

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

Tuesday
May 11, 2010
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chair Roland, Boardmembers George, Grindeland, LaPine, Robinson, Stokes

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Chair Keeney

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Mike Bergstrom (PCD), Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Franz Loewenherz (Transportation), Shelley McVein, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith, Cathy Von Wald

OTHERS PRESENT: Hannah Kimball, Jim McEachran

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Roland at 6:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Boardmember Robinson to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Stokes to approve the April 13, 2010 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Jim McEachran, 15029 SE 47th Street, Bellevue, WA
Senior Pastor, Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church.

On behalf of Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church, Mr. McEachran made the following comments:

- Thank you to Boardmembers for serving Bellevue citizens. The church loves the parks, and community service is a hallmark of Saint Andrew's. Saint Andrew's affirms everything done on behalf of the citizens.
- Appreciate inclusion of the Saint Andrew's letter of concerns regarding the off-leash dog facility at Robinswood Park in the Board packet.
- There are five areas of concern noted on page two of the letter submitted. Saint Andrew's Facilities Manager, Kurt Lutterman, can respond to concerns or requests if needed.

Hannah Kimball, 16225 Northup Way, Bellevue, WA
Vice-Chair, Bellevue Network on Aging

Ms. Kimball distributed the Annual Report of the Bellevue Network on Aging for 2009/2010.

On behalf of the Bellevue Network on Aging, Ms. Kimball made the following comments:

- Mayor Davidson proclaimed May as Older American's Month.
- The Network was established in 2006 and acts in an advisory capacity to the Parks & Community Services Department to study, review, evaluate, and recommend on matters affecting Bellevue's older adults.
- The Network's formal mission is, "Dedicated to healthy aging in our community by promoting the awareness of needs and resources that support older adults through life's transitions."
- As the older adult population increases, it will become more important that older adults have stability in their lives and community. Safety, purpose, independence, and the ability to make decisions and to plan for the future are some of the factors that create stability for older adults and lead to fewer transitions.
- The Network strives to enhance stability in older adults' lives and to make Bellevue an age-friendly community through a combination of activities, including: outreach, research, and advocacy.
- The Park Board is encouraged to consider the needs of the older adult population in all decisions made.
- The integration, understanding, and collaboration of multiple generations provide a framework for a vibrant and connected community.
- The Bellevue Network on Aging appreciates its advisory role to the Park Board.
- Boardmembers are invited to attend the Bellevue Network on Aging regular meetings on the first Thursday of each month.

Vice-Chair Roland commented that the Bellevue Network on Aging is well served with Board liaison, Lynne Robinson.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Vice-Chair Roland noted that Chair Keeney was unable to attend his final meeting before his term expired. However, Chair Keeney will attend next month's meeting, as a citizen, for final farewells.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Grindeland visited the following parks/events:

- Kelsey Creek Park Sheep Shearing event.
- Wilburton Park Sports Field "Grand Opening" Celebration.
- Fuchsia Society plant sale at Bellevue Botanical Garden.
- Robinswood Park.
- Highland Park.

Boardmember Stokes made the following comments:

- Recently attended a Bellevue Network on Aging meeting, which included an interesting architect presentation.
- There was some miscommunication regarding the Bellevue Parks Yes Scholarship from the Bellevue PTSA Council. Chair Keeney had presented the Bellevue Parks Scholarship award to Melissa Dahl, but the sponsor of the award was not the Park Board. A letter was included on page 37 of the Board packet from Ms. Dahl.
- There was a recent meeting between the Bellevue School District, the Parks Department, and the Bellevue Schools Foundation regarding the Wrap-Around program and Bridging the Achievement Gap. This was a good way to bring the neighborhoods together.

Boardmember LaPine made the following comments:

- Continuing to visit Meydenbauer Bay Park and looking forward to the next steps in the planning process for the significantly extended park.
- Would like further information on how homelessness is managed in Bellevue parks.

Boardmember Robinson made the following comments:

- Expressed her appreciation for Ms. Kimball's comments regarding the Bellevue Network on Aging.
- She noted that the Bellevue Network on Aging created a map of Bellevue residents 65 and older that live in Bellevue. The map concluded a high density of residents in Old Bellevue. Boardmember Robinson felt that this older adult population will be complemented by the expansion of Meydenbauer Bay Park.

