

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday  
September 19, 2013  
6:30 p.m.

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

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Vice Chair Swenson; Commissioners Cowan, Mach, Morin<sup>1</sup> and Wang

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Chair Helland

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Deputy Director Bob Mulvey, Pam Maloney, Kit Paulsen, Joe Harbour, Jay Hummel, Councilmember John Stokes<sup>2</sup>

**MINUTES TAKER:** Laurie Hugdahl

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice Chair Swenson at 6:30 p.m.

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion made by Commissioner Cowan, seconded by Commissioner Mach, to approve the agenda.**

Deputy Director Mulvey stated that the Solid Waste Contract Vendor Selection Summary under *Reports and Summaries* would be removed from the agenda. This will most likely be moved to next month or until the negotiations with the new vendor are complete.

**Motion passed unanimously to approve the agenda as amended (4-0).**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

July 11, 2013 Regular Meeting Minutes

**Motion made by Commissioner Cowan, seconded by Commissioner Wang, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).**

**5. REPORTS AND SUMMARIES**

- Update on 2014 Solid Waste Contract Vendor Selection  
*Postponed to next meeting*

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<sup>1</sup> Commissioner Morin arrived at 6:38.

<sup>2</sup> Councilmember Stokes arrived at 7:01 p.m.

- Shoreline Master Plan

Kit Paulsen, Watershed Planning Team Supervisor, gave an update on the Shoreline Master Plan. She explained that after the Council meeting in July (summarized in the ESC packet) staff has been working to finalize the Shoreline Master Program. One approach to this is concurrency review of the code. At the same time staff is meeting with Ecology to clarify any misunderstandings or editorial issues as well as substantive issues. Development Services staff has met with Ecology twice and will be bringing the findings forward to the Council on October 7. There will be a number of briefing sessions with Council on the contents of the Shoreline Master Program and the areas where there are still substantive issues with Ecology. These have not been scheduled yet. Staff will be going through the Cumulative Impacts Analysis to say whether or not the package will offset any impacts. Ms. Paulsen stated that she has reminded the Development Services Staff to keep the ESC and the Parks Commission abreast of issues.

Commissioner Wang asked if there has been any resolution on the setback issue. Ms. Paulsen thought that that was an issue which would be included in the Cumulative Impacts Analysis. It is still the Planning Commission's recommendation, but the Council has some questions about what the content of the Shoreline Master Program is and won't move to adopt it until a series of briefings is completed. Commissioner Mach thought that this issue had already gone through Ecology. Ms. Paulsen replied that there have been no negotiations with Ecology about this. Council has directed Development Services staff to meet with Ecology and clarify any misunderstandings, but Council has retained any negotiations for their purview. Right now the City is still under the old Shoreline rules. The proposed changes have to go through Ecology and get their concurrence before being applied. Ms. Paulsen stated that Ecology does not want to make a ruling on this until they see the full package of the Cumulative Impacts Analysis. She stressed that the Council is well aware of the ESC's position on the buffer issue.

Vice Chair Swenson asked if the City Council has had any discussion about the points raised by the ESC. Ms. Paulsen clarified that the Council has not had any discussion about the content of the draft yet. That discussion will occur after the Cumulative Impacts Analysis.

#### Information

- Council Calendar

Deputy Director Mulvey solicited any comments or questions about the Council Calendar. There were none.

- ESC Calendar

Deputy Director Mulvey restated that the update on the Solid Waste Contract would be rescheduled to the October meeting.

## Presentations

- City Comprehensive Plan Update

Pam Maloney, Water Resources Planning Manager, Utilities Department, reviewed staff's proposed changes to the three elements of the Comprehensive Plan that most touch the Utilities' lines of business; those include the Environmental Element, the Capital Facilities Element, and the Utilities Element. She referred to the table on pages 17-23 in the ESC packet. She reviewed the proposed changes staff is recommending that were considered the most significant (highlighted yellow in the packet).

