

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

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

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

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Vice-Chair Robinson, Boardmembers Grindeland, LaPine, Stokes, and Van Hollebeke

**BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT:** Chair Roland, Boardmember George

**COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT:** Councilmember Robertson

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Scott Armstrong, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Mike Koenig, Alex O'Reilly, Terry Smith

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Matt Mathes

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Boardmember Stokes to approve the February 8, 2011 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

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

None.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember LaPine reported that he and Chair Roland served lunch at the North Bellevue Community Center's Volunteer Recognition Lunch on February 9.

Vice-Chair Robinson visited the World War I Veterans Memorial in Downtown Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke recently attended the B7 Revised light rail meeting. His focal reason for attending was to gather information on the environmental impacts of the City Council's preferred route through Bellevue. He thought the meeting was generally informative, but looks forward to seeing data comparing the environmental impacts of route options so the Park Board can make an informed recommendation on the best options for protecting the Mercer Slough and Bellevue parks.

7. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

*See below.*

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Human Services Needs Update**

Ms. O'Reilly explained that the Human Services Division staff prepares a comprehensive needs assessment every two years. This report, sponsored by the Human Services Commission, is used by the Commission as a guide to review requests for funding from both the City's General Fund as well as federal Community Development Block Grants. Ms. O'Reilly added that the report also helps staff to focus their activities over the next two years in key collaborations, such as involvement in sub-regional committees or partnerships. In addition, the report has been used extensively by human services agencies in grant writing, and by community groups, faith communities, and other City departments for planning purposes.

Ms. O'Reilly stressed the importance of the report, especially during the ongoing economic downturn. The report will supply critical information on the needs of Bellevue residents so that the community can focus on ways to help.

Ms. O'Reilly provided a PowerPoint presentation that focused on the following information:

- Planning for Next Report
- Community Conversations

- Focus Areas in Previous Reports
- Assets in our Community

In addition, an overview from the 2009-2010 Human Services Needs Update was distributed. Ms. O'Reilly clarified that the Human Services Commission is trying to determine the 2011-2012 focus areas. Further community conversations are taking place to identify the greatest needs.

Vice-Chair Robinson asked what services were implemented in 2006 to address transportation needs. Ms. O'Reilly clarified that both the King County Mobility Coalition and Eastside Easy Rider address transportation issues. She suggested that these organizations provide an update to the Board, at a future board meeting, to explain what is being done to alleviate transportation issues. In addition to these organizations, Ms. O'Reilly discussed the Hopelink program that teaches people about transportation options.

Ms. O'Reilly explained that the Easy Rider program is researching funding options since the program is currently funded through June 2011. Easy Rider supplements Metro's Access van service. However, unlike the Access program, there are no qualifying criteria to use Easy Rider.

Boardmember LaPine expressed his concern about the proposed route changes for Metro. Ms. O'Reilly explained that there is a coalition that is working with Metro transportation planners to discuss concerns and impacts of the proposed changes.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke discussed the increase in library usage as a *de facto* employment and community resource center. He suggested that a needs assessment be conducted at the Bellevue library to identify specific human services needs.

Boardmember Grindeland suggested that the phone surveys used to collect data remain available to assist with language barriers. Phone surveys are available in five different languages.

Ms. O'Reilly explained that key issues are determined from data collection. Recurring key issues tend to be affordable housing and unemployment. The 2011-2012 report is due to be released in early 2012.

#### B. Aquatic Programs Overview

Mr. Koenig provided an overview of the Bellevue Aquatic Center and Outdoor Aquatic Programs, including a PowerPoint presentation about the overall content of Bellevue's recreational aquatic programming.

The Bellevue Aquatic Center was opened in 1997 and consists of two indoor swimming pools, six summer beach parks, a boat launch, and an outdoor canoe and kayak center. The Bellevue Aquatic Center served 158,910 visitors in 2010 and experienced approximately \$684,647 in revenues. The City's swimming program is one of the largest in the state.

Mr. Koenig reported that there were approximately 77,065 visitors to Bellevue beach parks during lifeguarding hours. In addition, the following statistics were provided for 2010:

- 10,587 preventative actions
- 127 medical aids
- 13 rescues
- 3 lost persons
- 170 boat warnings
- 11 police/medic calls

Mr. Koenig noted that the City received the prestigious 2003 *Excellence in Aquatics Award* presented by the National Recreation and Park Association (NRPA). This award recognizes agencies that demonstrate excellence in planning and managing diversified aquatic services. Mr. Koenig said the City earned this award through a vision of public safety, diverse quality programming, and sound fiscal management.

