CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
March 11, 2014
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Grindeland, Vice-Chair Evans, Boardmembers George, Heath, Powell, Van Hollebeke

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith, Helena Stephens, Patti Wilma (PCD)

OTHERS PRESENT: Po Bodin, Maurice Cooper, Edwin Hawxhurst, Mary Ellen Hundley, Xiaoning Jiang, Joe Nault, Susan Nelson, Philip Tschopp

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Evans to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the January 14, 2014 Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to approve the February 11, 2014 Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

Maurice Cooper
204 – 100th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA 98004

On behalf of the Ballet Bellevue School, Mr. Cooper expressed his concern with the expansion plans at Downtown Park, which includes a plan to demolish the Ballet Bellevue School studio (Ballet Arts Center) in favor of parking stalls and a basketball hoop. The Ballet Bellevue School has been renting the building space from the City of Bellevue since 1990. The Ballet Arts Center is home to Ballet Bellevue professional company and Ballet Bellevue School. The Ballet Bellevue School was founded by the late Carolyn Gracey Greer and is the oldest dance operating organization in the Northwest.

The Ballet Bellevue School would like to enhance their mission by becoming the Bellevue Opera Ballet with Orchestra, a promising jewel for the City of Bellevue as the hub of Eastside cultural life.

Mr. Cooper explained that the Ballet Bellevue School has been informed by the city that they will be notified if new space becomes available. However, the school does not feel that this response adequately represents the commitment made years ago by then Parks Director, Lee Springgate, who assured the organization that the Parks Department would help the school find a new space when the time came to destroy the studio building.

The Ballet Bellevue School has a Planning Team of 10 people and an Advisory Team of 12 people very anxious to work with the city to develop a long-range plan and at least a temporary space in order to meet the school's February 28, 2015 deadline to vacate the Ballet Arts Center building.

Mr. Cooper distributed a copy of his presentation to Boardmembers.

Po Bodin, Joe Nault, Xiaoning Jiang
Bellevue Youth Link Board

On behalf of the Youth Link Board, Mr. Bodin, Mr. Nault, and Ms. Jiang explained that the Youth Link Board Annual Retreat was held on October 19, 2013. The Youth Link Board reviewed the Youth Involvement Conference priority List and identified a series of top priorities to be implemented by the Youth Link Program. These priorities include the following:

- Youth Engagement
  - Reach out to disadvantaged youth, not just children and teens on the "right track."
  - Youth Link approach Bellevue School District and each school and propose a Youth Link group at each school.
  - Current Youth Link members mentor new ones and set up school-based Youth Link clubs.

- Program Funding Sustainability
  - Develop a continuity pilot program for individual, business, and organizational sponsorships.
  - Identify a fundraising baseline and levels of support for Youth Link.

- Connections and Strategic Planning
  - Create an alumni network and directory.
  - Increase/strengthen Youth Link Board connection with the City Council, Bellevue School Board, Parks & Community Services Board, and the Human Services Commission.

Youth Link Boardmembers discussed the action steps for accomplishing the top priorities. In addition, they invited Park Boardmembers to attend the following upcoming Youth Link-related events:

- March 21—WE Day Conference (limited to students only)
- March 26—Youth Link Gumbo Night
- May 28—Youth Link 24th Annual Community Leadership Awards
- Spring 2015—Youth Link Board hosts "Network Your Future" Mentoring Luncheon

Youth Link Boardmembers thanked the Parks Board for their continued support of Bellevue children and youth and to the Youth Link program.

5. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

None.

6. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

None.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

Boardmember George expressed her concern that she was unaware that there are plans to demolish the Ballet Arts Center building. Mr. Foran clarified that this plan is part of the overall Master Plan for Downtown Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Visited Meydenbauer Bay and the new visitor moorage area.
- Visited Surrey Downs Park.

In addition, Boardmember Van Hollebeke discussed a pétanque group that he recently spoke with and their frustration regarding the lack of field space available for this sport. Boardmember Van Hollebeke inquired if this type of sport can be accommodated somewhere in Bellevue.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Visited Surrey Downs Park.
- Visited the Mercer Slough.
- Enjoyed Robinswood Park.

In addition, Boardmember Powell suggested that the signage and way finding throughout Bellevue needs improvement.

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Visited Surrey Downs Park.
- Attended the Sound Transit Open House. During the course of the meeting, access to Surrey Downs Park was discussed. There was an apparent lack of trust between Sound Transit and local citizens. On the contrary, people at the meeting were complimentary of Bellevue.
- Attended a Spring District meeting, which discussed Security Properties.
- Met with Premier Management.
- Closely monitored the Bridle Trails legal issues and the Hearing Examiner's decision.
- Has a personal goal of visiting every park in Bellevue this summer.
- Will be in Romania for a Habitat for Humanity project in October, 2014.

