

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

Tuesday  
September 11, 2007  
6:00 p.m.

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

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Bennett<sup>1</sup>, Boardmembers Aron, Karle, Maxim, Roland

**BOARDMEMBER ABSENT:** Boardmember Henrickson

**COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT:** Deputy Mayor John Chelminiak

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mary Pat Byrne (PCD), Mike Ingram (Transportation), Bill Lapatra, Craig Skipton

**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 Maxim and second by Boardmember Roland to approve the agenda. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Boardmember Karle and second by Boardmember Roland to approve the July 10, 2007 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

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<sup>1</sup> Arrived at 6:03 p.m.

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

None.

**5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Keeney requested 30 seconds of silence to remember the victims from 9/11.

**6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Karle read some comments from his children who attended summer camps in Bellevue. He was impressed with the reasonable cost and quality of the programs offered.

Boardmember Roland attended Bel-Red Corridor Task Force meetings. She was pleased to report that there is mention of a large public recreation facility, such as an aquatic center, in the draft Bel-Red proposal. Boardmember Roland also attended the Meydenbauer Bay Waterfront Day celebration.

Boardmember Maxim attended the July Bel-Red Corridor Task Force meeting.

Vice-Chair Bennett attended the Costco open house. She was optimistic about Costco's solutions and how the overall project will look. She also attended the Meydenbauer Bay Waterfront Day.

Chair Keeney has been quite busy with the Meydenbauer Bay Task Force.

**7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak was amazed at the Kelsey Creek horse camp program, which was held during the summer. His daughter participated in the camp and had a great time. Deputy Mayor Chelminiak also attended the Jubilee Reach program as well as the Meydenbauer Bay committee meeting and Waterfront Day.

**8. CONSENT ITEMS:**

None.

**9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Great Streets

Mr. Ingram reviewed the purpose and goals of the Great Streets project. Mr. Ingram added that the vision for the project is to improve the streets for today and the future, as well as promote alternate modes of transportation.

The design directions for the Great Streets project identifying the individual corridors and their designation were discussed. Mr. Ingram further reviewed the specific streets currently under construction. One theme of the project is “City in a Park.” The purpose is to integrate threads of the park throughout the city.

Compared to other cities, there are fewer routes available throughout Bellevue. Bellevue’s city blocks are larger than most. The goal is to make city streets more user friendly.

The existing road conditions were reviewed. Mr. Ingram discussed some of the comments received pertaining to the redesign of Bellevue Way. The edge typology was discussed for Bellevue Way. In addition, Mr. Ingram demonstrated some of the concepts that have been developed to enhance Bellevue Way. Mr. Ingram reviewed the variations to enhance Bellevue Way, which included narrower walkways, some café seating, vertical elements, car buffers, planting zones, and individual building entries to name a few.

The neighborhood retail segment was reviewed, which demonstrates a larger flexible zone. Boardmember Karle expressed concerns with outdoor café areas in conjunction with the northwest weather. Mr. Ingram explained some of the concepts that complement the northwest weather, like the art walk segment. He added that some of the concepts would be for seasonal use only.

The frontage along the Downtown Park is a key component of the Bellevue Way study. Mr. Ingram reviewed one of the proposals, which would allow outdoor vending along the park frontage.

Mr. Ingram discussed the large amounts of traffic volume on NE 4<sup>th</sup> and NE 8<sup>th</sup>. Some ideas for making these streets more pedestrian friendly and welcoming were discussed. One of the treatment ideas discussed was a terrace segment. This concept allows people to be above the traffic pattern looking out toward the Downtown Park. Boardmember Maxim expressed concerns with some businesses not allowing public areas to be utilized.

The road connections along NE 8<sup>th</sup> were discussed. In addition, the mid-block crossing and arterial crossing options were reviewed. Boardmember Roland would like the multi-crossing concept utilized when deemed appropriate.

Mr. Ingram reviewed the existing streetscape for 106<sup>th</sup> and 108<sup>th</sup> Avenues. There are many activities that are incorporated into these Avenues (i.e., Art Fair). These two streets connect the city to local neighborhoods. Mr. Ingram discussed the opportunities available to thread the

Downtown Park back into the city through these connections. The option of making 106<sup>th</sup> and 108<sup>th</sup> Avenues one-way was also discussed. Mr. Ingram noted that there aren't many operational benefits for converting these roads to one-way traffic; however, there are many pedestrian benefits.

Due to meeting time constraints, Ms. Byrne will attend the next board meeting to discuss the art plan framework for the Great Streets project.

