CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
January 14, 2014
6:00 p.m.

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

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

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmember Powell

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Nancy Kartes, Glenn Kost, Terry Smith, Scott Vander Hyden

OTHERS PRESENT: Mr. & Mrs. Schell Harmon, Lyndon Heywood, John King, Beth Muller, Susan Nelson

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember George to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Vice-Chair Evans requested further clarification regarding page 7 (Item 9.B.) of the meeting minutes. Therefore, approval of the October 8, 2014 meeting minutes was postponed until the next Board meeting.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Lyndon Heywood
16248 NE 2nd Street, Bellevue, WA 98008

Mr. Heywood would like the signage throughout the Lake Hills Greenbelt improved. He suggested that pedestrian and bicycle maps be added to the area. Although Mr. Heywood is partial to the Lake Hills Greenbelt, he feels this would be an added benefit throughout. Mr. Heywood is preparing a similar proposal for the City of Redmond.

John King
217 – 110th Pl. SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Mr. King urged Boardmembers to consider rubberized surfacing for all or a portion of the Surrey Downs Park pathways, similar to Wilburton Hill Park soccer fields.

5. RECOGNITION FOR OUTGOING BOARDMEMBER LYNNE ROBINSON:

On behalf of the Board, Chair Grindeland presented Councilmember Robinson with a plaque and framed print of a rendering of Meydenbauer Beach Park as a token of appreciation for her service as a Parks & Community Services Boardmember. Vice-Chair Evans read a Commendation for Councilmember Robinson to thank her for serving on the Park Board. In addition, Boardmembers and staff expressed their appreciation to Councilmember Robinson.

Break 6:17-6:22 p.m.

6. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

None.

7. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Attended a Bellevue Youth Theatre production.
- Toured the construction site for the Bellevue Youth Theatre.
- Participated in the holiday festivities at Crossroads Community Center.

8. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Attended the Surrey Downs public meeting.
- Enjoyed seeing the Bellevue Ice Rink.
- Visited Garden D'Lights.

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Enjoyed a Bellevue Youth Theatre production.
- Visited Garden D'Lights.
- Attended the Park Board holiday potluck.
- Visited Franklin Square Park in Philadelphia and enjoyed the mini-golf course.

Vice-Chair Evans made the following report:

- Attended the Transportation Subcommittee meeting.
- Attended the North Bellevue Community Center holiday luncheons.
- Attended the Surrey Downs Master Plan Update meeting.
- Volunteered at the Crossroads Community Center holiday events.
- Attended the Park Board holiday potluck.
- Attended the Planning Commission meeting regarding Shoreline Management.
- Volunteered at Highland Community Center.

9. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran extended his appreciation to Boardmembers for attending the various community events during the past few months.

Mr. Foran reported that staff will be working on the 2015/2016 budget this year. The process will be similar to the previous budget progression. He also noted that Bophary ("Bo") Du was recently hired as the new Community Services Supervisor at North Bellevue Community Center.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke inquired about the King County Conservation grant sponsored by State Senator Rodney Tom for the Meydenbauer Bay Park project and how this will impact the overall project. Mr. Foran explained that the primary benefit of this funding and grant is that the city can accelerate development. The state funds have been accepted, which allows the city to move forward with planning, designing, permitting, and removal of the houses.

Boardmember George asked staff to research the Oral Communication requests for rubberized surfacing at Surrey Downs Park and additional signage throughout the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Bellevue Botanical Garden Update

Ms. Kartes presented an update regarding the new Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center buildings and other improvements planned for the coming year. In particular, she discussed the following:

- Construction Update
- New Education Center
- New Visitor Services Center

- New Parking Lot
- New Gardens

In addition, Ms. Kartes discussed the 3-year, $149,600 grant awarded in fall 2013 by the Institute of Museum and Library Services to fund improvements including:

- Web-based interactive visitor map.
- Traditional visitor map at new visitor center entrance.
- Web-enabled signage for access to plant information on mobile devices.
- Point-of-interest markers for web and audio access on mobile devices, content development in partnership with the Eastside Heritage Center.
- Updated way-finding signage referencing new gardens and facilities.
- Interactive touch-screen computer equipment for visitor orientation room.
- Computer projector for education center.

