CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
November 8, 2011
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Robinson, Vice-Chair Grindeland, Boardmembers Evans, George[1], Stokes[2], Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Roland

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robertson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Harvey, Camron Parker, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Eisenstein, Brad McGuirt (The Berger Partnership), Guy Michaelsen (The Berger Partnership), David Plummer

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Stokes to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the October 11, 2011 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to approve the October 15, 2011 special meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

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[1] Arrived at 6:31 p.m.
[2] Departed at 7:55 p.m.

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

David Plummer
14414 NE 14th Pl., Bellevue, WA

Mr. Plummer distributed a letter addressed to the Growth Management Policy Board regarding the City of Bellevue's Plan for Redevelopment of the Bel-Red corridor.

In Mr. Plummer's opinion, the Bel-Red rezone is based upon a collection of myths. He thinks that there is no definition or list of the infrastructure to implement the proposed rezone nor are there any lifecycle cost estimates for the infrastructure.

Mr. Plummer thinks the proposed parks and trails for the Bel-Red area fall short from those typically required under the City's standards. In addition, he views the City's scheme for the Bel-Red area as unjustified and urged Park Boardmembers to research how the rezone originated.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Robinson thanked the staff for the Park Board tour. She also invited staff and Boardmembers to the joint holiday party with the Human Services Commission, which will be held at her house on December 6.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Evans thanked staff for the Park Board tour. He is looking forward to serving Thanksgiving lunch at North Bellevue Community Center.

Boardmember Stokes recently visited Downtown Park and hopes that the war memorial can soon be finished.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke thanked staff for the Park tour. In addition, he recently attended a City Council presentation by Cary Bozeman, former Bellevue Mayor, and Lee Springgate, former Director of the Parks & Community Services Department. Mr. Bozeman and Mr. Springgate described the history of the Downtown Park. Boardmember Van Hollebeke felt that the presentation provided an excellent historical recollection of Downtown Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke has been focused on Light Rail and provided an update to Boardmembers about recent events. He explained that there have been no final decisions or agreements between the City of Bellevue and Sound Transit regarding routes. However, in the Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that has been accepted by Sound Transit, Boardmember Van Hollebeke explained that there are some decisions that will directly impact both Mercer Slough and Surrey Downs. In particular, Boardmember Van Hollebeke noted the following items:

- City Council will make a decision regarding the MOU agreement on November 14.
- The City has worked with Sound Transit to have park impacts revised. This revision has vastly improved the impacts to Mercer Slough and Surrey Downs Park.
- The City's recommended route will be a fly-over route that goes along 112th Avenue and then into a trench as it passes Surrey Downs Park. This will impact the main entrance to Surrey Downs Park from 112th Avenue. Therefore, the park entrance will be closed and a new entrance on SE 4th Street will be created so the neighborhood characteristics of Surrey Downs Park can be emphasized.
- There is a Collaborative Design Process that has been outlined in the MOU. The process addresses various park impacts.

Vice-Chair Grindeland thanked staff for the Park tour. In addition, she recently attended a Bellevue Youth Theatre program where the theatre was presented a $500 award from the Raikes Foundation.

Chair Robinson personally experienced the importance of accessibility for people with disabilities. She envisions a universal design concept implemented at all parks so wheelchair access isn't separate from general access.

Councilmember Robertson noted that there will be an update on ADA issues to City Council during 1Q12. Chair Robinson added that the Bellevue Network on Aging will also be making a presentation to City Council in 2012 regarding age-friendly accessibility and design options.

7. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robertson reported that the City Council made route refinement recommendations to the Sound Transit Board. In particular, the recommendations addressed the B-segment (South Bellevue). With the refinements, there will be a higher separation between the train and cars/busses/pedestrians. Other impacts from the refinement recommendations were also discussed.

Councilmember Robertson reported on the following items:

- A Surrey Downs Master Plan Update will be conducted in 2012. Approximately $7 million is allocated for Surrey Downs Park from the levy and is scheduled to be spent in 2016/2017.
- The levy money to complete Downtown Park is scheduled for the end of the current CIP.
- There is approximately a $6 million shortfall in the operating budget and a $25 million shortfall in the capital budget.
- If an agreement is made with Sound Transit, the route refinements will be environmentally reviewed and then adopted.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Bel-Red Update

Mr. Parker provided background and context on the Bel-Red Subarea Plan, which was a major planning initiative for the City that was completed in 2009. Mr. Parker explained that the plan allows for future redevelopment of the Bel-Red corridor from a low-density light industrial and services area to a high-density mixed-use environment including office employment and residential uses. Included in the plan is a network of new parks, trailheads and open space areas that will serve the redeveloping neighborhood.

