

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

Tuesday
February 10, 2009
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Bennett, Boardmembers George, LaPine, Robinson, Roland

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmember Karle

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Chelminiak

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Michael Kattermann (Transportation), Maria Koengeter (Transportation), Camron Parker, Terry Smith, Helena Stephens

OTHERS PRESENT: Brenda Gurung, Mike Murphy, Alice Zhang, Heather Trescases

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keeney at 6:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chair Keeney moved Council Communications to later in the agenda.

Motion by Boardmember Roland and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Roland to approve the January 13, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Youth Link Boardmembers Brenda Gurung, Mike Murphy, and Alice Zhang YL Co-Chairs Gurung and Zhang and Boardmember Murphy invited Parks Boardmembers to the 11th Annual Gumbo Night, which will be held on April 22 at the home of David and Sherry Grindeland. In addition, Parks Boardmembers were invited to the Community Leadership Awards, which will be held on May 20 in the Bellevue City Council Chambers.

Mr. Murphy discussed the Youth Link priorities, which include:

- Promote Environmental Stewardship through youth in our community.
- Conduct an independent evaluation of the Youth Link program through review of past projects with respect to their community involvement and acceptance.
- Continue to support and promote the three-year pilot project of the Bellevue Youth Court.
- Develop and implement effective communication strategies in order to increase youth and community involvement.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

None.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:

None.

7. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Eastside Heritage Center

Ms. Trescases, Director of the Eastside Heritage Center, discussed the Center's mission, which is to steward Eastside history by actively collecting and preserving documents and artifacts, and by promoting public involvement in, and appreciation of, this history through educational programming and community outreach. Ms. Trescases discussed the many programs throughout the year that the Eastside Heritage Center sponsors, including community events, Coal Creek history hikes, Heritage Days at the Fraser Cabin, and hands-on activities. She added that the signature event for the Eastside Heritage Center is the Strawberry Festival.

Ms. Trescases explained that the Eastside Heritage Center stores thousands of historical artifacts. She added that in exchange for office and archival space at the F.W. Winters House, EHC assists with numerous cultural and historical activities associated with the house and Bellevue's heritage including staffing, display development, programming, collections management, furnishing procurement, etc. In addition, Ms. Trescases discussed the City's additional agreement with the

EHC for lease of the McDowell House to help provide space for the expanding collections and staff.

Ms. Trescases applauded Boardmembers for preserving many of the historic houses throughout Bellevue (i.e., Robinswood, F.W. Winters House, etc.). She invited Boardmembers to get involved in the Eastside's heritage history.

B. East Link Light Rail Project Update

Ms. Koengeter reviewed the Sound Transit timetable and noted that Sound Transit is having a public comment period regarding the East Link Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS). She encouraged Boardmembers to participate in the public comment period.

Ms. Koengeter explained that there are 19 route choices connecting downtown Seattle, Mercer Island, Bellevue and Redmond via I-90. The following is a list of the segments, which Ms. Koengeter summarized:

Segment A:

- 2 stations
- I-90 bus transfers
- Mercer Island Park & Ride

Segment B:

- 1 or 2 stations
- Bus transfers
- Park & Ride
 - Add garage to S. Bellevue Park & Ride
 - Or
 - New 118th SE Park & Ride

Segment C:

- 2 or 3 stations
- Bellevue Transit Center

Segment D:

- 2-4 stations
- Overlake Transit Center
- Park & Rides

Mr. Parker discussed the park impacts of each of the segments, which included:

Segment B:

- Enatai Beach: no current impact identified. However, the park will remain on the watch list.

These minutes are in DRAFT form until approved by the Parks & Community Services Board.

- Mercer Slough: Many impacts are possible along the west and south sides of the park. One example is along 112th, where an elevated route is an option. There may be a potential visual impact for water users.
- Winters House: the potential visual impacts of at-grade and elevated routes were summarized.

Segment C:

- Surrey Downs Park: the potential impacts vary depending upon the alternatives.
 - B3: there would be no permanent use of the park.
 - B2A: is an at-grade station with a tunnel, temporarily using half of the park for construction staging.
 - B2E: is the elevated option east of the park.
- Downtown Park: no permanent impacts.
- NE 2nd Pocket Parks: the at-grade option would go between the pocket parks. The elevated option (C8) does not use park property. However, it would go over the top of the park causing visual impacts.
- McCormick Park: there could be significant impacts to McCormick Park. In addition, properties north of the park could be purchased, used for staging and proposed to transition to park use after construction.
 - In option C3 tunnel, the train would arrive on an elevated track, then proceed down into a tunnel.
 - In option C4 at-grade, the train arrives elevated as two tracks.
 - Option C8 is an elevated option.

Segment D:

- This option passes by Highland Center and Park. However, no potential impacts have been identified to existing park properties.

Ms. Koengeter provided an overview of some of the key comments the City will be making on the DEIS, which include:

- Incorporating Bel-Red Plan in FEIS.
- Additional information or analysis:
 - Construction.
 - Neighborhoods.
 - Visual Quality.
 - Parks.
 - Mitigation—more specifics and options.

Boardmember LaPine would like to ensure that the impacts to the Lake-to-Lake Trail are considered.

Councilmember Chelminiak summarized the City Council discussions regarding the DEIS. He noted that Council is very supportive of the route in Bel-Red, as well as a tunnel at NE 6th. He added that Council is concerned with the impacts to McCormick Park. In addition, Councilmember Chelminiak discussed some of the areas about which Council is not in agreement, including Segment B.

Councilmember Chelminiak clarified that all of the routes include use of BNSF in some manner. However, the corridor itself does not serve the Downtown area.

Mr. Kattermann explained that once Sound Transit selects the preferred alternative, a final EIS will be conducted. He added that construction is anticipated in 2013 with the actual construction process expected to take approximately five years.

There was a general discussion regarding the funding options for a tunnel through Downtown Bellevue.

Boardmember Roland recommended that the dollar value of property exchanges be considered, not just acre for acre.

8. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

Councilmember Chelminiak commented that the City Council is continuing to work on the Bel-Red financing plan, which may include a regional transfer of development rights.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Foran noted that City Council will be providing more precise direction for Parks Department and Board priorities. In particular, the Ashwood Park Master Planning process is expected to begin in the near future.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Chair Keeney reported that the Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee meetings are expected to reconvene in March.

Boardmember Robinson discussed the Bellevue Network on Aging goals, which include assisting Bellevue with the needs assessment, creating and promoting elder abuse awareness, and locating affordable housing for seniors.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

None.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. CIP Project Report

Chair Keeney called attention to the many CIP Projects listed in the Board packet.

13. INFORMATION:

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
B. March 10 – next scheduled Park Board meeting

14. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Roland to adjourn the meeting at 7:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).