CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
November 10, 2009
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Roland, Boardmembers George[1], Grindeland, Stokes

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmembers LaPine, Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Jan Beck, Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Pat Harris, Nancy Harvey, Nancy Kartes, Shelley Marelli, Jerry Nissley, Camron Parker, Randy Ransom, Terry Smith

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Vice-Chair Roland and second by Boardmember Grindeland to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (4–0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Vice-Chair Roland and second by Boardmember Stokes to approve the October 13, 2009 meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

[1] Arrived at 6:12 p.m.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS:

Chair Keeney and Boardmember Stokes recently met with the Bellevue PTSA Council. The PTSA was an avid supporter of the recent Parks levy. The PTSA has created a $1,000 Bellevue Parks Scholarship that will be awarded each year. This scholarship is made possible by remaining levy funds that were originally donated by the PTSA Council.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

Boardmember Grindeland recently visited McCormick and the Downtown Parks.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Parks Resource Management Division Overview

Mr. Nissley provided an overview of the Resource Management Division. Resource Management consists of four major operating sections: Administration, Grounds Management and Maintenance, Structural Management and Maintenance, and the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Mr. Nissley explained that the Resource Management Division is the arm of the Parks & Community Services Department that is responsible for the management and maintenance of the developed parks and facilities throughout the park system. The Division's operating budget is approximately $10 million annually and is composed of 51 full-time employees and approximately 26 seasonal workers. Mr. Nissley noted that approximately 70% of the total Resource Management workload is accomplished through contracted services.

Further department summaries were provided by the following:

- Jan Beck – Supervisor of Administration
- Pat Harris – Manager of Grounds Maintenance, Grounds Contracts and Ballfield Management
- Randy Ransom – Manager of Structural Maintenance and Structural Contracts
- Nancy Kartes – Manager of Bellevue Botanical Garden

Boardmember Roland suggested that further partnerships be created for additional energy savings opportunities within the parks (i.e., wind or solar energy).

Chair Keeney thanked Resource Management for keeping the parks clean and for the friendliness of staff.

Further information was provided in the Board committee packet.

B. Parks & Open Space Plan Update

Mr. Parker provided a progress report for the Parks & Open Space System Plan. A recent public opinion survey was conducted in September 2009. In addition, a community-wide web survey and the Parks blog continue to assist in gathering parks data.

Mr. Parker highlighted the following survey results:

Frequency of Park Use by Facility Type:

1. Trail through forests, wetlands, or other natural areas.
2. Playground.
3. Open area for unstructured play or picnicking such as fields or plazas.
4. Community beach, waterfront park or boat launch.

Frequency of Park Use by Facility Type by Youth under Age 18

1. Playground.
2. Community beach, waterfront park or boat launch.
3. Trail through forests, wetlands, or other natural areas.
4. Open area for unstructured play or picnicking such as fields or plazas.

Priorities for City Development of Parks and Recreational Facilities

1. Trail through forests, wetlands, or other natural areas.
2. Community beach, waterfront park or boat launch.
3. Open area for unstructured play or picnicking such as fields or plazas.
4. Playground.

Mr. Parker also reviewed the survey results for park accessibility. The following is a list of some of the highlighted findings:

Perceived access to Park, Trail Entrance or Facility within a 10-minute Walk

Central = 73% of respondents have walkable access
East = 94% of respondents have walkable access
South = 82% of respondents have walkable access
West = 91% of respondents have walkable access

Mr. Parker noted that citizens slightly prefer developing current properties (53%) over acquiring new land (46%). He also discussed the numerous plans with which the updated Parks & Open Space System Plan must align (i.e., Bel-Red Subarea Plan, Coal Creek Annexation, Cultural Compass, etc.).

Mr. Parker reviewed the timing for the Parks & Open Space System Plan. The final draft of the Plan should be complete by the end of 2009. Then, the Parks Board will conduct a public hearing in January 2010 to gain further input. The Parks Board will make a final recommendation in February 2010 with Council consideration in April 2010. The final Parks & Open Space System Plan is anticipated for State submission in June 2010.

Boardmembers discussed visions of the Plan and how to anticipate the community's needs in 2020. Mr. Foran explained that the goal is to develop culturally competent parks and facilities. However, the Plan allows for flexibility and futuristic trends.

Boardmember George expressed her concern with the survey findings, which appeared contradictory to the Eastgate Area Properties decision. Boardmember Stokes felt that the survey responses may also be shaped by people's comfort levels and familiarity. He explained that if facilities or fields aren't available then community members may not consider these as options. He feels it's the Boards responsibility to look at a broader view of community needs.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Smith reminded Boardmembers of the upcoming holiday potluck, which will be held on December 8, 2009 at Crossroads Community Center.

10. ONGOING/OLD BUSINESS:

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Chair Keeney reported that the final Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee meeting will be held on November 19, 2009. He also called attention to the numerous networking opportunities at parks events. A list of these opportunities was included in the Board packet.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

None.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Report

B. Staff Communications:

i. Memo from Shelley Brittingham re assisted listening devices at Bellevue Youth Theatre

ii. Email from Barbara Eisenstein re Eastgate airport info

13. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. January 12, room 1E-113 – next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

14. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Vice-Chair Roland and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 8:02 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).