

East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

May 6, 2014
6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Boys & Girls Club
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Capron, Councilmember Hughes, Councilmember Hummer,
Councilmember Kasner

ABSENT: Councilmember Gooding

STAFF: Toni Pratt, Planner

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:34 p.m. with Chair Capron presiding.

2. **ROLL CALL**

The Deputy City Clerk called the roll. Councilmember Gooding was absent.

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

Councilmember Kasner led the flag salute.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL**

Don Boettiger spoke and asked about traffic issues that were addressed by the City last October or November. He would like to know if there has been an update from the City since he has heard nothing regarding safety crosswalks, and relocating a couple of bus turns.

Chair Capron responded that there was a discussion last meeting about where the traffic is and how 148th is backing up in the afternoons. EBCC questioned the traffic department about the issue and the response just refers to the 148th and Main St. signal rebuild. Chair Capron thought that there would be more discussed. He has talked to the City about the crosswalk on Main Street between La Fitness and the apartments. It is currently in the process but things work slow. He has not heard any more about the speed on Lake Hills Boulevard.

Chair Capron requested the Deputy City Clerk to get a full update from the traffic department about the issues that have been questioned.

Mr. Boettiger noted that he has seen traffic trailers that monitor speed. He feels that they are very helpful.

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Chair Capron questioned the Deputy City Clerk whether the EBCC can request a radar trailer on Lake Hills Boulevard.

The Deputy City Clerk responded that she will put in a request but she believes the City only owns two radar trailers.

5. REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

None.

6. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Kasner noted that he would like Future Agenda Items permanently added to the EBCC agendas. He would like to discuss the upcoming June and July meetings under new business so that potential schedule conflicts can be noted.

Councilmember Kasner also noted that the memo contained in the desk packet from Mark Poch regarding the concerns about traffic. This issue will impact the budget. He feels EBCC needs the information now.

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve the agenda as amended. Chair Capron seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

7. DEPARTMENT REPORTS

Chair Capron noted the letter from Mark Poch re: the 148th signal rebuild.

8. PUBLIC HEARINGS

- a) Public Hearing to consider Conditional Use Permit Application re: Odle Middle School

Chair Capron introduced Toni Pratt, Development Services Planner.

Toni Pratt presented the staff report. She reviewed the proposed plan. The timeline of the project is two years. The student body will move to Ringdall, which is the school district's swing-school. The Hearing Examiner recommended approval and on April 28 the City Council held a study session on this issue. On May 5, formal Ordinance 6159 was approved by City Council.

Chair Capron noted that the first time the project came to EBCC, the school district was going to run buses through the residential area. There was a huge turnout from people who were very unhappy. He believes now with the final approved plan, the bus access is off of NE 8th.

Ms. Pratt responded that yes, the plan is to have bus traffic off of NE 8th, with a caveat. The caveat is that there are mitigations that the school district will have to meet to ensure that there is not any spill-over parking. As the situation is now, it does not fulfill the conditional use criteria that the City has adopted for condition C and D.

Rebecca Baibak, project architect, explained the drop-off access. Parents will come in from 143rd and have the ability to cue in a very long area that wraps back around. There will be a covered waiting area for students. The buses will come in the same way, but will continue on and will be parallel parking along the curb. All students will come into the same entry point on the site whether they arrive by car or by bus. The student circulation will occur all on the interior. There will be a service area for trash that trucks will also access from 143rd. She went on to say that if there is an event, fire trucks have the option of pulling into either loop, or they can continue all the way around and go through the commons plaza.

Toni Pratt clarified that in an event situation, fire trucks will access the school from NE 4th.

Councilmember Kasner questioned whether there was any loss of parking capacity with the reconfiguration.

Toni Pratt responded that parking increased by 150 stalls.

Chair Capron opened the public hearing.

Don Boettiger questioned the definition of an “event”.

Rebecca Baibak responded that an example would be a shooter on site. It is an emergency occurring at the school.

Councilmember Kasner asked staff to note how the neighborhood felt last year and how they feel today with the proposed plan.

Ms. Pratt responded that the City has received letters of appreciation from residents noting that staff listened to resident concerns.

Councilmember Kasner questioned what the population versus capacity is as we go into 2016.

Jack McCloud, Director of Facilities for Bellevue School District, responded that right now the enrollment is 750. Projections show very little change to that number when the students move into the new building.

Councilmember Kasner questioned what the capacity will be at maximum design.

Mr. McCloud responded that capacity will be 1200.

