

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MINUTES

May 21, 2013
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Yantis, Commissioners Bruels, Beighle, McEachran, Perelman, Plaskon

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioner Stout

STAFF PRESENT: Emily Leslie, Alex O'Reilly, Joseph Adriano, Stephen Miller, Department of Parks and Community Services; Gwen Rousseau, Department of Planning and Development

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. by Commissioner Perelman who presided until Chair Yantis arrived.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Chair Yantis, who arrived at 6:35 p.m., and Commissioner Stout, who was excused.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. April 25, 2013

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Commissioner Beighle. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruels and it carried unanimously.

4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner McEachran reported on his attendance of the recent Bridge Ministries celebration dinner. He said he is always amazed at the ability of organizations to compile events for persons with multiple handicapping conditions. He also noted that

in September he would be welcoming an intern to his parish, Mary Alice Burley, who was formerly the mayor of Kirkland.

Human Services Manager Emily Leslie informed the Commission that on June 6 the Eastside Human Services Forum will conduct its annual educational event from 7:30 a.m. to 9:30 a.m. at the North Bellevue Community Center. She said more than 100 are expected to attend and informed the Commissioners that if they want to attend they will need to register online. The topic will be on homelessness on the Eastside and Mary McBride, regional HUD director, will be one of the speakers. Councilmembers from a number of Eastside cities are expected to attend.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly informed the Commissioners that earlier in the day she attended a meeting of the King County Mobility Coalition. The presenter was from King County Metro and provided a thorough and detailed list of the potential deletion of bus routes by subregion that will occur if more funding is not secured.

Commissioner Perelman asked how the Commission could get involved. Ms. O'Reilly said there is opportunity for the public to offer comments on the website. The city's governmental affairs person is tracking the transportation budget issues and is aware of the service cuts issues. Ms. Leslie added that the Commission cannot take a position per se, but Commissioners can act as individuals and make comments on the website.

Councilmember Wallace said the Council at its meeting on May 20 talked about the Transit Master Plan and the direction the Transportation Commission along with staff is recommending, which is a hub and spoke approach that will over time concentrate transit services in places where it can achieve the most efficiency. That decision is reflective of the financial realities. While a prudent decision, the approach will have implications the Commission will need to think about.

Councilmember Wallace said the Council also talked about changes to the building code that will negatively impact the cost of affordable housing. There is little the city can do about the changes in that the mandates have been handed down from the state.

The Council is also focused on the ethics code. The current version does not apply to non-officers. Under what is likely to get adopted, the requirements will apply to all Councilmembers and all members of the city's boards and commissions.

The most recent annual survey conducted by the city once again generated very high marks in most areas.

Councilmember Wallace said he recently attended the Bellevue Schools Foundation lunch at which the principal of Stevenson Elementary gave her personal story of growing up in the foster care system. It was her interactions with people from human

services organizations and the school system who believed in her that helped her succeed.

Commissioner Beighle said she attended the event as well where nearly \$650,000 was raised.

Councilmember Robertson hosted a table at the recent Eastside Legal Assistance Program breakfast. The event was very well attended and raised a great deal of money for the organization. Councilmember Wallace said he attended the event as well.

6. DISCUSSION

A. Update on Demographic Trends

City demographer Gwen Rousseau commented that as Bellevue has grown it has changed. The population has been getting older on average as the number of residents over the age of 65 has increased, from just over 10 percent in 1990 to nearly 14 percent in 2010. Bellevue's residents are also becoming more highly educated, with the percentage of folks over the age of 25 having a Bachelor's degree climbing from 46 percent in 1990 to about 61 percent in 2010. Additionally, the population is becoming more racially and ethnically diverse, with just over 13 percent of the population being from a minority race or ethnicity in 1990 and going to just nearly 41 percent in 2010. With that growing diversity, the number of residents speaking a language other than English in the home has increased from one in seven to one in three during that same time period. With Bellevue's most recent annexation, the population of the city topped the 130,000 mark.

Taking the Eastside as a whole, between 2000 and 2010 the population grew by over 17 percent, which was faster than King County as a whole, which only grew by 11 percent, and Washington state, which grew by 14 percent. While the population of the Eastside grew, however, the job numbers remained relatively flat.

In Bellevue, the fastest growth occurred in the population of 45 to 64 year olds, followed by fast growth in the number of older adults. Growth in those two categories has contributed to an increase in the median age of Bellevue residents. While the number of people in each age cohort increased between 2000 and 2010, certain cohorts grew faster than others resulting in a shift of the proportions of each cohort in the city. The proportion of 45 to 64 year olds and those 5 and older both increased; in contrast the proportion of 20 to 44 year olds, while still the highest cohort, actually decreased. The under 20 cohort remained about the same. As the baby boomers continue to age, the proportion of older adults is expected to increase even more. Nationwide older adults are projected to comprise just over 20 percent of all residents by 2060; if the projections hold true, by 2056 the population of residents 65 and older will outnumber the residents under the age of 18.

