

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

Tuesday
September 10, 2015
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-112
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair George, Boardmembers Heath, Kumar, Powell, Synn, Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmembers Grindeland

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Terry Smith, Cathy VonWald

OTHERS PRESENT: Arlene Alton, Paula Baruffi, Rod Bindon, Barbara Eisenstein, Dallas Evans, Terry & Shirley Greve, James & Annette Hoxsey, Micki Larimer, Kurt Lutterman, Rion Moran, Susan Nelson, Don Osborne, Jeffrey Raj, Gary Rogers, Thomas Ruthcamp, Shannon Self, Robert & Marilyn Shay, Flora Sherma, Paul Simmerly, Stu Vander Hoek, Michelle Wannamaker

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair George at 6:06 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Chair George reported that Boardmember Grindeland was ill and not able to attend the meeting. Therefore, she suggested that Item 9C: Re-Naming Facility in Honor of Nan Campbell be postponed until the next meeting.

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Kumar to amend the meeting agenda to postpone Item 9C: Re-Naming Facility in Honor of Nan Campbell. At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the revised meeting agenda.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the July 14, 2015 Parks & Community Services Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

Robert Shay

610 – 123rd Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Shay expressed his appreciation for the VFW monument in Downtown Park. He noted that the final dedication for the monument will be held on November 11, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. He also expressed his concern for the poor security throughout the park and suggested that an exhaustive review of security be conducted. Mr. Shay requested that Park Rangers be more thoroughly trained to handle security related issues and that the park signs be clarified so that law enforcement can enforce the laws.

Barbara Eisenstein

12609 SE 29th Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Eisenstein spoke on behalf of a group of friends that utilize Airfield Park as an off-leash dog park and enjoy the bench located in Airfield Park. She noted that one of the community members, Frank Kuske, built the bench and placed it in the meadow of Airfield Park. It has been a gathering spot for Ms. Eisenstein and her friends for quite some time. However, recently the bench was tagged with graffiti. Although the bench is not an officially sanctioned type of bench, Ms. Eisenstein is hoping that there is a way to have the bench inspected for safety and given approval to remain in the park until the development of the park forces it out. She added that the bench has a tremendous amount of sentimental value to the neighboring community. *(When asked by the Board, approximately 7-10 audience members raised their hands to express their support of the bench.)*

Don Osborne

13716 SE 31st Street, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Osborne expressed his support of Ms. Eisenstein's comments regarding the bench in Airfield Park. In addition, he suggested that the park be kept in its natural state.

Susan Nelson, Keep Ashwood Park Green Chair

919 – 109th Ave. NE, #1602, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Nelson discussed the many events that occurred at Ashwood Park over the summer months. She views Ashwood Park as a gem in the treasure box of Bellevue's parks and urged Boardmembers to keep it polished for years to come.

Thomas Ruthcamp

1106 – 108th Ave. NE, #702, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Ruthcamp explained that Ashwood Park is a critical element for Bellevue. He suggested that a dog run and restrooms be added to the park and asked Boardmembers to focus on Ashwood Park and the importance it plays in Downtown Bellevue.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robinson reported that the Council recently heard presentations regarding the following items:

- City's participation in Eastside Pathways.
- Funding request for Bellevue Boys and Girls Club.
- Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation presented a \$193,000 check supporting Bellevue Youth Theatre.
- Resolution with David Evans to complete the design for the Mountains-to-Sound trails in Factoria.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair George requested that staff research the concerns expressed during Oral Communications regarding the bench in Airfield Park.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Van Hollebeke enjoyed the food truck and cultural event at Ashwood Park. He is also looking forward to more progress at Meydenbauer Beach Park.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Visited Mercer Slough.
- Attended the 24th Annual Bellevue Collection Bellevue Family 4th celebration.
- Enjoyed Bellevue Youth Theatre's Shakespeare in the Park.
- Golfed at Crossroads Park.
- Attended the Bellevue Arts Fair.
- Visited Robinswood Park.

Boardmember Heath and his family enjoy their visits to the Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

Boardmember Kumar attended the Joint Boards and Commissions meeting held in Seattle about transportation in Bellevue. She also encouraged Boardmembers to complete the survey about pedestrian and bicycle use.

