CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday
September 10, 2009
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-112
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chair Roland, Boardmembers George, Grindeland, Robinson, Stokes

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Chair Keeney and Boardmember LaPine

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Robin Cole, Pam Fehrman, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Shelley Marelli, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Eisenstein, Don and Betty Mastropaolo, Anita Skoog, Daniel and Sara Tomko

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Roland at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Stokes and second by Boardmember George to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (5–0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Stokes to approve the June 9, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Barbara Eisenstein, 12609 SE 29th St., Bellevue, WA

Ms. Eisenstein distributed a summary of her comments, as well as copies of the Eastgate Area Master Plan Planning/Design Framework Map, iMap of the Eastgate OLA Plan, and pictures of the Lakemont Park basin.

On behalf of People for Off-Leash Recreation, Ms. Eisenstein requested that an off-leash site be maintained in the plan designs at the Eastgate Area Property. She added that expansion of the Robinswood off-leash area would not create as nice of a facility as the Eastgate property. The People for Off-Leash Recreation would like "Building Site A," as described in the "Planning/Design Framework Map Master Plan for Eastgate Area Properties," (a site located in the northwest wooded area) designated as the off-leash area at Eastgate Park. Furthermore, Ms. Eisenstein suggested that the Lakemont basin is inadequate for an off-leash park. She added that the drainage basin always has several inches of water during the rainy season and any type of activity would tear up the turf.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATIONS:

Vice-Chair Roland called attention to the September 26 Board Retreat agenda. All Boardmembers are encouraged to attend the retreat.

Vice-Chair Roland welcomed new Boardmember Grindeland to the Board.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Boardmembers discussed the various activities and parks that they visited throughout the summer months.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Eastgate Area Properties Master Plan

Ms. Fehrman provided a background of the Eastgate Area Properties and explained the following information:

- Why the property was purchased.
- Why a Master Plan is being prepared.
- Master Plan input to-date.

- Preferences throughout the process (including walking trails, athletic fields, and off-leash dog areas).
- Areas of community agreement.

When discussing Bellevue sportsfields, Ms. Fehrman noted that the greatest need is for soccer, lacrosse, and Little League fields. Ms. Fehrman showed a map that indicated sportsfields throughout the community, as well as off-leash dog areas. She also explained that there are currently no specific proposals, relationships, or partnerships for an indoor recreation building at the Eastgate property. A separate process would be conducted for programming specifics if a recreation building is desired.

Ms. Fehrman discussed the superceded proposed design Alternatives A-C from previous workshops and the community response to these alternatives. Overall, Alternative B was determined the most favorable option, with slight modifications.

Mr. Kost explained that Alternative B represents the strongest community consensus on the common design elements. He clarified that the three final alternative designs are identical except for the east-central area of the site. He discussed the common elements of the alternatives. In all scenarios, Mr. Kost noted that the landfill system would be improved and the stormwater system would become an amenity.

Mr. Kost reviewed the central eastern design element that differs on each of the master plan alternatives. He clarified that staff concluded that design Alternative A is the preferred option because it is the most consistent with the original intent and purpose of the property, as well as with the goals of the Parks and Open Space Plan. In addition, he noted that Alternative A most effectively responds to the need for athletic fields within the community, and it can be implemented sensitively to the neighbors and responsibly to the environment.

A list of potential Eastgate Area Property park name preferences was highlighted by Mr. Kost.

Mr. Kost discussed the next steps for the project, including the Park Board recommendation anticipated in October and the City Council review planned in November.

Boardmember Stokes questioned why an open field is preferred over a building for sports programming. Mr. Kost clarified that a building would limit Little League use.

Boardmember Robinson questioned whether or not the picnic areas could be converted to an off-leash area. However, there were concerns expressed with the potential activity and noise level from this concept, since it would be adjacent to single family residences.

Mr. Kost clarified that the major aquatic center is not being considered for the Eastgate Area property. However, a smaller scale aquatic center could be incorporated in a building, like in Alternative C, if desired. Mr. Kost also confirmed that walking trails throughout the neighborhoods and park will be incorporated into the desired alternative.

Board member George thanked Ms. Fehrman for pointing out that there has been no scientifically valid measurement of community support for any alternative, and suggested that measurements which are based on organized support are skewed by the fact that Alternative C has no specified uses for organized groups to rally behind.

B. Meydenbauer Bay Planning Process

Mr. Foran explained that the Meydenbauer Bay planning process includes a land use component, as well as parks. Therefore, City Council chose to appoint a Steering Committee because the interests are broader. Mr. Foran added that the Steering Committee's job is to present recommendations to City Council. From this point forward, the Park Board will be evaluating a recommendation derived from the Steering Committee, which will be presented via City Council, for deliberation. Currently, the Steering Committee is in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) stage.

