

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

Thursday  
May 13, 2008  
6:00 p.m.

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

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Bennett, Boardmembers Aron, Henrickson, Karle, Maxim, Roland

**COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT:** John Chelminiak

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Shelley Marelli, Cameron Parker, Terry Smith, Scott VanderHyden

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Darrell Anderson, Dick Applestone, Ron Bennett, Betsy Blackstock, Marilyn Chisholm, Al and Barbara Coury, Bill Easterbrook, Cindy Edens, Ron Griffin, Kathy Haggart, Christie Hammond, Michael Kattermannnn (PCD), Emil King (PCD), Maria Koengeter (Transportation), Leonard Marino, Kevin McDonald (Transportation), Robert and Marjorie McMains, Andy Mitton, David Plummer, Jessica Powers, Cathy Sangster, Martin Sangster, Mark and Celeste Walsen, Claire Waltman, Bill Wilson

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keeney at 6:03 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Boardmember Maxim and second by Boardmember Aron to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

**3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Boardmember Roland and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to approve the April 8, 2008 Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

**4. DISCUSSION ITEM – RECOGNITION OF OUTGOING BOARDMEMBERS:**

Boardmembers Maxim and Aron have served two terms of four years per term. Councilmember Chelminiak read a Commendation from the City Council to recognize them for their years of service. Councilmember Chelminiak discussed the many accomplishments and projects both boardmembers have played an integral role in accomplishing.

On behalf of the Parks Department, Mr. Foran presented Boardmembers Aron and Maxim with a plaque as a token of appreciation.

On behalf of the board and community, Chair Keeney presented Boardmember Maxim with a framed photo of the Downtown Park and Boardmember Aron with a framed picture of the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center to acknowledge their efforts with these areas.

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

Ron Bennett, 900 – 111<sup>th</sup> Pl. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Bennett presented a statement on behalf of the Surrey Downs Community Club. He commended staff members for their willingness and helpfulness throughout the redevelopment process.

The Surrey Downs Community Club is in general and significant agreement with the proposed Surrey Downs Park Master Plan and the accompanied recommended site development and operational parameters. On behalf of the Community Club, Mr. Bennett asked that Boardmembers recognize that the recommended parameters are a package and should not stand alone. The Surrey Downs Community Club is extremely sensitive to the guidelines and limitations defined in the parameters.

Mr. Bennett commended staff for having two separate review processes—park and building. The Surrey Downs Community Club respects further analysis and review concerning the placement of the following elements in the Master Plan:

- Alignment of ball fields—moving the easterly ball field places the field within 80 feet of residents on SE 9<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> Place SE as opposed to the present location, which is nearly 300 feet from many homes. In addition, the Surrey Downs Community Club feels moving the ball fields to the neighborhood portals on SE 6<sup>th</sup> and 111<sup>th</sup> Place SE will encourage parking on residential streets, rather than in designated parking areas. Relocating the ball fields would also require a significant number of hazelnut trees to be removed, per Mr. Bennett. He added that the current impacts of the ball fields are known and acceptable.

*The Parks & Community Services Board approved these minutes on June 10, 2008.*

- Placement of the labyrinth in the SE corner of the park—Surrey Downs Community Club feels this placement would place this too close to the backyards of several homes creating privacy and security issues that don't currently exist. In addition, this would require removal of several trees. A more suitable site suggestion is either the NW corner of the park or at the SE corner of the park. Both of these sites are highly visible.
- Location of the promontory— Surrey Downs Community Club suggested that this should be resited closer to the passive area of the great lawn.

Mr. Bennett suggested that the natural terrain be taken advantage of for the north tip corner of the great lawn, rather than planting a row of trees.

*(Note: There were several audience members present who applauded Mr. Bennett's comments.)*

Ron Griffin, 12655 SE 4<sup>th</sup> Place, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Griffin expressed his concern with the chronic problems of unauthorized camping in the Wilburton Park area. Mr. Griffin suggested fines be given to chronic offenders.