Boardmember Synn recently visited Hidden Valley Park.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran noted that Bellevue's parks were heavily used during the summer months. He was pleased to report that the water/beach parks had no major emergencies/incidents during the summer.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Welcome to New Boardmember Eric Synn

Boardmembers welcomed newest Boardmember Synn to the Park Board.

B. Park Plan Update and Public Hearing

Mr. Parker explained that it is once again time to update the Parks & Open Space System Plan. The plan is updated at six year intervals. At its core is a set of 20-year capital project recommendations. The recommendations are used by the city during budget processes to set priorities for projects that preserve, enhance, or expand Bellevue's park and open space system.

Mr. Parker discussed the outreach methods utilized for obtaining public opinion about what is desired in Bellevue parks. Core public questions included: 1) How do you use the parks and open space system today? And 2) What would you like to see more of in the future? The focus areas for the update included:

- Open space, greenways, wildlife corridors, and trails.
- Park facilities.
- Active recreation facilities.
- Urban parks systems.
- Waterfront access.
- Partnership Opportunities.
- Historic, cultural, and art resources.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to open the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). The Public Hearing was opened at 6:52 p.m.

Shannon Self
16411 SE 23rd St., Bellevue, WA

Ms. Self distributed a handout that highlighted the benefits of off-leash dog parks. She enjoys Airfield Park as an off-leash dog park and encouraged Boardmembers to recommend that this park be kept as such.

Rion Moran
3416 – 161st Court SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Moran discussed the enjoyment people have that work in the vicinity of Airfield Park. He recommended that the park be leveled and filled in.

Stu Vander Hoek

9 – 103rd Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Vander Hoek discussed his concern with the lack of parking at Downtown Park and Meydenbauer Beach Park Phase 1. He also noted that the addition of the Inspiration Playground at Downtown Park will be a regional draw causing higher parking demands.

Mr. Vander Hoek encouraged Boardmembers to look forward in time and make sure enough parking is provided, based upon true demand studies, for both the Downtown Park and Meydenbauer Beach Park, otherwise they will become very expensive, exclusive facilities the Bellevue taxpayers paid for, but won't have access to. He also requested that the Board consider changes to the management of both of the parks to the Special Events Committee.

Micki Larimer

4053 – 149th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Larimer encouraged Boardmembers to include the Eastgate area in the parks plan. She noted that Eastgate needs a gathering place that is within walking distance for the neighboring community.

Michelle Wannamaker

4045 – 149th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Wannamaker also lives in the Eastgate area and requested that a neighborhood park be added to the Eastgate area. She explained that Eastgate Park is not a neighborhood park. It is for South Bellevue residents, not Eastgate residents. She stated that Eastgate neighbors need an open space for neighbors to gather that is free of charge.

Barbara Eisenstein

12609 SE 29th Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Eisenstein requested that security within the parks be a priority. In addition, she requested that off-leash dog parks be added throughout the city. She noted that there are viable opportunities to create new off-leash areas in Newport Hills, Bel-Red corridor, and the north end of Bellevue. Ms. Eisenstein would like the city to develop the Wilburton and Highland Glen sites identified as options in the "Plan for Off-leash Areas" from 2009.

Terry Greve

10055 Meydenbauer Way, #11, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Greve explained that there is a tremendous amount of pressure on parking in the Old Bellevue neighborhood. He added that it will get worse as more retail shops are added. He encouraged Boardmembers to look ahead and find a solution for the parking problems in this area. He recommended that an underground parking garage be considered as a viable option.

Robert Shay, President of the Wilburton Community Association
610 – 123rd Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the Wilburton Community Association, Mr. Shay suggested that dog parks be added throughout the community. However, he noted that dog owners need to take responsibility for appropriate behavior of their dogs throughout the parks. Often times, dog owners are disrespectful and not following the rules of the park. Although the Bellevue Botanical Gardens is off limits to dogs, there have been dogs in the gardens. He suggested that better signage be provided in parks for dog owners and that Park Rangers be provided with enforcement capabilities.

Mr. Shay noted that the Wilburton Community Association would like to work with the Parks Department to help resolve some of the dog-related issues.