Vice-Chair Evans made the following report:

- Attended the North Bellevue Community Center Volunteer Recognition luncheon.
- Visited Surrey Downs Park and used a phone app to measure decibels throughout the park.
- Attended the City Council meeting to hear the Shoreline Management Plan discussion.

Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Visited Surrey Downs Park.
- Observed light rail in Seattle to experience the noise levels and potential impacts to Bellevue. From this observation, she was amazed at the low noise levels.
- Visited Robinswood Park and various other parks.
- Encouraged Boardmembers to attend Gumbo Night on March 26.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Foran reported that Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm has been selected for "Heart Your Park," a program by Macy's that aims to raise awareness and dollars for local parks across the country. From now to March 31, 2014, customers at the Bellevue Square Macy's can donate $1 or more at the register, with 100 percent of the donations benefiting Bellevue. Macy's will match the total customer donation across all stores, dollar for dollar, up to $250,000 in total.

9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Downtown Livability Study

Ms. Wilma explained that the Downtown Livability Initiative is a targeted review of specific regulations that guide development and land use activity in Downtown Bellevue. The stated objectives of this project are to: achieve the vision for Downtown as a vibrant, mixed-use center; enhance the pedestrian environment; improve the area as a residential setting; enhance the identity and character of Downtown neighborhoods; and incorporate elements from the Downtown Transportation Plan Update and East Link design work.

Ms. Wilma noted that the study area for the Downtown Subarea is 100th Avenue NE, NE 12th Street, I-405 and Main Street. The opportunities for future development were also highlighted. Ms. Wilma explained that the demographics within Bellevue, particularly the Downtown corridor, have significantly changed since 2000. The median age in Downtown is now 34.1 versus 57.3 in 2000.

Ms. Wilma explained that the Downtown Citizen Advisory Committee and staff are working from the Project Scope and Principles adopted by Council in early 2013. The scope focuses on key elements of the Downtown Land Use Code (such as building height and form, public open space, design guidelines, and the density incentive system). This code has guided Downtown development since its adoption in 1981. However, many of the elements are out-of-date or otherwise warrant revisiting at this time. The public process for the Downtown Livability Initiative began in the fall of 2012 with over 120 people present at the open house.

Mr. Parker discussed some of the topical areas. He noted that there are three elements to the pedestrian corridor audit results for the NE 6th Street pedestrian corridor. Mr. Parker explained that the original intent of this corridor was that private development would install sections of the pedestrian corridor. Currently, the Advisory Committee is trying to determine if private development is the best approach. In addition, they have discussed the concept of extending the corridor to 112th Avenue Northeast. Mr. Foran added that as private developers redevelop, it is the expectation that they complete the corridor. Maintenance would be determined based upon the ownership of the property. Mr. Parker clarified that the NE 6th Street pedestrian corridor has a mix of private and public maintenance.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke asked if the Downtown Citizen Advisory Committee has discussed pedestrian friendliness throughout the city or just the corridor. Ms. Wilma responded

that there are pathways throughout Bellevue that can get pedestrians through some of the superblocks. In addition, the Downtown Citizen Advisory Committee is addressing Downtown walkability. Boardmember Van Hollebeke expressed his appreciation for the committee's work and stressed the importance of Downtown walkability.

Mr. Parker explained that there are approximately 30 different public plazas throughout the downtown corridor. The privately developed plazas score well in terms of how they are designed and how they are disbursed throughout Downtown. However, they did not score well on how they are used and their connectivity. The Downtown Corridor Advisory Committee is working through some of these issues.

Mr. Parker discussed some of the typical characteristics of a park in Downtown Bellevue. Some of the park elements may include public and/or private partnerships.

Currently, the Downtown Livability Initiative is at the "Analysis of Alternatives" stage. Additional stages include:

- Identification of Preferred Alternatives
- Development of Final Recommendations
- Planning Commission Review and Recommendation
- City Council Adoption Process

Continuous public engagement will be conducted throughout each of these stages.

If the city builds out the initiative as planned, Boardmember Powell questioned what the deficiency would be within the parks and open spaces. Mr. Parker responded that in order to build the current vision, the city would need to acquire parcels in the Northwest and Southeast quadrants of Downtown. In addition to these plans, Boardmember Powell suggested that it would be valuable to keep Ashwood Park as an open and green space.

Boardmember Heath asked if his suggestion for an amenity incentive for developers to contribute to a fund for open space has been considered. Ms. Wilma explained that the value of this concept, both economic and cultural, is being considered.

