



MEMORANDUM

Date: February 2, 2016

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Terry Smith, Assistant Director
Parks & Community Services

Subject: Park Board Work Plan
(Board discussion and direction requested)

At your request, we've added a discussion of your work plan to the February meeting agenda.

As you consider this topic, please see the attached copy of the memo the Board sent to the City Council in October 2014 reflecting themes from the Board retreat the previous month.

Chair George and I will lead your discussion at the January meeting.

Attachment:

Memo from Park Board to City Council dated October 14, 2014



MEMORANDUM

Date: October 14, 2014

To: Bellevue City Council

From: Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board

Subject: September 20, 2014 Park Board Retreat

The Parks & Community Services Board met for a retreat from 8 a.m. - noon on Saturday, September 20, 2014 at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center. All seven board members, City Councilmember and Park Board Liaison Lynne Robinson and Parks Department staff attended.

The purpose of the retreat was to increase the Board's knowledge of your visioning document, "Bellevue 2035, The City Where You Want to Be" and to discuss visioning for Parks & Community Services.

The Parks & Community Services Board expressed support for the Council Vision, especially related to:

- Achieving Human Potential – Diversity Initiative
- Great Places Where You Want To Be – Grand Connection; Meydenbauer Bay to Wilburton
- High Quality Built and Natural Environment – Phase 1 Meydenbauer Bay; Completion of the Downtown Park and Gateway; Smart City Strategy

Additionally, board members shared ideas and suggestions about the future of Bellevue Parks & Community Services. Major themes are highlighted below.

City in a Park

- Build upon the system that we inherited. Conserve, preserve and maintain the high standards that we currently have, and ensure funding to maintain future development.
- Actively seek and purchase properties that complete and complement the vision and planning efforts that have been or will be completed (Downtown, BNSF, Grand Connection, Bel-Red corridor, waterfront).
- Identify, fund and develop smaller neighborhood parks.
- Develop funding strategies and partnerships to build facilities, including but not limited to an aquatics center, heritage center, cultural center and arts center.

Connectivity

- Continue to connect the City geographically, through walking trails, bike trails, and other parks and open spaces around and through the City.
- Provide signage and information that connects and directs residents to parks, trails and programs.
- Support the Smart City priority, including use of technology for information, education, trip planning and way finding.
- Connect with community partners to provide capital resources, share operating costs and collaborate in delivery of services.
- Connect with the residents (advocates and critics) by engaging them through surveys, outreach, focus groups and other methods to establish outcomes and measure satisfaction.

Healthy Community

- Ensure that our programs and services are culturally competent and that we outreach to the public for awareness and planning of parks, trails, facilities and services.
- Provide equity and balance relative to park, facility and program access throughout the city (especially Downtown, Eastgate, Lake Hills, Crossroads, and Factoria).
- Plan for and respond to growth that provides for facilities and services within our City.
- Be a leader in environmental sustainability, tree canopy retention and zero energy consumption.
- Promote the Arts through the development of an Arts Center or Arts District.

Funding options and alternatives

- Pursue funding options that are diversified and equitably distributed among potential funders.
- Create a Bellevue Parks Foundation to build community support to supplement current investments, tap into corporate giving and estate planning.
- Continue to support collaborative giving through local and regional partnerships with community groups such as the Bellevue School District, Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation, Boys & Girls Club, Eastside Heritage Center, Pacific Science Center and Eastside Pathways.
- Be a leader in best practices developing innovative funding strategies such as community partnerships, impact fees, conservation incentives, pooled funding, levies, etc.

As a board we recognize and value the work and vision of our predecessors (citizens, board members, City Council and staff). Without their vision, planning and financing, we would not have the quality parks system and services we have today. We also recognize that our community continues to change, and we need to be engaged and connected to provide recommendations and suggestions that support the Council's vision and direction.

Thank you for providing us with the opportunity to serve our City as members of the Parks & Community Services Board.

cc: Brad Miyake, City Manager
Pam Bissonette, Interim Deputy City Manager
Patrick Foran, Director, Parks & Community Services