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Kumar to close the public hearing. Motion carried unanimously (6-0). The Public Hearing was closed at 7:21 p.m.

Mr. Parker distributed copies of written comments that were submitted by people that could not attend the public hearing but wanted their comments added to the record.

Mr. Parker summarized the approach to updating the elements of the plan and some of the web survey results. Approximately 56% of respondents recommend that the city investments be focused more on acquiring new parkland and natural areas, while 44% recommend developing and improving currently owned parks. In addition, approximately 80% of survey respondents recommend that trails through forests, wetlands, or other natural areas be the highest priority for city development of parks and recreational facilities.

Mr. Parker noted that there were 11 pages of open response feedback for the type of park or recreational facility that citizens would like to see more of. Some of the themes submitted by email and through NextDoor include:

- Maintain park security – feeling of safety.
- More drinking fountains, trash cans, and restrooms with year-round access.
- Covered play areas.
- Off-leash dog areas.
- Continue development of interconnected trail systems.
- Aquatic center.

In reviewing the plan thus far, Boardmember Van Hollebeke expressed his confidence that the Board's insights and instructions have been heard and are represented in the plan. Boardmember Kumar agreed with Boardmember Van Hollebeke. However, she suggested that specific concerns (i.e., off-leash dog areas, security in the parks, etc.) may need further attention. Mr. Parker clarified that the Parks & Open Space System Plan does not go into detail regarding one particular site or park. However, Airfield Park is part of the community parks, along with the projects listed in the capital recommendations. Mr. Foran added that the Parks & Open Space System Plan is a direct result of the Comprehensive Plan. The park master plans are determined when designing the park.

Boardmember Kumar questioned where off-leash dog parks would be addressed in the Parks & Open Space System Plan. Mr. Parker clarified that the off-leash dog park area study went through a review process and can be utilized as a resource in the Parks & Open Space System Plan.

Boardmember Powell questioned how the Board can better protect parks from competing and compromising uses. She wants to be sure that there is a process to ensure that the details are followed. In addition, Boardmember Powell asked if it is possible to change the course of direction for Airfield Park and not develop the park. This request is based upon public comments and concerns about the park. Mr. Parker cautioned that decisions have already been made via the adopted master plan for Airfield Park.

In regards to security, Boardmember Kumar questioned if there should be a relationship between the Police Department and Park Rangers. Mr. Foran clarified that Park Rangers are trained by the Police Department. The Park Ranger's role is focused more on customer service than policing. If Park Rangers encounter a conflict, they are instructed to contact the police.

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

None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

None.

B. Possible Special Meeting

Chair George questioned if a Board retreat is desired. Boardmembers concurred that a retreat is not necessary at this time. However, they would like to allocate a portion of an upcoming regularly scheduled meeting (i.e., one hour) to create a list of action items identified at last year's Board retreat.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. City Council Agenda Memo and Ordinance re Park Board

C. Memo to Council and Proclamation re Americans with Disabilities Act

- D. Memo re Well-KEPT Program
- E. Email from Bob Shay re Downtown Park
- F. Email from Anna M re High Adventure camp
- G. Email from Peter G re Youth Sports camps and staff
- H. Comment from Winters House renter
- I. Email from Patti O re Youth Sports camp and staff
- J. Email from Shari S re Youth Sports camp and staff
- K. Email from Merrick V re trails and Park Plan Update
- L. Email from Dennis & Lisa K re Youth Sports camps and staff
- M. Email from Linda Martin re Highland Center staff
- N. Email from Rosemary D re trail landscapers

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Next regular Park Board meeting—October 13, 2015, Bellevue City Hall

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Kumar to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

Jeffrey Raj

2511 – 157th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Raj frequently visits Airfield Park. He requested that dog waste stations be placed in the open field at the park.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to adjourn the meeting at 8:31 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

September 2, 2015

Dear Mr. Parker,

In the twelve years we have owned our Villa Terene Condominium adjacent to the Ushwood play field, the Ushwood neighborhood has changed from an area with many open spaces to just the one by the library.

