CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday
January 8, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Bennett, Boardmembers Aron, Henrickson, Karle, Maxim, Roland

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: John Chelminiak

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Ken Kroeger, Shelley Marelli, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Ken Ballard, Paul Inghram (PCD), Kit Paulsen (Utilities)

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keeney at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Maxim and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (7–0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Maxim and second by Boardmember Roland to approve the December 13, 2007 Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

Chair Keeney called attention to an e-mail dated December 21, 2007 from Jane Yung Dennie regarding, "Kudos to City of Bellevue for its fine Parks Department." On behalf of the board, Chair Keeney expressed his gratitude to the Parks Department staff for their hard work and dedication to make the Bellevue's parks the very best.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Boardmember Roland reported that members from the Bel-Red Steering Committee will be visiting San Jose and San Francisco to observe their light rail systems.

Several boardmembers attended the Garden d'Lights celebration and were amazed by the creativity.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

Councilmember Chelminiak discussed a few recent property acquisitions. He also noted that the City Council approved a three-year Memorandum of Understanding for continuation of the Seafair Marathon. In addition, he reported that Mayor Grant Degginger was re-elected to a second two-year term by his fellow councilmembers, while Councilmember Claudia Balducci was chosen deputy mayor.

8. CONSENT ITEMS:

None.

9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Aquatics Feasibility Study

Mr. Kroeger explained the history for the Bellevue Aquatic Center Feasibility Study. There has been an extensive amount of background and data collection performed. A draft Bellevue Aquatics Center Feasibility Report is anticipated in April 2008 with a final report in June 2008.

Mr. Kroeger reviewed some of the project tasks that have been completed, which include:

- Market analysis
- Public outreach

Some of the ongoing tasks include:

- Facility development options
- Site analysis

Mr. Kroeger also summarized the outstanding project list.

The demographic analysis for a potential aquatic facility was reviewed by Mr. Ballard. The primary service area identified is the City of Bellevue. Mr. Ballard also reviewed the aquatic trends on a national perspective. He noted that the Pacific NW is slightly unusual with more stand-alone aquatic facilities than in other parts of the country.

When investigating the market aspects of Eastside aquatic facilities, Mr. Ballard noted that many of the existing pools are reaching the end of their lifespan and swim needs are not being adequately met, in particular competitive swimming. Mr. Ballard pointed out that the Bellevue High Schools cannot host a swim meet within Bellevue. They need to go to alternate locations because facilities are not available. He added that there are a significant number of swim groups on the Eastside. However, many teams on the Eastside can no longer grow due to the lack of adequate pool time and space.

Mr. Ballard explained that there were a number of stakeholder meetings and focus groups sessions that were conducted. In addition, a statistically valid phone survey of 400 residents was conducted to gain additional information to assist with the study. Several key pieces of information were gathered from that survey, including:

The top three aquatic features respondent households feel are most needed in Bellevue include:

- Area for swim lessons.
- Lanes for lap swimming.
- Recreation oriented pool.

The top three reasons respondent households would use an aquatic center include:

- Recreational swimming.
- Fitness and exercise.
- Instructional classes.

The type of aquatic facility respondents prefer the City of Bellevue to build is a facility with a combination of indoor and outdoor amenities.

Forty-four percent of survey respondents would not support a property tax increase to help fund the building and operations of a new aquatic facility, while 32% would support a $50-$74 property tax increase for such facility.

Mr. Ballard then explained that the facility options for the project that were being explored included:

- Option 1: World Class
- Option 2: Regionally Focused
- Option 3: Eastside Focused
- Option 4: Bellevue Focused
- Option 5: Indoor/Outdoor Pool

Mr. Ballard added that historically the leisure type pools have been able to generate revenue.

Boardmember Maxim commended Mr. Ballard, Mr. Kroeger, and Mr. Kost on the thoroughness of the report.

Due to the Northwest weather, Boardmember Roland expressed her opposition to an outdoor-only type of aquatic center. There was a general discussion regarding which proposed option would accommodate the needs of the Bellevue community and the many requests from swim teams within the schools. Mr. Ballard recommended Option 3 as an ideal facility to accommodate competitive high school needs. He suggested Option 4 as a second possibility.

Boardmember Karle suggested researching the demand for triathlete training facilities. He cited a facility in Australia as an example.

Mr. Foran reiterated that the end product of the facility study will not be a recommendation. It will depict factors that will make each option successful.

Boardmember Aron recommended that the fishing community be contacted to see if they would be interested in an aquatic facility. He added that the vast majority of the fishing community cannot swim.

B. Bel-Red Corridor Policy Discussion/Living Streams

Mr. Inghram distributed copies of the draft Bel-Red Subarea Plan and asked boardmembers to review the plan policies to determine if the policies provide adequate guidance and support for the future implementation. He added that there will not be a specific Parks section that discusses detailed findings.

