

Neighborhood News

City of Bellevue

News for and about Bellevue Neighborhoods

March 2008

Neighborhood redevelopment gets a second look

Phase Two of the Neighborhood Character project – targeting the impacts of redevelopment and infill – is now underway, and the City is seeking your opinion.



City staff are casting a wide net as they launch a second set of discussions about the pros and cons of tearing down older and smaller homes to make way for large new homes that may, or may not, be compatible with the character of the neighborhood. City leaders and staff want to hear from a broad range of residents, homebuyers, home sellers, developers, and other stakeholders as discussions get underway before the Planning Commission and in various locations throughout the community.

Phase One of the Neighborhood Character discussion resulted in a series of regulatory changes adopted by the City Council in December and designed to address neighborhood concerns about redevelopment impacts on trees, greenscape, privacy, and neighborhood quality of life. Phase One included important but relatively simple changes in City code to preserve significant trees, require some front yard landscaping, prevent unnecessary lot build-up, limit the placement of temporary structures, and control construction impacts on the surrounding neighborhood.

Discussion of potential Phase Two changes got underway last month with an introductory session at the Feb. 27 Planning Commission meeting. More substantive discussion – focusing on complex issues of size and scale – is slated for the Commission meeting of March 26. That meeting begins at 7:00 in the Council Conference Room.

In addition to the Planning Commission meetings, staff will gather public opinion through neighborhood meetings and other outreach activities. Please direct meeting requests, questions, and comments to Neighborhood Outreach at 425-452-6836, or by e-mail to NeighborhoodOutreach@bellevuewa.gov. For a complete list of Phase One code changes, and Phase Two potential changes, see the web site at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-character.htm>.

Apply for up to \$5,000 for your neighborhood project

- ❖ Work together on beautifying a neighborhood entry with landscaping or new signage.
- ❖ Or replace dilapidated mailbox stands.

What ideas can you think of to beautify your neighborhood? The Match program matches your dollars, labor, and donated professional services or materials up to \$5,000.



Apply now! Funds are limited, but still available for 2008. Call Patricia Knight, 425-452-7917 or apply at http://www.bellevuewa.gov/match_proj_application.htm.

Learn to resolve conflicts

The Neighborhood Mediation Program offers conflict resolution services and training free of charge to Bellevue residents. Beginning next month, the program will offer its 40-hour Basic Mediation Course, focusing on conflict theory, communications skills building, and mediation techniques.

Open to anyone who lives, works or attends school in Bellevue, the training is scheduled: 6-9 p.m. April 24; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. April 26 and 27; 6-9 p.m. May 1; 8:30 a.m.-5 p.m. May 3 and 4. For more information, or to register, contact Mediation staff at 452-4091 or e-mail gjones@bellevuewa.gov. Class space is limited, so registration prior to April 5 is recommended.

Emergency Preparedness video available in seven languages

The December 2006 windstorm caught many people off guard and reminded them of the importance of being prepared for an emergency. In response to that event, the Fire Department's Emergency Preparedness Division utilized a grant from the United States Department of Homeland Security–Urban Area Security Initiative to target individual and neighborhood preparedness for Bellevue residents. Funding from this grant paid for the production of an emergency preparedness video.

Now, through the Fire Department's Emergency Preparedness Division, a basic emergency preparedness video is available, free of charge, to all Bellevue residents. The video, which runs for approximately 10 minutes, includes native speakers presenting a basic preparedness message in either English, Russian, Spanish, Chinese (Mandarin or Cantonese), Vietnamese, or Korean. The video was produced in seven languages because approximately 30 percent of Bellevue's population is foreign born, and many residents speak English as a second language.

To view the video online, go to http://www.bellevuewa.gov/preparedness_educational_materials.htm beginning March 15. To pick up a free copy of the video, please visit: the Service First Desk on the first floor of Bellevue City Hall (450 110th Ave NE), Crossroads Mini City Hall (15600 NE 8th St), any Bellevue Parks & Recreation Community Center, or any of the nine Bellevue Fire Stations. To find the Community Center or Fire Station nearest you, please visit the City's website <http://www.bellevuewa.gov> or call Service First at (425)452-6800. If you have additional questions regarding the video, please contact Vernon Owens, Emergency Preparedness Public Education Coordinator, at (425) 452-6033 or by e-mail at vowens@bellevuewa.gov.

Convention center board seeks applicants

The City is seeking candidates for a vacancy on the Bellevue Convention Center Authority Board of Directors. Board members serve four-year terms and meet monthly to set policy direction for the financing and operation of Meydenbauer Center, Bellevue's convention center since 1993.

