

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

Tuesday
January 11, 2010
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Roland, Vice-Chair Robinson, Boardmembers George, LaPine, Stokes, and Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Grindeland

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Kevin Henry, Camron Parker

OTHERS PRESENT: Eva Stone

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robertson

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember LaPine and second by Boardmember Stokes to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Robinson and second by Boardmember Stokes to approve the November 9, 2010 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

None.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Roland attended the recent City Council session in which the Council adopted the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan. Council also adopted the 2011-2010 City budget.

Chair Roland enjoyed the holidays by serving Thanksgiving and Christmas lunches at the North Bellevue Community Center.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Van Hollebeke enjoyed the joint holiday potluck dinner with the Human Services Commission. In addition, he commended Nancy Kartes, and Sharon and Dallas Graham for all their efforts at Bellevue Botanical Garden. Boardmember Van Hollebeke felt the changes made for this year's Garden d'Lights celebration made the event flawless, particularly with crowd control.

Boardmember Stokes concurred with Boardmember Van Hollebeke's experiences at Garden d'Lights. He enjoyed the light show and was pleased with the ease of making a reservation, additional light displays, and overall organization of the event.

Boardmember LaPine attended the following events:

- Joint holiday potluck dinner with the Human Services Commission.
- Robinswood Park Off-Leash Area Study community outreach meeting.
- Holiday lunches at the North Bellevue Community Center, for which he helped serve.

Boardmember George enjoyed the Garden d'Lights celebration.

Vice-Chair Robinson also attended the joint holiday potluck dinner with the Human Services Commission.

7. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robertson made the following comments:

- Enjoyed the joint holiday potluck dinner with the Human Services Commission.
- Participated in the Crossroads holiday luncheon.
- Attended the Garden d'Lights event and liked the new flow.
- The 2011-2012 City budget was recently adopted without raising taxes.
- Council adopted the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan.
- The official response to the Draft EIS for Light Rail was adopted. There are a few park issues that are being discussed, particularly regarding Surrey Downs and Mercer Slough. In addition, the Council is evaluating Light Rail entry points for South Bellevue and noise-related concerns.

Councilmember Robertson noted that the Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee has commenced and is evaluating land use and transportation impacts for the Eastgate area. This area is one of the few areas where there is a missing link to the Mountain to Sound Greenway. Therefore, there is an opportunity to make improvements. The Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee meets the first Thursday of each month. Councilmember Robertson encouraged Boardmembers to attend the meetings and the upcoming bus tour of the study area.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Cultural Diversity Overview

Mr. Henry provided an overview of the Cultural Diversity program.

“The Cultural Diversity Program engages the community to increase understanding of cultural and diversity issues, and fosters a welcoming and supportive environment, uniting the city on a social, economic and cultural level. In addition, the program assists the city in being responsive to all citizens and promoting economic growth.”

Mr. Henry discussed the history of the program and the demographics of Bellevue’s population. He noted that Bellevue is now more diverse than Seattle. In addition, Mr. Henry discussed the following:

- Current Racial & Ethnic Composition of Bellevue’s Population
- Race and Ethnicity: Bellevue is in the top third of Washington places for highest racial/ethnic diversity.
- Age Diversity: Young workforce adults (20 to 44) comprise the largest proportion of Bellevue’s population.
- Language Spoken at Home: Bellevue is #6 of Washington’s large places for the highest percentage of residents who speak a language other than English at home.
- Importance of Minority-Owned Businesses in Bellevue
- Diversity & Economic Development
- City Collaborators
- City Multilingual Resources
- Parks & Community Services
- Culturally Diverse Community Events of 2009-2010.
- Culturally Diverse Educational Events of 2009-2010.
- Outreach Programs
- External Community Groups and Collaborators

Mr. Parker explained that the City Council suggested that the Cultural Diversity Plan be revised, since it was last updated in 1993. Some questions that will be raised during the 2011 evaluation process include:

- How has the community changed since 1993?
- Bellevue is a diverse community—what does this mean?

- What are the opportunities/challenges?
- Is the community leveraging or maximizing the benefits of being diverse?

Mr. Parker noted that the 1993 Plan was focused on race and ethnicity. However, the mission of the 2011 Update will be to:

- Evaluate the cultural and ethnic mix in Bellevue using recent Census data.
- Assess the trends and issues facing the community with regard to the evolving cultural mix.
- Develop an Action Plan to assure continued positive relations among the various ethnic and social communities in Bellevue.

