CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
September 9, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue Golf Course
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Grindeland, Vice-Chair Evans, Boardmembers George[1], Heath, Kumar, Powell

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Van Hollebeke

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Lynne Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Joe Moorman, Camron Parker, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith, Cathy Von Wald

OTHERS PRESENT: Geoffrey Bidwell, Elma Borbe, John Bruels, Schell and Av Harmon, Susan Nelson

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Grindeland at 6:05 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Vice-Chair Evans to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the July 8, 2014 Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

[1] Arrived at 6:07 p.m.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Geoffrey Bidwell
1600 – 109th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the Save the Mercer Slough Committee, Mr. Bidwell requested that Boardmembers deny the land swap request for Mercer Slough. He submitted the following items for consideration:

- Document 1: State of Washington Secretary of State Certificate of Incorporation for Save the Mercer Slough Committee, which was formed in 1988.
- Document 2: Letter dated December 23, 1988 from then Mayor Nan Campbell.
- Document 3: Cartoon dated June 22, 1988 referencing the multiple bonds in 1988 for Mercer Slough.
- Document 4: Simulation picture of Light Rail structure at the south end of Mercer Slough Nature Park.
- Document 5: Comparison of Light Rail alignment from East Link Final EIS.
- Document 6: 1988 Draft Environmental Impact Statement Mercer Slough Open Space Master Plan.
- Document 7: Property location in Mercer Slough subject to development—Nate Moon/Ross property is combined with White PUD.
- Document 8: Properties received by the City of Bellevue for development.
- Document 9: 1988 EIS calls for Gateway Park for Bellevue Way/112th Ave. SE.
- Documents 10-20: Demonstrate the planned trail along 112th Ave. SE that was cancelled by the City of Bellevue.

In Mr. Bidwell's opinion, the Mercer Slough land swap does not compensate the City for the lost trail along 112th Ave. SE. or the lost gateway to Mercer Slough and the wetlands. In addition, he noted that the purchase of the Moon/Ross property has nothing to do with Light Rail. Mr. Bidwell feels that this sets a precedent for using park land for future commercial development. Mr. Bidwell views the land swap as an unacceptable intrusion into the Mercer Slough Nature Park and its trail system. He encouraged Boardmembers to deny the land swap request.

A copy of Mr. Bidwell's materials was provided to staff.

John Bruels
4715 – 118th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Bruels informed Boardmembers about a problem at the undeveloped Tyler Property in Newport Hills. The property is being used by some of his neighbors as an off-leash dog park. Mr. Bruels reported that the vast majority of dogs (and their owners) that come to the property are well mannered and have posed no problem. However, a handful of dogs are not as friendly. Mr. Bruels stated that dogs have chased and charged him several times, while jogging through the property, and that he's often had to dodge piles of feces as well.

Mr. Bruels noted that the Tyler Property is clearly marked with signs reminding visitors to obey leash and scoop laws. In addition, he's spoken with Park Rangers who have confirmed that leash laws apply at the property. Mr. Bruels has tried several times to point this out to the owners of dogs that have shown aggression but has been met with angry rebukes that the property is an off-leash park. He has since found discussions from his neighbors on social media sites that the City has assured them that while the property hasn't been designated a dog park yet, leash laws will not be enforced on the property.

If the City intends to allow citizens to bring their pets to Tyler Property to play without a leash, Mr. Bruels apologizes. Mr. Bruels asked that the signage be changed at the Tyler Property immediately to identify the intent of the park and that the City issue an official statement about its policy for the property.

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

Mrs. Nelson is the Chair of the "Keep Ashwood Park Green" committee at the Pacific Regent Retirement Community and is also the Chair of the "Parks & Open Space" committee for the new Downtown Bellevue Residents Association.

Mrs. Nelson thanked Boardmembers and Parks staff for sponsoring the Food Truck Roundup at Ashwood Park on August 14, 2014. In particular, she recognized Jon Wilson, Community Services Supervisor, for his excellent work organizing the event.

Mrs. Nelson reported that publicity brought out a large crowd for the Food Truck Roundup. The event was truly a Downtown Neighborhood event: multi-ethnic, young and old. Picnic tables were well used and would be welcomed permanently. In addition, Mrs. Nelson noted that Debra Westwood of the King County Library System was very pleased with the success of the event. Feedback from others included staging additional food truck rodeo events next summer, once or twice per month or a "Bite of Bellevue" using local restaurants. Mrs. Nelson heard of two food truck vendors who had insufficient amounts of food to meet the demand during the evening. She added that everyone she talked with thought it was a "great experience" and should be repeated.

