CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
October 11, 2011
6:00 p.m.

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

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

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Geoff Bradley, Alexandra DySard, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Shelley McVein, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Kim Radcliffe, Robert Shay, Heather Trescases

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Roland to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Roland to approve the September 13, 2011 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

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[1] Arrived at 6:05 p.m.
[2] Arrived at 6:08 p.m.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Robert Shay, Project to Restore the WWI Memorial Monument in Bellevue's Downtown Park
610 – 123rd Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Shay expressed his frustration with, in his opinion, the city's lack in recognition of its history. His intent is to correct the situation as it regards to the Memorial Monument to Victor Hanson, Victor Freed, and Oscar Johnson, who gave their lives in defense of the country during World War I.

Mr. Shay explained that the monument was paid for and placed in front of the Bellevue Elementary school in 1926 by the Bellevue Minute Women and the Bellevue School Board. This followed their planting of a memorial grove of three elm trees in front of the school in 1920.

Mr. Shay explained that at some point, the monument's flag pole was removed, the hole was capped, the monument cracked and it is now a mere shadow of its original community stature.

Mr. Shay summarized his visions for the monument restoration, including:

- A new flag pole.
- Regrading around the monument.
- A sculptured concrete apron.
- Add a doughboy granite statue to the top of the monument.

Mr. Shay would like to see the monument restored to its prominent respect.

Heather Trescases, Eastside Heritage Center
P.O. Box 40535, Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the Eastside Heritage Center, Ms. Trescases expressed her appreciation to Mr. Shay for his passion and dedication to the Bellevue community and its history.

Ms. Trescases explained that the Eastside Heritage Center (EHC) believes it is important to ensure that the World War I memorial is properly maintained and does not deteriorate. EHC supports efforts to increase its visibility and recognition, and would support an apron around the base, as this is not out of historical context if done appropriately. However, the EHC is not in favor of adding a statue to the monument/flagpole base because this addition was not part of the original memorial and does not meet the criteria for historical restoration. In addition, Ms. Trescases noted that the EHC favors preservation of the original intent and structure as it exists, and recognition of the importance of the elm trees planted in 1920 as memorials to the three soldiers.

Eastside Heritage Center is in favor of pursuing interpretive signage to tell the stories of the three soldiers, and the history behind the trees, memorial plaque, flag pole and school.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

Chair Robinson distributed a sign-up sheet for upcoming holiday events. She encouraged Boardmembers to participate in the events. In addition, she noted that the Park Board tour will be held on October 15.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Boardmember Roland commended the Factoria Applebee's restaurant for displaying pictures of Bellevue neighborhood parks in the restaurant.

Boardmember George participated in the annual Lake-to-Lake Greenway Trail Walk, which connects Lake Washington to Lake Sammamish.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke recently reviewed the broadcast of the City Council Study Session where staff reported their findings about Bellevue resident Terry Foulon's concerns regarding the I-405 expansion and the impacts of this expansion, particularly related to Newcastle Beach Park. Boardmember Van Hollebeke was impressed with the efforts that the city went through to take Ms. Foulon's concerns seriously. Boardmember Van Hollebeke explained that the overall report from the Newcastle Beach Park study found no public health concerns related to the water flow. The study deemed the park safe.

Boardmember Evans participated in the United Way Day of Caring by working at a home in the Lake Hills community.

Vice-Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Visited Lake Hills Park, Weowna Park, and Enatai Beach.
- During her visit to the Lake Hills Greenbelt, she was startled by a transient person exiting the woods.
- Attended the City Council Study Session and was pleased to see positive results from the Newcastle Beach Park study.

Chair Robinson visited Norwood Village Neighborhood Park, along with Downtown Park where she evaluated the World War I Memorial.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

None.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. World War I Memorial at Downtown Park

Mr. Foran explained that staff fully supports the position taken by the Eastside Heritage Center (EHC) regarding the World War I Memorial at Downtown Park, and would be willing to work with Mr. Shay and EHC to achieve a solution. Staff agrees that the statue was not part of the original monument and bears little relationship to the original intent of the memorial. In addition, a nearby flagpole already exists to honor all veterans, so a second flagpole seems duplicative and inconsistent with the intent of this portion of the park. Staff also believes that, if properly located and researched, interpretive signage can indeed add a historical richness to the area that doesn't exist today.

Mr. Kost explained that the memorial and the elm trees were discussed during the 1984 Downtown Park Master Planning process. This process resulted in the decision to leave the monument and the trees as is. In addition, the same decision was made during the 1997 Master Plan update.

Mr. Foran thanked Mr. Shay for bringing the memorial concept to staff's attention. He explained that staff wants to respect and honor the intent of the memorial. He noted that the key feature of the park memorial is the elm trees. Mr. Foran clarified that the addition of any embellishments that were not part of the original idea appears to be in conflict with the idea of historical preservation and heritage.

Boardmember Roland asked for clarification between the term "monument" and "plaque." Mr. Foran explained that the current memorial was a pedestal to a flagpole. The plaque was an opportunistic way to explain the intent of the elm trees. Boardmember Roland appreciated the research the EHC and staff conducted to keep the intent of the memorial preserved.

Boardmember Grindeland called attention to an upcoming memorial celebration that will be held at the VFW for two men killed in Afghanistan. The memorial is the planting of two trees. Boardmember Grindeland added that many veterans are honored by the planting of trees. Boardmember Grindeland feels this is an appropriate way to honor or memorialize a veteran.

Mr. Shay requested that a memorial not be something that is walked on, like the plaque in the portico.