Boardmember George made the following comments:

- Visited various parks.
- Son is participating in Bellevue Youth Theatre performance.

Vice-Chair Roland made the following comments:

- Visited Wilburton Park Sports Field, which is a great asset to the community.
- Visited Bellevue Botanical Garden—rhododendron garden was spectacular.

7. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Board Elections**

- Chair

Vice-Chair Roland opened nominations for Board Chair.

Nomination by Boardmember LaPine to elect Vice-Chair Roland as the Board Chair.

Vice-Chair Roland requested other nominations for the Board Chair. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried unanimously to elect Vice-Chair Roland as the Board Chair (6-0).

- Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Roland opened nominations for Board Vice-Chair.

Nomination by Boardmember George to elect Boardmember Robinson as the Board Vice-Chair.

Nomination by Boardmember Grindeland to elect Boardmember Stokes as the Board Vice-Chair.

Vice-Chair Roland requested other nominations for the Board Vice-Chair. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried to elect Boardmember Robinson as the Board Vice-Chair (4-2).

B. Eastgate/I-90 Project

Mr. Bergstrom provided a project overview of the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use & Transportation Project. He noted that the City has several employment centers throughout the community which periodically are reviewed in order to be sure the comprehensive plans are looking to the future, addressing current issues, and are ready for future growth and development opportunities. The Eastgate/I-90 project will focus on the Eastgate commercial corridor.

Mr. Bergstrom explained that the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use & Transportation Project study was started in 1st Quarter 2010 with hopes of completion by the end of 2011. Mr. Bergstrom clarified the following questions for the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use & Transportation Project study:

- What are we doing?
- Why are we doing it?

In addition, the following information was discussed:

- Council Actions.
- Council Principles.

Mr. Bergstrom clarified that the study area boundaries encompass the commercial areas on either side of I-90 that could experience changes to their land use capabilities. In addition, there is an extension off to the east, along I-90, that is added because it is an area of specific concern for Transportation.

Other items discussed by Mr. Bergstrom included:

- Area Overview.
- Existing Zoning.
- Office Concentrations.
- Light Industrial Area.
- Retail Nodes.
- Other Notable Uses.
- Environmental Features.
- Existing Parks, Open Spaces & Recreation.

Mr. Loewenherz called attention to the growing congestion and traffic patterns between I-405 and Lakemont Boulevard. In addition, the following items were discussed:

- Street Connectivity.
- Transit Ridership.
- Sidewalk & Trail Facilities.
- Bicycle Facilities.

Mr. Loewenherz highlighted the various public outreach efforts underway, including appointment of the Citizen Advisory Committee, open houses, stakeholder panels, media, mailings, etc. In addition, there were over 300 responses received to an online questionnaire.

Board Discussion:

Boardmember Stokes lives in the Eastgate area and commended staff for identifying the true concerns of the community. He feels the potential for the area and project is fantastic.

Boardmember LaPine thanked staff for preparing the information. He requested copies of the PowerPoint presentation and wondered how the Board can support the project. Mr. Smith clarified that one of the Board's roles is to recommend a Boardmember for the Steering Advisory Committee. Boardmember Stokes' name has been recommended to the Mayor for approval as a Steering Committee member.

Boardmember LaPine requested further information about the project timelines. Mr. Bergstrom explained that the alternatives should be identified in the near future, with a preferred alternative recommendation by the end of 1st Quarter 2011. He added that periodic progress reports will be provided prior to the preferred recommendation.

Boardmember Robinson requested that the Eastgate Park-and-Ride be more accessible to pedestrians (i.e., there should be an easy pedestrian transition from the Eastgate shopping area to the Park-and-Ride).

Boardmember George requested that bicycle directional markers be added to current biking paths. Mr. Loewenherz clarified that Federal Congestion Mitigation Air Quality (CMAQ) funding was recently received with partner agencies. In conjunction with the project partners (Redmond, Kirkland, Issaquah, Bellevue), an Eastside bicycle way-finding project will be conducted indicating bicycle destinations, mileage, etc.

Boardmember George suggested that the bus route from the Eastgate Area Park-and-Ride to Seattle be altered. With the addition of the new direct access freeway ramp, the bus ride takes additional travel time accessing the freeway versus heading west on Eastgate Way to access the freeway. At times, this additional travel time discourages her from riding the bus.

