

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

Tuesday
September 11, 2012
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Robinson, Vice-Chair Grindeland, Boardmembers Evans, George, Heath, Powell, Van Hollebeke¹

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Dan DeWald, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Franz Loewenherz (Transportation), Camron Parker, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Nelson, Phil Wood

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 Boardmember Powell and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Evans and second by Boardmember Powell to approve the July 10, 2012 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented.

Chair Robinson made the following correction to page 7, first paragraph, second sentence of the July 10, 2012 meeting minutes:

“However, she would also like to be sure that all communities throughout Bellevue are being heard and have access to the waterfront, not just **the people living in** the immediate surrounding areas.”

¹ Arrived at 6:10 p.m.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the meeting minutes as corrected.

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

None.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Robinson distributed a list of upcoming events for Boardmembers to sign-up to attend.

Chair Robinson reported that she and Boardmember Powell recently attended the King County Conservation Futures program, which was held in Seattle. Chair Robinson also enjoyed many visits to Meydenbauer Beach Park.

6. **COUNCILMEMBER COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Stokes is the Council liaison for the Environmental Services Commission. He informed Boardmembers that the Commissioners appreciate the Park Board's work. Councilmember Stokes also discussed the Phantom Lake project that Council is working on. A formal presentation for Phantom Lake is later in the meeting agenda.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Vice-Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Visited Sunset Park.
- Enjoyed the new picnic area at Lewis Creek Park.
- Visited Bellevue Downtown Park.
- Visited Ivanhoe Park.
- Visited Highland Community Center.
- Visited Robinswood Community Park.
- Visited Hidden Valley Sports Park.

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Enjoyed biking through Robinswood Community Park and the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Boardmember George commended staff for their quick response to removing a downed tree that was on one of the trails in Robinswood Community Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Working on an Urban Boulevards project with the City and the Bellevue Downtown Association in Old Bellevue. The Bellevue Downtown Association is excited about the plans to complete Bellevue Downtown Park. Meydenbauer Bay Park will also play a key role in Old Bellevue's future.
- There have been many cultural events held at the Bellevue Downtown Park. This park is becoming the "unofficial" gathering place for multi-cultural events.

Boardmember Evans made the following report:

- Participated in the Bellevue All Stars vs. City of Bellevue VIPs Softball Challenge.
- Attended the recent luncheon held at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens for BBG volunteers.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Golfed at Crossroads Golf Course.
- Visited Chism Beach Park and Robinswood Park.
- Kayaked the Mercer Slough.
- Attended the King County Conservation Futures program.

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Visited Downtown Park and Wilburton Hill Park.
- Visited Cherry Crest Park for the Bridle Trails Night Out event.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran discussed some of the properties that were purchased by the City of Bellevue with funding from King County Conservation Futures. The City has also received funds through the King County Parks levy.

Mr. Foran noted that the purchase/sale agreement for 14-acres of property near South Bellevue Community Center will be brought before Council on September 17, 2012.

Mr. Foran provided an update about the City's budget process. He reported that there were no significant reductions in programs for the Parks Department.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Hidden Valley Sports Park and Bellevue Boys & Girls Club Proposal**

Mr. Kost explained that the City of Bellevue and the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club (BGCB) have worked together in support of children and families for many years. The BGCB determined that their downtown Bellevue site was insufficient to accommodate their needs. After evaluating the sites available, a partnership agreement is proposed between the BGCB and the City to allow the

BGCB to construct a gymnasium at Hidden Valley Park in exchange for public benefits at the park commensurate with the estimated value of the long-term lease outlined in the proposal.

Mr. Wood discussed some of the program goals for the BGCB. In addition, some of the common interests between the City and BGCB were also discussed. Mr. Kost pointed out that the City has other similar partnerships already in place.

The legal and regulatory requirements for the facility, along with the advantages of Hidden Valley Park, were explained by Mr. Kost.

