

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday
October 9, 2012
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Robinson¹, Vice-Chair Grindeland, Boardmembers George, Heath², Powell³, Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBERS ABENT: Boardmember Evans

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Wallace

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Geoff Bradley, Shelley Brittingham, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Shelley McVein, Terry Smith, Scott VanderHyden

OTHERS PRESENT: Jeff Borgida (Republic), Cherie Carchano, Sam Cohen, Christina Fay, Andrea Geisler, James Goodnow, Christine Hemnes, Pamela Johnston, Sherwin Lee, Loretta Lopez, Michelle McBeath, Alison Omahony, Janet Prichard (Republic), Parul Shah, Amy Stay

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 6:02 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to approve the September 11, 2012 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

¹ Departed at 7:26 p.m.

² Arrived at 6:04 p.m.

³ Arrived at 6:03 p.m.

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Cherie Carchano, 16219 SE 10th Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Carchano expressed her frustration with the recent rules change for the horse arena at Robinswood Park. She explained that the horse riders used to have priority at the arena. However, the arena was recently changed to a “dogs only” facility. Ms. Carchano would like to know how and why the arena usage was changed.

Sherwin Lee, 4601 Somerset Dr. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Lee explained that the Bellevue School District is now a minority majority school district.

Mr. Lee recently attended an ethnic diversity subgroup of a neighborhood forum held in the Crossroads community. However, he was surprised to see the limited number of ethnic descendants participating in the forum.

Mr. Lee would like to know how the City is encouraging immigrants to engage in community events. In particular, Mr. Lee suggested that the City add a separate Board to address Cultural Diversity in Bellevue. Mr. Lee also presented his request to the City Council.

Andrea Geisler, 13439 NE 25th Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Geisler resides near the NE 24th Street site that was recently purchased by the City. When developing the property, Ms. Geisler requested the following:

- All laws be complied with, specifically the Comprehensive Plan, to keep the NE 24th Street property consistent with the low density surrounding area.
- Compliance with the 75 foot buffer and construction of no walkways within this buffer.
- Restrict any parking to daytime usage only.

Loretta Lopez, 13419 NE 33rd Lane, Bellevue, WA

Bridle Trails Community Club

Ms. Lopez thanked staff for their hard work on the NE 24th Street Neighborhood Park Property Plan. She discussed the outreach process that was conducted and feels that the proposal is a consensus of the Bridle Trails community. The Bridle Trails Community Club endorses the proposed NE 24th Street Neighborhood Park Property Plan and encourages the Board to adopt the proposal.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Robinson recently attended the Silver Tsunami Candidates’ Forum for Washington’s Aging Readiness. In addition, she reported that she and Boardmember Powell attended the King County Conservation Futures program, which was held in Seattle.

Chair Robinson also enjoyed many visits to Meydenbauer Beach Park and attended the Transit Master Plan Forum.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Attended the Transit Master Plan Forum.
- Attended the Northwest Glass Pumpkin Patch event.
- Visited Downtown Park.
- Attended the Bridle Trails Community Club meeting.

Prior to joining the Park Board, Boardmember Heath noted that he was a member of the Bridle Trails Community Council Subcommittee for Parks. When Boardmember Heath joined the Park Board, he resigned from the Bridle Trails Community Council.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Visited Robinswood Dog Park.
- Visited the Mercer Slough.
- Attended the Transit Master Plan Forum.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Attended the Transit Master Plan Forum.
- Attended the Northwest Glass Pumpkin Patch event.
- Working on an Urban Boulevards project with the City and the Bellevue Downtown Association in Old Bellevue.

Vice-Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Visited Crossroads Park.
- Visited Lake Hills Greenbelt.
- Visited Hillaire Park.

7. **COUNCILMEMBER COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Wallace recently visited Robinswood Park and Bellevue Downtown Park. In addition, Councilmember Wallace noted that the City Council has been focusing on Light Rail and the City budget, among other items.

Councilmember Wallace discussed the KidsQuest Children's Museum's plans to move to Downtown Bellevue.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Smith thanked Boardmembers for attending the various community events. He also encouraged Boardmembers to review the budget and provide input to the City Council.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Well-KEPT Program Report**

Mr. Bradley discussed Bellevue's Well-KEPT Program, which is a summer youth employment program designed to provide Bellevue youth with education, job skills, and career development training in the field of park resource management.

Mr. Bradley explained that the Well-KEPT Program was able to raise \$2,500 in funding for the program. In addition, some ongoing sponsorship of the program was obtained.

One of the partners for the Well-KEPT Program is Republic Services. Ms. Prichard, Republic Services, discussed some of the recycling and reusing programs that Republic assists the Well-KEPT Program to promote. In addition, Sam Cohen, Well-KEPT Intern, discussed his experience with the program and some of the things he learned about nature, landscaping, and daily life skills.

B. **Update on Planning for the 2013 King County Parks Replacement Levies**

Ms. McVein provided an update on the work of the King County Parks Levy Task Force and their recent recommendations regarding funding of the King County Park System beyond 2013 when their current maintenance and operating levies expire. Currently, the County is solely relying on levies to fund the parks system.

