

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday
March 13, 2007
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
(Conference Room 1E-113)
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Bennett¹, Boardmembers Aron, Karle², Roland, White

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmember Maxim

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Deputy Mayor Chelminiak

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Cherie Clayton, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Shelley Marelli, Glenn Kost, Kevin McDonald (Transportation), Nav Otal (Utilities), Terry Smith

ALSO PRESENT: John Billington, Mary Reed, Bill Stephens, Travis Reisner

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keeney at 6:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember White and second by Boardmember Roland to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember White and second by Boardmember Aron to approve the February 15, 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:07 p.m.

² Arrived at 6:05 p.m.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Travis Reisner, 3800 NE Sunset Blvd., #E-304, Renton, Washington 98056
Mr. Reisner invited boardmembers to attend the upcoming Bellevue Youth Theater events. He also thanked boardmembers for their continued support.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Boardmember Roland attended the Bellevue Youth Theater fundraiser in January.

Boardmember Aron enjoyed the Gumbo Night event.

Chair Keeney encouraged boardmembers to attend the upcoming events and support the community.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak noted the City Council has been working on transportation issues. In addition, the review of the Bicycle and Pedestrian Plan is underway. There is a survey on the City website for community members to provide feedback for this plan. Because of the numerous connections with trails, the Parks & Community Services Department will be involved in the planning process.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak recently visited Vancouver B.C. to review the City transit system. In addition, he attended Gumbo Night and the Bel-Red Corridor meeting.

City Council is starting to discuss finance issues. Deputy Mayor Chelminiak reported that the moratorium on Meydenbauer properties has been extended for six months.

8. CONSENT ITEMS:

None.

9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. TELOS Program

Mr. Billington gave an overview of the TELOS Program. TELOS is a partnership between Bellevue Community College and the City of Bellevue. The program has offered classes at the Northwest Arts Center for the past 19 years. The TELOS Program provides educational opportunities for adults and seniors during three quarters each year, serving approximately 600 participants. Although there are no age requirements for the program, most participants are retirees.

The TELOS Program is one of the most successful retiree programs in the country. Mr. Billington thanked the boardmembers for their continued support.

Courses are listed on the TELOS website as well as in the BCC catalog and brochures are mailed.

B. Bel-Red Update

Boardmember Roland reviewed the Parks and Open Space needs for the Bel-Red Corridor, which was derived from the DEIS. The magnitude of the need depends upon how many people are brought to the community.

The Bel-Red Corridor Project Steering Committee presentation was reviewed. If boardmembers would like to see the full presentation, please let Boardmember Roland know.

1. Parks and Open Space-

- All Preferred Alternatives should specifically identify the general location and magnitude of the park and open space facilities proposed relative to increased users from the future development. None of the current alternatives graphically reflects the presence of additional Parks and Recreation facilities; however, constants in all are a general framework and acknowledged need.
- Support the protection and expansion of the major greenways and retain them as open and accessible to the public. Help design incentives to encourage restoration and enhanced open space in redevelopment.

Motion by Boardmember White and second Boardmember Karle to support the above range of quantities of Open Space and types of Open Space that will serve an urban population. Boardmembers would also like the stream corridor connections to communities and Open Spaces included in the alternative. At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

2. Non-motorized Access

- Provide adequate non-motorized access to and through the Bel-Red Corridor including sidewalks, bike trails and hard and soft surface walking trails that serve both transportation and recreation-oriented uses. Provide pedestrian-friendly designs within the new motorized corridors.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember White to support the above Non-motorized Access recommendation. In addition, the board recommended corridors not be viewed or planned as separate entities. Whatever means of transportation, the corridor should be viewed as a park-like experience. At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. Recreation Facilities

- Support the location of a major indoor recreational facility within the Bel-Red Corridor. Identified program functions include active sports and aquatics.

The term “Recreational Facilities” refers to public community recreation, not a stadium or arena. Mr. McDonald reviewed the Steering Committee’s term for “Major Recreational Facility.”