It isn't just being enjoyed by the high rise apartments residents and their families and or pets, but the Lil' Kuchers, the Shakespeare performance, the food truck gatherings, frisbee group games and now with school beginning, the young foot ball player practice sessions are starting we all larger groups enjoying the space. Almost any time of the day though, the play field will have someone enjoying being able to use it.

I hope the Parks and Community Services Board will designate the playfield as a permanent City Park.

Sincerely,

Darlene Bruner

1106 108th AVE. N.E

#405

425-467-1750

Harvey, Nancy

From: Parker, Camron
Sent: Friday, September 04, 2015 2:18 PM
To: dwights30@comcast.net
Cc: Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy; Kost, Glenn
Subject: Re: Parks Planning Recommendations

Thank you, Mr. Schrag, I will make sure this is provided to the Parks & Community Services Board for their public hearing.

- Camron

On Sep 4, 2015, at 7:32 AM, "dwights30@comcast.net" <dwights30@comcast.net> wrote:

Dear Mr. Parker, We received your public notice and wish to provide recommendations for your consideration regarding:

*"Provide comments for Bellevue's Parks and Open Space System Plan hosted by the Parks & Community Services Board. An opportunity to provide input regarding long-term objectives for acquisition, preservation or development of parks, community facilities, trails and open space in Bellevue. The Parks and Open Space System Plan is the **primary tool used to guide the long-term growth and development of Bellevue's parks and open space system.** The core of the plan is a set of 20-year capital project recommendations. These long-term recommendations are **reviewed and updated approximately every six years.**"*

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ASHWOOD PARK:

Master Planning (2015-2016) should include specific capital needs priorities presented to the Parks Department and to the Parks Board by resident members of the Ashwood Neighborhood residents, as expressed by the public in writing and at public meetings over the past four years. The Master Plan must be professionally done to consider the change in residential density of the neighborhood and high use of outdoor recreation needs for the surrounding communities, apartment towers, condominiums, three retirement centers, new office buildings and two hotels.

Capital Facilities for public use and enjoyment of Ashwood Park **have not been adequately provided** since the previous Master Plan was completed about 20 years ago. Priority of funding should be directed to make this high use neighborhood park useable and safe to use and to meet high safety and use standards.

Public safety and hygiene facilities for Ashwood Park should be incorporated at high priority within the capital project recommendations. Restroom facilities, safe and handicap accessible walking paths should be built as are in every other Bellevue City Park. Appropriate signage, park hours and access policies should be properly posted as in other public parks.

Outdoor recreation for children (play areas and activity equipment) should be high priority as well (see the old Master Plan drawings).

Park benches for seating and enjoyment by both elderly people and young families alike should be purchased and installed as high priority.

Outdoor recreation enhancements (picnic tables, shade trees and shrubbery or flowers) should be placed consistent with all other Bellevue Parks.

Drainage problems that create large, stagnant bacteria-laden pools of surface water runoff during the rainy fall, winter and spring months should be corrected at high priority. The grassy areas within such zones are killed off and must be constantly replanted and replaced.

Most urgently, the concept of building large, indoor use public buildings in this tiny park space should be dropped altogether (no longer considered as viable). Correct the Master Plan accordingly and discontinue such concepts altogether. Public funds for such large structures should be directed elsewhere.

Thank you for your consideration of these recommendations.

Dwight and Mary Schrag
Ashwood Neighborhood Residents

Harvey, Nancy

From: Sam Fetchero <sam.fetchero@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, September 06, 2015 3:43 PM
To: Parker, Camron
Subject: Public Hearing on future park, recreation and open space needs in Bellevue

Hi Camron,

I was given your name by Jo Scott as someone who could answer a few questions about future park plans in the Wilburton / Spring District area.

I live in Wilburton north of NE 8th and South of Bel-Red. There are not currently any parks in walking distance. As all the new Spring District construction comes online, I am interested in the future park development plans for the area, specifically between NE 8th and Bel-Red, as well as for Spring District.

I am going to try to attend the Public Hearing on Thursday, however, may not make it - things get a little unpredictable with 2 kids.