Boardmember George favors downtown density assuming it is concurrent with adequate roads and other services, consistent with the Growth Management Act. She added that open space for the sake of having open space is not necessarily favorable as illustrated by some downtown Seattle parks — active space is the goal.

Vice-Chair Evans suggested that traffic lights and patterns be evaluated during the Downtown Livability Study. Ms. Wilma clarified that the Transportation Commission forwarded their recommendations to Council last year. There recommendations included pedestrian mobility improvements in the plan.

B. Budget Update

Mr. Sanner explained that the budget is one of the city's key policy documents. The operating and capital budget is organized around seven community outcomes, and Parks capital investments are primarily directed to the "Innovative, Vibrant & Caring Community" and "Quality Neighborhoods" outcomes. The budget process (known as Budget One) is very similar to the one used for the past two budget cycles, and requires that the Department submit proposals for all operating and capital items by the end of April. Ultimately, the City Manager will develop a balanced Preliminary Budget in the fall, with City Council adopting the final budget by December, 2014.

Mr. Sanner reminded Boardmembers that approximately $17 million in city matching funds that was intended to fully fund and provide early implementation of the levy projects was deferred in the 2011-2017 budget. It is important that these funds be restored so that the remaining levy projects can be completed in a timely manner and the city can fulfill its commitments to the voters.

The following levy projects have been completed:

- Sportsfields (Wilburton and Newport Hills)
- Lewis Creek Phase II
- Bellevue Botanical Garden Ravine
- Smaller acquisitions (Bridle Trails, Newport Hills)

The following levy projects are anticipated to be complete in 2014:

- Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center
- Bellevue Youth Theatre at Crossroads Park
- Trail Development (Coal Creek, Lake-to-Lake)
- Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park

The following is a list of remaining levy projects:

- Downtown Park (complete the circle and northeast entry)
- Surrey Downs Park
- Airfield Park Phase I
- Neighborhood Parks (Lake Sammamish)
- Property Acquisitions

Boardmembers discussed the recommended funding for the remaining levy projects. Boardmember George expressed her concern with no levy money being allocated to Airfield Park for the 2015-2021 Parks CIP Draft Levy Proposal. She added that there was a commitment made to the community to pursue intensive development of the park. Mr. Sanner clarified that the levy dollars for Airfield Park could be allocated during the next budget cycle. Mr. Kost added that it would make more sense to include the levy funding during the next budget cycle since Airfield Park is not ready for construction.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke questioned why the Surrey Downs allocation in the last budget cycle was reallocated to Hidden Valley Park. Mr. Foran reminded committee members that the

original intent of the Surrey Downs budget allocation was to construct a ball field complex. Since the Sound Transit plans have such a significant impact on Surrey Downs Park, the ball field location needed to be changed but the intent remained the same.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke stressed the importance of clear guidelines for the Board's priorities. Even though there may be different Park Boardmembers during the next budget cycle, the logic behind the strategic priorities should be carried forward, like Airfield Park.

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Vice-Chair Evans expressed his frustration with the difficult topography of the Lake Sammamish park property and suggested that it could be a tradable property or should be less of a priority. He added that there is no parking available and the shoreline is rocky and unusable. He suggested that land acquisitions be a top priority for the Parks Department and regrets the money that was spent on the Lake Sammamish park property.

Boardmember Powell agreed with the priority list of levy projects. However, she would like to learn more about the Lake Sammamish park property and other park projects. Boardmember George requested further information about the Lake Sammamish park property as well.

Boardmember George explained that it is difficult for her to concur with the draft levy/CIP proposals or recommended changes because she is unclear about some of the funding. She requested further clarification about Airfield Park and why it is not part of the proposed levy budget. In addition, she requested that some of the income generated from Enterprise Services be put toward a mini-golf structure/facility. Boardmember George recalled that there was a priority identified by community members for trails. Mr. Sanner clarified that there was $2 million levy money that was allocated toward the trail system. The commitment will be satisfied by the end of the year.

Chair Grindeland agreed with the proposed priority list. However, she wanted to be sure that funding of Bridle Trails Park is not endangered.

Boardmembers requested further strategic rationale and proposals for the proposed budget priorities. Boardmembers agreed that the $17 million in city matching funds that was intended to fully fund and provide early implementation of the levy projects be restored so that the remaining levy projects can be completed.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember George to extend the meeting until 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

10. BOARDMEMBER COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

A. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

No report.

B. Downtown Livability Study

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Grindeland requested a list of partnerships similar to the Ballet Bellevue School and the City of Bellevue partnership.

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Memo to Park Board from staff re Ashwood Park

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. Bellevue Parks At-A-Glance Information Sheet

B. List of upcoming Parks special events

C. Next regular Park Board meeting—April 8, 2014

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to adjourn the meeting at 8:46 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).