Ms. McVein noted that approximately \$35 million is collected each year for County Parks. Bellevue taxpayers pay approximately \$3.78 million/year. The City of Bellevue receives an average of \$317,000 per year for City open space and trails. The following is a chart that lists the impact on a Bellevue resident from the proposed levy:

	Levy Rate (\$1,000 AV)	Cost per \$500K Home
2013 Levy Rate	13.4¢	\$67/year
2014 Current Service Level	14.9¢	\$75/year
2014 Current Service Level Plus Enhanced Components	19.01¢	\$95/year

Ms. McVein noted that the Task Force is recommending that the levies be renewed at the current service levels plus enhanced components.

Boardmember George questioned if the proposed levy would impact the King County Aquatic Center. Ms. McVein clarified that the King County Aquatic Center would maintain the existing level of funding.

Boardmember Powell questioned what sections of the Burlington Northern corridor will be improved. Ms. McVein will forward this information to Boardmember Powell.

Break: 6:58-7:05 p.m.

C. NE 24th Street Neighborhood Park Property Plan

Mr. Kost explained that the 2008 Bellevue Parks & Natural Areas Levy includes funds to provide neighborhood parks in the Bridle Trails neighborhood. The staff worked closely with the Bridle Trails Community to identify their highest priority projects, which were endorsed by the Parks Board and approved by the City Council. One of the projects was an acquisition of property, which is now referred to as the NE 24th Street site.

Mr. Kost discussed the outreach efforts conducted to obtain community feedback. Overall, the following community characteristics were identified:

- Environmental stewardship.
- Preserve neighborhood character.
- Community access including parking.
- Family-friendly features.
- Privacy, security, noise.
- Deter parking along NE 25th.
- Gateway opportunity for Bridle Trails.
- Encouraged but controlled access.

Mr. VanderHyden showed slides of proposed park concepts, including the following elements:

- Street frontage improvements.
- Wetland and buffer enhancements.
- Loop trail and open lawn space.
- Trees, shrubs, and native landscaping.
- Low grass wild meadow area.
- Park edge buffers and forested area enhancements.
- Adventure playscape and picnic area.
- Park amenities.
- Bridle Trails gateway and connection with Viewpoint Park.
- Viewpoint Park trailhead improvements and parking options.
- Parking alternatives.

Boardmember George inquired why a master planning process was not conducted for the Bridle Trails property. Mr. Kost explained that the permitting process for the NE 24th Street Neighborhood Park Property is the same as if the property had gone through a formal master plan. However, staff did not recommend a formal master planning process because the

community has been intricately involved in providing feedback and the park is a straightforward project. A master plan for the NE 24th Street project would be a far more complex, time-consuming and costly process than necessary.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke commended staff for the outreach process conducted for the NE 24th Street project. He requested clarification about the 75 foot buffer referenced by Ms. Geisler during Oral Communications. Mr. Kost explained that the buffer parameters will be reviewed in further detail, but believed that the 75-foot buffer did not relate to the zoning restrictions described by Ms. Geisler nor soft-surface trails described in the park plan. In addition, Mr. VanderHyden clarified that no overnight parking will be allowed in the park.

Boardmember Powell concurred with Boardmember Van Hollebeke's comments. In addition, she suggested that the Bridle Trails community be encouraged to take ownership for the play area (i.e., tree plantings, incorporating personal tiles throughout the area, etc.).

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to endorse and recommend to City Council the Bridle Trails Community Club's recommendations for the Levy-funded park and natural area project(s) in the Bridle Trails Neighborhood. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

10. **BOARDMEMBER COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

A. Network on Aging

No report.

B. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

Discussed above.

C. Other Groups

No report.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember Van Hollebeke was impressed by Mr. Lee's Oral Communication comments and would like the Parks Board to discuss his proposal and options for a Cultural Center in Downtown Bellevue. Mr. Smith noted that there is a Cultural Diversity Plan Update that was recently brought before Council. The information will be presented to the Parks Board in 1Q13.

Boardmember George requested that staff follow up with Ms. Carchano about the recent changes in the horse arena usage.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Downtown Park Inspiration Playground and Bellevue Rotary Partnership Memo
- C. 2012 Summer Ranger Program Memo
- D. Letter from Park Board to Planning Commission re Shoreline Master Program Restoration Plan
- E. Citizenship Week Proclamation
- F. Email from Jean Lendy re Robinswood Park

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. REMINDER—November meeting will be held on Thursday, November 15 due to Veterans' Day earlier in the week

14. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

Alison Omahony, 13419 NE 27th St., Bellevue, WA
Christine Hemnes, 13436 NE 25th St., Bellevue, WA
Parul Shah, 13413 NE 27th St., Bellevue, WA

Ms. Omahony expressed her appreciation to staff for the outreach process that was conducted for the Bridle Trails NE 24th Street Neighborhood Park Property. She said that the Bridle Trails community feels like their voices have been heard. She asked that staff consider the following when planning the park elements:

- Include a play space.
- Consider safety elements of the play space.
- Add natural elements throughout the park to invite kids into the park.

Ms. Hemnes and Ms. Shah concurred with Ms. Omahony's comments.

James Goodnow, 113 – 168th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Goodnow expressed his appreciation to staff for their time and efforts in managing the parks located throughout Bellevue. He agreed with a memo included in the Board

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these minutes on November 15, 2012.

packet thanking the Parks Department for the stair rail that was added at Robinswood Park. In addition, Mr. Goodnow expressed his concern about the recent change to the horse arena and hopes there is a way for both horse and dog users to utilize the facility.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 7:54 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).