David Plummer, 14414 NE 14<sup>th</sup> Pl., Bellevue, WA

Mr. Plummer requested that Boardmembers consider that the 5,000 new residential units that have been proposed for the Bel-Red area is a fictitious number. He feels the cost estimates for parks, open space, and stream restoration are not life-cycle costs. These costs may or may not include escalation inflation factors, etc. Mr. Plummer suggested that there has not been an independent assessment or evaluation of the plan to daylight and restore some of the streams in the Bel-Red corridor. Mr. Plummer feels that all of the streams identified will have no substantial impact on Pacific salmon or other endangered species that may or may not be present in the streams.

In Mr. Plummer's opinion, most of the parks proposed for the Bel-Red corridor are nothing but small, linear parks of 4-5 acres, some of which are ravines and/or unusable.

Mr. Plummer suggested that the Buildable Lands Analysis demonstrates ample capacity for housing and employment growth through 2022, based upon existing zoning and land use. He feels the parks and trails proposed do not match the City's level of service standards for such facilities.

Bill Easterbrook, 232 – 110<sup>th</sup> Pl. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Easterbrook commended staff and consultants for the proposed Surrey Downs Park Master Plan. He suggested that the skateboard area is too close to the homes on the north end. He suggested moving the skateboard area toward the center of the park. In addition, Mr. Easterbrook suggested that the play area be in view of the ball field spectator area so parents can watch their children.

Martin Sangster, 10919 SE 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Sangster thanked Chair Keeney and others for touring the park with the neighbors. He expressed his concerns regarding intrusion of some of the children entertainment units within the proposed plan. He suggested that there are too many features proposed for the park and requested that Boardmembers keep these features from intruding into the homes and properties.

Cindy Edens, Wright Runstad & Company, 1201 – 3<sup>rd</sup> Ave., Seattle, WA

As Wright Runstad & Company develops their park designs, Ms. Edens commented that the company vision was for a 1-acre park, rather than the suggested 4-acre park. In addition, Wright Runstad & Company envisions various plantings that do not need a significant amount of water, rather than green grass.

Lastly, Ms. Edens thanked Boardmembers for recognizing that the linear parks are not included in the urban nodes. Wright Runstad & Company feels these areas need to be urban.

Christie Hammond, 128 – 109<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Hammond represented the Surrey Downs East Link Committee. She thanked Boardmembers Roland and Karle for all of their efforts with the Light Rails Best Practices Committee. Ms. Hammond added that the Surrey Downs East Link Committee supports the Best Practices.

Leonard Marino, 807 – 111<sup>th</sup> Pl. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Marino called attention to some of the areas of concern regarding the Surrey Downs Park Master Plan. In particular, Mr. Marino discussed the perimeter protection of the park. He suggested that the currently proposed field placement places both fields in close proximity to the perimeters of homes on the northwest and southeast corners of the park. Mr. Marino feels this proposed field location would put a large number of people near property lines. He is concerned about noise, privacy, and traffic flow.

**6. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Keeney reminded Boardmembers to focus on creating a better environment for all citizens of Bellevue when reviewing the tasks at hand.

**7. BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Maxim expressed his concerns with the small size of parks and open space areas, particularly relating to the Bel-Red corridor and Meydenbauer area.

Boardmember Aron reminded Boardmembers to not lose sight on why the Parks Board exists, which is to provide independent advice to City Council.

Vice-Chair Bennett attended the Transportation Committee meeting and called their attention to the diminished park blocks.

**8. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Councilmember Chelminiak reported that the City Council is fully engaged in budget season. There will be three hearings regarding the budget. In addition, there has been a significant amount of work conducted on the Bel-Red financing.

**9. CONSENT ITEMS:**

None.

**10. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Surrey Downs Park Master Plan

Mr. Kost reviewed the project timelines for the Surrey Downs Park Master Plan. In addition, he recapped the workshop Visions and Values. At Workshop #2, there were four schemes presented. From the public involvement process, some consensus items were gathered. They included:

- Community center
- Athletic fields
- Desired park features

Boardmember Maxim suggested adding a stipulation to the plan that no sound systems can be added to the park area.

