CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
March 8, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair George, Boardmembers Heath, Kumar, Powell, Synn, Van Hollebeke[1]

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Vice-Chair Grindeland

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Rick Bailey, Geoff Bradley, Dan DeWald, Patrick Foran, Laura Harper, Nancy Harvey, Michael Hauer, Kevin Husemann, Glenn Kost, Curtis Kukal, Tom Kuykendall, Shelley McVein, Doug Sanner, Chris Vandall, Dustin VanNieulande

OTHERS PRESENT: Steve Corley, Tim Moriarty

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robertson

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair George at 6:03 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Synn to approve the February 9, 2016 Parks & Community Services Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

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

Tim Moriarty
1073 – 185th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Moriarty is the former President of the Newport Sammamish Interlake Lacrosse Program. He has been and will continue to be a heavy user of the Wilburton Hill and Robinswood Park fields. He requested that lacrosse marking lines be added to the fields. He proposed a multipurpose sports platform with inline skating, hockey, soccer, and baseball. This concept would help repurpose the field and leverage the existing asset.

Steve Corley
3008 135th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Corley is the former Coach of Bellevue Lacrosse and the current coach of Sammamish Lacrosse. Mr. Corley thinks that the Wilburton Park baseball fields are underutilized. With the recent investments at Hidden Valley Sports Park, Mr. Corley encouraged Boardmembers to convert the Wilburton Hill Park fields to accommodate soccer, lacrosse and other turf sports.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robertson provided the following report:

- Council recently received a presentation regarding the Comprehensive Plan. There are two Comprehensive Plan amendments regarding parks. Since these amendments are in the threshold review stage, Councilmember Robertson suggested that the Park Board provide feedback regarding these amendments to the Planning Commission.
- The parking concept for Downtown Park will be discussed later this year by Council. This issue has not formally been assigned to the Park Board. However, the Park Board could be involved at a later time.
- A design contract was awarded for the Grand Connection.

In regards to the parking concept for Downtown Park, Boardmember Van Hollebeke commended the Council for their willingness to think creatively. However, he encouraged them to be mindful that parks and open spaces are not meant for parking. He hopes that Council and staff will think creatively with permits to incentivize developers, particularly in the Old Main area, to provide additional parking.

Boardmember Heath questioned if there is a criteria that Council uses when taking park land (e.g., Ashwood Park, Surrey Downs Park, Mercer Slough, etc.). Councilmember Robertson noted that there is not a set criterion. Each situation is addressed on a case-by-case basis.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

No report.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Synn recently visited Hidden Valley Sports Park.

Boardmember Heath reflected on last month's presentation about the Human Services needs within our community. He appreciates the Human Services Commission and the work that they do.

Boardmember Powell recently visited Mercer Slough Nature Park and Tam O'Shanter Park. She also asked staff to clarify page 10 of the Parks & Open Space System Plan/Park Facilities/Acquisitions—Boardmember Powell recalls slightly different figures for the acreage exchange at Mercer Slough.

Chair George recently visited Robinswood Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke recently visited Ashwood Park. He is also eagerly awaiting further development of Ashwood Park, Downtown Park, and the Meydenbauer waterfront area.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported that a SEPA determination should be received later this week regarding the Complete the Circle project at Downtown Park.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Natural Resources Division Overview

Mr. DeWald provided a background of the Natural Resource Division. Some of the interdepartmental projects include:

- Forest Management
- Street Tree & Arterial Landscapes
- Greenways, Trails, & Farms
- Community Parks & Visitor Centers
- Water Conservation & Irrigation

Mr. DeWald discussed the vast tree canopy throughout Bellevue. He noted that 66.9% of the parks system is tree canopy cover. Bellevue's tree canopy provides many benefits including $20.6M in stormwater management.

The goals and objectives of Forest Management are:

- Public Safety
- Forest Health
- Fish & Wildlife Habitat
- Recreation & Education
- Protection Water Quality
- Land Use Buffering.

Mr. Bailey discussed the Parks Department's Forest Management program. There are currently 2,000 acres of forested open space, riparian corridors, wetlands, and NGPAs. Some of the service delivery and stewardship for the Forest Management Program include:

- Customer Service
- Boundary Inspections
- Tree Mitigation
- Inventory
- Forest Enhancement
- Maintenance
- Outreach

Mr. Bailey showed before and after pictures of Chism Park's forest enhancement. Approximately 9 acres were restored at Chism Park with 1,920 trees planted.

Some of the Forest Management program accomplishments, since 2010, include:

- Over 36 acres restored (23 sites)
- Over 4,700 trees planted
- 19 acres acquired (Patterson, Eastgate)

Chair George noticed that some of the statistical information provided was out of date. She suggested that this information be updated. Mr. DeWald explained that staff has made a budget request to allow for this update of information.

Mr. Kuykendall discussed the Street Tree and Arterial Landscape Program. The program encompasses approximately 10,000+ trees and 214 acres of formal landscape. Mr. Kuykendall noted that the Streetscape & Arterial Landscapes takes design from the Comprehensive Plan, Bellevue Parks & Open System Plan, and the Enhanced ROW & Urban Boulevards Plan. Program activities for the Street Tree and Arterial Landscape Program include the Transportation CIP Project Coordination and the Utility Coordination.

Mr. Husemann discussed the Greenways and Trails Program. The goals of the program are to:

- Provide recreational opportunities for walkers, bicyclists, joggers, and birdwatchers
- Provide system connectivity and accessibility to parks, open spaces and surrounding neighborhoods through a network of 85 miles of trails

Some of the Greenways and Trails Programs include:

- Lake-to-Lake Trail & Greenway
- Mountain-to-Sound Greenway
- South of I-90 Greenway System
- Patterson Property Trail Project

Mr. Foran noted that the Coal Creek Trail was obtained from King County. The trail was severely deteriorated. Bellevue has been working hard on restoration of the trail system. Boardmember Kumar expressed her concern about the safety of pedestrians crossing the road at the Coal Creek Trail and Lakemont Boulevard Southeast.