Mr. Parker discussed the Planning Principles established by the City Council. The Parks and Open Space section of the Bel-Red Subarea Plan includes a goal "to create a robust, aesthetically beautiful, and functional parks and open space system that serves the needs of Bel-Red and the broader community, and that connects with and complements the larger Bellevue parks and open space system."

Other items discussed by Mr. Parker included:

- Planning: Timeline
- Result: A New Land Use Vision
- Result: A Vision for 2030
- Key Element: Transit Oriented Nodes
- Key Element: Transportation Choices
- Key Element: Housing Affordability
- Market Forecast
- Key Element: Environmental Sustainability
- Key Element: Park, Open Space, and Trail System
- Connecting a Larger System
- Creating Quality of Life
- Finding Strategy
- Implementation: What is Underway?

Boardmember Van Hollebeke inquired if the Bel-Red Subarea Plan parks and open spaces guidelines are consistent with the City's Parks and Open Spaces Master Plan. Mr. Parker clarified that the Subarea Plan is a chapter within the Comprehensive Plan. When the Parks and Open Space System Plan was updated in 2010, a section was revised to address urban park systems in Downtown and Bel-Red. This section has specific verbiage for higher density, urbanized areas. With this revision, the two documents are in alignment.

Vice-Chair Grindeland called attention to Mr. Plummer's comments and feels that there is not enough recreational open space within the plan. She thought that the design is a good beginning, particularly for SPLASH, but further open spaces are needed. Mr. Parker clarified that there is nothing concrete in the plan about specific park locations and the specific size. This will be determined once properties are acquired and opportunities arise to assemble land to build a park system.

Boardmember George wondered if the Bel-Red Subarea Plan is contingent upon Light Rail traveling to Bel-Red. In addition, she wondered if there is anything eminent about the project that is bringing the issue to the Park Board's attention. Mr. Parker clarified that transit-oriented development is a key factor for the Bel-Red corridor, but it is not necessarily contingent upon light rail. Regarding the question on timing, he noted that planning efforts are ongoing with roads and utilities so it is necessary for parks to keep pace with other planning efforts.

Chair Robinson favors the creek access concept and suggested a boardwalk be added to enhance the experience.

Boardmember Evans inquired if underground routes are being considered for Sound Transit so further open space can be utilized. Mr. Parker explained that these options are being considered with various transportation scenarios.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke questioned if there are two separate standards, like Mr. Plummer referenced. Mr. Parker explained that the standards were changed with the latest revisions of the Parks and Open Space Plan. The new standard is based upon geographic proximity, rather than acres per 1,000 people. The standard is to have a park or trail entrance within one-third of a mile from any Bellevue resident.

Councilmember Robertson explained that the subarea plan will need some updating. She clarified that there is verbiage within the plan to allow a large aquatic facility. She also noted that new schools will need to be added to the plan.

There was a general discussion regarding the Sound Transit routes and funding for these routes. In addition, Boardmembers discussed the BNSF railroad system, as well as bicycle trails and options.

Mr. Michaelsen, The Berger Partnership, presented draft design concepts and themes for the Bel-Red Parks and Open Space Plan. He explained that a framework of outcomes was developed, including:

- Healthy community
- Healthy environment
- Healthy economy

Mr. Michaelsen stressed that there is a great vision for the Bel-Red corridor and the parks are a critical part of this vision. The main strategy is to reveal and restore the creek sheds as well as the overall parks vision. The goal is to make parks integral to the Bel-Red corridor. To achieve the goals, various incentives will need to be available for developers.

Boardmember Evans expressed concern that the Bel-Red corridor could become a broken swath if development is not simultaneously conducted. He suggested that the codes provide significant incentives to achieve the vision and encourage property owners to support parks.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke and Vice-Chair Grindeland found the presentation and plan inspiring and look forward to the next phase of development.

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

A. Eastgate Corridor Study

Boardmember Stokes reported that there is a preliminary preferred alternative that has been identified for the Eastgate Corridor. He noted that the area offers the potential for a wide-range of uses. There will be a public meeting in 1Q12.

B. Network on Aging

Chair Robinson reported that the Bellevue Network on Aging hosted the 3rd Annual Legislative Forum, which was well attended.

C. Other Groups

None.

10. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Smith encouraged Boardmembers to attend and participate in the numerous upcoming holiday events.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Chair Robinson noted that there will be a Light Rail presentation in January to discuss the impacts to Mercer Slough and Surrey Downs Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested a progress report on the budget impacts to the CIP and Parks levy.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Report

B. Report on the History of the Development of the Downtown Park

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. December 6—holiday potluck with Human Services Commission

C. January 10—next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

By general consensus the meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.