

East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

March 6, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Hummer, Vice Chair Walter, Alternate Vice Chair Gooding, and Councilmembers Dhananjaya and Kasner

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: None.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m., with Chair Hummer presiding.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts called the roll. All Councilmembers were present.

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

Chair Hummer asked Councilmember Dhananjaya to lead the flag salute.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL**

Barbara Benson provided an update on the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association (LHNA) meeting. She said representatives of seven nonprofit agencies spoke about the services they offer on the Eastside. Ms. Benson said an Earth Day event is scheduled for April 22. The next LHNA meeting is May 17, during which the association will elect its next officers, and Bellevue Police and Fire personnel will present information on public safety issues. The 4th Annual LHNA Picnic is scheduled for July 21 at Evergreen Park.

Daisy Uy expressed concerns regarding neighborhood safety, room rentals, and home occupation businesses. She noted an explosion at her neighbor's house due to a vehicle repair business he is running out of his garage. She said numerous vehicles are parked at his house on a regular basis.

Keri Pravitz, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), provided an update on the Energize Eastside project and noted that she was contacted by Chair Hummer regarding questions raised during PSE's December update to the EBCC. Ms. Pravitz said many of the questions are addressed in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), and she will follow up with responses to the EBCC's questions after PSE staff conclude their review of the document, which includes more than 1,000 public comments. Ms. Pravitz said the City released the FEIS the previous week after a nearly

three-year environmental review process. The EIS affirms that the project can be safely built and operated, and concludes that replacing the poles and wires along the existing corridor limits the impacts to Eastside communities. The City of Bellevue was the lead for the EIS review, which was completed in partnership with the cities of Kirkland, Newcastle, Redmond, and Renton. Ms. Pravitz said PSE submitted permit applications for the transmission line through South Bellevue, Newcastle, and Renton, and for the Richards Creek Substation in Bellevue. The next set of permit applications will apply to the north portion of the project in Bellevue, which includes parts of Redmond and East Bellevue. Ms. Pravitz said PSE will continue to keep the City, EBCC, and the community informed as the project moves forward.

(a) Islamic Center of the Eastside - Update on Bellevue Mosque Rebuild

Omer Lone, representing the Islamic Center of the Eastside, provided an update regarding the construction project to replace the Bellevue mosque. The mosque has been working with the City regarding the project, and the final plans will be submitted to the City by the end of March.

5. **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** None.

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice Chair Walter moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Gooding seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** None.

8. **PUBLIC/COURTESY HEARINGS:** None.

9. **RESOLUTIONS:** None.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

(a) EBCC Operating Budget Committee Update

Vice Chair Walter noted the following dates for the City Council's Public Hearings on the 2018-2019 Budget and the 2018-2024 Capital Investment Program (CIP): June 4, July 16, and November 13.

Ms. Walter said the EBCC's annual budget includes approximately \$1,700 for supplies and \$2,700 for other services (e.g., City-sponsored expenses, training, travel, and legal notices). The EBCC is required to have Open Public Meetings Act (OPMA) training, which is estimated at \$2,500-\$3,000. The City will cover necessary expenses for the EBCC as the need arises.

Councilmember Kasner said there were five EBCC performance measures in the past, and now there are two. One is the percentage of voter support for the EBCC in the most recent election. Vice Chair Walter said she and Councilmember Gooding would research the performance measures.

Councilmember Kasner noted that the Bellevue Neighborhoods Conference on Saturday, April 21 has a tuition fee. Deputy City Clerk Roberts said the cost for early registration is \$35, and the City will cover that as a necessary expense for EBCC members. She will email an invitation to the EBCC with a deadline for letting her know whether members want to attend.

(b) EBCC Capital Budget Committee Update

Councilmember Kasner said the 2018-2024 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan is a seven-year plan. The Transportation Commission will review the Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) on March 8. He spoke about the funding recommendations provided by the Boards and Commissions.

Mr. Kasner said the TFP includes several projects in East Bellevue, and the Transportation Commission is interested in feedback and input from the EBCC and the public. He said the TFP reflects a bike lane project that the EBCC previously asked the Commission to remove and suggested continued efforts to remove the project.