Between 2000 and 2010 the foreign born population comprised about 67 percent of King County growth. The component increased from 140,000 in 1990 to nearly 400,000 by 2010. The growth pattern is similar to other metropolitan areas across the country. In analyzing the census data, *Governing Magazine* concluded that 37 growing metro areas would have lost total population had it not been for new residents from abroad. That fact is not true of King County, however. Minorities comprise 98 percent of population growth on the Eastside, with Asians accounting for 59 percent and Hispanics/Latinos accounting for another 22 percent. The Asian population grew by 77 percent between 2000 and 2010. While the Chinese population continues to represent the largest subgroup of Bellevue's Asian population, the Asian-Indian population is the fastest growing subgroup and has increased threefold since 2000. The Japanese population has surprisingly decreased. Minorities comprise 51 percent of Bellevue's population under the age of 18, but only 17 percent of Bellevue's older adult population.

The number of Bellevue residents who speak a language other than English at home has grown dramatically over the past three decades. It stood at 36 percent in 2010 and in the 2012-/2013 school year the Bellevue School District counted 81 different languages being spoken at home.

Data from the American Community Survey makes it possible to identify where large numbers or high concentrations of people who speak different languages live. There is a large concentration of Chinese speakers and a smaller concentration of Korean speakers in south Bellevue; Spanish speakers are largely concentrated in Crossroads and west Lake Hills; and there are concentrations of Russian speakers in both Crossroads and Surrey Downs.

Ms. Rousseau stated that while Bellevue's population has increasingly higher levels of educational attainment, there is variation within the city. The variation of educational attainment of adults is also mimicked by the percentage of third graders that met their grade reading standard, with attendance areas in the central part of the city having much lower percentages of children meeting the standard. To some extent the pattern also follows the pattern of households that speak a language other than English in the home.

The American Community Survey provides data on disabilities by age and type of disability as well as other characteristics. The data will not be broken down by census tract, but with the available data it is clear that older adults have a higher percentage of disabilities than other age groups. As a whole, about eight percent of Bellevue's population had a disability in 2009-2011. Among older adults, the largest disability group is ambulatory disabilities.

While the number of moderate middle income households stayed about the same between 2000 and 2007, the number of low- and high-income households increased. All of the increase in households was in the poor and well-to-do brackets; the numbers in the middle income brackets fell slightly. It is not so much that the rich are

getting richer, it is more that the rich are getting more numerous, as are the poor. During those years Bellevue as a whole experienced an overall poverty rate of 6.4 percent, certain areas of the city had much higher estimates of poverty, including eastern Crossroads and some tracts in west Lake Hills.

Housing affordability is an issue both for households with relatively high and relative low incomes. There are areas in the central part of the city where the residents are paying more than 30 percent of their income for housing, as well as some residents in the northwest part of the city.

Ms. Rousseau shared with the Commission maps indicating the age of housing units around the city. She noted that the data was drawn from the King County Assessor's Office. Areas with concentrations of older homes were highlighted on the maps. Areas of new construction were also indicated, though data on the newly annexed areas was not included. Data regarding the dollar amounts spent on remodels and additions was also shared.

Data regarding code complaints, both nuisance and building-related, was shared with the Commissioners. It was noted that nuisance complaints are clustered in certain areas, with the majority of nuisance complaints being about vehicles and litter. The building-related complaints were more spread out throughout the city.

Ms. Rousseau showed the Commissioners a map indicating the locations of notice of trustee sales issues between 2006 and 2012. She noted that a high point was reached in 2010. The highest clusters of notices were issued for homes in areas where housing unaffordability was the highest, namely the northwest and northeast parts of the city.

Mapped crime data related to assaults, not including domestic violence incidents, and burglaries indicated some clusters, though such incidents were fairly spread out around the city. While the police department is quick to point out that Bellevue is one of the safest cities in the area, when residential burglaries do occur people naturally voice concerns. A program has been started to address property crimes. Called Neighborhood Acts, the crime prevention tool provides neighborhood associations with detailed assessments of how they can improve their efforts to prevent future crimes. The Neighborhood Outreach team will make a presentation to the Council in mid-June about programs they are initiating, including the Acts program, enhanced neighborhood association communication tools, and a leadership training program called Bellevue Essentials. Additionally, the neighborhood match is to be increased from \$5,000 to \$10,000.

Turning to city profiles data from King County Public Health, Ms. Rousseau commented that Bellevue ranked high among the county's 25 planning areas in the general health status category; the city's overall rank was 22 on a scale where one is the worst and 25 is the best. Bellevue ranked fourth relative to life expectancy at 84.1 years; the King County average was 81.5 years. In terms of the leading causes

of death, Bellevue ranked low for Parkinson's disease, suicide, pneumonitis and Alzheimer's disease on a scale where ranking low is bad.