Incentives for existing business owners to incorporate the Great Streets concept were discussed. Mr. Ingram noted that incentives for builders/business owners are currently being evaluated.

Mr. Foran applauded the city and Transportation Department for their work on the Great Streets project. However, he expressed concern with the constraints that are locked or proposed to be locked and cannot be moved. He feels unless the constraints are removed, the level of achievement will be good, not great. Dramatic changes need to occur within the constraints. If these changes are not made, then Mr. Foran recommends using all means to achieve the final results (i.e., building facade, signage, codes, etc.). He added that the current codes promote sameness and make Bellevue look like many other cities across the country, rather than a unique city above many. Another suggestion Mr. Foran discussed was to research development of the main intersections, which is where people spend most of their time sitting in traffic. Mr. Foran urged the project committee to determine maintenance and funding for the proposed upgrades prior to taking any action.

Boardmember Roland cited the Colby intersection in Everett as a unique intersection.

#### B. Voter Initiative Overview

Mr. Sanner provided a historical perspective of past voter initiatives along with the timelines of these initiatives. He explained the fiscal impact of the expiring 1988 park bond. In addition, he reviewed the voter approved property tax funding mechanisms, which are bonds and levy lid lifts. The differences between the bond and levy lid lift were explained.

Funding preferences were discussed regarding research projects that have been conducted. Mr. Sanner noted the fiscal tolerance changes based upon current conditions. Voter initiatives have highest probability for success if fiscal impact is approximately \$50 per year/per household. Deputy Mayor Chelminiak suggested researching other cities that have successfully passed bonds and/or levy lid lifts to determine the fiscal impact of these measures.

All of the research conducted regarding the potential 2008 bond/levy will be forwarded to the City Council. The possibility of a bond/levy will be discussed at the upcoming Park Board Retreat.

Boardmember Roland suggested using the list of future projects as a means for marketing a bond/levy. She added that people may be more inclined to favor a bond/levy if they knew what their dollar has supported in past years and know what it will support in future years. She suggested citing specific examples.

Chair Keeney clarified that the upcoming board retreat will assist in clarifying the Parks Board role with a potential bond/levy.

C. Retreat Planning

Chair Keeney reviewed the Annual Retreat draft agenda. The retreat will be held at Boardmember Henrickson's office on September 29, 2007 from 8:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m. Boardmember Roland is unavailable to attend the retreat.

**10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported that changes to Robinswood Park have made the park much more inviting to the community. Many compliments have been received.

**11. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Public follow-up

B. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Boardmember Karle reported that the Best Practices Committee is currently establishing the goals for next year. The next meeting will be held on September 25. Boardmember Roland added that there will be an Open House on Thursday from 4:00-7:00 p.m. Boardmember Karle added that his and Boardmember Roland's participation on the Best Practices Committee is a dual role—as community members and as Park Board members.

Chair Keeney reported that there have been a lot of suggestions and comments received regarding the Meydenbauer Bay project. A significant amount of time is being spent on land use. In addition, he reviewed the timeframes for upcoming meetings and invited boardmembers to attend.

**Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Roland to extend the meeting until 8:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6–0).**

The Planning Commission will host a joint commission meeting to discuss the Bel-Red Corridor project on October 10, 2007 at 6:00 p.m. Mr. Smith discussed the primary purpose for the meeting, which is to provide the same information to all of the boards and commissions at one time. Further discussions will occur after the joint meeting. Chair Keeney encouraged all boardmembers to attend the joint commission meeting. Deputy Mayor Chelminiak noted that the joint commission meeting may be held on October 24, depending upon the City Council agenda and schedule. Ms. Harvey will send a notice once the meeting date/time has been confirmed.

**Motion by Boardmember Maxim and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to extend the meeting until 8:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

**12. NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Future agenda items

**13. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Staff Reports
- B. CIP Project Report
- C. Email from and response to Eric Dawes re SE 40<sup>th</sup> Boat Launch
- D. Letter from and response to George Fair re 4<sup>th</sup> of July Celebration
- E. Letter from David Plummer (to Council) re Bel-Red project
- F. Email from Sharon Simas re SPLASH
- G. Email from David Grant (Transportation) re Kelsey Creek Restoration
- H. Email from John Lum re Skate Park
- I. Email from and response to Janice Omri re Well-Kept program
- J. Memo from Robin Cole (Parks) and Mike Bergstrom (PCD) re Meydenbauer project

**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 8:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**