

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

Tuesday
February 8, 2011
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Roland, Boardmembers George, Grindeland, LaPine, Stokes, and Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Vice-Chair Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Jeannie Anderson, Shelley Brittingham, Jason Chapman, Brandi Dorsett, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Nancy Kartes, Terry Smith, John Soriano, Helena Stephens

OTHERS PRESENT: Aviv Caspi, Robin Root James, Kuba Jeffers, Kayla Mendel, Mike Murphy, Jonathan Newman

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Stokes to approve the January 11, 2011 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

Youth Link Update

On behalf of the Youth Link Board and Bellevue Youth Council, Mike Murphy and Kuba Jeffers thanked Park Boardmembers for supporting the Bellevue Youth Link program for the 2011-2012 budget cycle. Mr. Jeffers explained that the support allows youth to continue to develop leadership skills and be involved in the Bellevue community.

Jonathan Newman, BYC Co-President, reported that over 3,000 coats were distributed to Bellevue children and youth during this past holiday season. Youth Link worked with a variety of local service agencies that support low-income families to share donated clothing during the harsh winter months.

Kayla Mendel, BYC Secretary, thanked Boardmembers for their continued support. During the 2011-2012 cycle, Youth Link will:

- Participate in a program evaluation process. This process will help develop the role of the Youth Link Board and the Bellevue Youth Council.
- Research and review various youth leadership governance models and offer recommendations.
- Continue to provide youth leadership recognition through the Community Leadership awards to be held in late May.

Aviv Caspi, BYC Co-Vice-President, distributed invitations to the 13th Annual Youth Link Gumbo Night, which will be held March 9.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Roland attended the recent MLK celebration. She enjoyed the event noting that it was energetic, exciting, and culturally diverse.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember George recently attended a Youth Court session that her son participated in. She was quite impressed and inspired by the program.

Boardmember Grindeland was amazed by the record turn out at the Crossroads Community Center holiday celebrations.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke attended the MLK celebration at Crossroads Shopping Center. He commended Kevin Henry for his planning efforts. In addition, he discussed the integral role Crossroads plays as an informal cultural center.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke has created an informal connection with SPLASH to keep updated on their activities.

7. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Roland informed Boardmembers that Councilmember Robertson was unavailable to attend the Board meeting.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Garden D'Lights Report**

Ms. James, Co-President of the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, showed a slideshow of highlights of Garden d'Lights 2010. Approximately 95,350 people visited the event. Ms. James discussed some of the visitor comments received. In particular, visitors were pleased with the parking changes and one-way route.

Ms. James noted that the event paid for itself and will help fund additional programs.

Garden d'Lights took nearly 300 volunteers totaling 9,000 hours to produce and run the event. Ms. James reported that Sharon and Dallas Graham have agreed to chair next year's event.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke thanked Ms. James for her hard work at Garden d'Lights. He thought the changes incorporated in the 2010 event were great improvements. Other Boardmembers concurred with Boardmember Van Hollebeke.

Chair Roland suggested that the Chairs of Garden d'Lights contact the Boy Scouts and Eagle Scouts, since the Scouts are continuously searching for community service projects.

B. **Wrap-Around Services Update**

Ms. Stephens provided an update regarding the Wrap-Around Services Initiative, which is implemented at three Bellevue schools: Lake Hills Elementary School, Stevenson Elementary School, and Odle Middle School.

The vision and mission of Wrap-Around Services is:

- "To create thriving, learning communities in our schools and vibrant neighborhoods in our city.
- To engage Bellevue residents in transforming schools into centers of learning and community for people of all ages and interests."

Ms. Stephens explained that the City of Bellevue joined with the Bellevue School District and United Way, in spring 2005, to incorporate a new model of service delivery that utilizes

elementary schools as a focal point for academic, social services, recreation, and neighborhood building activities.

Ms. Stephens discussed the structure of the initiative. There are two leadership groups to oversee the initiative—a Leadership Team and a Management Team. The Leadership Team provides strategic direction to the Management Team. The Management Team implements the initiative model and provides directives to staff in regards to service providers, and monitors the initiative's performance. The program currently serves approximately 1,892 students.

Ms. Dorsett discussed some of the outcome areas for Wrap-Around Services. These include:

- Child Outcome Areas
- Family Outcome Areas
- Community Outcome Areas
- Program Focus Areas

Ms. Stephens noted that the initiative update will focus on the following:

- 2011 evaluation process
- Implement sustainable funding plan
- Leverage private funding
- District-wide approach

Boardmember George questioned how students are identified for Wrap-Around Services. Ms. Dorsett explained that there is a Wrap-Around Services site team that meets regularly to identify struggling students.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke expressed his appreciation for the comprehensive presentation. He questioned how teachers learn about Wrap-Around Services. Ms. Anderson explained that there is a training process for teachers. In addition, the program is discussed at the parent orientation.