Mr. Kasner said it took 5-6 years of advocacy by the EBCC to receive the traffic signals at SE 8th Street and Main Street on 148th Avenue. The second highest rated project on the TFP (TFP No. 250) addresses potential improvements along 148th Avenue, noting that the three alternatives are all very expensive. Mr. Kasner said he would like the EBCC to consider the improvements it would like to see on that corridor.

Councilmember Kasner said he would like more information on the City's overlay program and the schedule for the next overlays in East Bellevue. He noted the deteriorating road surface on SE 8th Street, as well as the need for new sidewalks in a number of areas in East Bellevue.

Mr. Kasner requested input regarding additional transportation infrastructure priorities in East Bellevue.

Responding to Vice Chair Walter, Mr. Kasner said the CIP Plan reflects funded projects, while projects on the 10-year TFP are partially funded or not funded. He noted that the neighborhood transportation levy package will expedite certain projects. In further response, Mr. Kasner suggested providing input to the Boards and Commissions before their budget recommendations are presented to the City Council.

Vice Chair Walter questioned whether there are other priorities for the EBCC that are not currently reflected in the CIP or TFP.

Chair Hummer said the 148th Avenue NE/NE 8th Street intersection improvements project is in the discussion stage and is not as highly rated as some of the other transportation projects.

Ms. Hummer said she was expecting Mr. Kasner to prepare a list of potential projects for EBCC study and discussion. She noted the lack of a sidewalk on SE 24th Street between 145th Place SE and 148th Avenue SE, in front of the Hidden Village Apartments. Ms. Hummer said she has

written to the Transportation Commission and others about the need for a sidewalk at that location.

Councilmember Kasner opined that the Transportation Commission is supportive of public input, while staff is cautious about adding to the long list of needed projects. He would like to see further study of the NE 8th Street project to determine the best alternative. He noted that the project is at the gateway into East Bellevue.

Councilmember Dhananjaya said he would attend the Transportation Commission meeting on March 8. He noted a sidewalk project currently underway between NE 8th Street and Main Street.

Mr. Kasner noted the importance of working with the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association to identify and advocate for budget priorities. He said some neighborhoods are better organized at advocating for projects.

Ms. Hummer said that, after the Eastgate area was annexed, many residents attended City Council and Transportation Commission meetings to express support for roadway and sidewalk improvements on Newport Way. She noted her understanding that funding for the Newport Way project interrupted plans for continued improvements to West Lake Sammamish Parkway. She said it can be difficult to earn support from City Hall for projects. She said residents continue to express concerns regarding increasing traffic congestion, which is related to growth and overall development.

Mr. Kasner noted that TFP project 263 (NE 8th Street and 148th Avenue NE) is the seventh funded project with a rating of 47. The project will evaluate potential intersection improvements options, identify a preferred alternative, and update cost estimates. He summarized the three alternatives identified to date and noted that it will take 5-10 years for the project to be implemented. He suggested that the EBCC choose the best option and continue to lobby to keep the project in the TFP.

Chair Hummer suggested that the EBCC go through the list of projects relevant to East Bellevue. She questioned the best way to initiate public outreach to invite feedback and involvement. Ms. Hummer said she posts items on Nextdoor.com. However, she would like the EBCC to vote on what should be posted.

Councilmember Kasner moved to post a notice on Nextdoor.com that the EBCC is working on the 2018-2019 Operating Budget and the 2018-2024 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan, and is interested in public input regarding projects and priorities. Vice Chair Walter seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

Chair Hummer said she will post the notice on Nextdoor.com. She suggested language indicating that the capital budget process will be underway soon, the EBCC would like to support certain transportation projects, and the EBCC is soliciting public input regarding those and other priorities. Mr. Kasner suggested that the notice invite input on all potential priorities and projects, not only on transportation projects.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

(a) Discussion Regarding Potential Future Agenda Items

- Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity, and Congestion Levy Program project update
- Larsen Lake Culvert Replacement project
- Room Rental Ordinance Update

Chair Hummer highlighted the potential future agenda items.

Responding to Ms. Hummer, Deputy City Clerk Roberts said staff's plan with regards to the neighborhood transportation levy is to present information on projects within the EBCC jurisdiction. Ms. Hummer encouraged the EBCC to review staff's recent presentation to the City Council regarding levy projects throughout Bellevue.

