

**BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING  
MINUTES**

Aug 3, 2023,                      Zoom Meeting  
8:30am – 10:30AM

**MEMBERS PRESENT:**                      Abigail Brown, Beverly Heyden, Diana Thompson,  
Eleanor Lee, Anne Rittenhouse, Gazel Tan, Kira  
Hackett, Shana Aucsmith, Hannah Kimball,  
Barbara Carey.

**MEMBERS ABSENT:**                      Phyllis Smilen, Julie Hart,

**STAFF PRESENT:**                      Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community  
Services

**GUESTS:**                                      none

**PRESENTER(S):** Ryan Walker -Parks Senior Planner, Colin Walker-Parks Dept.  
Marketing Administrator – Bellevue Park & Recreation Plan Update.

**RECORDING SECRETARY:** Daniel Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community  
Services

**WELCOME AND ROLL CALL:** The meeting was called to order by Abigail Brown and  
the roll call taken.

**PUBLIC COMMENTS:** None

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:** July 2023 minutes approved with updated concerning  
Advocacy Committee minutes.

**PRESENTATION:** *Bellevue Park & Recreation Plan Update – Ryan Walker; Colin  
Walker*

Parks & Community Services is in the process of updating one of its long-range policy documents, the Recreation Program Plan. First developed in the late 1990s, the Recreation Program Plan guides the department's investment in recreation programming. The Plan iterates the vision for recreation programming in the city and establishes goals, strategies, and actions to implement that vision. Parks & Community Services is one recreation provider among many in Bellevue, and the Plan defines the city's role within this larger system.

The current Plan dates from 2020 and was updated significantly at that time. The 2023 update is seen as an interim update. The core tenets of the current Plan remain relevant. This update provides an opportunity to consider pertinent changes to implementation actions given changes that impacted recreation programming and offerings since 2020 (such as COVID). An updated plan is also a required document set forth by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), under which Bellevue Parks and Community services is an accredited agency. The Recreation Program Plan update will be completed by end of this year.

At the August meeting, a presentation provided background on the Recreation Program Plan and the update process. There was discussion around the following questions posed to the BNOA:

- How do you and your friends and family participate in recreation programs?
- How has participation or use changed since 2020, if at all?
- What challenges remain for accessing and participating in recreation programs?

The 2020 Recreation Program Plan it can be found here:

[https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf\\_document/2020/recreation-program-plan-2020-whole-doc.pdf](https://bellevuewa.gov/sites/default/files/media/pdf_document/2020/recreation-program-plan-2020-whole-doc.pdf)

The BNOA was asked to pre-review the actions accompanying plan goals and strategies on pages 33-47 is particularly recommended, as staff consider any actions that may be missing given trends since 2020.

Additional information on the Recreation Program Plan is available online at:

<https://bellevuewa.gov/city-government/departments/parks/planning-and-development/studies-plans/recreation-program-plan>. If you have any further questions, please contact me at (425) 452-4280 or [rwalker@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:rwalker@bellevuewa.gov).

*Changes that were highlighted by Ryan including: multi methods to communicate information to the community including using the Neighbor News, BNOA Resource Book; and electronic media. Natural Resources now use universal signage on its hike pathway and translation of Park information has increasingly*

*been translated in the top five languages of Bellevue. Virtual programming has been developed since the last plan update.*

Questions/Comments from BNOA members:

*Could you have older-adult photos in the plan? When looking at it there seems to be a noticeable lack of older adults.*

Answer: Yes, we will look at pictures closer to represent the community.

*Could the Bellevue Parks provide senior discounts or preferential pricing?*

Answer: Scholarship is available to all Bellevue public that is eligible and at a very healthy level.

*The web site is too hard to navigate as an older adult. Subjects do not come up easily. Scholarships, service programs. Email addresses are difficult to find. What can be done to simplify?*

Answer: A new registration system is being installed that should help with the ease of navigating to desired programs. Colin Walker asked that some samples be sent to him to review.

The point was made that if one doesn't use internet, where can information be found? The BNOA ask is to think through the point of view of your grandparents and figure out a way to broadcast Recreation information beyond electronic social media. A suggestion by BNOA was made to list older adult group that could be advertised separately.

A BNOA member suggested pickleball site map for available sites and what accommodations each site has.

The trails guide maps were brought up by BNOA that they were a great product to have and distribute and more should be made. Recreation staff responded that the trail guides are being updated to font size and other accessibility issues but should be back to being printed soon.

A BNOA member suggested the nature trail map could be electronic guide so a person could see where they are on their phone at all times.

## MONTHLY REPORTS

### **Human Services Report:** Christy Stangland

- The focus groups are getting scheduled to provide input to the Human Services Needs Update. BNOA will be assisting with at least one focus group to be held at the North Bellevue Community Center. The surveys have changed from the past. The survey used to ask the needs of a household. This survey is asking what the actual needs of a person is.
- It was asked if the survey can be forwarded by BNOA members to others and Christy encouraged them to do so.
- Current responses electronically have surpassed the 360 needed to be statistically valid and more returns keep coming.
- The hiring process for the H.S. manager continues.
- CDBG is now closed for applications. 15% was allocated to human services department to distribute. Most of the money goes to capital repair program and small business development. The funding recommendations will be discussed at the September HS Commission meeting.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:** *Members were asked to read the following committee reports before the meeting for discussion.*

### **ADVOCACY COMMITTEE REPORT: Diana Thompson**

The group has not met since July 3<sup>rd</sup> so no new actions to report.

Diana reported that Cherie Pezzeroli and herself would be presenting hearing loss to Aging Disability Services on 8/11/23 and invited BNOA members to attend.

A federal agenda update had been sent to BNOA members prior to the meeting and Diana read through the agenda. The BNOA moved to approve the changes in the Federal agenda if approved by the City of Bellevue Intergovernmental staff.

**OUTREACH & EDUCATION COMMITTEE: Gazel**

Bellevue Farmers Market and Crossroads Farmers Markets were discussed for staffing need. Gazel requested people look at the on-line sign-up to help table the events.

Dan asked members to consider taking down the Bellevue Farmers Market table and tent at the end of the event and deliver them to NBCC that night or the next day instead of Dan. A foldable 6' table has been purchased and the tent is shorter than ones in the past and will fit in all small cars. The material is in a rolling cart and should be ok to lift in a car. The group agreed.

**HOUSING AND TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: Anne**

Beyond the committee minutes that were sent to the members individually, Anne talked of a public health clinic that seems to be slated to close. Inquiries have been sent to Claudia Balducci to see what can be done to keep the closure from occurring. No response has been received as of this meeting date.

**COMMUNITY MEETING REPORTS:**

No meetings to report this month.

**OLD BUSINESS:**

None

**NEW BUSINESS:**

A new member of BNOA has been invited by the team and has accepted as of October of 2023. Mary Rita Hurley will begin a term in October.

Recruitment month is coming, and a team of recruiters was requested. Abigail, Beverly, Anne, Hannah, and Barbara accepted being team members. Dan will get promotional advertisement in place.

*Meeting adjourned at 10:37am*