Mrs. Nelson displayed a picture board that illustrated users at Ashwood Park.

Joe Moorman, Bellevue Skate Park
Brad Zakes, Zakes Foundation

Mr. Moorman reported that the Bellevue Skate Park will celebrate its 20th anniversary September 19-21 with a pro-am skateboarding competition featuring the Northwest's first super ramp and 10 of the best riders in the world.

The competitors will skate for $50,000 in prize money at the EZ Rocks Skate for the Cure event. The celebration, at the skate park, will also feature live music, including performances from the Thermals and School of Rock, free skate and disc jockey clinics,

food trucks, carnival games, a silent auction and prize giveaways from over 30 sponsors. Highlights will include:

- The largest skating ramp (250-foot long/40-feet high) ever assembled in the state;
- Top-ranked Mega Ramp riders in the world, including Mitchie Brusco, PLG, Jake Brown, Jono Schwan, Trey Wood, Jaeger Eaton and Sky Siljeg;
- The first ever highest air and best lip trick contest on a super ramp;
- Five Division Street contests for all ages and abilities with a $7,500 purse; and
- A girls-only skate competition for a $2,500 purse.

Mr. Zakes noted that the event will benefit the Zakes Foundation, which was created by Mr. Zakes and his wife in memory of their son, Ethan, a skateboarder who lost his life in 2011 to adrenoleukodystrophy (ALD) at the age of 10. The Zakes Foundation is a non-profit, charitable corporation established for the purpose of funding newborn screening programs for rare childhood diseases and providing academic scholarships for at-need-youth.

The event will also celebrate the Bellevue Skate Park's 20-year anniversary. Built in 1994 as a project of Bellevue Youth Link, the facility was the first of four skate parks built in Bellevue.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

Chair Grindeland distributed a copy of the City Council's vision, which will be the framework for the upcoming Board retreat.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Attended a family event at Highland Park.
- Visited Crossroads Center.
- Visited Robinswood Park.
- Visited Bellevue Downtown Park.
- Enjoyed the Food Truck Roundup.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Golfed at Crossroads Golf Course.
- Visited Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.
- Visited Surrey Downs Park.
- Visited Chism Beach Park.

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Enjoyed reading the Lee Springgate book.
- Visited Robinswood Park, including the Tennis Center.

Boardmember Kumar made the following report:

- Visited Lewis Creek Park.
- Visited Weowna Park.
- Visited Phantom Lake.
- Visited Lake Hills Greenbelt.
- Visited Robinswood Park.

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Visited Downtown Park and enjoyed the Bellwether sculpture exhibition.
- Visited the Lake Hills Greenbelt, including the produce stand.
- Visited Airfield Park.
- Enjoyed playing disc golf, while out of town—encouraged the Parks Department to add this as a park feature.

Vice-Chair Evans made the following report:

- Volunteered at North Bellevue Community Center's End of the Summer Celebration.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Councilmember Robinson reported that the City Council has been discussing the Shoreline Master Program. She said that it was gratifying to see the impact that the Park Board's work is having on Council discussions and decisions.

Councilmember Robinson recently met with representatives from the King County Conservation District where partnership opportunities were discussed.

In regards to the Board's upcoming Board retreat, Councilmember Robinson suggested that Boardmembers evaluate the Board's connection with the community and think outside of the box.

Mr. Smith reported that the Diversity Plan was submitted to Council last week for review. The next step is to present the Plan to all of the Boards and Commissions. Mr. Smith commended Camron Parker for his work on the Diversity Plan. Councilmember Robinson added that the Council will be having cultural competency training and suggested that the Board have this training as well.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

No report.

9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. East Link – Mercer Slough

Mr. Parker reported that the final designs for the East Link Light Rail are nearly complete. A PowerPoint presentation was shown that depicted the overall East Link route map, including impacts to the Mercer Slough area. Mr. Parker explained that the Light Rail will be in a lidded trench in front of the Winters House, along Bellevue Way, with combined vehicle access just south of the Winters House. Some of the mitigation design elements include a landscaped lid over the light rail trench at Winters House and relocation of the blueberry farm stand.

Mr. Parker explained that the Mercer Slough Nature Park conversion area consists of two separate granted properties (1973 and 1978). There is a state granting agency that provides grants to local state agencies for recreational purpose. There is a deed restriction that dictates that the property will be used for outdoor recreation use in perpetuity. However, there is a conversion clause that is allowed if land of equal size, function, and value is agreed upon. Then, the grant boundary can be altered.

