CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
February 11, 2014
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chair Evans, Boardmembers George, Heath[1], Powell Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Chair Grindeland

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Harvey, Camron Parker, Terry Smith, Cathy VonWald, Jon Wilson

OTHERS PRESENT: Dwight Schrag, Susan Nelson

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash, *via recording*

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Evans at 6:03 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell 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 Powell to approve the October 8, 2013 Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to defer approval of the January 14, 2014 Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes until the next Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

[1] Arrived at 6:07 p.m.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Dwight Schrag
1106 – 108th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Mr. Schrag encouraged Boardmembers to keep the Ashwood Park green, particularly when reviewing the Comprehensive Plan Update. He noted that nearly 300 signatories have joined the neighborhood's initiative to emphasize the importance of following procedural guidelines for residents' needs in the Park's planning.

Mr. Schrag reminded Boardmembers that an overview was provided to Boardmembers last year to review the needs of the Downtown neighborhood for developing Ashwood Park as one of Downtown's badly needed outdoor recreation sites for a densely populated residential and retirement community at the north edge of Downtown. He asked Boardmembers to keep the following factors in mind when reviewing the Comprehensive Plan Update:

- More residential construction is now underway and in permitting reviews for further build-out of the Ashwood neighborhood by adding hundreds of new apartments and living units nearby and immediately adjacent to Ashwood Park.
- There are suitable indoor third place recreation venues at the King County Library with capacity for approximately 1,200 people adjacent to Ashwood Park; and can be scheduled up to three months in advance for public use. Parking is also available.
- At least five superior alternatives exist and have been suggested for siting new third place indoor community-center type facilities outside of Ashwood Park's green space boundaries.

5. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Councilmember Robinson reported that the Council recently reviewed the plans for Surrey Downs Park. Council was impressed with the work that the Park Board has conducted on this project. Boardmember Powell asked if Council deliberated the characteristics and concerns that were expressed about the sound wall at the previous Park Board meeting. Councilmember Robinson noted that the Council is aware that options are still being finalized. In addition, Mr. Smith noted that staff is working with consultants to discuss further alternatives regarding the berms and retaining wall.

Vice-Chair Evans encouraged Boardmembers to visit the Surrey Downs Park so that they can visualize the proposed plans.

Councilmember Robinson noted that she is working with staff to fill the Park Board vacancy. There were 17 applications received for the open position.

6. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

None.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

Vice-Chair Evans made the following report:

- Scheduled to serve lunch tomorrow at the North Bellevue Community Center Volunteer Recognition luncheon.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Attended the Downtown Residents' Association meeting.
- Enjoyed watching people play in the snow at Downtown Park.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Visited Surrey Downs Park.
- Enjoyed Robinswood Park.
- Visited Ashwood Park.
- Visited Chism Beach Park.

Boardmember Powell asked if plants are still being salvaged at some of the King County construction sites. Staff will research this inquiry and get back to Boardmember Powell.

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Attended a Puget Sound Energy Forum regarding electrical wire alignments from Redmond to Renton.
- Attended the Bridle Trails Community Club meeting where Dave Berg, the Director of Transportation, spoke. He provided a strong message about community relations. The Parks Department should continue to proactively build goodwill and a supportive relationship with the community, particularly for the next levy.
- Visited Ashwood Park, and several other parks within Bellevue (Cherry Crest, Wilburton Park, Downtown Park).

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Smith called attention to the upcoming events listed in the Board packet. In addition, he noted that the Council approved the court/probation lease. The King County District Court and the Bellevue Probation Division will transition their office location to Bellefield Office Park.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Comprehensive Plan Update

Mr. Parker called attention to the Comprehensive Plan information included in the Board packet, which included a synopsis of the October 8, 2013 Board discussion. He noted that the Park Board will focus on Policies PA 34-40.

Vice-Chair Evans asked when the review process began for the Comprehensive Plan Update. Mr. Parker clarified that the update process began about a year ago. Mr. Smith discussed the overall process for updating the Comprehensive Plan, since there are many different areas of the Plan with varying timeframes for updating.

Boardmember Heath inquired if there is a current draft of the Comprehensive Plan available for review. Mr. Parker noted that the full Comprehensive Plan is available on the City's website. He added that editing is underway, so formal updates are not yet available for review.