Mr. Koenig thanked City Council and Park Boardmembers for their support of the programs.

Boardmembers Grindeland asked Mr. Koenig to identify the greatest need for the community. Mr. Koenig explained that there are many swim teams in need of swim facilities. In particular, swim teams need a 50-meter pool. This is a regional problem that will require a regional solution.

Boardmember LaPine asked about the various opportunities available to exploit the shoreline for aquatic use. Mr. Koenig discussed the lake swim lanes available. However, he cautioned that the main focus is public safety. To conduct additional programming requires further resources.

Mr. Foran explained that the initial aquatic study occurred through the budget process and alternatives were identified. The next step is to determine financing. He added that the City Council has labeled the lack of swim facilities as a regional problem. Council authorized staff to spend up to \$50,000 to create a proposal and set of actions. Staff is currently reengaging colleagues to form regional partnerships. Simultaneously, the various sites that were once identified are being reviewed to determine if the preferred option can fit onto the proposed site. Mr. Foran explained that funding mechanisms are also being identified. The ultimate goal is to determine if an aquatic facility is feasible.

Boardmember Robinson praised the Bellevue Aquatic Center facility and staff for their accomplishments. She suggested that the Aquatic Center try to partner with Overlake Hospital's orthopedic doctors to add an underwater treadmill to the therapy pool.

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

A. Eastgate Corridor Study

Boardmember Stokes discussed the visual samples that are being reviewed by the Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC). The committee is evaluating land use and transportation

alternatives for the Eastgate/I-90 regional employment corridor to help ensure the area continues to attract and retain employers, provides a mix of services to surrounding neighborhoods and serves as a vibrant and significant contributor to Bellevue's economic health in the coming decades.. Boardmember Stokes is pleased that the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Project Planning Principles include verbiage about parks and open spaces.

Councilmember Robertson explained that the major focus of this project is the commercial area fronting I-90, one of the city's major employment centers, containing approximately 24 percent of the city's total employment. Some of the challenges for development include transportation, and storm and surface water issues.

Boardmember Stokes encouraged Boardmembers to provide input regarding the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Project Plan.

B. Other groups

Vice-Chair Robinson reported that the Bellevue Network on Aging recently had a speaker who discussed universal design and visitability throughout the Bel-Red and Eastgate corridors.

*Continued from above:*

**CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robertson explained that planning and design work for the Bellevue Library parking expansion project is underway. The project entails building a three-level parking garage to expand the number of parking spaces at the library. Work is underway on securing additional parking for library patrons during the construction period, since parking will be drastically reduced.

Councilmember Robertson discussed the potential plans for annexing the Eastgate, Tamara Hills and Hilltop/Horizon View neighborhoods. Council has directed staff to begin outreach to the community so that these areas could be annexed in April 2012. She clarified that the city hopes to annex these neighborhoods through a direct petition method. If the annexation is approved, a high priority for the City would be to complete a sidewalk on Newport Way between Somerset Boulevard and the Newport Library.

10. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported that the design phase for the Bellevue Youth Theatre Expansion and the Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor's Center are both 100% complete. Both projects are entering the permitting phase.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Vice-Chair Robinson would like to discuss Bellevue's growing transportation needs at a future meeting.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested an update on the environmental impacts of Sound Transit on the Mercer Slough area. Councilmember Robertson clarified that an upcoming study session is scheduled for City Council to discuss the light rail impacts on Bellevue parks. After this meeting, a report will be provided to Park Boardmembers.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Invitation to Earth Day/Arbor Day event

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

The 2011 Parks & Community Services Events Calendar was included with the Board materials. Vice-Chair Robinson encouraged Boardmembers to attend the events.

B. April 12 – next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

**Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Boardmember Stokes to extend the meeting until 8:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

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

Matt Mathes, 10228 SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Mathes served as a Park Boardmember from 1991 to 1999. He was glad to see that general park maintenance was funded through the recent budget process. In addition, he asked Boardmembers to generate more tolerance about pet use. Mr. Mathes feels that the City's signage throughout some of the parks shows a lack of support and tolerance for pets.

Mr. Mathes asked Boardmembers to become advocates for the Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Facility Plan project T-303, located in Bellefield Office Park area. This project would add an 8-12 foot wide multiple use gravel trail called the 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue Powerline Corridor connecting Bel-Red Road to SE 3<sup>rd</sup> Place.

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

Lastly, Mr. Mathes encouraged Boardmembers to lobby and meet with elected officials to promote Washington State for funding.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**By general consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:03 p.m.**