

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting
Council Retreat

January 24-26, 2002

Heron Beach Inn
Port Ludlow, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Marshall, Deputy Mayor Degginger, Councilmembers Creighton, Davidson, Lee, Mosher, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

Thursday, January 24

Mayor Marshall called the meeting to order at 8:30 p.m. following dinner. The following topics were discussed:

- Workshops with the Leadership Team and management staff.
- Community demographics and 2000 Census information.
- Status of Council's existing priorities and "audacious goals."
- 2001 Accomplishments.

Mayor Marshall suggested sending a letter to department heads to thank them for a successful year. Council and staff briefly discussed unanticipated events during the past year requiring staff time and resources and how these situations were handled.

The meeting recessed at 10:25 p.m.

Friday, January 25

At 9:00 a.m., Council resumed discussion of the following topics:

- Broad discussion of Mayor, Deputy Mayor, and Councilmember roles and responsibilities.
- Councilmember appointments as liaisons to Bellevue Boards and Commissions.
- Regional appointments and staffing.

At 12:15 p.m., Council recessed for lunch. The meeting resumed at 12:45 p.m. and the following topics were addressed:

- Roles and responsibilities of Boards and Commissions – Assistant City Manager Myrna Basich was asked to perform a comprehensive review of current Board and Commission roles, responsibilities, and operations as enumerated in the City Code and return to Council with recommendations for updating and making the language more consistent.
- Consideration of idea to provide regular articles in “It’s Your City” and/or on the City’s web site regarding the work of Boards and Commissions.
- Environmental Scan and changes affecting demographics, regional governance, community leadership, and organizational health.
- Emerging issues and challenges.

Council discussed approaches to working with various community and regional groups:

Neighborhood Networks – Council agreed to continue its broad strategy of involvement including neighborhood associations and individuals at the neighborhood level. Councilmembers attend neighborhood meetings as requested and serve as liaisons to City Boards and Commissions, which also serve a role as a channel for community involvement.

Suburban Cities Association – Council affirmed its long-term vision to remain active with the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and Growth Management Planning Council (GMPC). In the short term, Council is willing to work with Eastside cities on common issues as part of a caucus group but does not contemplate rejoining SCA at this time.

East King County Convention and Visitors Bureau – Council will continue to consider EKCCVB’s funding request and has requested additional information. Councilmembers would like further discussion about what type of organization is best able to market the City, branding, destination marketing, and the ability to measure an organization’s performance. The City’s goals include promoting local hotel business and Bellevue as a visitor destination. Council discussed the need to involve the Chamber of Commerce, Bellevue Downtown Association, Port of Seattle, and other entities in developing a long-term solution.

Council recessed at 6:05 p.m. The meeting resumed at 8:15 p.m.

Councilmembers expressed an interest in building stronger working relationships with regional representatives from King County and the City of Seattle. They discussed King County’s financial situation and the possibility that the county will no longer provide district court and other current services in the future.

Councilmembers are interested in continuing to focus on revitalizing the Lake Hills Shopping Center.

Regarding Council's priority for Bellevue to become a "wired" city, the AT&T rollout of broadband technology continues to move slowly. City staff members are pursuing alternatives and evaluating emerging technologies. There is some concern that failure to implement this technology will negatively affect economic development and the recruitment and retention of local businesses.

Councilmembers discussed the City's role in economic development and the need to build community consensus for projects such as the redevelopment of neighborhood shopping centers.

Moving to affordable housing, City Manager Steve Sarkozy said the community is beginning to see the need to redevelop or refurbish some neighborhoods. Countywide Planning Policies are expected to continue to encourage increased density and innovative ideas such as cottage housing. Councilmembers discussed general issues related to growth management and their reluctance to accept more growth if infrastructure needs cannot keep pace with the growth. There was consensus to develop an interest statement regarding growth and the state Growth Management Act. Bellevue will continue to support Eastside housing projects through the efforts of A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH).

Staff distributed the results of a recent survey regarding employees' views on how well the City exemplifies its Core Values.

Mayor Marshall declared recess at 10:00 p.m.

Saturday, January 26

The meeting resumed at 8:30 a.m. and Council discussed the following significant projects:

Eastgate Park – The City is working toward annexation of the Eastgate area and Eastgate Park in 2003. Staff will present a proposal for Council consideration within the next few weeks.

New Public Safety Facility – Council discussed the need for a new public safety facility, which could potentially include municipal courts. Ongoing activities to update the Downtown Implementation Plan have generated a suggestion for co-locating all City facilities within a municipal campus in the downtown area. Council is willing to entertain the consideration of a master plan for a municipal center. There was consensus to appoint a committee to study this alternative. Staff briefly reviewed financing options for a public safety facility.

At 10:15 a.m., Mayor Marshall declared a 15-minute break. At 10:30 a.m., Council reconvened and immediately recessed to Executive Session to discuss three items of property acquisition. At 11:40 a.m., the Executive Session was concluded and Councilmembers recessed to check out of their rooms.

Council regrouped at noon for lunch and further discussion covering the following issues:

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- King County's planned development of a Transfer Station expansion site.
- The need to work with King County to manage and mitigate the impacts of multiple county facilities (Transfer Station, Park and Ride Lot, Animal Control facility) in the Eastgate area.

In closing, Councilmembers summarized the retreat as a productive and much-needed opportunity for the broad discussion of overall projects and issues.

Mayor Marshall declared the meeting adjourned at 12:45 p.m.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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