CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
September 10, 2013
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Grindeland, Vice-Chair Evans, Boardmembers George[1], Heath[2], Powell, Robinson, Van Hollebeke

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Mike McCormick Huentelman (PCD), Terry Smith, Scott Vander Hyden

OTHERS PRESENT: Gretchen Dill, Loretta Lopez (BTCC), Mohammed Memon, Susan Nelson, Dwight & Mary Schrag

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Grindeland at 6:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Robinson and second by Vice-Chair Evans to approve the July 9, 2013, Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

[1] Arrived at 6:09 p.m.
[2] Departed at 7:07 p.m.

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

Gretchen Dill
534 – 97th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Ms. Dill requested that smoking be banned in all Bellevue parks. She distributed a handout that showed a recent picture of people using a hookah at Chesterfield Park. In addition, the handout listed the following reasons why Ms. Dill would like smoking to be banned from the parks:

- The harmful effects of second-hand smoke are well documented.
- It is a toxin that is more deadly than asbestos, arsenic, lead and many other things closely regulated.
- Tobacco use is the leading cause of preventable death and disease.
- The U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention supports smokefree parks.
- Numerous municipalities have already enacted smokefree park laws.
- The following State of Washington municipalities have smokefree public parks: Bainbridge Island, Bonney Lake, Bothell, Gig Harbor, Hoquiam, Lake Stevens, Mason County, Puyallup, Shoreline, Tacoma, Vancouver, and Woodinville.

Ms. Dill suggested that action be taken on a smoking ban in public parks before the marijuana laws take effect.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

On behalf of the Board, Chair Grindeland recognized Boardmember Robinson for serving as the Park Board Chair July 2011-June 2013. Boardmember Robinson was presented with a plaque and token of appreciation. Staff expressed their appreciation to Boardmember Robinson as well.

Break—6:10-6:16 p.m.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Robinson recently attended the light rail transportation meeting. She suggested that the Park Board provide input on the bike path discussions. Mr. Foran clarified that the Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan resides under the Transportation Commission. However, staff can provide an update at a future meeting if the Board desires.

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Participated in the Lake-to-Lake Walk.
- Attended one of the Summer Outdoor Movies in the Park—amazed at the number of people in attendance.
- Enjoyed various other parks throughout the city.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Enjoyed Downtown Park and many of the beach parks—commended staff for the great upkeep of the parks.
- Attended the City Council meeting to accept the Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation.
- Attended the City Council meeting to advocate on behalf of Republic Services for the city's solid waste vendor selection.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Visited Crossroads Golf Course.
- Visited the Robinswood off-leash dog area—kudos to the staff for maintaining the park so well.
- Visited Lewis Creek Park and walked the hiking trails.
- Encouraged the city to add additional open spaces to the Downtown corridor.

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Visited Crossroads Park.
- Visited Magnolia Park in Seattle and was surprised at the limited amount of people at the park—Bellevue's parks are well utilized.
- Attended the Highland Center/YMCA outdoor movie event at Highland Community Center—commended Dan Lassiter for his efforts at the event.
- Attended the Sound Transit Master Planning session.

Vice-Chair Evans made the following report:

- Attended the Highland Center/YMCA outdoor movie event at Highland Community Center—commended Pagliacci Pizza for their support.

Chair Grindeland visited various parks throughout the summer. She suggested that the park map be updated to reflect the current park system. In addition, she commended the Parks maintenance staff for making the parks look so great.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran informed Boardmembers that Bill Henningsgaard, founder and Executive Director of Eastside Pathways, and his son, Maxwell Henningsgaard, were involved in a fatal airplane accident. Mr. Foran added that Mr. Henningsgaard's visionary leadership was extraordinary—he will be greatly missed.

There will be a public meeting on September 25, 2013 to discuss the Surrey Downs Park Master Plan. Mr. Foran noted that further information will be provided to the Park Board at the October Board meeting. The approach for the Surrey Downs Park Master Plan will be similar to the Bridle Trails Master Plan process.

Mr. Foran reported that he and other staff members recently updated Councilmembers about the upcoming CIP projects. He noted that there is approximately $49 million in the CIP program, of which, approximately 80% of the funding has come from community fundraising efforts, not city money. This is a clear representation of how much the community engages in developing wonderful things for Bellevue.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Naming of Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park

Mr. Vander Hyden summarized the Bridle Trails park naming process for the park formerly referred to as the NE 24th Street Park. He explained that the community was asked for their input through community meetings, the city website, and the Bridle Trails Community Club (BTCC) newsletter. There were approximately 43 suggested names received. Then, the suggested park names were narrowed down based upon popularity and the following criteria from the Park Naming Policy:

- A neighborhood or geographical identification;
- A natural feature;
- An historical figure or name of historical or cultural significance;
- An individual or group that has made a significant contribution to the park system.

An online survey was then conducted for the top ten names that received the most votes. From this survey, the most popular names were: Bridle Trails Corner Park, Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park, and Bridle Ridge Park. The staff, with support from the BTCC Board, recommends the name that received the most online votes from the community, Bridle Trails Corner Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke liked the name of "Phil Noble Park" but did not know Mr. Noble's affiliation with the park and supported the community's decision.