Mr. Kost showed the preferred concepts plan, which was presented at Workshop #3. Some of the key features of this plan included:

- Great lawn and surrounding
- Sports meadow
- SE Corner – celebration of site history developed in this area
- SW Corner – celebration of the entry/exit of the park
- 112<sup>th</sup> Street Frontage

The development zone and operational parameters of the park were discussed. Some of the development zone feasibility study options included:

- No building option
- Small building option
- Large building option

Generally, the concept plan and parameters were well received. Mr. Kost discussed other feedback that was received from Workshop #3. A comparison of the current sports plan versus the proposed sports plan was demonstrated.

There was a brief discussion regarding the existing facility located on the Surrey Downs property.

Boardmember Maxim would like options researched to ensure parking does not occur at the park portals.

The proposed field designs were reviewed. Mr. Kost explained that the proposed field designs would provide further field options for a wider age-range of players. The field designs have been repositioned to maximize the usage of the fields. There was a brief discussion regarding the effects of not relocating the fields.

Boardmember Aron expressed concern regarding the proposed field changes. Since the fields would potentially appeal to a larger audience, he does not want the younger youth community to be displaced due to higher field demands.

Boardmember Roland expressed her enthusiasm for all of the elements included within the proposed park plans.

Boardmember Karle commended Mr. VanderHyden and Mr. Kost for their project efforts. Boardmember Karle encouraged an artificial surface for the park field. He suggested that the community building be removed from the park designs. Boardmember Karle feels the Surrey Downs Park is a community park and not a wider asset for Bellevue as a whole.

There was a brief discussion regarding design separations between the skate area and the basketball court. Mr. Kost suggested that these two areas can be separated through sensitive design.

**Motion by Boardmember Maxim and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to adopt the recommended Surrey Downs Master Plan with the associated development zone parameters. It is recommended that the Surrey Downs Master Plan be reviewed for mitigation of noise and proximity of the fields to the neighborhood. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

*Break 7:41-7:47 p.m.*

B. Light Rails Best Practices

Ms. Koengeter indicated that Sound Transit is currently preparing an Environmental Impact Statement for the East Link project, which would bring light rail from Seattle to downtown Bellevue and eventually to downtown Redmond. The final DEIS is expected to be released in fall 2008. Ms. Koengeter explained that the committee has preliminarily identified five primary findings, which include:

- Connect somewhere to somewhere.
- Light rail can complement, not diminish, the character and quality of Bellevue.
- Anticipate impacts and advocate for exceptional mitigation.
- Alignment profile should consider the unique qualities of each part of the community.
- Early, ongoing public involvement program is essential for success in Bellevue.

Ms. Koengeter and Mr. Kattermann elaborated on each of the five findings. In addition, the project timelines were discussed.

Boardmember Maxim recalled a recommendation, from a Portland contact, to place the station nodes in areas where there is currently no destination and where the residential building is very dense.

Boardmember Karle discussed the success of the Portland and San Diego systems because they are at a speed in which people are quickly delivered. He added that the best way to serve Bellevue community members is to provide a fast system that has the appropriate stations.

Ms. Koengeter reported that the East Link project anticipates 40,000 daily riders. She added that the figures are being refined through Sound Transit's EIS.

Mr. Parker reported that separate from the Best Practices Group, staff have been reviewing the route alternatives map. There is a work program that is being conducted to identify the specific impacts to parks of the route alternatives. These will be detailed in the Draft EIS, which will be released in fall 2008. The areas specifically being discussed include north from I-90 and west from I-405 through NE 12<sup>th</sup>. Parks may be impacted marginally through significantly, and Sound Transit and the City must evaluate the level of impact and the potential mitigation required to offset the use of parks for a transportation purpose. If Boardmembers would like to hear further details, please contact Mr. Parker.

Boardmember Roland requested further details regarding the recent transaction between King County and the Port. She would like to review this information before the Draft EIS is issued.

Boardmember Karle questioned if the City has a preliminary Draft EIS in hand. This was confirmed by Mr. Parker. Boardmember Karle recommended an Executive Session to discuss the park impacts of the proposed routes. There was a general discussion regarding qualifications for Executive Sessions. Although Councilmember Chelminiak was not aware of the document in hand, he explained that based upon the current information, an Executive Session is not warranted.

Mr. Parker explained that the route alternatives are available on the Sound Transit web page. Boardmember Karle requested a copy of the information available from Sound Transit.

