



Phone: 425-452-5377

Date: March 31, 2015

To: Sherry Grindeland, Chair and Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board

From: Patrick Foran, Parks & Community Services Director

RE: Name Change for Bovee Park  
*(Informational; Board action requested later)*

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**Summary:**

On March 9, the Bellevue City Council directed the Parks & Community Services Board to begin the renaming process to rename Bovee Park.

**Background:**

Ms. Kasia Wilk originally reached out to city staff (via MyBellevue) on June 2, 2014 to request a name change for Bovee Park. She stated that she was a victim of abuse by Mr. Charles Bovee, the former Mayor for whom the park is named. Staff met with Ms. Wilk in July 2014 to discuss the process of a park name change. She then reached out to City Council on February 2, 2015, requesting the name change.

The city purchased the four-acre Bovee Park property, located at 1500 108th Avenue Northeast, from Bovee's widow in 1962.

In 1994, a request to rename the park was also brought to the city by another group. In January 1995, Council voted 6-1 in favor of not changing the park name. (See attachment –City Council Minutes dated January 3, 1995.)

**Park Naming Policy:**

Per city policy, the Bellevue City Council has sole authority to designate the names of public parks. Unless agreements are in place stating otherwise, Council can change a park name at any time and for any reason, with a majority vote. (Note: It does not appear that the agreement between the city and the Bovee family contained any naming restrictions.)

Council Resolution No. 8229 sets forth policies and procedures for naming public parks and recreation facilities. Council has sole authority to name a city park. Criteria for choosing names listed in Resolution No. 8229 are:

- 1) Neighborhood or geographical identification;
- 2) A natural or geological feature;
- 3) A historical figure or name of historical or cultural significance; and/or
- 4) A corporation, non-profit organization, or an individual (living or deceased) who has made a significant land and/or monetary contribution to the park system and who has a compelling connection to Bellevue and/or the park system.

**Re-naming Process:**

As directed by Council, the Bellevue Parks & Community Services Board should begin the renaming process to include:

- 1) Conducting a public process to obtain addition names for consideration.
- 2) Forwarding a naming recommendation or recommended naming options for Council consideration.

**Proposed Timeline:**

April 14	Provide overview of public process to Parks & Community Services Board
April 14-30	Solicit naming input through various channels
April 28	Park Board Special Meeting
May 1-10	Community online voting
May 12	Park Board selects naming recommendation
May 18	Park Board forwards naming option(s) to Council

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

## Summary Minutes of Regular Session

January 3, 1995  
8:00 p.m.Council Chambers  
Bellevue, Washington

**PRESENT:** Mayor Davidson, Mayor Pro Tem Heaton, Councilmembers Blacker, Lee, Lukens, Smith and Zumdieck

**ABSENT:** None

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 8:00 p.m. by Mayor Davidson, who presided.

2. Roll Call, Flag Salute

Upon roll call by the City Clerk, all Councilmembers were present.

Mrs. Blacker led the flag salute.

3. Communications: Written and Oral

(a) Nancy Sutherland, former Bellevue resident, recounted her experience as a child in Bellevue when the allegations against former Mayor Bovee were made, noting that she knew Mr. Bovee as a kind teacher who did nothing improper. She urged the Council not to make decisions based on rumor and incomplete records, and indicated that first-hand reports, such as her own, should bear more weight.

(b) Janet Cleveland, sister of Ms. Sutherland, echoed her remarks and said she did not believe the allegations of the two girls when they occurred, and she does not believe them now. She asked the Council to honor the legacy of the Bovee family by keeping the name of the park.

(c) Ron Naselow, 3825 140th Avenue NE, spoke against the impending filing of a conditional use permit (CUP) application for construction of a Puget Power substation in the Bridle Trails area. He supported constructing the substation closer to the Redmond commercial area which it will serve, not in the middle of a Bellevue residential neighborhood where property values will be adversely affected by perceived danger from electro-magnetic fields. He urged the City to use all of its resources to persuade Puget Power to site the substation in a more appropriate location.

Responding to Mr. Lukens, Richard Andrews, City Attorney, said that this matter will become quasi-judicial when Puget Power files the CUP application.

(d) Norm Hansen, 3851 136th Avenue NE, representing the Neighborhood

January 3, 1995

(b) Management Brief regarding COPS AHEAD grant program.

Mr. Lukens moved to approve the staff recommendation to refer the COPS AHEAD program and the fiscal issues surrounding it to the Fiscal Committee for consideration during its January 9th meeting, and that the Fiscal Committee make a recommendation to the full Council for discussion at the January 17 Council meeting. Mr. Lee seconded the motion, which carried 7 - 0.

(c) Management Brief regarding Bovee Park.

Mr. Lukens moved to not change the name of Bovee Park at the present time. Mr. Lee seconded the motion.

Mr. Lukens indicated that he does not believe it is appropriate to change the name of Bovee Park in the absence of any clear evidence that allegations that Mr. Bovee had taken indecent liberties were true. He commented that, although the Council may want to consider the issue of naming parks after people some time in the future, he did not feel there is sufficient evidence at this time to warrant a name change.

Mayor Pro Tem Heaton commented on child abuse in general, noting a long history of cover-up and denial that still goes on today. Regarding the Bovee case, she indicated that she has heard of the allegations over the past four years, and noted that the park name disturbs a number of people in the community. She believed that the debate on this issue has been valuable in that it encouraged a straightforward look at history, and she did not believe that renaming a park is tantamount to a court conviction. For these reasons, she supported changing the name of the park.

Mrs. Zumdieck said she does not support changing the park name, noting that it is wiser to take no action when nothing has been proved.

Mrs. Blacker concurred with Mrs. Zumdieck and Mr. Lukens.

Mr. Lee, noting that this is a serious matter that was thoroughly investigated by staff, indicated that he does not support changing the park's name in the absence of facts that prove Mr. Bovee's guilt.

Mayor Davidson indicated that he has spoken to many people about this issue who have recommended that the park name not be changed, and said he will support the motion.

A vote was taken on the motion not to change the name of Bovee Park at the present time, which carried 6 - 1, with Mayor Pro Tem Heaton dissenting.

(d) Management Brief regarding Economic Development Initiatives.

Mr. Smith asked how the members of the Economic Development Initiatives