CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
February 12, 2013
6:00 p.m.

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

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

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Wallace

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Kevin Henry, Victoria Hollerbach, Ted Mittelstaedt, Camron Parker, Terry Smith, Helena Stephens

OTHERS PRESENT: Carmen Aguiar, Po Bodin, Steve Kasner, Chris Marks

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to approve the January 8, 2013, Parks & Community Services Board and Human Services Commission Joint meeting minutes as presented.

Vice-Chair Grindeland corrected the date on the meeting minutes. The meeting was held on January 8, 2013, rather than January 9, 2013 as indicated on the minutes.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the meeting minutes as corrected.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Po Bodin and Chris Marks
Youth Link Boardmembers

On behalf of the Youth Link Board, Mr. Bodin and Ms. Marks distributed invitations to the 15th Annual Gumbo Night, which will be held on February 27, 2013. In addition, they discussed Youth Link's recent Kids Care Coat Drive project, which was held on January 15, 2013. Over 1,500 coats and outerwear were distributed to over 400 teens, adults, and families in Bellevue during the distribution event at Crossroads Community Center. The main sponsors of the event were the Bel-Red Self Storage, Bellevue School District, and other private schools.

Carmen Aguiar, 2303 – 128th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the Rotary Club of Bellevue, Ms. Aguiar invited Boardmembers to attend the Bellevue Rotary Auction, which will be held on May 11, 2013. Proceeds from the auction will benefit the Downtown Park's Inspiration Playground.

Ms. Aguiar distributed a handout for the event.

5. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Councilmember Wallace recently attended the Eastside Heritage Center'sBenefit Dinner, which raised approximately $50,000. The Eastside Heritage Center is also partnering with the KidsQuest Children's Museum to raise money for the museum's relocation in Downtown Bellevue. The event will be held on February 21, 2013.

Councilmember Wallace congratulated Boardmember Powell for being selected as the Park Board liaison to the Citizen Advisory Committee for the Downtown Liveability Study.

Council continues to work on the light rail project. Councilmember Wallace will keep Boardmembers informed on future developments.

6. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

Chair Robinson made the following report:

- Visited Crossroads Park and Bellevue Downtown Park.
- Attended the Bellevue Network on Aging retreat.
- Attended the joint Boards and Commissions forum for the Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Attended the Comp Plan public forum at Crossroads Park.
- Attended the Eastside Heritage Center's Benefit Dinner.
- Attended the Rotary Club of Bellevue event.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Attended the Comprehensive Plan Update kickoff meeting.
- Attended the Eastside Heritage Center's Benefit Dinner.
- Visited Robinswood Park.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Attended the Comprehensive Plan Update kickoff meeting.
- Visited the off-leash dog area at Robinswood Park.
- Visited Viewpoint Park.
- Visited Bridle Trails State Park.
- Visited Bellevue Downtown Park.

Boardmember Evans made the following report:

- Attended the Transportation Commission meeting.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Visited Bellevue Downtown Park.

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Attended the Eastside Heritage Center's Benefit Dinner.
- Attended the Bellevue Botanical Garden d'Lights celebration.
- Helped spread Christmas cheer during the Christmas Ship event.

Vice-Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Attended the Eastside Heritage Benefit Dinner.
- Visited the off-leash dog area at Robinswood Park.
- Visited McCormick Park.
- Visited Bellevue Downtown Park.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported that a significant amount of activity is anticipated for various park-related development projects (i.e., Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Bellevue Youth Theatre Expansion, etc.). He will keep Boardmembers informed of future developments.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Youth Sports & Fitness Program

Mr. Mittelstaedt provided information about a variety of children's and youth sports classes, Skatepark activities, TRACKS programs and family-related events. He explained that the Youth Sports & Fitness (YSF) programs provide diverse opportunities for children, youth and teens to improve their health, reduce risk of obesity/disease and develop athletic and social skills through participation in a wide variety of indoor and outdoor activities. YSF assists youth in developing the qualities of character, discipline, teamwork and physical well-being. Programs are held year-round, in over 28 locations city-wide, for youth and teens, ages 3 years and up. Approximately 12,500 participants are served annually.