Chair Robinson views the foundation/base of the memorial as utilitarian. She questioned if the plaque and/or base have significant importance or if they can be displayed in a better manner. Mr. Shay explained that the items are not solely a flagpole base and interpretive plaque—they are a monument. He added that there is an inscription in the concrete for the monument dedication. The flagpole is now gone because of deterioration. Mr. Shay discussed some of the changes that have occurred to the monument throughout the years and views the monument as an unfinished monument.

Mr. Shay would like to place a flagpole back in the original flagpole location. He added that the three veterans gave their lives defending our country, not elm trees. He views the elm trees as a memorial and the flag pole as a monument.

Mr. Shay discussed his monument concept ideas, including:

- Bronzing a flag and placing it on the pedestal.
- Polish the plaque.
- Level the monument.
- Bring out the chamfer, which has been buried, and raise it with an apron.

If the original flagpole cannot be restored, Mr. Shay suggested that a new flagpole be placed to the east of the existing trees.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke questioned if there was a legal designation to the memorial at the time the park was established. Mr. Foran clarified that no designations have been uncovered.

Chair Robinson found it interesting that the area on the map in discussion was referred to as Memorial Grove.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke questioned if there are similar memorials within the city. Mr. Shay explained that there is a similar plaque at Bellevue High School stadium, because the stadium was dedicated to the Bellevue citizens that served during WWII. He added that the plaque is woefully neglected.

Boardmember Roland would like to preserve and protect the memorial and its history. She encouraged temporarily adding a small flag at the site, particularly for holidays, similar to the way individual flags are placed at gravesites such as in Arlington National Cemetery. Vice-Chair Grindeland was in agreement with Boardmember Roland. In addition, she would like interpretive information included about the memorial.

Boardmember Evans concurred with both Boardmember Roland and Vice-Chair Grindeland. He does not feel the doughboy statue is part of the original intent. Boardmember Van Hollebeke also concurred.

Mr. Shay would like to restore the monument and have a flagpole in the monument, next to the monument, or on the monument.

Boardmember Roland questioned if there is money available for the project. Mr. Foran clarified that there isn't a significant amount of money available to do something elaborate—stabilization is within the realm of funding. The city will maintain the memorial once complete. Mr. Shay clarified that there is a commitment from a construction company to donate all of the work for the restoration.

Boardmember George asked Mr. Shay and the Eastside Heritage Center if they can work together with open minds to create a compromise. Both parties agreed.

Ms. Trescases discussed the goals of the EHC, which include:

- Maintain the memorial (trees, flagpole base, plaque)
- Support efforts to increase visibility (i.e., apron around base of flagpole)
- Provide interpretation
- Not in favor of adding a statue at the top

Mr. Shay's goal is to finish or restore the monument to what it was and what it represents. Mr. Shay stated that the EHC has altered the original structure of all restoration projects. He questioned why this particular project cannot be altered. Ms. Trescases clarified that the City has altered projects because some of the alterations have been required by code or to accommodate the public.

Chair Robinson encouraged Mr. Shay and the EHC to agree on the goals of the monument, and to work with Parks staff to come to an amicable solution for the memorial/monument. Further reports will be placed on a future meeting agenda.

B. Well-KEPT Program Report

Mr. Bradley explained that the Well KEPT (Kids Environmental Project Training) Program is a summer youth employment program offered through the Bellevue Parks Natural Resource Division. The program is designed to provide Bellevue youth with education, job skills, and career development training in the field of park resource management.

Ms. DySard explained that the Well KEPT Program works on a variety of projects throughout Bellevue parks. The objectives of the program include:

- Provide training in ecological restoration, landscape maintenance, and natural resource management throughout the City of Bellevue.
- Promote an appreciation of our natural resources and a general overview of ecological and conservation issues through the environmental education programs that are coupled with the projects.
- Provide staffing assistance to Natural Resource and Resource Management crews to help maintain efficient service delivery during peak summer workloads.

Ms. DySard discussed the following program elements:

- Environmental Education Curriculum
- Job Skills and Training
- Projects and Accomplishments
- Program Evaluation

Boardmember Van Hollebeke praised the Well KEPT Program and was impressed with its 25 year history. He suggested that this history could provide ample data for a longitudinal study demonstrating the long-term effectiveness of the program and could be mined for ways in which the program could be enhanced going forward.

Boardmember George questioned if people with disabilities can be accommodated in the Well KEPT Program. Ms. DySard confirmed that people with disabilities can be accommodated in the program.

Boardmember Roland would like to see the Well KEPT Program grow and suggested grant opportunities be researched. In particular, she suggested that program staff contact the Washington Women Outdoors Recreation to explore partnership opportunities.

Ms. DySard clarified that the Well KEPT Program is different than the Stewardship Saturdays that community members and Scout troops participate in.

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

A. Eastgate Corridor Study

No report.

B. Network on Aging

No report.

C. Other Groups

None.

10. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested a progress report on the CIP Projects.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Report

B. Email from Lonnie Pacelli re Bellevue Marina

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. October 15—Special Meeting (Park Board tour)

C. November 8—next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

D.

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 7:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
SPECIAL MEETING MINUTES

Saturday
October 15, 2011
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
450 110th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Robinson, Vice-Chair Grindeland, Boardmembers Evans, George, Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmembers Roland and Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Glenn Kost, Nancy Harvey, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Jerry Clifton, bus driver

MINUTES TAKER: Nancy Harvey

1. PARK AND PROPERTY TOUR

The Board visited these parks and properties:

- Tyler Property (Newport Hills)
- Newport Hills Park
- Lewis Creek Park
- Bellevue Botanical Garden
- Bridle Trails properties (Acheson and Pashchinskiy)
- Ashwood Park

No official Board action was taken.

2. ADJOURNMENT

The Board adjourned the meeting at 12:30 p.m.