Mr. Parker explained that the goal of the Comprehensive Plan Update is to ensure that the policies align with the Department's mission. To assist with this process, Mr. Parker asked Boardmembers how they define a "healthy community." The following were some of the Board's responses:

- Developing a vibrant cross-section of interactions with all citizens.
- Physical and mental health.
- Health of the environment and water—education about how to keep the environment clean and healthy.
- Open spaces throughout the city, which requires land acquisitions in Downtown and surrounding areas.
- Crosspollination of cultures.
- Places for teens to succeed, in addition to education (e.g., parks and recreation).
- Integrated system of spaces—opportunities for interaction.
- Celebrating diversity and presenting opportunities for various demographic groups across the community to interact and learn from each other (e.g., cultural events).
- Healthy communities are built on engaged youth. Need to provide youth opportunities for leadership and self-directed programming.
    - Suggest Policy PA-37 accentuate leadership or ownership of programs.
- A healthy community should be an extension of a healthy family. As stated in the first paragraph of the "Community Services and Programs" description, "...each person needs the opportunity to experience a sense of belonging in the community, to develop friendships, and to interact with people having similar interests."
- A healthy community allows people to experience other ways of living.
- Need a two-way exchange.
- Sense of belonging within the community.
- A true measure of a healthy community is wealth and financial stability.

- A healthy community is one where there is public trust in the governmental institutions; government is open; and government is not corrupt, all of which are true about Bellevue.

Mr. Parker summarized the intent of the individual policies (PA 34-40). Mr. Van Hollebeke suggested that the language within the policies include at-risk youth. Mr. Smith explained that there are many facets of the youth population, which are discussed in Policy PA-34. The term "youth" means all youth, including disadvantaged, disabled, etc. Bellevue wants to transition to being a facilitator within the community to ensure that all teens have choices and assist the community in identifying and addressing gaps.

Boardmember George asked if Bellevue still offers the middle school summer camp. Mr. Smith clarified that the camp is offered through Crossroads Community Center.

Vice-Chair Evans questioned if Policy PA-34 should be reworded to encompass all groups. Mr. Smith clarified that a community survey was conducted in 1999 to determine the categories and the priorities. These categories continue to resurface as groups that need subsidizing and/or special attention. Vice-Chair Evans suggested that Policy PA-34 be reworded to be based upon need, rather than age or disadvantage. Mr. Parker called attention to page 19, #2, second bullet, regarding those with limited opportunities. Compared to the general population, Mr. Parker clarified that youth, older adults, people with disabilities, and the disadvantaged generally have fewer opportunities. Vice-Chair Evans wants to ensure that people are not overly generalized.

Boardmember Heath suggested that Policy PA-40 include more language about the nature interpretation program (i.e., broader education, bringing people together, etc.). He added that there is so much more that should be done related to parks.

Boardmember Powell added that all of the recreational programs and services should include verbiage about sustainability, conservation, providing quality experiences, and reducing the carbon footprint. Mr. Smith compared Boardmember Powell's suggestion to Richard Louv's book "Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder." Mr. Smith added that there is a change in society's perception of fear. Because of the perceived fear society has with kids and the community, unstructured play outside is has decreased.

Vice-Chair Evans cautioned that the term "changing behavior" be used sparingly within the policy statements because this could be negatively interpreted. However, he views the word "perception" as a positive change.

Boardmember George suggested that the following be added to Policy PA-36—"...to develop a sense of community through services, programs, and <u>outreach to diverse populations</u>." Boardmember Van Hollebeke views Policies PA-36, 39, and 40 as unidirectional. He agreed with Boardmember George's suggested change to Policy PA-36.

When discussing Policies PA-35, 37, and 38, Mr. Parker reiterated the Boardmembers' comments noting that they would like community events/gatherings included in the policies, as well as written with a future focus.

Boardmember Heath made the following suggestions:

- Reword PA-38, "Accommodate social services when they complement social programs." The intent of this is unclear. A different word could be substituted other than "accommodate," because this may be viewed negatively or passively.
- Regarding PA-37, "Actively solicit community input in the planning and delivery of services…" it is important to have community ownership. The city needs to learn from the community.
- Regarding PA-35, Bellevue has done well at creating partnerships. Having partnerships with public and private service providers is important to build the long-term trust, which allows people to give money and time to the City.