Commissioner Bruels said he found it odd that Bellevue could be ranked so high for livability and so low for the diseases mentioned and suicide.

With regard to health risk factors and chronic diseases, Bellevue scored low on "no participation in any physical activity" compared to other cities. Another area of concern was Bellevue's low rank in terms of suicide mortality. While the Eastside as a whole has one of the lowest rates of hospitalization for suicide, the rate has been increasing over the past few years.

Bellevue fell into the lower half of areas with late or no prenatal care per one hundred births. Bellevue's rate, however, was not significantly different from King County's overall rate. It was noted that the central area of Bellevue has a slightly higher percentage of very low birth weight deliveries. The only area that Bellevue ranked very low on was women reporting not having had a Pap test within the last three years.

There are four health planning areas in Bellevue as delineated by King County Public Health. Ms. Rousseau noted that the central health planning area has the highest number of deaths per year and the highest rates of cancer, accidents, respiratory diseases, diabetes and suicide. It also has the highest risk factors, including current smokers and no physical activity. The northeast area has the lowest life expectancy and the highest rates of heart disease, Alzheimer's Disease, stroke, pneumonitis and Parkinson's Disease, as well as the highest rate of current smokers.

Ms. Rousseau said the data indicates that there is work to be done, especially in articulating the issues and needs and coming up with new ideas for meeting the needs and solving the issues.

Ms. O'Reilly mentioned that the data will be used to update the Needs Update. She added that some new data from the American Community Survey is set to be released before the end of the year but following the release of the draft Needs Update. Accordingly, some of the data in the report will not be updated until after the new information is released.

Commissioner Bruels suggested the high suicide numbers should be highlighted in the Needs Update. Ms. O'Reilly said the document typically covers the topic in the health chapter and the chapter dealing with school-aged children and youth. She also noted that intern Stephen Miller in his next practicum will be dealing with suicide prevention at the University of Washington.

Mr. Miller said in 2010 there was legislation passed that requires all social services organizations and professionals to undergo suicide prevention training. An organization is being created that will facilitate intervention training and increase

awareness. In Washington State, more people die by suicide than are killed in motor vehicle accidents and homicides combined, yet awareness of that fact is very low. Older white males is one of the highest risk populations.

7. DISCUSSION

A. State Legislative Update

Ms. Leslie informed the Commission that the legislature is in special session and the anticipation is there will be more than one. They have not been able to agree on the budget.

Ms. O'Reilly said the first special session began on May 13 and will run for 30 days. The legislature will need to agree on a budget by July 1 in order for the state to continue conducting business, though the transportation budget does not have to be completed by that date and may become the focus of a second special session.

Ms. O'Reilly said extended foster care has been approved by the legislature. Foster kids will be able to stay in foster care until age 21 instead of age 18, and that is a major milestone. Many homeless advocates believe the change will help keep kids out of the cycle of homelessness.

An early learning bill was passed and signed by the governor; it includes some investments in early learning, including more ECAP slots and some home visiting. However, no funds were attached and so it will be necessary to see what the budget includes.

The Housing Trust Fund is something about which homeless advocates have raised concerns. The Senate budget included \$35 million for the Housing Trust Fund, whereas the House budget included \$55.5 million; an agreement as to what the final amount should be still needs to be hammered out. There is always the chance that no funds at all will be put into the Housing Trust Fund.

The Housing and Essential Needs (HEN) Program continues to be at risk. After the Disability Lifeline program was discontinued during the last legislative session, there were some funds allocated for people who are homeless but not on SSI or SSDI to help pay their housing expenses. The Aged, Blind and Disabled Program is also at risk. Neither of the programs were included in the Governor's budget or the House budget. Efforts are under way to find some common ground and to fund to some degree both programs.

Commissioner Beighle asked where the legislature stands relative to new revenues. Ms. Leslie said she heard earlier in the day that the House wants to close tax loopholes to help maintain funding for a number of things, but the Senate is not willing to do that.

8. OLD BUSINESS

Grant Coordinator Joseph Adriano informed the Commissioners that after reviewing the recording of the April 25 meeting staff concluded that no explicit motion and vote was taken to approve the CDBG funding for the Eastside Domestic Violence Program architectural plan. The Commission was asked to make and vote on a new motion to make sure every base is covered.

A motion to approve the revised recommendations was made by Commissioner McEachran. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Bruels and the motion carried 5-1 with Commissioner Bruels voting against the motion. Commissioner Plaskon had stepped out of the meeting earlier and was not present for the vote.

9. NEW BUSINESS - None

10. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

11. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Yantis adjourned the meeting at 7:42 p.m.

Secretary to the Human Services Commission

Date

Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

Date