Boardmember Stokes inquired how Wrap-Around Services has contributed to school achievement. Ms. Stephens explained that the program was an initial response to teachers being overwhelmed in dealing with the social services aspect for students. Formation of Wrap-Around Services helped remove non-academic issues from teachers. In addition, Wrap-Around Services is set up to support the out-of-school and after-school hours for either academic achievement or social interaction.

Mr. Smith talked about the next evolution of Wrap-Around Services, which will align resources needs with funding needs. This is an important piece to eliminating the achievement gap.

Ms. Anderson discussed the various events held to get family involvement. She noted that there are bilingual people involved throughout the program to help with translation issues.

Ms. Stephens noted that an additional Wrap-Around Services Coordinator is being hired with the help of a recent grant received.

C. Robinswood Tennis Center

Mr. Soriano provided a slideshow presentation about Robinswood Tennis Center. The purpose of the center is “to serve the tennis playing public, offer a variety of programs, reach out to special populations, promote the growth of tennis, provide an affordable means of exercise and fitness, to be sensitive to issues of culture, race, language, and family difference.”

Mr. Soriano discussed “the bubble” seasonal air-inflated structure and the challenges meeting current court time demands. From a user’s perspective, Boardmember Van Hollebeke reiterated the difficulties in getting court time.

Boardmember LaPine commented that there has been a large outpouring from community members for a swimming facility (i.e., SPLASH). Yet, there have not been requests to expand Robinswood or for more indoor tennis facilities. He also inquired what is being done to address the growing need for pickleball, table tennis, badminton, etc. Mr. Foran clarified that these types of sports are offered at local community centers.

Robinswood Tennis Center serves approximately 60% Bellevue residents and 40% non-residents. Mr. Soriano noted that the Center had approximately \$740,000 in revenues for 2010, with \$650,000 in expenditures. On average, the Center operates at 78% capacity (98% during peak season). There were over 63,000 program participants in 2010 with \$4,300 in scholarships awarded. Mr. Soriano explained that a large portion of the Center’s use is for leagues, tournaments, and special events. Some of these include:

- Quick Start Tennis
- After-school Junior Tennis Teams
- Super Duper Seniors
- Wheelchair Tennis
- Ladies’ Flighted League
- Cardio Tennis
- Youth Tennis Teams
- Regional Playoffs
- Special Olympics
- Local and national tournaments
- And many more

Mr. Soriano discussed some of the industry partners and the many awards the facility has received. In particular, Robinswood Tennis Center was named the “Professional Tennis Registry, National Public Facility-of-the-Year in 2004.”

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

A. Eastgate Corridor Study

Boardmember Stokes distributed a report from the recent Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) meeting. The criteria that will be used as a framework to identify and evaluate Eastgate land use and transportation alternatives include:

- Market Feasibility
- Economic Development
- Neighborhood Compatibility
- Environmental Quality/Sustainability

Boardmember Stokes explained that he had expressed his concern to the CAC that parks should be added as a distinct set of criteria. The committee concurred and a criteria separate for parks will be added.

Boardmember Stokes stressed the importance of Boardmembers engaging in the evaluation process for Eastgate/I-90.

Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Boardmember LaPine to extend the meeting until 8:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Boardmember LaPine suggested that the Meydenbauer Planning Principles be compared with the Eastgate/I-90 criteria to determine if there are other areas the CAC may need to address. Mr. Foran stressed the importance of making Eastgate a corridor where people want to stay and enjoy.

B. Other groups

None.

10. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported on the following items:

- The acquisition of the Bridle Trails neighborhood park property has officially closed. Parks Property Manager Lorrie Peterson is to be commended for her efforts with the acquisition.
- The Bellevue Botanical Garden received a \$500,000 private foundation pledge, over six years, to help with improvements. This pledge fulfills the BBG's \$1 million obligation to City Council.
- A Make-A-Wish event was recently held at the Highland Skate Park for a 10-year old boy struggling with a progressive disease. The boy's wish was to "just hang out with skateboarders and a graffiti artist to feel cool for a day."

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Future agenda items

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Report

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events

The 2011 Parks & Community Services Events Calendar was distributed. Chair Roland stressed the importance of Park Board attendance at these events.

- B. March 8 – next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember LaPine and second by Boardmember Stokes to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).