### Utilities Element

Ms. Maloney stated that staff is proposing adding policy language in support of the asset management approach (pipes, pump stations, reservoirs). Commissioner Morin asked for clarification of what "assets" are. Ms. Maloney stated that the term refers to management assets including pipes, pump stations, and reservoirs. Commissioner Morin asked if "assets" used in this sense are thought of in terms of depreciation. Ms. Maloney affirmed that the City follows accounting practices for depreciating asset value of the assets. Commissioner Morin commented that he feels the broad language is a good approach because it doesn't tie the hands of the City to follow a certain course.

Commissioner Mach noted that the proposed changes in content were summarized for them, but asked for more information about crafting the actual language. Ms. Maloney explained that the Planning Commission and Comprehensive Plan Team have invited comments from many different boards and commissions as well as 1-public stakeholders. The Comprehensive Plan Team will eventually craft language based on input received from many different sources. Right now staff is just looking at the content issues. Ultimately the Planning Commission will recommend the new Comprehensive Plan policy language to the City Council for adoption. Commissioner Mach asked if the policies would eventually require program or procedure changes for staff. Ms. Maloney explained that many of the proposed changes are catching the policies up to best practices that staff already uses. She reiterated that several of these are broad policies, but there are already other more specific ones.

Ms. Maloney then discussed the proposal to add a broad policy statement that fully captures the Solid Waste Utility mission to provide a convenient, efficient, environmentally-friendly and unobtrusive solid waste collection system. Commissioner Wang expressed concern about the general language. Ms. Maloney reiterated that there is more specific language following this in the Utilities Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Vice Chair Swenson concurred and emphasized that it is essential to have this type of general language in the Comprehensive Plan in order to strengthen the City's position. Ms. Maloney agreed that this makes the city's authority even stronger. Commissioner Morin stated that he likes the

broad language because it protects the activities of the utilities. Ms. Maloney added that the budget item requests always have to cite policies.

Commissioner Mach referred to UT 25 regarding water quality education and recommended more of an emphasis on education including partnering with public schools. Ms. Maloney noted that the City provides curriculum for schools and the Stream Team utilizes all sorts of connections with school districts. Vice Chair Swenson agreed with Commissioner Mach that education is extremely important. He referred to a *Times* series on the health of the oceans and stated that it is critical that we teach the children.

Commissioner Mach recommended spelling out the acronyms such as LOS. Ms. Maloney concurred, and indicated that staff would clarify all of the acronyms.

### Environmental Stewardship Policies

One of the proposed additions for the Environmental Stewardship Policies is to add a policy about aquatic habitat. The reason this is being proposed is to emphasize the desire of the community to have a healthy aquatic habitat throughout the City based on the application of Best Available Science. This requires public and private collaboration because data about the streams is necessary to determine how to best invest resources. The proposed changes would state that the City should be the steward of information relative to aquatic habitat on public and private property, and should develop a plan leading to overall habitat improvements throughout the City. The proposed language would be broad enough to not oblige the City to take certain actions, but to make the best decision about investing resources.

Commissioner Mach expressed some concern that this might require property owners to do something in the future. Ms. Maloney explained that the intent of the policy was not to create obligations for property owners. Councilmember Stokes added that it would also give the City the opportunity to talk to people about this.

Commissioner Morin asked if trees are considered part of the stream and habitat ecosystem. Ms. Maloney replied that trees are mentioned in the Comprehensive Plan and are a focus in the Planning and Community Development Department because there are concerns about the impact of the shrinking tree canopy on the City. This would fall under Land Use regulations. She noted that over recent time the canopy has shrunk 20% due to development. Utilities staff didn't focus specifically on that during policy review, but there is a lot of interest from others. These three elements were reviewed by Utilities because they most closely impact the Utilities Department; however, Ms. Maloney welcomed any additional comments or concerns about policies in other elements from the ESC. Commissioner Morin expressed concern about the tree canopy, especially as it relates to preservation or restoration. He referred to the widening of 520 as an example of the shrinking of the tree canopy. Ms. Maloney added

that this is happening citywide.