Chair Robinson commended the YSF program for attracting skateboard professionals and hosting professional competitions. Ms. Stephens added that there is also a Ladies' Night to encourage female skateboarders to join in the fun.

Vice-Chair Grindeland requested additional information about the Wilderness Wednesdays program.

Boardmember George applauded the YSF program. She questioned the process involved for a participant to obtain a scholarship. Mr. Mittelstaedt explained that scholarship applicants need to fill out a form to provide proof of residency and income. Ms. Stephens added that participants, particularly teens, can volunteer for the program

Boardmember Van Hollebeke questioned if there is a gap in services related to outdoor activities or economics. Mr. Smith explained that the YSF program tries to fill the gaps that the schools and other organizations are not filling. The City's partnership with the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club is one way that the city helps achieve this goal—YSF programs are another way.

Boardmember Evans commended the YSF program, particularly the TRACKS program. He inquired if the Boy Scouts are involved with the TRACKS program. Mr. Mittelstaedt explained that Boy Scouts typically have their own programs and have not been involved in the TRACKS program. However, individuals often take part in the program, and all groups are welcome.

Boardmember Powell commended staff and the YSF program. She was impressed by the number of volunteers involved in the program (approximately 139).

B. Cultural Diversity Plan Update

Mr. Parker explained that the City has launched an initiative focused on using diversity as a tool to achieve higher outcomes in developing an active and engaged residential and business community. The City's last comprehensive look at the Community Diversity Initiative was in 1993.

Mr. Parker asked Boardmembers, *"Bellevue is a diverse community—what does that mean?"* Responses included:

- Anyone from a foreign culture feels comfortable.
- Services are offered to accommodate all cultures—welcoming environment.
- There are a variety of ages, backgrounds, beliefs, and abilities within the community.
- Variety of restaurants.
- Variety of interests for everyone.
- Diversity resides in pockets within the community (i.e., numerous languages spoken within the Crossroads community).
- Age diversity.
- People of all demographic groups having decision-making power to shape the way their community looks and feels.
- Stakeholders from all groups have a voice in the outcomes of community projects and experiences.
- It is okay to talk about sensitive and politically-incorrect issues.
- Economics and education should be incorporated into the definition of cultural diversity.
- Every member of a diverse family is safe (i.e., gays/lesbians, etc.).

Mr. Parker asked Boardmembers, *"Is the community leveraging or maximizing the benefits of being diverse?"* Responses included:

- There is financial pressure on the School District to concentrate children with disabilities into segregated classrooms. Therefore, no, the community is not leveraging or maximizing the benefits of being diverse.
- Need more diversity on boards and commissions within city government.
- City needs to market and be proud of the community's diversity.
- Need to change children's perspective on diversity. Schools need to leverage diversity.
- There was a potluck event that incorporated many cultural dishes—this event maximized the benefits of being diverse.

Mr. Henry discussed the Cultural Diversity Initiative focus areas. In addition, he showed a video about diversity that will be used as a catalyst for roundtable discussions.

Boardmember Evans suggested that the diversity team create a baseline of today and the goals of tomorrow's diversity efforts.

Boardmember Grindeland suggested that the diversity video include people from the youth and elderly communities.

Boardmember George recommended that all kids that qualify for free and reduced lunches be provided program scholarships. Mr. Smith clarified that Bellevue has a liberal scholarship policy. Currently, people that quality for free and reduced lunches can qualify for program

scholarships with the proper form/verification. Mr. Foran added that many students may not be aware of the scholarship opportunities so education and awareness are a key part of the process.

Boardmember Heath reminded staff to include all segments of society when discussing diversity throughout the community, in particular heterosexual Caucasian males. In order to make a change, he wants to ensure that all groups are included.

10. BOARDMEMBER COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

A. Network on Aging

No report.

B. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

No report.

C. Transit Master Plan

No report.

D. Other Groups

No report.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

None.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Letter from and response to Thomas Paoli re North Bellevue Community Center

13. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting is scheduled for March 12

14. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

None.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Evans to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).