Mr. Bradley discussed the Nature Parks and Visitor Centers Program. He noted that this program encompasses the Environmental Education and Interpretation Program, Volunteer Program, Community Farms and Garden Program, Summer Ranger Program, and the Well KEPT Program.

Mr. Bradley noted that there were 1,441 volunteers totaling 16,921 hours with a cost savings of $301,902 in 2015.

Mr. Bailey discussed the Water Conservation & Irrigation Program. The program covers 79 developed park sites, 52 streetscape sites, 225 irrigation controllers with 2,250 separate zones. In addition, the program utilizes a central control (Maxicom) that monitors the weather to reduce watering when it is not necessary. Mr. Foran stressed that the program is vital resulting in water efficiency and cost savings for Bellevue.

Boardmember Heath asked what additional tools might be helpful in order for Natural Resources to take the next step and have even more positive impact. Mr. Foran explained that the forest system that is maintained is very complex. The more technology that is applied for Natural Resources, the more effective the work (e.g., mobile computing, GIS technology, etc.). He added that this resource also applies to other departments—technology is a vital part of every department. Mr. Foran noted that this has been a current topic of discussion by the Leadership Team.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that a future agenda topic be added to discuss any areas of the budget that have not been reinstated, since the 2009 cutbacks.

B. <u>2017-2023 CIP Budget</u>

Mr. Sanner provided an overview of the budget process. He reminded Boardmembers that the budget is a two-year Operating Budget and seven-year Capital Investment Program (CIP). He noted that the Board's typical budget role is to:

- Act as an advisory board to Council on Parks capital needs
- Provide direction to staff on Park CIP proposals at the April Board meeting (proposals due April 29)
- Recommend developing a memo/Chair communication to Council in response to the Preliminary Budget (Sept./Oct.)

Mr. Sanner discussed the overall Park Board themes for the CIP, including:

- Continue the commitment to voters from the 2008 Parks Levy, and restore the City's matching dollars to make the projects a reality;
- Initiate the first phase of park development at Meydenbauer Bay;
- Maintain the existing capital infrastructure, both parks and natural assets; and
- Continue to invest in the ongoing planning of Bellevue's Park and Open Space System Plan.

Overall, there is $88M in the Parks 2015-2021 CIP. Mr. Sanner discussed some of the sources of these funds. The 2008 Parks & Natural Areas Levy provided $3.4M per year in capital funding through 2028 and $660K per year in ongoing maintenance funding.

The following levy projects have been completed:

- Sportsfields (Wilburton and Newport Hills)
- Lewis Creek Picnic Area
- Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center and Ravine Garden/Suspension Bridge
- Bellevue Youth Theatre at Crossroads Park
- Trail Development (Coal Creek, Lake-to-Lake)
- Bridle Trails Corner Park
- Hidden Valley Partnership
- Property acquisitions (Bridle Trails, Newport Hills)

The following is a list of remaining levy projects, which were funded in the 2015-2021 CIP:

- Downtown Park (Complete the Circle and Northeast Entry)
- Surrey Downs Park
- Airfield Park Design/Permitting
- Property Acquisitions

The following is a list of remaining levy projects ($3.4M/year 2022-2028):

- Airfield Park Phase I Development
- Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park
- Property Acquisition

Mr. Sanner noted that some of the non-levy Parks CIP projects include:

- Meydenbauer Bay Development—Phase 1 development previously estimated at $17M (+$4M)
- Renovation & Refurbishment – Add ongoing funds for 2022-2023 (+$5M/year)
- Park Planning – Add ongoing funds for 2022-2023 (+$0.3M/year)
- Inspiration Playground – Rotary/Grant $$$
- Enterprise Improvements – User fees transferred to CIP for golf/enterprise improvements
- King County Levy – six-year levy for trails, open space, parks (expires in 2019)

Chair George asked staff to continue researching mini-golf opportunities within Bellevue.

Boardmember Powell suggested that the City consider bonds as a funding source. Mr. Foran explained that there was a 2002 bond issue that failed because bonds require a 60% threshold, while a levy requires a 50% threshold.

Chair George asked why the Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park was listed as a levy project. Mr. Foran clarified that it has been a long vision of the Council to try to get more waterfront access to Lake Sammamish.

Boardmember Synn questioned if there has been any consideration given to return-on-investment modeling to demonstrate the benefits of projects that have been completed (i.e., carbon impacts).

Chair George inquired if any community members have requested a status update on the Airfield Park project. Mr. Foran noted that athletic organizations are aware that Airfield Park is athletically driven and they are looking forward to the project coming to fruition.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke questioned if Surrey Downs Park is still on track for redevelopment. Mr. Kost noted that the Surrey Downs project was postponed until 2018/2019, which is when Sound Transit is expected to be done with their project on 112th Avenue NE.

Boardmember Kumar encouraged staff to research joint development options for Vasa Creek Park. Mr. Kost noted at this time, the owners of Vasa Creek Park are not interested in a joint venture and/or selling the park.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Synn to extend the meeting until 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Email from Joseph Cooper re Bellevue Botanical Garden

C. Letter from Dwight and Mary Schrag re Ashwood Park

D. Email from Jeri A re Kelsey Creek Park

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—April 12, 2016, Bellevue City Hall

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Heath to adjourn the meeting at 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).