Thanks so much,
Sam

--

Samuel J. Fetchero
425.246.5436

Harvey, Nancy

From: Daniel Murphy <dllmurphy@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, September 07, 2015 12:12 PM
To: Parker, Camron
Subject: park plans update

I would like to see Bellevue add a space for outdoor concerts at Ashwood park, next to the downtown Library, and encouraging concerts there.

Also I saw a map where Bellevue had undeveloped park land at Bellevue Way and NE 20th. I would like to see that developed into a nice park.

And complete already plan actions of completing the circle at the Downtown park and enlarging the Meydenbauer Bay park along the lake and connecting it to the Marina.

Daniel Murphy
10045 NE 15th St

Harvey, Nancy

From: CAROLYN A MAXIM <camaxim@msn.com>
Sent: Monday, September 07, 2015 6:43 PM
To: Parker, Camron
Subject: planning for parks in future

Hi, Camron,

I cannot come to the public meeting Thursday, September 10, so will email a few thoughts.

1. Unlike those of various sports groups, advocates of simple open space are not organized into groups, and I think their point of view is under-represented. Acquisition of open space seems to me vital, and the sooner it's done, the better.
2. Not every park needs development for specific sports. Places to walk, sit, and look at the open space are good.
3. Dense development downtown should be ameliorated with open parks even if they are small, and I don't mean the hidden parks developers tuck near their office buildings. I heard one developer's representative say with a smug smile regarding the downtown office buildings' parks, "Yes...if they [non-employees] can find them, they can use them." This practice does not make good policy.
4. Ivy is spreading at geometric speed in existing parks (Do you need specific examples?). It crowds out native plants and should be removed, but unless this process is thorough and conducted with oversight, the ivy will return.
5. Where parks have "toys", it would be useful to include some for children over 6. Older kids used the zipline at Wilburton's park constantly when it was there. Now that it is gone, only very young children play there.
8. I understand the advantages of public-private partnerships but wonder if there is a danger that the private tail periodically wags the public dog.

I hope things are going along swimmingly for you.

Regards,

Carolyn Maxim

Harvey, Nancy

From: Dave Harvey <dharvey@cleantechnologypartners.net>
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 2:52 PM
To: Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy
Subject: Input on the Boeing/Airport site

Importance: High

In the past 10 years, I have been a frequent user of Bellevue's trails, dog parks, ball-fields and open park areas. So, I have some understanding of the requirements and issues surrounding parks and park development.

The open area adjacent to Boeing and Microsoft campuses in southeast Bellevue is an example of an area that should remain undeveloped and, more or less, as-is. The city is short on both off-leash and rentable ball-field areas but doing environmental studies, environmental mitigation, and development of this site makes no sense. Currently, it is happily used by people from many surrounding areas as well as serving as a relaxing area for Microsoft and Boeing employees to walk for work-breaks. It is one of the only, if not the only, area where area dog-owners (and there are LOTS) can let their dogs run and play together in Bellevue without being in a small corral.

Further, a much better plan to address the ball-field shortage would be to develop a Parks Department-Bellevue School District partnership to develop existing ball-fields to rentable levels! It's time to think outside-of-the-box and not just continue Bellevue's over-development plans. BSD has dozens of area schools with woefully maintained fields that could use help. The Parks Dept. could pick and choose fields in diverse areas where there is highest demand from area lacrosse, soccer and football organizations. These schools already have parking lots, so the City wouldn't waste money and space at the Boeing/Airport site building parking lots either. For examples of fields that are in poor condition in the same area as the Boeing/Airport site, please visit Phantom Lake Elementary, Tillicum Middle School, Bellewood Elementary, Lake Hills Elementary or even Robinswood Park with its completely worn-out and dangerous field-turf.

Please use our tax-dollars more wisely and partner with the BSD to solve two problems at once by preserving the Boeing/Airport open space and improving existing area fields. Thank you – Dave Harvey



David Paul Harvey
Bellevue, WA USA
Mobile: +1-206-920-2524
Skype: dharvey49
www.cleantechnologypartners.net

Harvey, Nancy

From: luanne arias <luannearias@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 9:00 AM
To: Harvey, Nancy
Subject: Parks Board Meeting Sept 10, 2015 - Bellevue Airfield Park

I would like to share my input on the future of the Bellevue Airfield Park. There is nothing else like this ...a beautiful 27 acre, centrally located area that is enjoyed by many people already-either residents, or people employed nearby. I think Bellevue has a chance to design something unique that will be used by many more people.