Vice-Chair Robinson suggested that the Bellevue Network on Aging be included as a resource for evaluating diversity.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that the City create a Cultural Diversity Center for Bellevue residents to encounter history. He also feels the cultural diversity programs offered at North Bellevue Community Center are a great way to bring the community together.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke questioned how language barriers are addressed throughout the community. Mr. Henry clarified that the Cultural Navigator Program has volunteers that help different ethnic groups navigate throughout various systems. Chair Roland suggested that the City work with the business community to leverage resources to maximize the culturally diverse offerings.

Boardmember Stokes applauded the review process for the Cultural Diversity Program. He hopes that a plan is developed to bring the community together.

Boardmember LaPine suggested that there be a strategic intent of the update so there is a systematic and effective approach to getting people informed, involved, and inspired. He hopes the evaluation process creates more understanding, motivation, and participation. Boardmember LaPine envisions companies with Cultural Diversity Programs as having a competitive advantage.

Boardmember George suggested that Families for Effective Autism Treatment, which is based in Bellevue, be included as a resource for evaluating diversity.

Mr. Henry invited Boardmembers to attend "The Celebration of a Dream" event at Crossroads Bellevue Market Stage on January 17, 2011. The event is a tribute to Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. and includes a Health Fair.

B. Experience Dance Presentation

Ms. Stone of Stone Dance Productions presented information on the contemporary dance festival Chop Shop: Bodies of Work and the Experience Dance Program. The festival is scheduled at the Meydenbauer Theatre on February 12 and 13, 2011. As part of this unique dance production, Ms. Brittingham explained that a community outreach component, the Experience Dance

Program, has been developed and managed by the Parks & Community Services Department for the past three years.

A promotional video was shown for Chop Shop: Bodies of Work.

Ms. Stone discussed the one-day contemporary dance program that was offered in 2008. In 2009, the Chop Shop: Bodies of Work was expanded to a two-day festival. The program consisted of free family programs and introductory level contemporary dance classes. Ms. Brittingham discussed some of the highlights and feedback received from these programs. She noted that funding for the festival and the community outreach component has been provided by King County 4Culture and the Bellevue Arts Commission since 2009.

Ms. Stone expressed her gratitude to Bellevue for providing her the opportunity to spend time with the public so she can share her love of dance with others. She noted that Chop Shop received national recognition in *Dance Magazine* for their work.

Ms. Stone clarified that the outreach dance programs are free and all ages are encouraged to participate.

C. Board Volunteering in 2011

Chair Roland distributed a 2011 Parks & Community Services Events Calendar and stressed the importance of Park Board attendance at these events. Boardmember Stokes concurred with Chair Roland and encouraged Boardmembers to participate in more Park related activities.

Councilmember Robertson discussed the City Council process for committing and tracking events on a weekly basis. Parks staff offered to send e-mail reminders to Boardmembers if desired.

Boardmembers discussed whether or not to set a target and/or minimum for number of events attended. However, no definitive conclusions were made.

Boardmember LaPine suggested that clarity be provided for Board participation at the various community events. Vice-Chair Robinson suggested that a staff person be available at the events to help Boardmembers understand their role.

9. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

None.

10. **ONGOING/OLD BUSINESS:**

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Mr. Stokes encouraged Boardmembers to attend the Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee meetings and become familiar with the project scope. Ms. Harvey will forward a web link to Boardmembers to help them become familiar with the project.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Ms. Robinson requested that a future agenda item be added to discuss possibilities for a Downtown corridor connector bus that would link Old Bellevue with Overlake Hospital. Councilmember Robertson clarified that the City has an agreement with King County Metro Transit to have a circular bus route (Downtown Circular) in Downtown Bellevue. However, this item was recently cut from the capital budget. Possibilities for adding this route into the City budget will be reevaluated during the next budget cycle.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Report
- B. Email from Pam Myers re Ardmore Park
- C. Email from Sandi and John Adami re Lake to Lake Trail entrance
- D. Email from Auriana Marici re good Samaritan employee
- E. Email from Kris Liljeblad re Sunset Trail

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. February 8 – next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember LaPine to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

