer's comments, Mr. Hughes suggested that Chair Capron request a new Council liaison to the East Bellevue Community Council. He said Mayor Balducci has not attended their meetings as they had hoped.

Councilmember Kasner said the City Council would not be appointing new liaisons until January 2016. Mr. Hughes said he is disappointed that a City Councilmember does not attend the EBCC meetings.

Mr. Kasner reported that he and his wife went to the new noodle restaurant in the Kelsey Creek Shopping Center and the food was very good. The Lake Hills Neighborhood picnic is scheduled for July 18 at Evergreen Park. He encouraged all Councilmembers to attend.

Responding to Mr. Hughes, Barbara Benson noted an item in *The Bellevue Reporter* regarding a BBQ to be held by Gastronom European Deli (Lake Hills Shopping Center) on Saturday, July 11, at Evergreen Park.

Chair Capron said his new PSE bill included a 2014 service quality report card, which indicates 1.05 interruptions in service per year, per customer. The length of power outages per year, per customer was 5 hours, 12 minutes. Both of these figures fall within PSE's benchmarks. He questioned how the benchmarks are set.

Ms. Pravitz said the benchmarks are based on national standards and on electrical reliability reports for the overall service area.

Mr. Kasner said PSE exceeds reliability when compared to other west coast utilities. He noted that the City has annual discussions with PSE regarding overall planning, and he would like to be a party to those discussions moving forward. He would like to see reports on the 2014 and 2015 meetings. Ms. Pravitz said the meetings are ongoing, public meetings. Mr. Kasner said it would be helpful to receive notices of the meetings as well as meeting minutes.

(b) Discussion regarding Potential Future Agenda Items

Responding to Chair Capron, the Deputy City Clerk said the City Council is expected to take action on permanent marijuana regulations in August. Action on the Comprehensive Plan Update is tentatively set for August.

13. CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS

Steve Fricke said it would be nice to have flashing lights on the crosswalk at the park and baseball diamond. Ms. Hummer said she would take that issue to the Transportation Commission. She also suggested that residents submit comments and requests through www.Publicstuff.com. She has had immediate results for a number of requests, which can also be submitted through the MyBellevue mobile app.

Bob Leingang thanked the East Bellevue Community Council for its decision on the power line.

Bart Goft suggested that the City provide more speed limit signage.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

15. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(a) Summary Regular Meeting Minutes - June 2, 2015

Chair Capron said action on the June 2 meeting minutes would be postponed to the next meeting.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Councilmember Hummer moved to adjourn, and Chair Capron seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously and the meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Charmaine Arredondo
Deputy City Clerk

/kaw