CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
April 14, 2009
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Bennett, Boardmembers George, Karle, LaPine, Robinson[1], Roland

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Chelminiak

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Nancy Harvey, Brian Krause, Glenn Kost, Shelley Marelli, Jerry Nissley, Michael Paine (DSD), Camron Parker, David Pyle (DSD), Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Virginia Brokx, Barbara Eisenstein, Norma Edler, Ian Elliott, Michael Enger, Roger Grimwood, Glenn & Carolyn Hall, Frank Kuske, Bill & Elfie Rahr

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Keeney at 6:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Karle and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (6–0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember LaPine and second by Boardmember George to approve the March 10, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

[1] Arrived at 6:13 p.m

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Frank Kuske, 16612 SE 26th St., Bellevue, WA

Mr. Kuske has enjoyed photographing people and their animals at the Eastgate property. He expressed his dissatisfaction about the community meetings that have been held regarding the Eastgate property and does not feel the community's voice has been heard.

Mr. Kuske feels Robinswood Park is an inadequate facility for a dog park.

Barbara Eisenstein, 12609 SE 29th St., Bellevue

Ms. Eisenstein is the President of People for Off-Leash Recreation. She presented information about research she has gathered regarding off-leash dog areas. From her research, Ms. Eisenstein concludes that approximately one-third of all Bellevue households have at least one dog. She feels that Bellevue dog owners are currently under-served due to the lack of/inadequate off-leash areas throughout Bellevue.

Ms. Eisenstein feels that during the master planning process, people have shown substantial support for off leash activity at the Eastgate Area Property; however, the community's voice has not been heard.

Ms. Eisenstein suggested that a well-designed off-leash area at Eastgate of approximately three acres is in no way a duplication of what is available at Robinswood, since the facilities would cater to different user groups. If Robinswood is redesigned, Ms. Eisenstein suggested the following improvements: better surfacing and posted rules for people to use as guidelines. Ms. Eisenstein feels that the Robinswood dog area could not be adequately expanded to accommodate all dog types.

Ms. Eisenstein also expressed her dissatisfaction with the proposed off-leash area at McCormick Park and urged Boardmembers not to endorse the proposed Off-Leash Dog Plan. She suggested that the Eastgate Master Planning process include feedback from local dog owner groups so a more realistic plan can be developed.

Norma Edler, 2060 – 1166th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Edler was frustrated to learn that the off-leash dog area was removed from the Eastgate Area Master Plan. She asked Boardmembers to reconsider adding a multi-use meadow area (minimum two acres) to the Eastgate Area Master Plan.

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

Mr. Elliott expressed his appreciation for the many great parks throughout Bellevue and asked Boardmembers to consider adding a skate park to Ashwood Park.

Elfie Rahr, 16509 SE 18th Street, Bellevue, WA

Mrs. Rahr expressed concerns about the deterioration of Phantom Lake and urged Boardmembers to locate any off-leash dog areas away from nearby runoff. She also suggested that waste sandboxes be considered, like other countries use.

Roger Grimwood, 2708 – 156th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Grimwood would like an off-leash area incorporated into the Eastgate Area Master Plan. He feels public comments are not being heard at public meetings regarding the off-leash requests.

Mr. Grimwood has been frustrated with the noise levels emitted by the Eastgate Microsoft campus.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

Chair Keeney apologized to attendees for postponing the Off-Leash Dog Areas Report at the March meeting and thanked participants for returning to voice their opinions.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:

None.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Shoreline Master Plan

Mr. Paine explained the objectives of the Shoreline Master Plan update, which include:

- Bellevue's SMP first adopted in 1974.
- DOE adopted new shorelines master program guidelines in 2003.
- New schedule for updating local shoreline regulations—2010.

He also discussed the SMA policy objectives as well as Bellevue's update objectives.

Some of the potential changes affecting parks were reviewed by Mr. Paine. These include:

- Already subject to Critical Areas Ordinance provisions.
- Limits uses allowed (Environment Designation Process).
- Focus on restoration activities.
- Minimize ecological impacts (limits on impervious surface, parking location).

Mr. Paine explained that the issue of a shoreline environment is difficult to understand. He added that the shorelines were mapped. Then, the ecological suitability was identified and environments were assigned. Currently, Bellevue has no designations, although the DOE recommends the following designations:

- Aquatic.
- Natural.
- Rural Conservancy.
- Urban Conservancy.
- Shoreline Residential.
- High Intensity.
- Alternative Specific.