Councilmember Kasner noted that the Hearing Examiner found no historical data related to what the District promised the residents of Imperial East in 1965 related to size of the school and other issues. 1200 kids is a lot of kids on a reasonably small site. He noted he has some concerns about the max capacity.

Councilmember Hummer questioned whether the population at Odle has ever been above 750.

Mr. McCloud responded that when Odle opened in 1969, there were close to 1000 students in attendance in three grade levels. At that time it was a junior high with grades 7, 8, and 9. Now it is grades 6, 7, and 8 and enrollment is right around 750 or 760.

Mergin Xhemali spoke and noted that he went to school at Odle. The population was not nearly what it is now. He could never imagine it being close to 1200. Populations differ over time.

Chair Capron noted that no one from Imperial East is in attendance and therefore they must be satisfied with the new plan.

Ms. Pratt agreed and noted that during the January public meeting, there were 50 to 60 residents in attendance. At the end of the meeting they were all very happy and even gave the staff and school district a round of applause.

Councilmember Kasner questioned whether the people in attendance on January 9 were noticed for the EBCC meeting this evening.

Ms. Pratt responded that, yes, they were notified.

Councilmember Hughes questioned what the arrangements would be to get kids from Odle area to Ringdall for 2 years.

Mr. McCloud responded that they will be bussed. Special routes are set up to pick up the Odle students and transport them to Ringdall and then back home. For the two year period of time, instead of the normal routes, the routes are adjusted. One thing that the school district has found is the efficiencies that are gained from being able to turn the entire site over to a contractor more than offset the costs of the additional transportation.

Councilmember Hummer questioned whether the population will remain the same while students are attending Ringdall.

Mr. McCloud explained that normally there tends to be a drop off. Parents and students may decide that they will open-enroll at a nearby school if there is availability.

Councilmember Kasner inquired whether any of the current middle schools have availability.

Mr. McCloud noted that Chinook is closed for enrollment, whereas Highland has plenty of space available.

Councilmember Hummer questioned how long it is projected to take to reach the maximum capacity of 1200 students.

Mr. McCloud responded that there is no projection that takes the population to 1200. Right now there are 5 active middle school sites. The Board recognized that the district has to make best use of the space it has and make sure that new schools are built for maximum capacity for the size of the space. They do not anticipate Odle jumping to 1200 in the near future. The concern is to make sure there is capacity at new schools above what the opening day enrollment number is.

Councilmember Kasner questioned if the fields are being improved. He noted that it appears the parking is further away from the fields.

Rebecca Baibak responded and said the fields are going to be artificial turf and the tennis courts are being relocated and resurfaced. The parking for outside of school hours will be at the south end of the site. There will be no cover over the tennis courts, however there will be a covered play area with basketball hoops. There will also be additional signage to explain the hydrology in the area.

Councilmember Kasner questioned whether the trail system will be affected.

Ms. Baibak noted that offsite the trail will not be affected, but on site there are enhancements to what was previously there. A sidewalk will also be included. There will also be fences that will allow for pedestrian access to maintain the Lake to Lake trail access. The buffer required by the City has been met and there has been an attempt to preserve as many trees as possible.

Toni Pratt noted that the school district well exceeded the city's retention requirements on this site and in the buffers.

Councilmember Hummer questioned whether the records show any traffic changes on NE 8th from the 70's to present day and whether there were large backups back then.

Carl Wilson from the City of Bellevue Transportation Department addressed the traffic data. He noted that generally speaking, kids walked or rode buses back then. Today more and more parents make a specific effort to drive their kids to school.

Councilmember Kasner mentioned the private schools which have staggered arrival and dismissal times to deal with specific problems. He would rather see that kind of mitigation plan before opening NE 4th.

Mr. McCloud noted that the school district tried a similar approach at Spiritridge a couple of years ago. While it was not a staggered start with bell times, it was set up as a staggered arrival time. One of the things the school district is currently looking at is having playgrounds and outside supervision prior to the school day. Right now there is not enough staffing to monitor children prior to the first bell. Additional staff resources are a possibility for elementary school to provide supervised playground activities so that parents can drop their child off on the playground so that not everyone is getting their child to school in the 5 to 10 minutes prior to the bell window.

Councilmember Hummer suggested having volunteers onsite to help move the traffic through the school at pick up and drop off.

Carl Wilson noted that such an approach has been attempted at other schools, but the Transportation Department is going to look to the school district to give a bigger effort in that area. The school district has been warned that the City will be more strict about the traffic management plan.

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Councilmember Kasner noted that there are prowlers and stalkers. He is concerned that it is a secluded dead end where a lot of people are not home. He wants to make sure that when the new Odle is built, that all kids going in and out of the site are safe until they are well off the site.