Continuing, Chair Hummer said the Larsen Lake culvert replacement project will reduce flooding and improve fish habitat. An update on the Room Rental Ordinance is anticipated in May.

Chair Hummer recalled that the EBCC requested an update on the Affordable Housing Strategy. Councilmember Kasner noted that affordable housing is relevant for the budget process.

Vice Chair Walter said the funding for affordable housing comes from a number of sources, including the City. A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) works with cities and nonprofit organizations to preserve and produce affordable housing. Developers in Bellevue are not required to provide affordable housing within their projects if they pay a fee in lieu. She said the City's budget focuses on allocations to ARCH. Ms. Walter noted that Chair Hummer has information on affordable housing units currently in East Bellevue.

Ms. Hummer said it would be helpful for the EBCC to have regular updates on affordable housing and on the homeless shelter criteria and siting. She noted the potential for a shelter to be sited in any Community Business zone that allow hotels, which includes The Champions Centre at the entrance to Bellevue College, Lake Hills Village, Kelsey Creek Shopping Center, Bartell drug store site, Super Supplements site, and the Brown Bear car wash site. Ms. Hummer encouraged everyone to view the City Council meetings in which the homeless shelter has been discussed.

Ms. Walter requested an update on shelter discussions related to the Eastgate site. She said the City Council adopted, and the EBCC approved, an Interim Official Control Ordinance for shelters.

Chair Hummer said a homeless shelter cannot currently be built in Seattle. However, the City of Seattle is developing criteria related to shelters. She expressed concern regarding the proposed

Eastgate location adjacent to Bellevue College due to an unstable demographic, vulnerable populations, established businesses and hotels, and the Eastgate Park and Ride facility. The other locations under consideration to date do not have the concentration of vulnerable populations and established businesses.

Councilmember Kasner said there is disagreement among City staff about the shelter permitting IOC. Some staff believe that any shelter site will require the full conditional use permit (CUP) process, while others believe that a shelter on the Eastgate site would not require that process. Mr. Kasner said he believes that, with the IOC in place, any shelter, including the Eastgate location, needs to go through the CUP process.

Councilmember Dhananjaya noted the City Council discussion the previous evening indicating that they are moving forward with considering Land Use Code amendments related to the siting and permitting process for shelters.

Councilmember Kasner spoke about the potential two sites at the Eastgate location. One site is on the parking area in front of the King County Public Health offices, and the other site is behind the building. He thinks the latter site is unsafe for Bellevue College students and harmful to the environment. He noted that the location is outside of the EBCC boundary.

Chair Hummer encouraged EBCC members to follow discussions by the City Council.

Chair Hummer said she wants the EBCC to keep abreast of the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) substation looping project in East Bellevue. She believes that some residents receive regular mailings regarding the project. However, she no longer receives notices of public meetings on the topic. She recalled that the EBCC disapproved the permit and was engaged in a legal process. She believes it is the EBCC's duty to stay informed about the project. She noted the challenge of obtaining information given that PSE is a private company.

Chair Hummer noted an application for a variance to place signage on the new building on 148th Avenue. She said she did not understand the need for a variance given that other businesses in the area have illuminated signs. Mr. Kasner suggested that the other signs are grandfathered under the previous code.

Chair Hummer said she would like to finalize the EBCC meeting agendas within the first couple of weeks of the month.

(b) Review and Update of Community Council Rules of Procedure

Chair Hummer noted the need to review, and potentially update, the EBCC's Rules of Procedure. The most recent version is dated 2011. She noted the provision in the rules that if the first Tuesday falls on a legal holiday, the EBCC meeting will be held the following day. Councilmember Kasner noted that, for the 4th of July, the meeting has typically been moved to the following week.

Councilmember Walter said it would be helpful to identify agenda items as information only, discussion, and/or action items. Mr. Kasner said the EBCC cannot propose and take action on a resolution within the same meeting. He referred to page 13 of Ordinance 517 and read: “Resolutions presented to the Community Council by a member thereof shall be composed by the member sponsoring the resolution and submitted to the Clerk no later than three working days prior to the meeting at which it is to be considered.”

