CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
March 13, 2012
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Robinson, Vice-Chair Grindeland, Boardmembers Evans, George, Heath[1], Powell, Van Hollebeke[2]

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmembers Robertson, Wallace

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Rick Logwood (Transportation), Camron Parker, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Faith Roland, Robert Shay

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 6:00 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Evans to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Evans and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to approve the February 14, 2012 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

[1] Arrived at 6:04 p.m./Departed at 7:30 p.m.
[2] Arrived at 6:25 p.m.

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

None.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Robinson recently met with Bill Morton who is a specialist in successful aging issues. He had some interesting suggestions on creating older adult activities at community centers and parks.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Vice-Chair Grindeland recently visited Highland Park and Ivanhoe Park.

Boardmember Evans volunteered at the North Bellevue Community Center volunteer luncheon.

Boardmembers Powell and Heath were welcomed to the Board.

7. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robertson reported on the following items:

- Council is working with Sound Transit to reduce Bellevue's financial obligation.
- The budget process is forthcoming. A significant amount of the city's budget will depend upon the state legislature.
- Bellevue is one of two cities in Washington to still have an AAA bond rating.
- Councilmember assignments were recently changed. Councilmember Wallace will be the new City Council Liaison for the Park Board.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Welcome to New Boardmembers

B. Recognition for outgoing Boardmember

On behalf of the City Council, Councilmember Robertson read a Commendation for former Park Boardmember Faith Roland to thank her for serving on the Park Board. In addition, Mr. Foran and Mr. Smith presented Ms. Roland with a plaque and framed picture as a token of appreciation.

Break 6:21-6:29 p.m.

C. Downtown Park World War I Memorial

Mr. Kost summarized the current proposal for the Downtown Park World War I Memorial, which includes a folded, bronzed American flag with three roses atop the existing monument draped over a bronzed pole made to resemble the remnants of the former wooden flagpole. The monument would be surrounded by a paved surface with a nearby interpretive panel. Mr. Kost noted that the Eastside Heritage Committee supported this proposal. Conceptually, the parks staff also supports this proposal.

Mr. Kost discussed the following issues that still need to be addressed:

- Mr. Shay prefers that the flag and roses be painted to be more realistic.
- The roses appear to be fairly delicate and potentially subject to damage/vandalism.
- Mr. Shay describes the paving as cobblestone, but several options will be reviewed prior to finalizing the material.

Mr. Kost noted that the City will take the lead on the location, size and materials for the interpretive panel, while Mr. Shay will work with the EHC to develop the content for the panel.

Mr. Shay would like the project complete by the 4th of July celebration, or at least have a groundbreaking ceremony. However, he does not have a cost estimate for this work.

Boardmember Powell suggested that a fake or alternative bronze material be considered to evade theft issues.

Motion by Mr. Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Evans to support the World War I Memorial concepts described above and in the Board packet, and ask the staff to work with Mr. Shay to resolve any remaining issues prior to implementation. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

D. Bel-Red Park Conceptual Design for Safeway Site

Mr. Logwood discussed three design alternatives that are being considered for the arterial street connections in the Bel-Red Subarea, as it passes through the City-owned "Safeway site," located east of 124th Avenue Northeast, south of the West Tributary storm water detention facility, and north of the Coca-Cola bottling plant. The three options considered include:

- Minimum roadway grade with vertical clearance
- At-grade on fill approach in West Tributary area
- Maximum roadway grade with minimum vertical clearance of stream

Mr. Parker highlighted the property requirements for the site, which include:

- Transportation right-of-way
- Recreation
- Stream restoration
- Wetland mitigation
- Regional storm and surface water detention

In addition, Mr. Parker showed pictorial examples of activities under overpasses and roadways throughout a park. After viewing the slides, Boardmember Evans made an observation that the Board has not been told what the intent of the park is. He questioned whether or not it is for public enjoyment use or for a transportation corridor. In Boardmember Evan's opinion, the area is not big enough for both objectives to be met because of safety factors. He added that if the corridor is for pedestrians to enjoy then traffic should not go 35 mph within close proximity of children playing without clear barriers. If the corridor is for a transportation corridor then Boardmember Evans feels that Bellevue citizens are losing out on the biggest piece of property the City may acquire to put in more play fields, like Hidden Valley, or open play areas like the down town park.

Boardmember Evans questioned why a two lane road is included in the plans if it runs parallel and just a few blocks away from the existing Bel-Red four lane road that might easily cost less money to widen to allow for traffic to stay clear of play areas. In addition, he asked if a cost comparison had been done to compare widening the existing Bel-Red Road verses the proposed cost of doing the proposed corridor work and also the cost of acquiring additional land for parks in the future in the immediate area.

Boardmember Evans expressed concern that no parking spots are being included in the plans. He does not think that the park will be used as a public park because of the unsafe road obstruction and lack of parking.

In the maximum roadway grade option, Boardmember Evans suggested that the bike crosswalk be extended down to the next major intersection so that the two lane traffic coming off of a four lane road, at the transit station, is not more congested by redundant crossing areas.

Boardmember Powell was impressed by the simulations and possibilities of the proposed concepts. With the roadway segregating the park, she suggested that extra care be taken in making the park an enjoyable experience.

Chair Robinson expressed her concern about the roadway going through the park and suggested that speed limits be set at low speeds. In addition, she questioned how many traffic signals would be included in the plan. Mr. Logwood explained that the design concepts are still being evaluated. He clarified that the topography does not have a number of intersecting streets. The at-grade approach may have an additional signal. There will also be Light Rail signals throughout the corridor.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to extend the meeting until 8:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Chair Robinson questioned if recreational activities would be included in the area/park. Mr. Foran explained that passive park experiences, that don't require parking, are desired.

Vice-Chair Grindeland expressed her concern about having the street and park at the same grade. Other Boardmembers concurred with this concern.

Mr. Logwood discussed the conceptual plan cost estimates associated with each design concept. He noted that the at-grade fill approach is approximately $10 million more than the other alternatives.

Boardmember Powell expressed her concern about a park user's experience being diminished from a transit bell ringing approximately every four minutes.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to extend the meeting until 8:25 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that the right-of-way arterial street be eliminated from the design plans. If a roadway is necessary, Boardmember Powell suggested that a clear division be made between the park and the roadway.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested further time to evaluate the design concepts. He would like guiding principles created that are in line with the Master Plan. Some suggested guiding principles include:

- Feasibility and expense
- Functionality and use
- Safety
- Aesthetic enjoyment
- Access to public to use spaces that are distinct and unique
- Preserve green space
- Protect waterways

Boardmember George expressed her frustration with the process for evaluating the conceptual design information. She did not feel the Board was informed enough to offer opinions about the impacts to the park area of each road section and/or alternative.

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to extend the meeting until 8:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Chair Robinson concurred with Boardmember Evans' comments regarding the safe separation between park users and traffic going through and around the park, if the road option is desired.

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

A. Eastgate Corridor Study

No report.

B. Network on Aging

No report.

C. Other Groups

No report.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Foran reported that the Planning Commission will review the Shoreline Master Plan, specifically how it relates to the Meydenbauer Bay Park Master Plan. Staff will notify Boardmembers if any parks are significantly impacted from this review. Boardmembers are encouraged to attend the Planning Commission meetings.

Mr. Foran noted that the Hidden Valley Bellevue Boys & Girls Club arrangement is moving forward and basic principles are being discussed.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

None.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Report

B. Email from and response to Kathryn Chalfan re Forest Drive Trail

C. Email from and response to Paul Deanno re play equipment at the Downtown Park

13. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. April 10 – next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

14. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Evans and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 8:30 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).