Vice-Chair Roland wanted to ensure prior work conducted along West Lake Sammamish is captured in the planning process, since a significant amount of public input about this area was gathered.

Mr. Foran made the following comments:

- Environmental Stewardship: There has been a significant amount of investments to preserve the study area and create wetlands. This area needs to transition in an environmentally friendly and responsible way.
- Economic Development: Bellevue is fortunate to have several corridors. There is a lot of potential for economic development activity.
- With the density of the commercial development and related jobs, the area also offers accessibility to nearby affordable housing.
- I-90 should not divide the community.
- In addition to I-405, I-90 is also a gateway to Bellevue and a tremendous opportunity to feature Bellevue.

Boardmember Stokes is optimistic that the image of Eastgate and the Factoria area will be improved from the project.

C. Budget One

Mr. Sanner provided an overview of the City's budget process. He explained that the recession has eroded Bellevue's tax base, especially economically sensitive revenues (i.e., sales tax, B&O tax, REET, etc.). In addition, the general fund is projected to have a \$10 million per year operating shortfall (approximately 7%). The CIP Fund is projected to have an \$11 million shortfall from 2011-2017. Mr. Sanner noted that these forecasts do not include City funding for Sound Transit, Bel-Red, and Mobility & Infrastructure.

Mr. Sanner clarified that the new budget process is an outcome-based approach. The key outcomes of this approach include:

- Economic Growth & Competitiveness
- Healthy & Sustainable Environment
- Improved Mobility
- Innovative, Vibrant & Caring Community
- Quality Neighborhoods
- Responsive Government
- Safe Community

Mr. Sanner explained that staff teams have been reviewing the outcome areas and developing proposals for the Requests for Results, which is a buying strategy—essentially, the Parks Department has become a seller of services.

The Park Board's role in the process was highlighted by Mr. Sanner and includes:

- Review Parks capital projects for submission to Results Team.
- Review and potentially comment on prioritization of Parks capital projects in the budget process.

After reviewing the citizen survey data, Mr. Sanner noted that the highest priority (+60%) is to:

- Preserve natural areas, water quality.
- Maintain quality of existing parks.
- Trails.

Mr. Kost explained that there are three principles to formulate proposals for the budget process:

- Make good on commitment to voters from 2008 Parks Levy.
- Maintain existing infrastructure, both parks and natural assets.
- Complete previously-approved planning projects.

Mr. Foran clarified that funding sources for the 2008 Parks Levy Program included levy funding (\$3.4 million per year); and Parks CIP funding (\$28.5 million plus Challenge Grant) as approved by Council. He added that Bellevue's voted levies aren't designed or intended to pay for the total cost of the parks system. They are designed to pay for portions of the cost in conjunction with City funding. Mr. Foran cautioned that there may be a tendency throughout the budgeting

process to suggest that the CIP funding and Challenge Grant are not tied to the levy. However, when the Council approved the projects, three funding sources were approved to deliver the projects.

Mr. Kost discussed the ongoing park renovation proposals, including park renovation, natural asset renovation, and streetscape/ROW enhancement. He clarified that the Parks Department is required to submit a 10% LOS reduction. In addition, the staff is proposing a one-time funding project to complete previously-approved planning efforts for Meydenbauer Bay, Ashwood Park, Bel-Red, Surrey Downs and Eastgate/Airfield Park.

Mr. Kost listed the Parks & Open Space Plan recommendations not included in the current/proposed CIP, including:

- Bel-Red Area Park Development
- Meydenbauer Bay Park Development
- Aquatics Center
- Off-leash Areas
- Downtown Community Center
- Additional Neighborhood Parks
- Major Park Redevelopment or additional development phases

Mr. Foran suggested that funding Park projects should not be dependent upon voter approval. He cautioned that the new budget process might cause a precedent for this type of funding requirement.

Mr. Sanner offered a fact sheet to interested Boardmembers that includes a list of the Parks Levy projects.

Board Discussion:

Boardmember Robinson requested a list of the previously-approved planning projects. Mr. Kost directed her to the Project Status Report in the packet.

