CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday
September 20, 2014
8:00 a.m.

MSEEC
1625 118th Avenue SE
Bellevue, WA

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

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Lynne Robinson

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

MINUTES TAKER: Nancy Harvey

1. CALL TO ORDER:

Chair Grindeland called the meeting to order, welcomed the group with a team-building exercise.

2. CITY COUNCIL:

Councilmember Lynne Robinson updated the Board on the new Council Vision and other current issues before the Council, including issues of interest to the Board such as the Shoreline Master Program and Downtown Park parking.

Councilmember Robinson also discussed the Council Vision document and asked the Board to brainstorm about the Purpose and Value of Parks:

Purpose of Parks

- Gives us places to be
- Creates a green oasis
- Provides space for respite
- Space for recreation
- Nature
- Reflection
- Greenery for people without yards
    - Decreased crime
    - Decreased negative energy

- Problem resolution
- Release
- Communing with nature
- Centering
- Decreased tension
- Range of opportunities
- Free recreation
- Programmed recreation
    - Team building
    - Healthy competition
- Gathering place
- Experience different settings and opportunities
- Different experiences for different people
- Beauty
- Community pride
- Creates well-being
- Value of maintenance; Dependent on good maintenance
- Public reflection of our values

Value of Parks

- Community
- Economic development
- Health value – decreases costs of health care
- Helps environment
- Equitable quality of life
- Attracts good neighbors
- Teaching:
    - Botanical Garden
    - Shoreline Master Program
    - Mercer Slough

3. **BREAK/WALK**:

The Board recessed for a short break to take a walk along the trails of Mercer Slough Nature Park.

4. VISION FOR THE FUTURE:

Terry Smith and Camron Parker led the Board in a discussion of visioning ideas. The ideas discussed will help guide the Department in the next year as it updates certain plans and policies such as the Parks & Open Spce System Plan and the Department's Strategic Plan.

CITY IN A PARK

- Bellevue Parks Foundation
- Connectivity – connecting parks in a formal way
- Trail system – circle around the city
- Aquatics Center
- Heritage Center
- Cultural Center
- Bel-Red Commons
- GPS way-finding/directions
    - Tech looping
    - Trip planner
    - Information connectivity
- Connection between Airfield Park to Phantom Lake to Lake Hills Greenbelt
- Buy Phantom Lake shoreline
- Bel-Red – buy 30 acres
- Downtown – buy 5-6 acres
- Keep high standards for expanding system - make sure we have as good or better of a park system as we have now
- A stunning vision for the community to build community will
- Maximize opportunities in their context through appropriate design and development
- Focused growth (population) in Downtown and Bel-Red
- Acquire and bank land
- Don't be Seattle
- Balance big regional parks with continuing investment in neighborhood parks
- Eastgate subarea – around T-Mobile

PARKS & FACILITIES

- Bellevue Parks Foundation
- One Uberpark
- Aquatics Center – in Bel-Red or Factoria

  - Heritage Center
  - Cultural Center
- Wayfinding – signs, maps
- Disc Golf and Mini Golf
- Bel-Red Commons

- Lake Bellevue – redevelop, provide public waterfront?
  - "Cycle Town"
  - Uber TOD (Transit-Oriented Development)
- Zero-energy buildings - sustainability
- Rails to Trails
- Neighborhood and mini parks
- Buy, buy buy!
- Design Sound Transit OMSF (maintenance facility) with parks in mind
- Arts incubator – Bel-Red
- Climbing facility
- Diversity institute

HEALTHY COMMUNITY

- Bellevue Parks Foundation – a community building purpose
- Equity/Balance – access available throughout city, across areas/neighborhoods – parks, trails facilities (especially Newport Hills and Factoria)
- Equity – tax? Housing? Parks
- Public outreach/awareness of parks and facilities
- Shouldn't have to leave city for recreational opportunities
- Equity to contributions to build/maintain our system
- Planning for growth
- Growth consistent with standard Quality of Life
- Arts Center
- Aquatics Center (partnership with health industry)
- Sustainability – zero energy consumption
- Engaged public in vision – surveys, outreach, satisfaction, advocates and critiques - Benchmarks, measurable outcomes
- Metrics to determine success
- Quality local government, identify and eliminate corruption
  - Schools – BSD, BC
  - City

    - County
    - Transparency
- Diversity institute
- Planning
- Retain/Increase Bellevue's tree canopy – on City and private properties
- Establish tree canopy inventory

FUNDING ALTERNATIVES

- Bellevue Parks Foundation
    - To supplement current investments
    - To tap corporate giving
    - Estate planning
- Building greater community ownership
- Impact fees for parks
- National Best Practices for funding – be a regional leader and example of innovative funding mechanisms
- Bel-Red Commons – up front funding to make early major acquisition
- Apply equity lens to revenue
- Pooled impact fees vs other mitigation (e.g., fees for acquisition instead of "public" plazas)
- Resourcing/financing system that's equitable and balanced – best practices
- T-Mobile – make an impact
- Conservation incentives

PRIORITIES

- Maintain outstanding system
- Keep long-standing priority on acquisition
- Create a balanced revenue system – public and private
- Connectivity
    - Geographical
    - Networked
    - Technology
- Keep and preserve
- Get and preserve
- Avoid (risk and opportunities)
- Build off inheritance

At a future Park Board meeting the Board will distill these visioning ideas into themes to forward to the City Council.

5. **ADJOURNMENT**:

The Board adjourned at noon.