Please consider something other than a park full of sports fields. It can be so much more.

Perhaps nearby Microsoft and Boeing could be included in design for a healthier out of office environment- an atmosphere away from phones and computers, just outside their doors. This open space has trails already used for walking, meditating, and discussions.

Dogs are happier and well behaved when they have acres to enjoy instead of a 1/4 acre space surrounded by chain link fencing.

Thank you for placing two picnic tables in the park just recently. They are appreciated!

Thanks for listening.

Luanne Arias
Bellevue, WA

From: Thomas Curran tm.curran@comcast.net
Subject: Park Plan Update
Date: September 9, 2015 at 11:52 AM
To: cparker@bellevuewa.gov



To Whom It May Concern:

We live adjacent to where the new park will be built on 100th and Meydenbauer Place. We have lived here for many years and from day one have thought that the park was a real plus for the area. The original concepts were very environmental focused but that focus has changed dramatically which is a concern as we don't believe the City of Bellevue's staff takes into consideration any comments from those of us whom will have to live with thousands of new visitors to the park each year. How would they react if it was adjacent to their home?????

We have no problem with some of your major changes as follows:

1. Closing 100th.
2. Commercial establishments along the water.

We have major problems with the following:

1. The long new pier that extends from 100th out into the water with an elevator.
2. City staff suggesting or somewhat threatening that we will have to create a new access to our property.
3. Placement of restrooms.
4. Security and hours

Regards.

Harvey, Nancy

From: maryellenretired@comcast.net
Sent: Wednesday, September 09, 2015 12:46 PM
To: Parker, Camron
Subject: Fwd: DOWNTOWN BELLEVUE SENIOR CENTER WOULD PROMOTE HEALTHY AGING AND WELL BEING

To. C. Parker, Bellevue Parks & Recreation,
We need a SENIOR CENTER in the West Bellevue/ Downtown Vicinity !
Kirkland, Redmond, Issaquah, just to name a few neighboring communities, all have Central Senior Centers.

I have been an ongoing advocate since I retired many years ago....Have written numerous letters to Bruce Nordstrum, Kemper Freeman, Bellevue's City Council, etc...

Have attached two emails addressing this concern....

Respectfully,

Mary Ellen Demrose
17330 S. E 42nd Court
Bellevue, Wa. 98006

From: "Rep. Cyrus Habib" <Cyrus.Habib@leg.wa.gov>
To: maryellenretired@comcast.net
Cc: "Lynne Robinson" <lynnerpt@live.com>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2014 11:38:24 PM
Subject: Re: DOWNTOWN BELLEVUE SENIOR CENTER WOULD PROMOTE HEALTHY AGING AND WELL BEING

Thanks so much! Let me discuss this with city leaders and see if there is a proposal on the table to address this important need.

Sent from my phone.

On Aug 6, 2014, at 5:34 PM, "maryellenretired@comcast.net<mailto:maryellenretired@comcast.net>" <maryellenretired@comcast.net<mailto:maryellenretired@comcast.net>> wrote:

Dear Cyrus Habib,

I hope you have been voted in for the Senate seat in the 48th district today !!! Our Family all voted for you !

I was happy to see you at the Bellevue Special Needs PTA Legislative Forum (few years ago), and listened to you say, " you were fortunate that your Mother was an Attorney who was your advocate"..

If there is anyway you could help with the process of a Downtown Senior Center, would greatly appreciate it...

Please read my email to Bellevue's City Council and Mayor Claudia Balducci..

Thank you,

Mary Ellen Demrose
17330 S. E. 42nd Court
Bellevue, Wa. 98006-8903

From: "maryellenretired" <maryellenretired@comcast.net<mailto:maryellenretired@comcast.net>>
To: "maryellenretired" <maryellenretired@comcast.net<mailto:maryellenretired@comcast.net>>
Sent: Wednesday, August 6, 2014 4:56:55 PM
Subject: DOWNTOWN BELLEVUE SENIOR CENTER WOULD PROMOTE HEALTHY AGING AND WELL BEING

Dear Mayor Claudia Balducci, Deputy Mayor Kevin Wallace, Council Member & Former Mayor, Conrad Lee, Council Member, Dr. Lynne Robinson, Council Member, John Chelminiak, Council Member, John Stokes and Council Member Jennifer Robertson,
A Downtown Senior Center promotes healthy aging and well-being with programs, services, resources, and civic engagements, to help everyone lead full, healthy, and inspired lives.

