

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

Tuesday
November 9, 2010
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Roland, Boardmembers George¹, Grindeland, LaPine, Stokes², and Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chair Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Pat Harris, Laura Hughes, Nancy Kartes, Terry Smith, Anna Marie Solomonson, Viki Stover

OTHERS PRESENT: Dallas and Sharon Graham, Robin Root James

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robertson

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Grindeland to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Grindeland to approve the October 12, 2010 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:04 p.m.

² Arrived at 6:08 p.m.

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

Anna Marie Solomonson, Kelsey Creek Farm

Ms. Solomonson reported that Kelsey Creek Farm was recently honored by the Washington State Advisory Council on Historic Preservation to have its barns recognized as historically significant resources. The Twin Valley Farm Dairy Barns have been listed to the Washington State Heritage Barn Register. In recognition, Ms. Solomonson noted that commemorative plaques are provided for designated Washington State Heritage Barns. Each plaque features a built date for the registered barn and identifies the barn as a designated state heritage barn.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Mr. Smith distributed an invitation for the annual holiday celebration for the Parks & Community Services Board and Human Services Commission. The potluck will be held December 7, 2010 at Crossroads Community Center.

Chair Roland reported that the Park Board budget memo was recently presented to Council.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Van Hollebeke expressed his enthusiasm to see the preparation for the holiday festivities underway, particularly the ice rink, Snowflake Lane, and Garden d'Lights. He has also enjoyed using the local tennis courts.

Boardmember Grindeland recently attended the first off-leash dog park community meeting. She also enjoyed spending time at Ivanhoe Park.

Boardmember LaPine thanked Parks' staff for the rapid response in cleaning up unwanted graffiti from a local park.

Boardmember George recently spent time at some of the Mercer Island parks and was quite impressed by their park system.

7. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robertson explained that Council is currently working on finalizing the budget. On behalf of the City Council, Councilmember Robertson expressed her appreciation to the Park Board for their input throughout the budget process. The final budget will be adopted December 6, 2010.

Councilmember Robertson noted that Council recently received a new supplemental DEIS from Sound Transit, which itemizes additional routing information/options. This information is being reviewed.

Mr. Stokes noted that the Eastgate Citizens Advisory Committee is appointed and underway. The first meeting is scheduled for November 18, 2010.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Bellevue Botanical Garden Overview**

Ms. Kartes reported that the Bellevue Botanical Garden encompasses 53 acres of garden and receives 250,000-300,000 visitors each year. The mission of the garden is, "To develop, maintain and display plant collections in a park setting for the purposes of education, demonstration and passive recreation." Ms. Kartes added that the "community involvement in all areas of garden operations is a fundamental goal."

The Bellevue Botanical Garden Society is the primary partner group for the garden. Their mission is, "To perpetuate and further enhance the BBG as a learning resource in partnership with the City of Bellevue."

Ms. Kartes noted that there is a Coordinating Committee that helps facilitate the partnership groups within the garden, among other duties.

Volunteers contribute over 18,000 hours annually in support of grounds projects. Ms. Kartes discussed the various plant records, educational tools, and website available for garden users. The garden also hosts various events throughout the year, including Garden d'Lights, Garden Art, Mother's Day Social, and Music in the Garden.

Ms. Kartes reported that the BBGS was recently awarded a \$119,000 grant from the Institute of Museums and Library Services. The grant will be used to upgrade the Society's online database. Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that the BBG research opportunities with Microsoft for Puget Sound grants or Corporate Citizen grants.

To make the Garden d'Lights festival safer and more enjoyable, Ms. Graham, Garden d'Lights event co-chair, explained that advance ticket purchases will be required. The annual Garden d'Lights event will run nightly from November 27, 2010 - January 1, 2011. Ms. Graham distributed invitations for Boardmembers to preview the festival.

Robin Root James, BBGS co-president, distributed historical coffee-table books about the Bellevue Botanical Garden to Boardmembers.

B. Park, Trail, Facility, and Program Safety

Mr. Smith reported that a survey was conducted asking Bellevue citizens, "How do you rate Bellevue's public parks and park facilities on safety?" Of the people surveyed, 92% rated park safety as good or excellent.

According to the Washington Cities Insurance Authority, Mr. Harris reported that typical park maintenance agencies receive an average of 13.5 injury claims over a 5-year period. Since 2005, there have been only 4 injury claims filed against the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Department.

Ms. Hughes discussed the intervention and prevention in place to evaluate parks and facilities, and trails. In addition, there are various Park Ranger duties that assist with park safety. Park Rangers also provide wildlife education to discuss some of Bellevue's local wildlife and appropriate reactions. Boardmember LaPine suggested that reflective material be used in the bollard numbering system so locations are easily identifiable.

Councilmember Robertson explained that there is a police officer on staff that has a degree in Park Planning/Design. The officer is involved in many of the park planning processes to aid in identifying safety concerns.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke called attention to his recent experiences with transients in the Mercer Slough area. Mr. Foran discussed the various Human Services resources available to help people in need.

Boardmembers expressed their appreciation to staff for the thorough presentation.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Foran called attention to the many upcoming events listed in the Board packet.

10. ONGOING/OLD BUSINESS:

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

None.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Report
- B. Memo from staff re East Link Light Rail Planning
- C. Memo from staff re Washington State Historic Barn Preservation
- D. Email from Rich Connors re Coal Creek Trail
- E. Memo from staff and following letters from Terry Foulon re Newcastle Beach Park
- F. Email from Christy Davies re beach lifeguards

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Article re Bellevue's diversity
- C. December 7 – Park Board's holiday potluck dinner with Human Services Commission
- D. January 11 – next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Stokes and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to adjourn the meeting at 7:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