Vice Chair Swenson concurred with Commissioner Morin's concerns. He noted that one place the ESC is involved with canopies is along the streams. He recommended that language concerning the temperature of streams be also included. There was general discussion about the importance of preservation and restoration of the canopy because of a concern about surface water temperature.

Vice Chair Swenson commented that a municipality generally controls 20-30% of the land in rights-of-way. Street trees can be extraordinarily critical in cooling the pavement. He recommended encouraging language in support of this. Councilmember Stokes commented that Bellevue typically does a good job with landscaping the streets, but that is something to watch out for to make sure it isn't cut when there are financing restrictions. Ms. Maloney stated that she would craft some language regarding the proposed language and bring it back in October for consideration.

Vice Chair Swenson raised a question about the proposed change to EN 36. He recommended adding "littoral" in addition to "riparian" so that the lakes would be included as well.

Next steps:

Ms. Maloney indicated she will incorporate Commission comments for their approval in October.

Ms. Maloney stated that staff will then work with others across departments to craft policy language to take to the Planning Commission. The draft policy updates will come back to the ESC for review in early 2014. Councilmember Stokes encouraged the Commission to bring up any additional issues that might come up.

- Sewer Lake Line Report

Jay Hummel, Senior Engineer, Utilities Engineering, spoke about the condition assessment of the sewer lake line that the City has been doing for the last couple years. The City is wrapping up Phase 1 of a multiphase program. Mr. Hummel reviewed some background on the Lake Washington lake lines. There are almost 15 miles of sewer lake line in Lake Washington plus 10 pump stations and 8 flush stations. The majority of the sewer pipe lines were constructed in the 1950's-60's. There are mostly cast iron "CI" pipes (10 miles) with about four miles of Asbestos Cement "AC" pipes.

Some of the challenges the City has with the condition assessment are because the system is old and difficult to access; ongoing maintenance and future replacement and/or rehab will be difficult due to limited access; there is an environmentally sensitive shoreline; and there are extensive residential improvements. Even though there are challenges, there is a concern that as the pipes age, there will be more pipe failures with

associated resultant economic, environmental, and social costs. The majority of lines are buried in the lakebed, although some are onshore. Minimal cleanouts make maintenance and condition assessment difficult. Line blockages are difficult to locate and repair due to limited access points. The pipe evaluated was generally within 15 feet of shore and about 5 feet or less deep.

Commissioner Morin asked about a hypothetical situation where a property owner built a swimming pool over the lake lines, and the City wanted to replace the lines. He asked whose responsibility it would be to uncover the lines and to replace the pool.

Mr. Hummel stated that one of the objectives of Phase 1 was to determine viable condition assessment tools and methods in order to determine expectancies of remaining useful life of pipes. Another objective was to exercise prudence in choosing from a variety of methods. The scope of Phase 1 included initial investigative work to gather information on the lake line system because staff realized that the existing maps were based on drawings and approximations. A pipe survey was done using GPR (Ground Penetrating Radar) and GPS (Global Positioning System) technology to determine the horizontal and vertical pipe locations. Another scope item was to obtain a collection of pipe samples for testing by taking advantage of limited and opportunistic locations. Lab testing was done to determine evidence of corrosion, pipe wall thickness, and structural integrity. Flyers were sent out to the public notifying them of the condition assessment work that would be conducted. A diver used a water jet to expose the full perimeter of the pipe prior to obtaining pipe samples. A silt curtain was put in place to surround and contain the disturbed area.

Mr. Hummel summarized that the work completed during Phase 1 Condition Assessment included public outreach via mailer identifying upcoming field work to be done; in-water survey and mapping to locate portions of pipe; ultrasonic testing to measure pipe wall thickness (CI pipe only); pipe material samples (“coupons”) tested to evaluate pipe wall structural integrity; and the City’s Geographic Information System (GIS) was supplemented by the new data.