Mr. Parker noted that East Link requires use of park land along Bellevue Way SE, but maintains park recreational functions and attributes by preserving or relocating certain driveways, sidewalks, trails, and park facilities. These impacts, along with the proposed parkland conversion and the process for parkland replacement, were evaluated and published as part of the East Link Environmental Impact Statement process.

Mr. Parker noted that the proposed replacement property exhibits the same wetland and wetland buffer conditions as the areas of the park being converted and exceed the value of the area being converted as well. The proposed conversion is as follows:

Property	Size	Value
North Parcel	0.77 acre	$240,000
South Parcel	0.29 acre	$255,000
Total Area to Convert	1.06 acre	$495,000
Replacement Property	6.00 acres	$633,120

With the conversion, Mr. Parker noted that the trail that connects the farm with the Winters House will be relocated. In addition, he clarified that the Parks Department acquisition funds were used initially to purchase the property. However, if the property can be funded through the Light Rail project then the funding source will be shifted.

Comments on the conversion are being accepted through September 19, 2014. Although a Park Board formal decision is not required for the project, comments may be submitted if desired. Once the comment period closes, Boardmember George asked that a summary of the comments be forwarded to Boardmembers.

Chair Grindeland expressed her support of the property conversion noting that the City is benefiting from the addition of the larger parcels to the Mercer Slough. The conversion will also help fill in some of the parcel gaps within the Mercer Slough.

Sound Transit representative, Elma Borbe, explained that there is a Memorandum of Understanding between Sound Transit and the City of Bellevue that discusses the terms in which the City will pay $160 million for the Sound Transit tunnel. Ms. Borbe clarified that the properties discussed at Mercer Slough meet the guidelines for some of the City's financial obligation.

Boardmember Powell requested a list of Mercer Slough properties and when they were acquired.

Mr. Parker provided an overview of some of the changes at Surrey Downs Park that were impacted by Sound Transit, and summarized some of the next steps for the park.

B. Proposed CIP/Budget Update

A draft memo regarding the 2015-21 Parks Capital Investment Program (CIP) was included in the Board packet. Mr. Sanner summarized the memo and requested Boardmember approval. Overall, the memo summarized the Park Board's involvement, responded to the leadership team recommendations, and requested that other unfunded park needs are not forgotten.

Mr. Sanner reviewed the initial CIP recommendations presented by the Leadership Team CIP Panel at the July 28, 2014 City Council budget workshop, and summarized the projects. In addition, he discussed the other recommendations included in the memo.

Boardmember Powell questioned if the Parks Board needs to dream bigger with regards to funding and suggested that other funding methods be considered (e.g., impact fees).

Boardmember George expressed concern with the lack of funding recommended for Airfield Park, particularly because this was part of a promise made to voters when the 2008 levy was passed. She suggested that the memo be reworded to include stronger verbiage about following through with the City's commitments. Boardmember Kumar agreed with Boardmember George's concerns.

While not included in the recommended budget, Vice-Chair Evans reiterated his concerns about the lack of parking and access at a future Lake Sammamish neighborhood park. He is opposed to further park development at this location. Mr. Foran explained that the 2008 levy had specific neighborhood park projects identified, including a Lake Sammamish location. Although this project may be deferred beyond the 2015-2021 CIP, there is still an obligation to complete the park.

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Heath to approve the 2015-21 Parks Capital Investment Program (CIP) Memo with the following revisions:

- **Include verbiage that encourages Council to restore the requested City match funds for Property Acquisition ($10M) and Airfield Park Development ($4M).**
- **Encourage the City and the Pacific Science Center to work toward a solution to complete the final classroom building at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.**
- **Encourage Council to dream big and develop a balanced and sustainable approach for advancing the City's long-term vision.**

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the memo with the recommended revisions. Staff will revise the memo and forward to City Council.

10. BOARDMEMBER COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

A. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

No report.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember George requested that staff follow-up with Mr. Bruels regarding the Tyler Property.

Boardmember Kumar suggested that a coding system be implemented with the dog parks, similar to other cities. She will discuss this in further detail with staff.

Boardmember Powell was congratulated on being selected as a Citizen Advisory Representative for the Sound Transit East Main Station.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Memo from Nancy Kartes re BBG ravine access

C. Memo from Glenn Kost re visitor moorage concerns

D. Email from Jeanette Roubinet re BBG

E. Email from Jere and Julia Stille re skateboard camp

F. Email from Kathleen Kinchloe re Chism Beach Park

G. Letter from Carol Leake re property acquisition

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Park Board Retreat – September 20 at 8:00 a.m.

C. Next regular Park Board meeting—October 14, 2014

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 8:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).