Responding to Ms. Hummer, Mr. Kasner spoke against rescheduling July 4th meetings that fall on the first Tuesday to the next day, Wednesday. Councilmember Dhananjaya concurred with the suggestion. Mr. Kasner noted that January 1 sometimes creates the same issue. Also, there have been instances in which the EBCC rescheduled a meeting on Election Day to another date.

Moving on, Chair Hummer suggested changing “his/her” to “their” in the Rules document.

Turning to page 2, Ms. Hummer read: “Written notice of the time, date, place and business to be transacted at either special meetings or study sessions shall be delivered personally or by mail to each councilmember...” She suggested that “personally” is outdated. Vice Chair Walter suggested “personally, electronically, or by mail.”

Chair Hummer read from the Rules regarding oral communications (Section 1.D.1): “...the Chair may limit each speaker to a discretionary, but consistent, length of time.” While this differs from past practices, Chair Hummer noted the importance of making meetings more meaningful and pertinent. She prefers using a timer for each public speaker and limiting their time to three minutes, as followed by the City Council, Boards, and Commissions. Councilmember Dhananjaya suggested the flexibility to allow more time for each speaker depending on the topic or other considerations.

Councilmember Kasner said that he does not support limiting the total time for oral communications to 30 minutes. Chair Hummer acknowledged that occasionally the City Council votes to extend the time. Mr. Kasner said he does not want to discourage public participation.

Vice Chair Walter concurred with Mr. Kasner’s suggestion to preserve the three-minute limit per person, but to not impose a limit of 30 minutes for all oral communications. Ms. Walter suggested proceeding without the 30-minute limit, unless and until it becomes a problem due to excessively long oral communications periods. Mr. Kasner noted that individuals have two opportunities to speak during the meeting, and the Chair can manage those two agenda items.

Chair Hummer confirmed that the EBCC will not follow the 30-minute time limit used by the City Council. However, each speaker will be limited to three minutes. Ms. Walter suggested not referring to a specific number of minutes in the Rules of Procedure. In instances where many people want to speak, the Chair might want to announce a two-minute limit to maintain the efficiency of the meeting. Chair Hummer said she would prefer to follow the three-minute limit for this year.

Referring to Section 1.D.2, Vice Chair Walter proposed the following revision: “Persons speaking to the Council shall identify themselves for the record as to name, address, and, if appropriate, organization, ~~if appropriate.~~”

Referring to Section 1.D.1, Chair Hummer suggested deleting: “Speakers representing the official position of a recognized organization may be allotted a longer amount of time.” Ms. Walter noted that the City Council deleted that provision from its rules in recent years.

Referring to Section 1.D.3, Chair Hummer suggested moving: “If a time limit is deemed appropriate...” to 1.D.1. Mr. Kasner concurred with moving the first sentence.

Moving to Section 2, Agenda, Ms. Hummer read: “The agenda shall be distributed to all members of the Community Council at least forty-eight hours prior to the meeting.” Councilmember Kasner recalled that, three years ago, the EBCC regularly received its agenda one week prior to meetings.

Don Boettiger interjected that he enjoyed the discussion. However, the audience has pressing issues they would like to discuss. He speculated that this topic should be discussed in Executive Session. He said the public does not care about the discussion regarding the EBCC’s Rules.

Chair Hummer noted that the gentleman was out of order. She said there was an opportunity for oral communications under Agenda Item 3, and there will be another opportunity under Agenda Item 13.

Vice Chair Walter suggested a motion to table the discussion to the next meeting and to allow EBCC members to come back with their proposals.

Deputy City Clerk Roberts invited Councilmembers to send their input and comments to her, and she will compile them before the next meeting

Councilmember Kasner moved to table the discussion to the April meeting and to allow EBCC members to submit their proposed revisions to the Deputy City Clerk before that meeting. Vice Chair Walter seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

13. CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS

Don Boettiger apologized for interrupting the discussion. He spoke in favor of the EBCC collectively going to the City Council as one voice. He expressed concern regarding excessive signage along 148th Avenue. Mr. Boettiger noted the culvert projects and said they do not solve flooding. He questioned the removal of ivy from the walls along 148th Avenue and expressed concern about potential graffiti. He said he sent letters with questions regarding Puget Sound Energy projects and was disappointed they were not addressed in PSE’s update tonight. He encouraged EBCC members to get out and drive around the area to identify City-related activities and projects.