General conclusions for cast iron pipes based on seven samples are that there is minor localized surface corrosion and pitting; there is minimal loss of wall thickness; and the mortar lining inside the pipes has some degradation (but metal surfaces did not have evidence of corrosion). Based on the samples taken, the corrosion rate of cast iron pipe is expected to be slow. Of the three samples of asbestos cement pipe, two samples showed loss of calcium over nearly 50% of wall thickness indicating diminished wall strength (range 42-64%). This could mean that failures (pipe breaks) could occur with increasing frequency over time if the pipes are subjected to external loads (e.g. walls or rockeries over pipes, boats/barges running aground), seismic events, or vigorous cleaning operations.

#### Phase 2 Condition Assessment Approach

Based on what was successful in Phase 1, staff plans to collect additional pipe samples in water/on land; obtain samples from a broader range of pipes within the system; perform pipe sample testing and evaluation; review lake line overflow and break history at various locations; and research more advanced methods of rehabilitation and replacement. The results of Phase 1 and 2 condition assessments will provide valuable data for ongoing management of the utility assets. The City will create a ranking system for organizing lake line assets to prioritize pipe replacements. After that, staff will schedule pipe replacements by priority and by year to be completed.

In Phase 1, staff gained a much better idea of what needs to be dealt with, including what works, what doesn't work, pipe material test results, and location information. Phase 2 is scheduled to take place from 2014-2016. After Phase 2, staff intends to begin public education of the condition assessment program, continue pipe sampling program whenever possible, look for improvements to condition assessment techniques, and look for improvements to ongoing maintenance.

#### Q&A

Commissioner Wang asked about the status of a project in Meydenbauer Bay in which a lake line was supposed to be replaced partially on land. Mr. Hummel explained that the project will go out to bid next January, and be constructed from late spring to late fall 2014. The project will replace about 1200 feet of pipe on land.

Commissioner Cowan asked about similarities between failure rates of cast iron pipes in the ground versus cast iron in the lake. Mr. Hummel said he didn't have information on the history of that, but it is something staff wants to look at more closely. He noted that cast iron is a much stronger pipe than asbestos cement. AC pipe over time softens as it ages.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

Councilmember Stokes apologized for being late. He stated that the Council has directed staff to develop a contract with Republic. He recommended that the ESC receive the staff report and recommendations, as well as the motion and the rationale for choosing the contractor that was read into the record at the Council meeting. He discussed some of the reasons that Republic had been selected such as rates, long-term sustainability of the company, and the consistency of having the same service provider. Additionally, Bellevue has not and will not sign the ILA with the County for the long-term solid waste disposal and work on the transfer station is continuing.

Councilmember Stokes gave a brief update on the King Conservation District Task Force. He stated that this has been an interesting process in terms of the connection between rural areas, farms, and the cities. The ESC will be receiving more information on this in the future.

The City has received eight applications for the vacant ESC position. There will be a panel consisting of Councilmember Stokes, Nav Ota, and Chair Helland who will be interviewing the week of October 21 with a goal of having a new commissioner in November.

Commissioner Wang asked if the Council added any enforcement power to the Solid Waste contract. He expressed concern that for the past several years the current contractor has been operating as Allied Waste, but is still running the Rabanco trucks and several different-colored trucks. His understanding is that the new contract says all the trucks have to all be the same. Councilmember Stokes commented that consistency is important to the Council. He explained that there are penalties built into the contract.

**7. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE REPORT**

Deputy Director Mulvey announced that this was his last meeting because this was his last week with Bellevue. Joe Harbour, Assistant Director for O&M, will be filling in next month, and other staff members will be filling in over the next couple months until the position is filled. Mr. Mulvey explained that he has accepted a position with the City of San Diego.

**8. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS - None**

**9. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:14 p.m.