Mr. Wood reviewed some of the proposed site improvements for Hidden Valley Park. Boardmember Powell encouraged planners to consider adding a kitchenette to the facility.

The following is a list of estimated costs for the facility. This information was provided by Mr. Kost:

	BGCB	City	Total
Gymnasium	\$4.0M	\$0.0M	\$4.0M
Site Improvements	1.0M	1.0M	2.0M
Sportsfields	<u>1.8M</u>	<u>1.8M</u>	<u>3.6M</u>
Total	\$6.8M	\$2.8M	\$9.6M

Mr. Kost noted that the estimated City portion for the facility (\$2.8 million) is currently in the proposed budget.

There will be a Community Outreach meeting on October 11, 2012 to gain public input about the proposed plans. Mr. Kost explained that Council would like the Park Board involved during this process.

Boardmember Powell encouraged planners to include pedestrian and bike-friendly trails and pathways. In addition, she suggested that bike racks be available to park users.

Boardmember George questioned whether or not there is a Master Plan for Hidden Valley Park and if so does an amendment need to be made. Mr. Foran clarified that Hidden Valley Park does not have a Master Plan.

Boardmember George is encouraged by the public process outlined for Hidden Valley Park. However, she cautioned planners to let the community assist with the planning process rather than having the plans already in place.

Chair Robinson questioned how the BGCB will deal with transporting youth members from the old downtown location to the new Hidden Valley Park location. Mr. Wood clarified that the youth community will be bussed from one location to the other.

Vice-Chair Grindeland inquired if there is a stream under Hidden Valley Park. Mr. Kost explained that a geotechnical investigation was conducted. At one time, there was a stream

under the park. The proposed improvements are in alignment with the findings from the investigation.

Vice-Chair Grindeland asked how the lease terms of the partnership will be determined. Mr. Kost explained that the terms will be determined based upon the size of the investment—typically, the larger the investment, the longer the terms/agreement.

B. Bellevue Transit Master Plan

Mr. Loewenherz discussed the purpose of the Bellevue Transit Master Plan, which is to develop a transit service vision for Bellevue. In addition, he distributed a handout that summarized findings from preliminary outreach conducted. Some of the findings from this outreach were discussed.

Mr. Loewenherz clarified that the Bellevue Transit Master Plan was last updated in 2003. Since then, ridership has increased significantly (approximately 84%). While the City of Bellevue doesn't operate its own transit system, it can positively influence regional transit agencies to keep Bellevue moving and maximize transit performance based upon sound planning principles and response to ongoing, timely analysis.

Mr. Loewenherz reviewed the Project Principles for the Plan Update. These principles were created to help direct development of the Transit Master Plan.

Mr. Loewenherz encouraged Boardmembers to attend the upcoming Transit Master Plan Forum, which will be held on September 18, 2012. This will be a good opportunity for all Boards and Commissions to brainstorm together and ultimately have the contributions forwarded to the Transportation Commission. After the forum, each Board and Commission will be asked to appoint a liaison so they can have an ongoing role in the forum.

C. Shoreline Master Plan

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Evans to extend the meeting until 8:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Parker called attention to the letter included in the Board packet from the Planning Commission regarding Phantom Creek and Weowna Park. As part of the Shoreline Master Program (SMP) regulatory update, the Commission was asked by a community organization to include a potential recommended project in the SMP Restoration Plan focusing on Phantom Creek in Weowna Park.

Mr. Parker distributed an email, with photo attachments, from the President of the Phantom Lake Homeowner's Association that discussed the HOA's concerns about sediment flow into Lake Sammamish during peak storm events.

Mr. DeWald provided information about the stabilization efforts that were completed in 1998. In addition, he discussed the topographical challenges of the site.

In terms of the SMP Restoration Plan, Mr. Parker explained that as the City has already invested in significant restoration of the creek within the boundaries of the park, and no additional capital investment is warranted at this time. However, the following project description could be used if interest remains in adding this to the SMP Restoration Plan:

“Continue to monitor the Phantom Creek stream and sediment collection system within Weowna Park, increasing capacity of sediment collection as necessary per the design and recommendation of the project engineer.”