Residents with experience in lodging, business, construction, banking, real estate, tourism, or finance are especially encouraged to apply. Applications can be obtained at City Hall, at the Crossroads Mini City Hall, or at the Lake Hills and Bellevue Regional libraries. Completed applications are due by 5 p.m. Monday, March 10. They may be delivered to City Hall (second floor City Clerk's office), mailed to the City at P.O. Box 90012, Bellevue 98009, or faxed to 425-452-2734. Applications also can be e-mailed to mmurphy@bellevuewa.gov or completed online at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/apply-boards.htm>. For more details about convention center operations, see the Meydenbauer Center web site at <http://www.meydenbauer.com>.

March meetings

(All meetings are in City Hall unless otherwise noted. Agendas are subject to change. You may confirm with Neighborhood Outreach the day before or day of the meeting. Or consult the city web pages listed below to download agendas.)

3/3 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Briefing on Legislative Agenda, continue discussion on filling Council vacancy, ITD (Information Technology Department) update, Aquatics Center Feasibility Study update; (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) 2006 Comparative Cities Report, Consent

Calendar, Notice of Intent to Petition for the Jentry-Graber Annexation
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/4 East Bellevue Community Council (6:30, Lake Hills Clubhouse) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/EBCC_Homepage.htm

3/4 Light Rail Best Practices Committee (6:30, Room 1E-108) Sound Transit staff presentation on practices, committee discussion of potential best practices for Bellevue, and direction to staff on preparing draft policies for April meeting http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light_rail_best_practices_info.htm

3/4 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Briefing on Best and Promising Practices, preliminary discussion on 2009-2010 funding priorities http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

3/6 Transportation Commission (6:00, Council Conference Room) Ped-Bike Plan Project Prioritization Workshop http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

3/6 Environmental Services Commission (6:30, 1E-112) Automated meter reading study, Storm Water Utility review, Bel-Red Corridor Project implementation http://www.bellevuewa.gov/enviro_serv_comm.htm

3/6 Bellevue Network on Aging (8:30 a.m., 1E-120) Eastside Human Services Forum overview, Older Americans Month discussion and committee reports http://www.bellevuewa.gov/network_on_aging.htm

3/10 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Briefing on Legislative Agenda, possible swearing-in of new Council member, year-end budget monitoring, Bel-Red process and 145th Place SE updates, Commute Trip Reduction Plan, Transportation Efficiency Center Plan and grant acceptance, possible Sound Transit discussion http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/11 Parks & Community Services Board (6:00, Council Conference Room) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/parks_board.htm

3/12 Planning Commission (7:00, Council Conference Room) Bel-Red land use and design, Bel-Red Subarea Plan direction http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

3/12 Youth Link Board (6:00, Room 1E-120) Agenda to be determined
http://www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/youth_link_board.htm

3/13 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) GTEC (Growth and Transportation Efficiency Center) update, Ped-Bike Plan update, Bel-Red Corridor Project review, Transportation Management Program update http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

3/17 City Council (6:00 study session, Council Conference Room) Cascade Water Alliance update, Sound Transit discussion, Housing Trust Fund and ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing) funding priorities; (8:00 regular session, Council Chambers) Consent Calendar, public hearing on street vacation - a portion of 106th Avenue SE at Cliff Place http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/18 Human Services Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Continue discussion on 2009-2010 funding priorities, review draft of 2009-2010 joint funding application
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/human_serv_comm.htm

3/18 Light Rail Best Practices Committee (6:30, Room 1E-112) Agenda to be determined
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/light_rail_best_practices_info.htm

3/24 City Council (6:00 extended study session, Council Conference Room) Regional Issues, Ped-Bike Plan, update on Neighborhood Livability Action Agenda, Red Light Speed Zone camera
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/council_overview.htm

3/26 Planning Commission (7:00, Council Conference Room) Neighborhood Character Phase Two discussion of redevelopment impacts on neighborhoods; Bel-Red housing, land use, and design guidelines
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/planning_commission.htm

3/27 Transportation Commission (6:30, Council Conference Room) Ped-Bike Plan Update, Great Streets Implementation, Bel-Red Corridor Project review
http://www.bellevuewa.gov/trans_comm.htm

Bellevue's Neighborhood Outreach Office offers a variety of programs and partnerships for neighborhood leaders and active residents. To learn more about citizen involvement opportunities and programs to enhance neighborhoods, call 452-6836.