After Bellevue reviewed the DOE recommendations, Mr. Paine explained that the Urban Conservancy designation would apply to most of Bellevue's parks. In addition, he discussed some parks that would have an exception to this category. For example, Meydenbauer Bay Park would most likely be a High Intensity or Marina designation.

Mr. Paine summarized the next steps for the project. He also discussed ways private property owners are monitored and reviewed for property restoration. Mr. Paine suggested that some of the hurdles within the update need to be eliminated and/or revised to encourage restoration (i.e., community members view permitting and costs associated as a major hurdle). Mr. Paine favors a clear permitting path that rewards restoration.

There was a general discussion regarding the possible candidates for restoration projects and program partnerships.

B. Off-Leash Dog Areas Report

Mr. Krause explained the key principle recommendations for the Off-Leash Dog Area.

- Level of service.
- Geographic dispersion.
- Criteria for off-leash area location.

In addition, Mr. Krause summarized the current area levels of service for off-leash areas as well as the recommended level of service. Included in the recommended level of service is an off-leash dog park upgrade to Robinswood Park plus three additional facilities located throughout Bellevue.

Boardmember LaPine suggested that areas within unincorporated King County be evaluated to determine if there are additional suitable locations for off-leash dog parks.

There was a general discussion regarding alternate funding sources for the off-leash dog area, rather than with NEP funds.

Mr. Kost explained that the Downtown corridor has a higher population of smaller dogs. Therefore, a smaller off-leash area might be considered for Downtown. He also clarified that special interest groups could partner with Bellevue to create off-leash areas. This would allow more options for funding sources.

Boardmembers expressed concerns with the proposed facility at McCormick Park since this is also a route option for Sound Transit. Mr. Kost clarified that a second option for a Downtown park would be Wildwood. However, there is some trepidation about this site.

Councilmember Chelminiak expressed his disapproval of the Off-Leash Area Study and recommendations. He does not believe the proposal provides reasonable options for dog owners. In addition, Councilmember Chelminiak opposes using NEP funds for off-leash dog parks.

There was a general discussion regarding the proposed improvements at Robinswood Park.

Boardmember George expressed her disapproval of using NEP funds for off-leash dog parks. Mr. Krause explained that community members in the Wilburton Hills area have requested a dog park during their NEP funding cycle. The City has proposed a facility at Wilburton Hill Park or Highland Glendale using NEP funds. If an off-leash facility at Wilburton Hill Park were on Wilburton's NEP ballot, it would represent an example of how a facility could be funded through the NEP.

Mr. Nissley explained the management process for off-leash dog areas (i.e., limiting the number of dogs per handler).

Boardmember Robinson would like a dog density study conducted to establish criteria for creating off-leash areas. In addition, she suggested that communities be empowered to create the off-leash areas through the NEP process.

Boardmember Comments/Positions:

Boardmember Karle:

- Sees serious flaws within the proposal.
- Limitations with a maximum $150,000 project cost through NEP funds.
- Hijacking community process if NEP funds are used.
- A larger facility in Eastgate won't be underutilized.
- The Eastgate Area property fits within the character of the community.
- Limiting an off-leash area to one acre is a mistake.
- Would like the dog park added to the Eastgate Area plans.
- Rejects the current plan.

Vice-Chair Bennett:

- Since using NEP funds is a suggestion rather than mandate, the plan is acceptable.
- There has been a significant amount of requests from ball field users for more fields, which needs to be considered.
- The Eastgate Area property was originally purchased to expand ball fields.
- There are limited land resources.
- There are expansion options available at Robinswood.
- Supports concept of being geographically diverse.
- Approves the current plan.

Boardmember Roland:

- Need to balance park users with the limited land resources.
- The plan sets guidelines and does not dictate the funding.
- Supports concept of being geographically diverse.
- Approves the current plan.

Boardmember George:

- Approves the three principles.
- Not being responsive by using NEP funding.
- Would like to eliminate some of the other key recommendations.
- Approves the current plan, except for the NEP funding recommendations, the one-year trial period, the recommendation to locate an off-leash facility at Robinswood rather than Eastgate, and that off-leash facilities be dedicated, fenced areas.

Boardmember LaPine:

- Does not favor shared use areas.
- Wants areas more accessible to Bellevue residents.
- Robinswood dog area is inadequate.
- Favors use of NEP funding.
- Approves the current plan.

