

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

Tuesday
March 10, 2009
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keeney, Boardmembers George, LaPine, Robinson

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chair Bennett, Boardmembers Karle, Roland

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Brian Krause, Glenn Kost, Alex O'Reilly, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: John Codling, Barbara Eisenstein, Ian Elliott, Carolyn Hall, Frank Kuske, Jr.

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keeney at 6:04 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Chair Keeney suggested that the Off-Leash Dog Area presentation and decision be tabled until the next meeting.

Motion by Boardmember Robinson and second by Boardmember George to approve the meeting agenda, noting that Item 8b: Off-Leash Dog Area is tabled until the next meeting. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Robinson to approve the February 10, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ian Elliott, 1079 – 108th Ave. NE, #4, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Elliott asked Boardmembers to add a skate park to Ashwood Park.

John Codling, 14936 – 256th Ave. SE, Issaquah, WA

Mr. Codling requested that an off-leash dog park area be incorporated into the Eastgate Master Plan. In his opinion, the proposal to expand the off-leash area at Robinswood Park would not allow for adequate open space, like at the Eastgate site, due to numerous trees at Robinswood Park.

Carolyn Hall, 16220 SE 31st Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Hall encouraged Boardmembers to keep the Eastgate Park open meadow area designated as a dog park. She added that the current facilities at Robinswood Park are inadequate due to the chaos, mud, and size of the facility.

Barbara Eisenstein, 12609 SE 29th Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Eisenstein does not support the proposed recommendation for the Eastgate Area Properties because it does not accommodate the majority of dog owners. She added that the Master Plan process has shown significant support for an off-leash park within the Eastgate Area Properties. Ms. Eisenstein feels that the expansion of Robinswood Dog Park would create a dysfunctional off-leash area.

Ms. Eisenstein submitted a list of her comments to Boardmembers regarding the “Parks Department Off-Leash Area Proposed Plan.”

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

Chair Keeney apologized to attendees for tabling the Off-Leash Dog Areas Report until the next Board meeting and encouraged participants to attend the next meeting to voice their opinions.

Chair Keeney commended staff members for the great response at all of the City parks due to recent weather events.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:

None.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Human Services Needs Update

Every two years, the City of Bellevue publishes a *Human Services Needs Update* documenting the human services needs of community members. Ms. O'Reilly discussed the key issues identified from the recent study, which include:

- Affordable Housing
- Healthcare
- Support for Older Adults
- Support for Immigrants and Refugees
- Support for Veterans
- Emergency Preparedness for those who are Vulnerable

Ms. O'Reilly is in the current planning phase for the next *Needs Update*. This update will be finalized in December 2009. To assist with this update, Ms. O'Reilly hopes to conduct approximately 15-20 community conversations to gain viewpoints of community members. In addition, various data collection methods are planned, including:

- Phone survey
- Provider survey
- Key informant interviews
- Community conversations (mentioned above)
- Faith communities survey
- Consumer survey
- City of Bellevue employee survey
- Business survey

Ms. O'Reilly clarified that many health and human services agencies depend on state funding and are at risk of losing the funding due to the state deficit. In addition, many of these non-profit organizations are experiencing fewer donations and volunteers. Ms. O'Reilly hopes that connections can be identified where Bellevue can help.

Boardmember George has seen unmet needs for children with disabilities and suggested that Ms. O'Reilly work with Head Start and other organizations (i.e., Eastside Legal Assistance Program) to identify further unmet needs.

Ms. O'Reilly invited Boardmembers to attend the "Communities Count 2008 Report: Social and Health Indicators Across King County," which will be held on March 25, 2009. She added that King County Public Health staff will share highlights from the most up-to-date Communities Count report with particular attention to East King County data. The report includes information from about 38 social, health, environmental and arts indicators, and a perspective on regional differences and disparities by race, income, education, age and gender.

B. Off-Leash Dog Areas Report

Tabled until next Parks Board meeting.

C. Bellevue Youth Theatre Schematic

Mr. Krause provided a background on the Bellevue Youth Theatre Expansion project at Crossroads Community Park. He clarified that there were three study area concepts evaluated. Mr. Krause discussed the impacts for each proposal, which include:

Study Area 1

Impact: 16 Fir Trees

Study Area 2

Impact: Skate Bowl & 4 Fir Trees

Study Area 3

Impact: 9 Planted Deciduous (no impact to fir trees)

Based upon the study areas, Mr. Krause reported that Study Area 3 was selected as the best alternative.