C. Bel-Red Plan

Mr. King reviewed the work that has been conducted on the NE 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> corridor that has arrived at the current configuration. Mr. King noted that the Planning Commission has expressed concerns about the details of the current design and will wait until the public comment period has been conducted before they formalize their recommendation to Council.

Mr. King also explained the key pieces that are hoped to emerge in the near-term for the Bel-Red corridor. The key considerations for the NE 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> corridor were discussed and an artist's rendering of the street was revealed. In addition, the major components of the corridor were reviewed. The current proposed configuration width of the corridor is nearly 200 feet.

Mr. King summarized the recent work that has been conducted, relating to the NE 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Street project. The light rail vertical and horizontal alignments were reviewed. The case studies including light rail tours were also summarized.

Concepts from the Steering Committee were discussed. Some of the elements included park blocks within nodes and frontage roads to provide parking and slower traffic areas. Mr. King showed the urban design maps and explained the concepts of these maps.

Chair Keeney expressed concerns with the design plans, which demonstrated favorable transportation designs but few parks and open spaces.

There was a discussion regarding the right-of-way measurements. Mr. King clarified that the 200 feet rights-of-way are located within the nodes. Between the nodes, the areas designated would be much smaller than 200 feet. He added that the neighborhood parks are targeted at 4-acres. The mini-parks are targeted at 1-acre.

Boardmember Roland expressed her concern with the loss of placemaking verbiage for open space/green streets components within the document. This verbiage should be included within the policy, particularly since Wright Runstad requested a smaller open space area. Mr. King clarified that the Wright Runstad proposed park would be defined as a neighborhood park in the policy plan.

Boardmembers felt the current design of the NE 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> corridor was primarily for transportation purposes, and that it didn't include significant parks and open space components.

**Motion by Boardmember Maxim and second by Boardmember Karle to extend the meeting until 9:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

Mr. Kost provided a comparison of Bellevue's existing park and open space levels of service with the plan proposed for Bel-Red. Boardmembers discussed their concerns with the lack of park and open space areas throughout the corridor.

**Motion by Boardmember Henrickson and second by Boardmember Karle to endorse the conceptual park and open space plan design and project list. The NE 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Street project is a green street that fits with the entire design concept of the Bel-Red Corridor Plan. The NE 15<sup>th</sup>/16<sup>th</sup> Street project should not be considered as part of the parks concept or as park land. However, this street project has a very important recreational and transportation connection, which is the bicycle and pedestrian connection. Motion carried unanimously.**

**Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Maxim to extend the meeting until 9:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

D. Recognition of Outgoing Boardmembers

*See notes above.*

**11. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran called attention to the following upcoming events:

- May 16 at 3:30 p.m. will be the grand opening of the Highland Skate Park
- May 29 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Meydenbauer Center will be the Bellevue Youth Link Community Leadership Awards.
- June 7 will be the Crossroads Spray Park opening

Mr. Foran reported that six applicants have applied for the Parks Board open positions.

A. Voter Initiative

*Not discussed.*

**12. OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

**13. NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

**14. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Staff Reports
- B. CIP Project Report
- C. MSEEC Monthly Project Report
- D. Memo from Network on Aging to Planning Commission re housing in Bel-Red
- E. Memo from Patrick Foran to Park Board re Meydenbauer Waterfront Project
- F. Email from Carol Krankak re Burrows Landing
- G. Email from Eric Dawes re Earth Day/Arbor Day project
- H. Letter from Westwood Homeowners re neighborhood projects
- I. Memo from Terry Smith to Park Board re WRPA Awards

**15. INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. June 10, 2008 – next Park Board meeting

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

Mark Walsen, 317 109<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Walsen thanked Boardmembers for approving the Surrey Downs Park Master Plan. He commended Boardmembers and staff for the process that was conducted.

Mr. Walsen added that there are several Surrey Downs community members that are willing to assist with the Parks bond or levy process.

**17. ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Keeney noted that dates are being finalized for the site tours in June. Mr. Kost reminded boardmembers that there will be a joint commission meeting on May 15, 2008.

**Motion by Boardmember Maxim and second by Boardmember Aron to adjourn the meeting at 9:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**