Warren Halverson noted that PSE has not responded to questions submitted by him and Mr. Boettiger. He questioned why the permits are split into north and south project components in Bellevue. He questioned whether the EBCC will be involved in the permit process. He questioned why the Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) was not split into the same components. He said he appreciated the EBCC's interest in PSE's substation looping project because 14 property owners in East Bellevue are being pursued under the power of eminent domain. Mr. Halverson thanked Councilmember Kasner for his information regarding the City's capital projects. He asked Mr. Kasner to research the City project needed to fully complete PSE's transmission line loop.

Councilmember Kasner said Mr. Halverson and approximately 300 additional individuals were at Renton Community Center on February 22 to speak with the Washington Utilities and Transportation Commission (WUTC) regarding Puget Sound Energy projects. He said the Energize Eastside project and the 148th Avenue power line are a small portion of the projects. Of the 300 people in attendance during the hearing, only 10-12 individuals addressed those projects.

Councilmember Kasner noted the redesign of *It's Your City* published by the City. He said the map that was published does not provide sufficient detail for residents to determine whether they are within the EBCC jurisdiction. The next issue will be published in June, and the deadline for submitting an EBCC article will be the first week of May. Mr. Kasner noted his ongoing interest in public outreach to encourage attendance at EBCC meetings.

Vice Chair Walter said she was not sure that the EBCC's goal is to get the public to attend meetings. She said the EBCC is a legislative body with the purpose of addressing land use issues within the EBCC jurisdiction. The EBCC is not a community club that is trying to increase its membership, but rather a governmental body with a specific role. She said the EBCC meetings should be efficient, focused, engaging, and informational.

Chair Hummer said she has received feedback from constituents that the meetings are not focused and are too long. She would like to keep the meetings more streamlined and focused on the agenda. She believes it is appropriate to hear brief updates on City Council, Board, and Commission meetings. However, City Council meetings can be viewed on B-TV and online, and reports on Boards and Commissions should focus specifically on East Bellevue. She noted her commitment to reviewing and updating the Rules of Procedure, especially with regards to meeting protocol and the structure of the agenda.

Chair Hummer said Keri Pravitz from Puget Sound Energy offered to speak with her about the questions raised by the EBCC and the public. However, Ms. Hummer indicated to her that she would prefer to have that discussion during a public meeting.

Chair Hummer said she believes the EBCC can do a better job of running meetings, which is part of her rationale for wanting to review the Rules of Procedure.

Councilmember Kasner said he would like letters and written communications from the EBCC's constituents to be attached to the electronic meeting files.

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Vice Chair Walter referred to earlier public comments regarding signage. She said the City's Sign Code lists the types of signs that are exempt from needing a permit. As a citizen, she will report specific signs appearing to be in violation via the MyBellevue app. Councilmembers concurred with the need to address what appears to be excessive signage in certain areas.

Chair Hummer said she would like to vote at the end of each EBCC meeting to determine what information will be transmitted to the City Council, Boards and/or Commissions.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

15. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(a) Summary Minutes of the February 6, 2018 Regular Meeting

Councilmember Dhananjaya moved to approve the minutes of the February 6, 2018 Regular Meeting. Councilmember Gooding seconded the motion.

Vice Chair Walter recalled a more robust conversation about the shelter permitting process Interim Official Control (IOC) Ordinance and the land use table, specifically where it previously said transient housing and now says homeless shelter. Ms. Walter said there seems to be some misreporting that the term "homeless shelter" was always in the land use tables when it was not previously listed in those tables.

Chair Hummer noted that the minutes will be brought back for approval at the April meeting.

Vice Chair Walter asked the Deputy City Clerk to follow up on Daisy Uy's concerns regarding neighborhood safety and businesses in residences.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Vice Chair Walter moved to adjourn. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gooding and carried by a vote of 5-0.

At 8:46 p.m., Chair Hummer declared the meeting adjourned.

Karin Roberts, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

/kaw