Boardmember Karle would like to know the current transportation impact fees. Mr. Inghram explained that the current transportation impact fees are being evaluated. Councilmember Chelminiak suggested researching the Snohomish County impact fees, since the fees were listed when plats were approved. Mr. Karle also requested a list of other communities' park impact fees. Mr. Kost said that he would provide that information.

The Wright Runstad property was discussed. Councilmember Chelminiak clarified that any changes within the Bel-Red Strategy will be included with the Wright Runstad agreements.

Kit Paulsen, environmental scientist with the City's Utilities Department, presented a powerpoint presentation with the following information for the Bel-Red Great Streams Program:

- Future visions for Great Stream areas.
- Features and future vision of Goff Creek.
- Scenarios for the West Tributary.
- Impact between 50 ft. versus 100 ft. stream length and buffer

Ms. Paulsen discussed the planning level costs based upon the 50 ft. and 100 ft. estimates. She noted that easements were the highest portion of the cost. At a 50 ft. buffer level, the estimated

total planning level costs is approximately $31.9M, while the 100 ft. estimate is approximately $50.8M.

Boardmember Aron commented that there are parts of streams, from a biological perspective, that are more important than others. He suggested having experts evaluate the streams to determine what parts of the streams are biologically critical. Ms. Paulsen agreed and noted that the West Tributary is the headwaters of the stream, a critical area for the integrity of the whole stream. She stated that the approach was to determine connectivity and function of buffers within the Bel-Red area and how the Bel-Red stream corridors link to other areas. It is anticipated that there will be a buffer averaging approach, rather than a strict, one-size buffer that will provide for ecological function and urban considerations.

There was a brief discussion regarding the December 31, 2007 Draft Memo addressed to Mayor Degginger and City Councilmembers regarding Bel-Red—General Policy Direction re Bel-Red Parks & Open Space System.

Motion by Boardmember Karle and second by Boardmember Roland to approve the Bel-Red—General Policy Direction re Bel-Red Parks & Open Space System memo with the following changes:

> The fourth bullet should read, *"The Council adopt a financial plan that will include all necessary mechanisms, **such as park impact fees**, to ensure implementation of all the public, quality of life elements."*
>
> The second sentence of the second paragraph should read, *"The plan as presented can deliver a redevelopment vision that is worthy of Bellevue's high expectations and supports Bellevue's **reputation as a** City in a Park."*

At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Boardmember Aron called attention to several memos from David Plummer and inquired if his questions and comments are being addressed. Mr. Inghram clarified that many of Mr. Plummer's issues are being addressed in conjunction with the various steps of the Bel-Red Corridor project. Mr. Plummer has been included in the special meeting notifications and various other documents have been sent to him to keep him abreast on the events with the Bel-Red Corridor Project.

C. Voter Initiative Public Input Report

Mr. Sanner reviewed the online survey/comment cards received during the public outreach process for a potential Parks voter initiative. The top two priorities for additional park improvements include:

- Protect water quality in Bellevue's lakes and streams.
- Preserve natural areas and open spaces.

From the survey results, Mr. Sanner reported that 93% of Bellevue taxpayers would be inclined to support a property tax measure for additional park acquisition and development.

Mr. Sanner requested approval on a memo addressed to the Bellevue City Council regarding the Outreach Process and Recommendation for Potential Parks Voter Initiative. The memo provided a brief background, described the public outreach process, depicted key findings, and listed recommendations.

Motion by Boardmember Roland and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to approve the memo addressed to the Bellevue City Council regarding the Outreach Process and Recommendation for Potential Parks Voter Initiative. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Councilmember Chelminiak noted that the City Councilmember retreat is in February 2008 so the potential Parks voter initiative will be discussed.

D. Park Board Agenda Format (Oral Communications)

Chair Keeney informed Boardmembers that a citizen has requested that the Parks & Community Services Board include time for Oral Communications near the end of each meeting as well as at the beginning. Although two times for public comment is not required, Chair Keeney questioned if the Board would like to adopt the change.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Aron to allow time for Oral Communications near the end of each meeting as well as at the beginning. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Foran reported that the next meeting for the Surrey Downs Master Planning Process will be held on January 31, 2008. All boardmembers are encouraged to attend.

The Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation is producing the classic musical CATS featuring Deputy Mayor Balducci and Councilmember Lee. All boardmembers are invited to attend.

11. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Chair Keeney reported that the Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee is currently wrapping up the land use portion. The next task at hand will be Parks planning.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

13. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Staff Reports

B. CIP Project Report

C. Letter from David Plummer to Boards & Commission re Bel-Red Corridor Plan

D. Letter from David Plummer to City Council re Bel-Red Corridor Plan Financing

E. Email from Jane Yung Dennie re Parks Department

14. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. February 12, 2008 – next Park Board meeting

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Councilmember Chelminiak requested that Mr. Plummer be notified of the change to Oral Communications.

Motion by Boardmember Maxim and second by Boardmember Roland to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).