Ms. Kartes noted that the BBG has remained open during construction. In addition, community members are already booking the new educational facility for 2015 garden groups.

Vice-Chair Evans inquired if the BBG is considering headphones as part of the way-finding throughout the Garden. Ms. Kartes explained that the BBG staff researched the feasibility of headphones and determined that there is not enough capacity to manage the headphone program. Hopefully, mobile applications and devices will replace the headphone concept in the near future.

Mr. Foran commended the BBG staff and volunteers for their hard work with all of the Garden improvements. He noted that the educational function that the BBG provides to the community and school district is invaluable. The community continues to gain many layers of education from all of the wonderful services available (e.g., Mercer Slough and Environmental Center, Lewis Creek Park Visitor's Center, the additions to the BBG, to name a few).

B. Surrey Downs Park Master Plan Update

Mr. Vander Hyden introduced members of the Surrey Downs Park Advisory Committee and Homeowner's Association.

Mr. Vander Hyden reminded Boardmembers that the approved light rail alignment eliminates vehicular access to Surrey Downs Park from 112th Avenue Southeast. Because the adopted Surrey Downs Park Master Plan included vehicle access from 112th, changes to the adopted plan are necessary. Staff has worked closely with the Surrey Downs community through its Park Advisory Committee to propose changes to this plan.

After many public meetings, the following items were recommended for the park:

- Parking access from SE 4th
- Loop trails (primary and secondary)
- Play elements (natural and structured)
- Restrooms
- Picnic tables and small shelters

- Benches
- Multi-purpose sports court
- Park buffer along residential edge

It was also concluded that the following elements should not be included in the park:

- Community building
- Property acquisition
- Off-leash area
- Skate spot
- Programmed athletics
- Large picnic shelter

Mr. Vander Hyden clarified that various pathway surfaces will be considered once the Master Plan is complete. However, he cautioned that rubberized pathways are typically quite costly and would be problematic from an M&O perspective for general use pedestrian pathway surfacing.

Mr. Vander Hyden noted that the proposed Plan includes a series of short retaining walls along 112th as visual and noise buffers, and to create an appealing park presence for people passing by along the 112th Avenue corridor. The neighbors urge the use of taller walls for greater visual and noise control from light rail trains. However, staff believes these walls will sacrifice the visual appeal of the park.

Boardmember Heath expressed his concern with the usability of the park, since the noise levels from the trains may deter park users. He suggested that staff consider a smaller park footprint and moving the retaining wall back further to allow for a larger buffer.

Vice-Chair Evans suggested that Boardmembers and staff visit other parks near Sound Transit railways to be able to create a noise level comparison experience.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that the natural topography and elevation at Surrey Downs Park be utilized to mitigate noise levels.

On behalf of the Surrey Downs Park Advisory Committee, Ms. Muller reiterated the community's support for the revised Master Plan elements, with the exception of the 112th Avenue designs. The neighborhood favors the taller wall along 112th Avenue.

Boardmember George suggested that a noise study be conducted to determine the best solution for buffering 112th Avenue. Mr. Kost clarified that staff is working with experts to determine the best solution to mitigate transit noise.

Mr. Vander Hyden summarized the next steps for the project. The goal is to have a recommended solution for the 112th Avenue corridor presented to the Park Board at the next meeting so Master Plan Update can be presented to City Council.

Since access to Surrey Downs Park will be changed, Mr. Vander Hyden clarified that the city's Comprehensive Plan will eventually need to be revised.

Scott Lampe, Surrey Downs Homeowner's Association President, noted that millions of dollars have been spent in Rainier Valley retrofitting homes due to noise concerns. He added that there will be a crossover point on 112th Avenue which can add to noise levels, making the Surrey Downs community members intent on finding the best available solution.

11. BOARDMEMBER COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

A. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

Mr. Vander Hyden explained that there continues to be a dispute with a land owner adjacent to the Bridle Trails Corner Park regarding easement related issues. The issues will be reviewed by a Hearing Examiner.

B. Downtown Livability Study

No report.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember George would like staff to continue to research mini-golf opportunities within Bellevue.

13. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Email from Sue Parks re Highland Center

C. Email from Yvette Zech re MSEEC

14. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—February 11

15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to adjourn the meeting at 8:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).