Two of the "bullet points" in the State of the City address given in April regarding projections to improve downtown Bellevue were, (1) Downtown Livability & (2) "Is this a place I want to live?.... Mayor Balducci, I listened to your presentation.

Former Mayor Conrad Lee, you know me as Al Demrose's wife, Bellevue Police Volunteer for over 12 years of service to the community, and you know I have spoke to you many times about the need for a downtown Senior Center. I and my husband, were responsible for the signature collection process for the annexation of our community of St. Francis Wood, located next to Lakemont Blvd, and also assisted Bellevue with signatures in another neighboring community, for our transition from unincorporated King County to the City of Bellevue.

Dr. Lynne Robinson, you and I have emailed each other regarding this issue. I have a collection of newsletters from Kirkland, Issaquah, Redmond, Mill Creek, and Northshore Senior Centers...(all who have Downtown Senior Centers), which I would be happy to share with all of you, regarding the many services offered to promote a full, healthy and inspired life.

John Chelminiak, I am sure your friend at church, Irene Drewery has "put a bug in your ear" regarding a Downtown Senior Center.
Irene is a dear friend of our Family, and she said she would talk to you regarding it. Irene, like many Seniors, lives in downtown Bellevue.

Deputy Mayor Kevin Wallace, with your expertise in Commercial Real Estate, I would hope you could create a "tax-free exchange-property transfer, or outright sale, of the huge parcel known as the North Bellevue Community Center. Many people feel this location does not serve Bellevue residents due to

the site being next to the Redmond Fire Station on 148th Avenue.... A very valuable piece of real estate being just down the street from the International Headquarters of Microsoft.

In closing, I hope All of you will consider a Downtown Senior Center in your future projection for the center of Bellevue !

Mary Ellen Demrose
1330 S. E. 42nd Court
Bellevue, Wa. 98006-8903
425 649 9615

Harvey, Nancy

From: Peter Maxim <pemaxim@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2015 1:58 PM
To: Parker, Camron
Subject: Future direction of the Parks and Community Services Department

I appreciate the chance to have some input on my ideas/concerns about our parks. The following highlights some of them:

1. We need more places downtown for the growing population of residents to get outside and passively enjoy some space. These areas should be not filled with structures but instead be similar to what we pushed for when I was on the jury to design the Downtown Park. I believe the Chapin property on Bellevue Way is available to be used. Originally land on NE 4th on the slope below 100th was potentially available to be a park, as well. People who want a lot of exercise equipment can go to workout facilities and do not need to use park space for that.
2. The ivy on the north and northeast side of Wilburton Hill park is gradually taking over all other ground vegetation. Ivy is allelopathic: its roots put out a substance that kills other vegetation. Ivy now covers about 8 acres of parkland. It does not die from being cut. It either has to be pulled out (too expensive) or killed with herbicides. Though the parks department has been reluctant to use those, I have found that the Bayer ivy-killing product has worked on ivy that invaded my property from the park.
3. The department needs to be careful about its frequent use of public/private partnerships. On some of the buildings and structures in the parks, commemorative signs acknowledging private funds' contribution give the impression that the park is not really city-owned (e.g., the Boys and Girls Club at Hidden Valley park, the tea house and plaques in the Bellevue Botanical Garden).
4. The city needs to try to acquire land for parks when it annexes neighborhoods or expands the business district to include areas like the Spring District before all the land is taken by private developers.
5. Stop naming parks after people. Bovey was a bad name for a park. During the 16 years that I was on the parks board, the department's policy was to not put people's name on a park. There were attempts, for example, to do that for what is now called the Downtown Park. The recent winner's name for the former Bovey park will not have any relevance 10 years from now.

Thanks for the opportunity to write.

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