Motion by Boardmember Karle and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to support the above Recreation Facilities recommendation. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

4. Pedestrian Friendly Corridor

- Support location of the major east-west transportation corridor at NE 16th Street. Ensure that the width of the corridor accommodates multiple transportation modes, including generous space for pedestrian and bicycle facilities that accommodate both transportation and recreational users. This project has the potential to be the major east-west greenway for ped-bicycle connections to the BNSF regional trail system, at the west end, and connect to 140th and 148th Avenue street trails and pedestrian facilities on the east end.

The Board would like a reference to suggest that gateways would be identified as gateways to the corridor throughout the system of movement.

Motion by Boardmember Karle and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to support the above Pedestrian Friendly Corridor recommendation. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

5. Blending of Alternatives

- Encourage the Steering Committee to develop a final alternative that should be a blend of the current alternatives.

None of the alternatives meet the criteria so the final alternative needs to be a blend of the current alternatives.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember White to support the above Blending of Alternatives recommendation. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

6. Builds a Sense of Community

- Provide a balance of housing, business and employment that allows individuals the choice of living, working and playing within the corridor.
- Support the creation of a major urban public plaza along the 16th Street Corridor.
- Support the retention of family wage jobs and business that provide community sustainability and folks who can afford to live and work within the corridor.

Boardmember Karle recommended taking into consideration and examining the sanctuaries of businesses and service core within the corridor.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember White to support the above Builds a Sense of Community recommendation. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

7. Arts within the Community

- Support the location of a sanctuary for performing arts space within the corridor.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember White to support the above Arts within the Community recommendation. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak suggested adding the concept of using the restoration of stream corridors as part of the place-making.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Aron to include a separate alternative for adding the concept of enhancing stream corridors as part of the place-making for the Bel-Red Corridor Project. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

C. Board Speakers Bureau

Ms. Brittingham reviewed the draft Parks & Community Services Board Speaker's Bureau presentation information. Boardmembers are asked to submit feedback and suggestions regarding the presentation information by the next board meeting.

Mr. Foran reminded the board that the Parks & Community Services function in Bellevue was nationally recognized by the National Gold Medal Award and that the Bellevue Parks system is nationally accredited.

There was a general discussion regarding various visions for the PowerPoint presentation.

Boardmember Aron expressed his concerns with being portrayed as giving a pitch on behalf of the Parks Department rather than on behalf of the City Council. Deputy Mayor Chelminiak recommended gearing the presentation toward the community. He used the example of the "Park Enterprise Services" slide. This verbiage is a Department term not a community term. To community members, a Park Enterprise Service is a golf course or swimming pool.

Boardmember Aron suggested the presentation be less bureaucratic. The vision should be humans dealing with humans. He added that the strength of an organization is its people.

Mr. Foran recommended that a companion piece be added to the presentation so audience members have a take-away pamphlet.

Chair Keeney and Boardmember Karle will work with staff members to revise the presentation and demonstrate the revised presentation at the next board meeting.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Foran reported that the RFPs for the Meydenbauer planning project have been received. The public side of the planning process should be underway in April.

The bids for the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center were due March 1, 2007. No bids were received. Mr. Foran reviewed the City's contracting policy options. Mr. Kost added that a proposal can now be issued without going through the RFP process. There are currently seven contractors identified for the project.

Mr. Kost reviewed the current bid process for Robinswood Park. A contract has been awarded to upgrade the light system and for basic construction prep work.

11. OLD BUSINESS:

- A. Public follow-up
- B. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Boardmember Roland reported that there will be a Bel-Red Corridor meeting on March 28, 2007 and April 25, 2007.

Chair Keeney noted the e-mail from Nan Campbell supporting the Crossroads Center Plan Comprehensive Plan Amendment.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Future agenda items

13. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. Staff Reports
- B. CIP Project Report
- C. Email from Nan Campbell re Crossroads Center Plan

14. INFORMATION:

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Boardmember Karle and second by Boardmember Roland to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).