

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

March 3, 2008
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Degginger, Deputy Mayor Balducci, and Councilmembers Chelminiak, Davidson, Lee and Noble

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Balducci called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. and announced recess to Executive Session for 30 to 40 minutes to review the qualifications of Council candidates.

The meeting resumed at 6:48 p.m. with Mayor Degginger presiding.

2. Study Session

(a) Selection Process for Filling Council Vacancy

Mayor Degginger reported that the Council expects to take action on filling the Council vacancy on March 17.

(b) Information Technology Department Update

City Manager Steve Sarkozy made introductory comments related to staff's update on the Information Technology Department.

Toni Cramer, Chief Information Officer, reviewed the department's activities. The NORCOM project team is currently involved in selecting software. The request for proposals (RFP) was completed last year. Staff recently spent six full days in vendor demonstrations and is working to narrow the list of vendors. All of the vendors on the short list are within budget. However, none of them meet all of the desired requirements.

The eCityGov Alliance continues to expand its partnerships with other jurisdictions and to increase usage of its Internet-based applications. Usage of MyParksandRecreation.com has

increased to 1.5 million hits per month, and MyBuildingPermit.com recently added Mukilteo as a partner city. Three new applications are coming online including a job application process.

The Puget Sound Performance Measurement Consortium continues its collaboration of collecting and comparing performance measurement data. The group is working to develop a proposal for the ICMA regarding suggested modifications to certain performance measures. The Regional Fiber Consortium is a group of cities, educational institutions, and one hospital that is working to connect critical public agencies in a cost-effective manner. None of the partners could afford to do this type of project on its own. The wireless pilot project in downtown Bellevue has experienced a significant increase in usage. However, wireless technology is not as reliable as a fiber optic system.

Ms. Cramer reviewed key 2007 accomplishments including security assessment and training, a successful wireless pilot project, the implementation of online utility billing, the issuance of major RFPs (i.e., network services outsourcing, telecommunications services consolidation, and NORCOM public safety systems), implementation of the Human Resources/Payroll employee self-service system, and work on the document management system. A major challenge relates to rapidly increasing data storage demands and ensuring access to public records and information.

One key objective for 2008 relates to business continuity in terms of service provider redundancy, network resiliency, and the ability to recover operations in the case of an emergency. The second key objective is improved service delivery to citizens, which involves the implementation of centralized asset management, the centralization of citizen services into one call center and service request system, information content management, and the implementation and maintenance of online web applications. The enterprise asset management system has a one-time cost of \$1.7 million over two years. Council will be asked to approve the creation of a new Capital Investment Program (CIP) project using existing funding to complete this project.

Ms. Cramer briefly reviewed contracts to be presented for Council approval over the next few months including consolidated telecommunications services, computer replacement, the maintenance of asset management, development of the customer relationship management (CRM) service, network hardware replacement, Microsoft licensing renewal, a document management system, and Microsoft Premier support.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Balducci, Ms. Cramer assured the Council that the CRM project will provide automated access to certain information and services. However, it will allow citizens to speak with an individual for assistance as well.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the work of the fiber optic partnership. Ms. Cramer indicated that Comcast is expanding its bandwidth, and the City is working with them to determine their timing for enhancing Bellevue's system.

Councilmember Chelminiak encouraged a continued aggressive role in working toward making Bellevue a wired city, and noted that this is critical in supporting growth and economic development.

Mayor Degginger thanked staff for the presentation and for the City's work to enhance technology systems.

(c) Update on Aquatics Center Feasibility Study

Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran opened the staff update on the Aquatics Center Feasibility Study. Staff is requesting feedback from the Council, and will continue to work toward developing alternative business models for study and consideration by the Council.

Michael Koenig, Aquatics Center Manager, reviewed the history of the City's aquatics program. The City acquired the Odle Pool from King County in 1995, and added a warm water therapy pool in 1997. The City operates six seasonal swim beaches, a canoe and kayak program, and a boat launch. These facilities drew 65,000 visits and 6,000 boat launches in 2007. Mr. Koenig thanked the Council for its support of aquatics programs.

Glenn Kost, Parks Planning Manager, explained that the purpose of the feasibility study is to consider a proposal by Swimming Pools for Leisure, Active Sports, and Health (SPLASH) to create a partnership for a multipurpose aquatics complex. The study will assist the City in determining if and to what extent it supports the development of a center by studying a range of options and operating models. The study involved extensive public outreach including a series of 15 stakeholder meetings with cities, school districts, and business interests; nine focus groups; and a phone survey of 406 residents. Focus groups involved representatives of high school and club swim teams, private pool facilities, the YMCA, and medical/therapy groups.

Mr. Kost described the growth in competitive swimming and the lack of adequate pool facilities and access to these facilities. He noted an interest in understanding the relationship between existing facilities and a new facility to ensure that the creation of a new facility will not be detrimental to existing facilities.

Doug Sanner, Parks Fiscal and Quality Control Manager, reviewed the telephone survey results, which indicate that 46 percent of households surveyed reported having a resident that swims. He noted that aquatics facilities provide recreation, exercise, classes and therapeutic benefits for the community. Approximately half of the survey respondents said they swim a few times a month, and a number of respondents reported swimming as much as a few times a week. 63 percent of the respondents rated an aquatic facility as a medium or high priority compared to other park needs, and 53 percent indicated a willingness to support a property tax increase of at least \$50 a year for aquatics programs.

Mr. Kost reviewed the following business model options that are part of the study: 1) Outdoor aquatics center, 2) Indoor/outdoor facility with a multi-use pool, leisure pool, and therapy pool, 3) Facility #2 with the addition of a competitive pool, 4) An indoor/outdoor regional facility that

doubles the size of the competitive pool, and 5) Addition of a competitive diving component and the ability to host national events.

Next steps in the study are to: 1) Develop conceptual facility plans for each configuration, 2) Estimate capital and operating costs, 3) Identify the type and scope of potential partnerships, and 4) Prepare a report of findings.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Mr. Kost said the indoor/outdoor facility could have a range of layouts, and portions of the facility could operate seasonally. In further response, Mr. Kost said the current usage of aquatics facilities is approximately 60 percent Bellevue residents and 40 percent non-residents.

Responding to Councilmember Chelminiak, Mr. Kost said the King County Aquatics Facility is a cross between options 4 and 5 described above. He acknowledged that a Bellevue facility with a competitive swimming component would compete with the King County facility for events. In further response, Mr. Koenig said Bellevue's current facility has six lanes for competitive swimming. However, the pool does not meet the depth requirements for competitive high school events.

Mr. Foran indicated that the Bellevue School District supports the concept of additional competitive capabilities. However, there has not yet been a discussion about creating a partnership. Currently, swim teams are using private pools to some extent for their programs.

Responding to Mayor Degginger, Mr. Foran suggested the City consider a partnership model versus functioning as sole operator of a facility.

Deputy Mayor Balducci acknowledged the popularity of swimming. However, she feels it is important to study the potential for a new center within the context of existing facilities and programs throughout the region. She would support a partnership rather than the City providing and operating a facility on its own.

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared recess to the Regular Session.

Michelle Murphy, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

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