Mr. Krause discussed some of the essential program elements, which include:

- Lobby space
- Additional dressing rooms and restrooms
- Rehearsal and classroom space
- Secured staff and volunteer offices
- Storage

Mr. Krause noted that the project is estimated to cost between \$4.7 and \$6.2 million. He added that a combination of existing city funds, grants, and fundraising efforts by the Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation will provide project funding. Project planning and architectural work are currently underway, with construction beginning as early as 2010.

Boardmember Robinson recommended that close attention be given to the lighting around the theatre area to address safety concerns and the prospect of children traversing from the BYT to the Community Center.

There was a general discussion regarding the recommended location for the BYT. Mr. Krause explained that the Crossroads Community Center location was selected over other locations (i.e., Ivanhoe) due to the limited impacts involved.

Chair Keeney requested that a solution be devised to address the safety concerns of youth traveling to/from buildings.

Mr. Krause clarified that there has been an impact study to evaluate parking needs for the Community Center and BYT. The study determined that adequate parking is available.

D. Parks Levy Implementation Plan

Mr. Kost discussed the recent voter initiative, Proposition #1, which passed with 67% approval, providing \$40.5 million over 20 years for park acquisition and development. He added that this levy will increase the average Bellevue homeowner's taxes by approximately \$71 per year for the next 20 years. In addition, \$32.5 million is available immediately in the City's Parks CIP, bringing the total program to \$73 million, with \$53 million for park development and \$20 million for acquisition. Mr. Kost reviewed some of the specific project funding details, which include:

Property Acquisition

Scope: Acquire land to complement existing Park System, including waterfront access, open space preservation, trail connectivity, and neighborhood park opportunities.
Available Funds: \$20 Million

Synthetic Sports fields

Scope: Convert sports fields at Newport Hills and Wilburton Hills to synthetic surface.
Available Funds: \$3 Million

Trail Development

Scope: Expand trail system throughout Bellevue, with a specific focus on the Coal Creek Natural Area.
Available Funds: \$2 Million

Lewis Creek Park Picnic Area

Scope: Complete picnic area and trail connections.
Available Funds: \$4 Million

Bellevue Youth Theatre

Scope: Construct new theatre facilities near Crossroads Community Center.
Available Funds: \$6 Million

Bellevue Botanical Garden

Scope: Ravine Garden and Wetland-Sun Terraced Garden development, Visitor Center and Parking Lot expansion, and maintenance relocation as funding allows.
Available Funds: \$6 Million

Neighborhood Park Development

Scope: Develop neighborhood parks along Lake Sammamish and the Bridle Trails neighborhood.
Available Funds: \$5 Million

Surrey Downs Park Development

Scope: Complete phase 1 park development per Master Plan.
Available Funds: \$7 Million

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

Issues: District Court relocation, Light Rail, Boys & Girls Club Proposal

Eastgate Area Park Development

Scope: Complete phase 1 park development per Master Plan.

Available Funds: \$10 Million

Downtown Park

Scope: Complete the circle and additional park improvements as funding allows.

Available Funds: \$10 Million

Mr. Kost showed a Preliminary Project Schedule graph that helped explain the anticipated time schedule for the first five years of the levy projects. Boardmembers would like a copy of this graph.

Mr. Foran explained that the Communications Department is in the process of developing ways to notify community members about the levy implementation plans. Boardmember George suggested that all key Parks projects be included with the project list, not just the levy related projects. She would also like further information about the Coal Creek trail access.

Boardmember LaPine noted his surprise in the limited number of mini-parks included on the project schedule. Mr. Foran clarified that the levy projects were very specific. He added that there is an ongoing project in the general CIP that is for periodic acquisitions of mini-parks. Mr. Foran noted that 80% of Bellevue's parks system includes natural areas/habitat and water quality preservation.

Boardmember LaPine expressed concern with the limited amount of buffer space around the Newport Hills sports field. Mr. Kost clarified that the planned upgrade will maximize the use of the field and also takes advantage of newer technology to better direct lighting.

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

None.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Chair Keeney reported that the Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee reconvenes next week.

Boardmember Robinson invited Boardmembers to attend the "Community Safety for Older Adults" presentation with Rob McKenna.

Boardmember LaPine requested an in depth update from the Human Services Commission regarding the current projects and activities.

Chair Keeney invited Boardmembers to visit Ashwood Plaza, which is near completion. He also encouraged Boardmembers to visit the new Education Center at Mercer Slough and reported that a rain cover/ball reflector will be installed over the play area at Lewis Creek Park.

Lastly, Chair Keeney requested that people who spoke during the Oral Communications portion of the meeting be invited to the next Parks Board meeting when the Off-Leash Dog Areas Report will be conducted.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

- A. Future agenda items

None.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

- A. CIP Project Report

13. INFORMATION:

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. April 14 – next scheduled Park Board meeting

14. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Boardmember Robinson and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).