Vice-Chair Roland clarified that the Meydenbauer Bay planning process is similar to the Bel-Red Corridor planning process. She added that a further overview will be conducted at the Board retreat.

Mr. Foran encouraged Boardmembers to attend the Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee planning meetings to provide further background information. Boardmember Robinson requested a separate briefing on the project.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Foran explained that staff is trying to address the concerns expressed by the Newport Hills community. Staff will proceed as outlined in the Newport Hills Sportsfield Improvements memo dated July 9, 2009, and in the 2008 Parks & Natural Areas Levy.

Boardmember George expressed her approval of relocating the Little League fields.

During the planning process and prior to the 2008 Parks & Natural Areas Levy, homeowners requested that a traditional grass area be maintained at the park for the neighborhood's 4th of July celebration. Mr. Kost clarified that this request is being considered during the planning process.

Boardmember Robinson commended staff for the thorough response regarding Newport Hills community concerns.

Mr. Foran reported that bids are currently open for the Wilburton Hill Park synthetic field project. He also noted that Olson Sundberg Kundig Allen Architects was recently selected as the preferred consultant for the Bellevue Botanical Garden's architectural process for the visitor's building.

10. ONGOING/OLD BUSINESS:

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Boardmember Robinson reported that the Bellevue Network on Aging is co-sponsoring Senior Day at the Downtown Bellevue Farmer's Market on September 12. In addition, the Bellevue Network on Aging Transportation Committee is working to develop a cooperative senior transportation program. The Housing Committee is in the process of developing a composite of senior housing available in Bellevue.

Boardmember Stokes reported that the Bellevue PTA Council would like the Park Department to make a presentation about Park activities.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Report

B. E-mail and attachment from Myrna Basich, City Clerk, re boards and commissions and election activities

C. Memo from Camron Parker re Park Plan Update

D. Memo from Glenn Kost and Scott VanderHyden re Newport Hills Park Sportsfield

E. Correspondence from Mildred Barker re Meydenbauer DEIS

F. E-mails re Eastgate Area Properties from: Suzanne Barker, Jack Crowley, Richard Jones, Kim Jordan, Kathy Judkins, Frank Kuske, Don MacKenzie, Christine McKenna, Bill Pavitt and POLR (via Barbara Eisenstein and accompanied by letter)

13. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. September 26 – Park Board Special Meeting (Retreat) at MSEEC

C. October 13, room 1E-113 – next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

14. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Boardmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Stokes to adjourn the meeting at 7:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday
September 26, 2009
8:00 a.m.

MSEEC
1625 118th Ave SE
Bellevue, WA

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Roland, Boardmembers George, Grindeland, LaPine, Robinson, Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Shelley Marelli, Camron Parker, Terry Smith,

OTHERS PRESENT: Councilmember Chelminiak

MINUTES TAKER: Nancy Harvey

1. OPENING REMARKS

Chair Keeney called the meeting to order and welcomed the group.

2. CITY COUNCIL PRIORITIES

Councilmember Chelminiak gave the Board an overview of current City Council work priorities, including potential budget impacts. He also discussed the roles of the City's boards and commissions.

3. TEAM BUILDING

Boardmembers and Councilmember Chelminiak participated in a team-building exercise.

4. BOARD ROLE AND RESPONSIBILITIES

Mr. Smith facilitated a discussion about the roles, responsibilities and issues of the Board as a whole, individual Boardmembers, and staff. The Board brought up the following topics of discussion:

- Building trust between Board and staff.
- Increase individual Boardmember knowledge through "tutorials" (meeting one-on-one with staff about specific subjects).
- Consider a process for responding to citizen questions and comments.
- How can the Park Board be a more effective liaison to the community? How can the Board communicate more with the community?
- How can Boardmembers communicate with each other outside of Board meetings, yet still stay within the Open Public Meetings Act policies?
- Ensure that newer Boardmembers have opportunities to learn about background information for projects and agenda items. Individual Board members should feel encouraged to contact staff.
- Provide a roadmap of upcoming agenda items.
- How much can Board ask staff for information?
- How are long-range plans such as the Park Plan and Comprehensive Plan integrated into projects, discussions and decisions?
- Meeting structure
    - Agenda items, presentations, style
    - Projects vs programming presentations

5. ADJOURNMENT

The Board tabled the discussion of upcoming projects and adjourned the meeting at 12:40 p.m.