Boardmember LaPine would like to support the voters. However, given the priorities, he feels natural assets should be a higher priority than park maintenance. In addition, Boardmember LaPine suggested that a “Gets/Don’t Gets” list be created to clearly identify approved projects.

Boardmember Stokes views the budget planning process as fluid and long-term. He feels it is important to communicate to the community that the planning process for Meydenbauer Bay Park is moving forward and the project has not been placed on hold due to funding restrictions. In addition, he feels that prioritization is fundamental.

Boardmember Grindeland stressed that levy funding and Parks CIP funding needs to be maintained.

Vice-Chair Roland suggested that there is an opportunity to leverage the City's funds against Federal dollars that won't be available if the fund were diminished. She felt this is a key message for City Council and leveraging needs to be a priority.

Board member George noted that the written meeting materials said that the Park Board would prioritize park projects, but the staff's comments at the meeting suggested otherwise, and she asked staff to clarify how and when the board's prioritizing would occur. Mr. Sanner indicated that the process is still being worked out.

Boardmember Robinson requested a list of approved/proposed projects so it is easy to evaluate all projects.

Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Boardmember Stokes to extend the meeting until 8:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Boardmember LaPine suggested that it might be worthwhile to score all items in the CIP based upon the Outcome Based Budgeting criteria. Then, evaluate the items within the levy to determine if they ranked as the highest outcome. If the items don't rank high, they should be reevaluated. Mr. Foran clarified that the approved levy is accompanied by an ordinance and authorizes the projects identified on the list. Although there is some flexibility, the Council would need to rule that an original project is not feasible. Boardmember Stokes felt that reprioritizing the levy projects runs the risk of undermining the message in terms of approved projects and priorities. Boardmember George concurred with Boardmember LaPine's comments.

Mr. Foran clarified that the Board has been involved with active and thorough reviews of CIP lists, including prioritization of projects based upon the assumed available funding. The current budget process assumes departments have zero dollars and the prioritization process occurs within the Results Teams.

There was a general discussion regarding the timeframe and deadlines for budget submission.

Boardmember Robinson expressed her frustration with the lack of time to study the projects and evaluate if projects should be put forth as priorities. She was uncertain as to project specifics included in the priorities and projects that were left off the list. Vice-Chair Roland commented that the projects recommended for priority have been included in previous budget cycles. In addition, she clarified that the Park Board does not prioritize projects.

In addition, Boardmember Robinson mentioned that she had hoped that the funding for the off-leash dog area at Robinswood Park would be prioritized. Mr. Kost clarified that this off-leash dog area is included in the Board's recommendation for Airfield Park. The off-leash dog area will be funded if the Council chooses to adopt the Airfield Park recommendation forwarded by the Park Board and also approves funding for that development.

Motion by Boardmember Stokes and second by Boardmember Robinson to extend the meeting until 8:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Once Council reviews the projects and priorities, Mr. Sanner clarified he will provide an update to the Parks Board (approximately July 2010).

Boardmember LaPine expressed his appreciation to staff for the work conducted during the budget process.

9. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

On behalf of the Parks Department, Mr. Foran presented Boardmembers with a token of appreciation for their service as volunteers.

10. **ONGOING/OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Boardmember LaPine expressed his appreciation to staff member Mike Hauer for his exemplary job with a neighborhood trail improvement.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember Robinson requested a project update regarding Surrey Downs.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATION:**

A. CIP Project Report

B. Email from Shelley Brittingham re Kelsey Creek Farm.

C. Communication from citizens (in alphabetical order)

- Letter from Bellevue Downtown Association supporting Meydenbauer Bay Park & Land Use Plan (included in Board's April desk packet)
- Email from Kathryn Chalfan complimenting trails crew
- Letter from Melissa Dahl thanking Board for scholarship
- Email from Merrily Hornell and Horizon Crest Community Association with thanks for Arbor Day neighborhood clean-up
- Letter from Saint Andrew's Lutheran Church with concerns about off-leash dog area proposed for Robinswood Park (included in the Board's April desk packet)

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these minutes as amended on June 8, 2010.

- Email from Brad Smallwood supposed Meydenbauer Bay Park & Land Use Plan (included in Board's April desk packet)

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. June 8 – next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

14. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

By general consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:23 p.m.