Councilmember Kasner questions Mr. Wilson regarding clickers on NE 8th.

Mr. Wilson responded that the City is hoping not to see the cars backed up to NE 8th. At this point there is no plan for any specific measurements.

Chair Capron noted that the circulation plan is so much better with this new proposal.

Chair Capron closed the public hearing.

9. RESOLUTIONS

a) Resolution No. 541

Councilmember Kasner commented that the most disappointing part of this has been the public process. He feels that there was an ambush in October or November. The public that came to that meeting felt like they had not been listened to up to that point. The fact that EBCC did not host the January 9th meeting is frustrating, coupled with the quasi-judicial nature. He hopes it does not occur like that again. It came to EBCC originally and it should have come back to them in January to have the same information presented. He noted that a decent resolution has been proposed, but he feels it took far too long. Councilmember Kasner is happy with the resolution of this issue but is disappointed with how it was arrived at. He looks forward to having the ribbon cut and more students coming through Odle.

Chair Capron noted that he feels the process worked very well. The concerned citizens got together and came to the meeting and showed their force. As a quasi-judicial matter the EBCC could not be involved. The residents of Imperial East were very satisfied with the outcome. He also noted that he would have liked to have seen some of the residents this evening to thank everyone for the process.

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve Resolution 541. Councilmember Hummer seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

10. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilmember Hummer attended the City Council meeting last evening. She left prior to the end of the meeting because it was going very late. She also attended the Planning Commission meeting at the Lake Hills Clubhouse. She noted that it was great to see the turnout.

Councilmember Kasner noted he has been busy with some of the same meetings. He attended the Planning Commission meeting, which was pretty tight in the Clubhouse with about 50 people in attendance. He noted the representative from Bellevue College got raked over the coals for not being more interested in solving the problem. Mr. Kasner attended the Park Board meeting where they discussed their CIP. Airfield Park may get some design funding, but money is very

tight across all of the projects. It behooves EBCC to look at some of those things so recommendations can be made to Council in October and November to make sure some of East Bellevue priorities are taken care of. Mr. Kasner continued and said he spoke with the Transportation Department about TFP 18. He noted that the Commission almost voted to add that project. Two new Commissioners were saying it was a new project. Mr. Kasner attended the economic justice presentations with Councilmember Hughes. He also attended the historical walk with 20 people starting in Downtown Park and continuing through old Bellevue. He mentioned the wrapping of utility boxes with historical pictures, which leads to less graffiti.

Councilmember Hughes mentioned that he attended some of the meetings Councilmember Kasner did. He attended the Planning Commission meeting and noted the lack of knowledge regarding certain issues. He felt that many things came out of left field. He noted that Diane Tebelius was upset with the College because they could not tell her where their foreign students were living. He noted that one board member did not even realize that the City could not tell Bellevue College what to do on their campus. Councilmember Hughes would like to know what power Bellevue College has over the properties that they own.

Councilmember Kasner would like to see a legal opinion as to what the college can and cannot do with their property. Sunset Ranch is within the EBCC area and as the college continues to buy those properties, EBCC would like to know what they can do with those properties.

Councilmember Hummer noted that the houses that have been purchased by BC are all still listed on King County parcel viewer as individual lots.

Councilmember Hughes noted that he saw an article in the newspaper regarding a new car dealership going in.

Councilmember Hummer noted that until Spiritwood brought the issue of housing to the Planning Commission, people seemed generally unaware of what the college was doing and the impacts that it was having on the community.

Ron Merk spoke and noted a 6700 square foot group home being constructed in his neighborhood. The house being removed to construct the home is only 1300 square feet. He noted that the city does not have a good definition on single family homes and questioned whether the city has a good definition for adult family homes.

Chair Capron noted that he was gone for 3 weeks and therefore did not spend much time in East Bellevue this month.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chair Capron noted his concern that the traffic memo did not address the concerns of the EBCC members. He would like an update on the crosswalk on Main and traffic flow on 148th. He would also like an update on whether anything is happening with regard to residents of Imperial East being able to access their neighborhood at peak times.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

None.

13. **CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS**

Councilmember Hummer moved to add a) Future Agenda Items, under item 12. Chair Capron seconded the motion and it carried unanimously.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

15. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(a) Summary Regular Meeting Minutes - April 1, 2014

Councilmember Hummer moved to approve the minutes. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Kasner and carried unanimously.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Capron adjourned the meeting at 8:02 p.m.

Charmaine Arredondo
Deputy City Clerk