On behalf of the BTCC, Ms. Lopez reiterated the BTCC's support of the process and park name recommendation.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to recommend that the property formerly referred to as the NE 24th Street Park be named to the Bridle Trails Corner Park, in accordance with the community's wishes. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

B. Neighborhood Outreach Program

Mr. Huentelman explained that Bellevue has 16 distinct neighborhood areas, each with unique histories, character, and neighborhood amenities. In the past year, Bellevue has annexed Eastgate, Tamara Hills, and Hilltop—adding an additional 5,600 residents into the city. In addition, the Downtown neighborhood has become Bellevue's fastest growing residential neighborhood within the Bel-Red corridor. The emergence of these new neighborhoods provided the necessity to adapt the Neighborhood Area boundaries to better reflect the changing realities of the neighborhoods.

Mr. Huentelman noted that Neighborhood Outreach, as part of the Planning and Community Development, works with neighborhood leaders and residents to increase public participation in city decision making, improve city responsiveness to neighborhood concerns, preserve neighborhood character and identity, invest in neighborhood improvements, and strengthen local community connections that make Bellevue such a great place to live.

Neighborhood Outreach held a Neighborhood Leadership Gathering to determine where neighborhood leaders are spending their time. The outreach found the following statistics:

- 24% Advocacy
- 19% Education & Communication
- 15% Character & Identity
- 24% Neighborhood Improvement
- 18% Building Community

In addition, there was a Best Ideas Campaign, the city solicited "best ideas" for various categories. A list of some of the feedback provided was included in the board packet. The next Neighborhood Leadership Gathering will be held on September 26, 2013.

Vice-Chair Evans recommended the Next Door online program as another option to find resources. Mr. Huentelman discussed the city's limitations with Next Door. In addition, he mentioned that the city has contracted with a company to build a mobile application to allow for citizen reporting. Further information about this application will be provided in early 2014.

Boardmember Powell questioned if there is a way to accomplish the community ideas due to the limited funding. Mr. Huentelman explained that resources are scarce, and a new strategy will have to be implemented to integrate some of the community's suggestions. He stressed that it is important to rely on the community's input to drive the priorities.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke thanked Mr. Huentelman and Ms. Ellenhorn for their efforts. He is excited about the Third Place initiative and hopes that there is a way to partner with different apartments throughout the city to get some of the projects accomplished, specifically a farmers market in the Downtown corridor. In addition, Boardmember Van Hollebeke asked if there are any initiatives for a cultural center in the community. Mr. Foran explained that the cultural center has been a goal for the city. It was included in the 1994 Diversity Plan and has been identified as an exciting idea for Bellevue, specifically because of Bellevue's diversity. Boardmember Van Hollebeke would like to see a way for community members to channel their

desire for a cultural center. Mr. Foran suggested that people contact Mr. Huentelman if they would like to discuss their thoughts about the cultural center in further detail.

Boardmember George thought the Bellevue's Best Ideas Campaign was a great idea. She would like to hear more about the following items: Burlington Northern Trail issue, Wi-Fi in the parks, Shakespeare in the park, to name a few.

Boardmember Robinson asked if Spiritwood neighbors have contacted the city. Mr. Huentelman confirmed that the city has been in contact with the Spiritwood neighborhood. He explained that neighborhood outreach helped mediate the issues in the neighborhood. The issue of too many people living in a particular house in the community raised a broader issue of limited affordable housing.

Chair Grindeland inquired if there are plans to bring the mini City Hall back to Factoria. Mr. Huentelman explained that there are conversations about what makes the Crossroads Mini City Hall successful and how to replicate the idea.

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

A. Network on Aging

Boardmember Robinson reported that there was an outreach event at North Bellevue Community Center for the Chinese community and information services. The event was well attended. Boardmember Robinson will also meet with Suzan DelBene to discuss improved access throughout the community.

B. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

Discussed above.

C. Downtown Livability Study

Boardmember Powell reported that the Downtown Livability Advisory Committee will reconvene next week.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember George expressed her interest in adding a Disc Golf Course to Bellevue.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested a presentation from staff about how cultural events and their hosting is decided—maybe a joint discussion with the Arts Commission. In addition, he

would like further information about what is involved in instituting a smoking ban at all Bellevue Parks. Lastly, Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested a status update about Ashwood Park.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. 2013 Well KEPT Program Report

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—October 8, tentatively scheduled to be held at South Bellevue Community Center

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

Mohammed Memon
5649 Lakemont Blvd., Bellevue, WA 98006

On behalf of the Puget Sound Cricket Club, Mr. Memon thanked the Parks Department for their assistance in getting a cricket field. Specifically, Mr. Memom thanked: Glenn Kost, Jon Wilson, Rick Bailey, and Justin Wilkinson.

Mr. Memon invited Boardmembers to attend an upcoming cricket game at the north Robinswood Park field.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Robinson and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).