Chair Keeney:

- Funding is not a Parks Board decision.
- Agrees with principles.
- If the off-leash proposal fails, it is not a guarantee that the off-leash area will default to the Eastgate Area Park.
- Approves the current plan.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Karle to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Karle to adopt the following Off-Leash Area Study recommendation:

<u>Level of Service</u>
It is recommended an overall Level of Service for off-leash areas in Bellevue be approximately one facility/30,000 residents, which is similar to Seattle. The City currently manages one facility at Robinswood Park. Three (3) additional off-leash facilities would be needed to meet this service level.

Geographic dispersion in the identified need areas
The Robinswood facility currently serves the east Bellevue area. It is recommended that new facilities be located in the following underserved areas of the community:

- **Downtown Bellevue**
- **Central Bellevue**
- **South Bellevue**

Criteria for off-leash area location
Seek sites for Off-Leash Area development that:

- **Are without established recreational use;**
- **Consider previous community-based planning processes;**
- **Provide generous residential buffers;**
- **Assure close-by parking;**
- **Are compatible with other uses;**
- **Complement visual park character;**
- **Can address sensitive environment concerns; and**
- **Consider transit/bus routes.**

Other key recommendations:

- **The City encourage residential developers to provide dog relief areas for their tenants; and**
- **Explore advocacy group partnerships.**

At the question, the negative was favored and the motion was defeated (3-4).

Motion by Boardmember Roland and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to adopt the proposed recommendation outlined in the draft Off-Leash Study (without amendments). Motion carried (4-3).

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

A. National Volunteer Recognition Month

In honor of National Volunteer Recognition Month, Mr. Smith distributed a token gift and expressed his appreciation to Boardmembers for their hard work and dedication.

10. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Boardmember Robinson said the Network on Aging has successfully completed the goals she mentioned previously.

Chair Keeney said that after a break, the Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee is continuing its work.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

Chair Keeney announced that elections for the Board Chair and Vice Chair positions will take place soon.

Councilmember Chelminiak expressed his appreciation to Vice-Chair Bennett and Boardmember Karle for their years of service on the Board. The May meeting will be their last meeting.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Report and Preliminary Project Schedule.

B. Memo from Geoff Bradley re Coal Creek Park Trail System

C. Email from Gust Kritsonis re Eastgate Park

D. Email from Gail Taylor re More Ball Fields Needed

E. Email from Dan Schiappa re Support for Baseball Fields in Bellevue

F. Email from Mark Wagner re Resident's Input on Design of Fields in Bellevue

G. Email from Terri Whidby re More Baseball Fields Please

H. Email from Sabrina Gottlieb re Dog Areas in Bellevue

I. Email from Richard Jones re Eastgate Property/OLA

J. Email from John Codling re Eastgate Property Master Plan—Off-Leash Dog Areas

K. Email from Migotsky Family re Good job on Lakemont Trails

L. Letter from Don Miles re Highland Center

13. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Youth Link's Community Leadership Awards—nomination forms and invitation to ceremony

C. May 12—next scheduled Park Board meeting

14. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Frank Kuske, 16612 SE 26th St., Bellevue, WA
Mr. Kuske expressed his disappointment of the Off-Leash Area Study approval and reiterated his frustration that the community's voice has not been heard.

Elfie Rahr, 16509 SE 18th Street, Bellevue, WA
Mrs. Rahr expressed her concerns with the deterioration of Phantom Lake. She explained the major flooding events that occurred, which has destroyed a major portion of the shoreline and damaged many trees. She urged Boardmembers to take an active role in cleaning up Phantom Lake.

Barbara Eisenstein, 12609 SE 29th St., Bellevue
Ms. Eisenstein thanked Boardmembers for the thoughtful debate on the Off-Leash Area Study. She informed Boardmembers that Marymoor Park receives approximately $800,000 per year from dog users and suggested this be considered when planning a dog park.

Norma Edler, 2060 – 1166th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA
Ms. Edler favors the concept of a multi-use dog area. She cautioned Boardmembers about Lakemont and Wilburton Hills Parks being used as dog parks, since there are flooding issues within these parks.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Roland to extend the meeting an additional five minutes. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Virginia Brokx, 1852 – 155th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA
Ms. Brokx expressed her disappointment in the approval of the Off-Leash Area Study and hopes community input is still valued for future plans.

Kathy McCarter, Bellevue, WA
Ms. McCarter is a professional dog trainer. In her opinion, the Robinswood dog area is too small and inadequate. She suggested that dogs need areas for unleashed activities as well as dedicated small dog areas. Ms. McCarter feels the Eastgate Area property is an ideal place for a dog park.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Boardmember Roland and second by Boardmember Karle to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).