Boardmember George requested further clarification regarding Policy PA-38. Mr. Smith explained that through Bellevue's accessibility and openness, there is the opportunity to serve all abilities and needs.

Vice-Chair Evans questioned if Policies PA-36 and 37 will be redundant if the term "outreach" is added to PA-36. Mr. Parker explained that Policy PA-37 is focused on the front-end (i.e., planning of services and programs) and outreach is the back-end (i.e., making people aware of the programs and services offered).

Boardmember Heath questioned if there is verbiage in the policies or process to allow citizens an opportunity to voice opinions about smoking and marijuana use in parks. Mr. Parker noted that the City will follow state law. However, this topic may also be addressed through land use codes.

Regarding the October 8, 2013 summary, Boardmember Heath expressed concern with Item #1, second sentence and the focus on high density areas, while Items 2-8 focus on the City as a whole. He felt this might be too restrictive. Boardmember Van Hollebeke and Vice-Chair Evans agreed that the priority should not solely focus on high density areas. However, it is an important part of the overall plan.

Boardmembers will have an opportunity to review the proposed edits to the policies before final approval.

Boardmember Powell requested that the National Recreation Parks Association (NRPA) standards be included within the Comprehensive Plan Update. Mr. Parker clarified that this is part of the Parks & Open Space System Plan, which will be updated in 2015.

B. Enterprise Facility Scheduling Office Overview

Mr. Smith introduced Mr. Wilson and Ms. VonWald from the Enterprise Facility Scheduling Office. Mr. Smith noted that Ms. VonWald was recently promoted from the North Bellevue Community Center Manager to the Parks Enterprise Division Manager.

Mr. Wilson provided an overview of the Enterprise Facility Scheduling Office. In particular, the Facility Scheduling Office schedules:

- Outdoor picnic areas;
- All athletic fields including school district fields;
- Large and small special events held in city parks; and
- Rental at Tyee Community Gym, Winters House, Lewis Creek Visitor Center, and the Mercer Slough Douglas Fir Community Room.

Mr. Wilson also discussed the fee structure for some of the scheduled facilities and some of the partnerships necessary for scheduling.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke asked if there is a way for people to rent parking spots. In particular, he has noticed RVs taking up multiple spots at the Downtown Park. Mr. Wilson clarified that there are ways to reserve parking spots. However, most likely, the RVs taking up multiple spots at the Downtown Park are doing so without authorization. When a reservation is requested, the impact to all Bellevue citizens is taken into consideration before making a decision about the request.

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

A. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

No report.

B. Downtown Livability Study

Boardmember Powell noted that the Downtown Livability Study Group will continue to meet until June, 2014. She showed Boardmembers the notebook that is utilized for the meetings. All Boardmembers are invited to the meetings. The Downtown Livability Study Group's goal is to try to determine incentives to serve Bellevue's future needs.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke asked if residential associations have attended the meetings. Boardmember Powell noted that there have been people that have attended the meetings to speak on behalf of Ashwood Park.

Boardmember Heath asked if there is consideration being given to allow developers to put money into a fund for parks. Boardmember Powell clarified that the concept is being discussed. In addition, Boardmember Heath requested clarification regarding the Park Board's top priorities, in regards to the Downtown Livability Study. Boardmember Powell explained that she has been advocating for more land and open spaces within Downtown Bellevue.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke asked if the Downtown Livability Study has been tasked with identifying potential areas for acquisition and growth. Boardmember Powell explained that parcels have been identified; however, there are funding issues involved with acquiring the property.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

- Boardmember Heath requested an update on Puget Sound Energy's new electrical wire alignments and whether or not these alignments will impact any parks.
- Vice-Chair Evans and Boardmember George would like staff to continue researching mini-golf opportunities within Bellevue.
- Boardmember Powell requested a presentation from Natural Resources.
- Vice-Chair Evans requested an update on the levy projects.
- Boardmember Heath requested further information about the regulatory incentives regarding parks and open spaces for the Downtown corridor.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Status Report

13. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—March 11, 2014

14. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to adjourn the meeting at 8:14 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).