Mr. Parker clarified that the City will perform this action regardless of whether or not it is included in the SMP Restoration Plan. However, including the verbiage provides an opportunity to highlight the significant work that has occurred to date to decrease sediment entering Lake Sammamish and reflect the ongoing commitment of the City to maintain the performance of the stream stabilization project.

After reviewing the information, Boardmember Evans concluded that the Parks Department has done the proper restoration efforts for Weowna Park and Phantom Creek. He views the current problems as a Utility issue, rather than Parks issue.

Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Powell to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Boardmember Heath discussed the complexity of the problem, particularly because of the private properties associated with the area. Mr. Parker concurred with Boardmember Heath and added that there is no further work or future projects planned in Weowna Park. Staff views the proposed wording in the Planning Commission’s letter as implying that there is restoration work to be performed specifically in the park, and that work has been completed through the stabilization project described.

Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Evans to extend the meeting until 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Boardmember Van Hollebeke feels that there is an implied belief by the Phantom Lake HOA that the Parks Department has not fulfilled their duties and obligations.

Boardmember George reminded Boardmembers that the SMP is a policy document. She agreed with fellow Boardmembers that the matter is an engineering issue, rather than a problem that lies within the Parks Department. Boardmember George felt that including the Phantom Lake HOA language in the SMP Restoration Plan does not create an obligation for the Parks Department. Chair Robinson concurred with Boardmember George.

Boardmember Heath suggested that the Parks Board recommend to the Planning Commission that following statement be included in the SMP Restoration Plan:

“Continue to monitor the Phantom Creek stream and sediment collection system within Weowna Park, increasing capacity of sediment collection as necessary per the design and recommendation of the project engineer.”

In addition, Boardmember Heath suggested that the Parks Board encourage the City of Bellevue to review the drainage issues from Phantom Lake to Lake Sammamish and determine a comprehensive solution. He also encouraged the City to work closely with the Phantom Lake HOA to identify further solutions. Boardmembers concurred with Boardmember Heath’s recommendation.

Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Evans to extend the meeting until 8:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Boardmember Evans suggested that the comprehensive overview and solution include not only the Phantom Lake HOA, but also private homeowners.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to direct staff to send a letter to the Planning Commission consistent with the memo on pages 39-40 of the Board packet and recommend that the following statement be included in the SMP:

“Continue to monitor the Phantom Creek stream and sediment collection system within Weowna Park, increasing capacity of sediment collection as necessary per the design and recommendation of the project engineer.”

Furthermore, the Parks Board directs staff to create a letter explaining that the Parks Board recommends a comprehensive overview of the drainage issues from Phantom Lake to Lake Sammamish, to include Phantom Lake Homeowner’s Association, private property owners, and the City of Bellevue.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to amend the above motion to include verbiage in the letter that has explicit language to address the severity of the drainage issue. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the above motion.

Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Powell to extend the meeting until 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

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

A. Network on Aging

Chair Robinson reported that the Network on Aging is sponsoring the Silver Tsunami, a legislative candidate forum. This will be held on October 1, 2012. In addition, the Bellevue Network on Aging recently discussed a neighborhood connector through a grant from Hopelink.

B. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

Boardmember Heath discussed the proposed parks in the Bridle Trails neighborhood. There have been three community meetings and a formal recommendation will be presented to the Parks Board in the near future.

C. Other Groups

No report.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Future agenda items

None.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Letter from Park Board to Planning Commission (7-11-12) re Shoreline Master Plan
- C. Email from and response to Jeff and Sharon Montgomery re blueberry farm

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. September 18—Transit Forum
- C. October 9—next scheduled regular Park Board meeting
- D. November 15—note changed date for November meeting due to Veterans' Day holiday

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

None.

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these minutes on October 9, 2012.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).