CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
April 8, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-108
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Grindeland, Vice-Chair Evans, Boardmembers Heath[1], Powell, Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember George

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Nancy LaCombe (Transportation), Kate March (Transportation), Doug Sanner, Terry Smith, Scott Vander Hyden

OTHERS PRESENT: Maurice Cooper, Steve Kasner, Loretta Lopez, Carole McKinstry, Beth Muller, Philip Tschopp

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Vice-Chair Evans to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember Powell to approve the March 11, 2014 Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

[1] Arrived at 6:08 p.m.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Loretta Lopez, 13419 NE 33rd Lane, Bellevue, WA
Bridle Trails Community Club

On behalf of the Bridle Trails Community Club, Ms. Lopez reviewed actions taken to date regarding the Acheson property and the property owned by the City at 140th Avenue. Ms. Lopez noted that the Acheson property is no longer an option for park development. In addition, there was recently mitigation on the 140th Avenue property, and it was also determined that this property cannot be developed. However, there is a parcel of land near the 140th Avenue property that is a possibility for a potential park location. The Bridle Trails Community Club and the City are working together to determine if a feasibility study should be conducted on this parcel. Ms. Lopez noted that periodic updates will be provided.

Steve Kasner, 1015 – 145th Pl. SE, Bellevue, WA

As the Board moves through the City's budget process, Mr. Kasner encouraged Boardmembers to be mindful of the dog park necessity throughout the community. In addition, he suggested that future dog parks be located closer to where the dogs are located, rather than in a concentrated area along 148th Avenue.

Mr. Kasner is looking forward to the development of Airfield Park and commended the Parks Department for their hard work and for being the preeminent park system in the country.

5. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Councilmember Robinson recently experienced the new Zip Tour at South Bellevue Community Center and encouraged Boardmembers to do the same. In addition, she provided the following report:

- Brad Miyake was unanimously selected as the next City Manager for Bellevue.
- Debra Kumar was appointed to a four-year term on the Parks & Community Services Board.
- Councilmembers approved a $1.6 million professional services agreement with Anchor QEA, LLC, to perform architectural, engineering and design work for the first phase of the Meydenbauer Bay Park project.
- Councilmembers approved the submittal of grant applications requesting a total of up to $2 million from the State of Washington's Recreation and Conservation Office (RCO) to assist with the cost of developing the Downtown Park Inspiration Playground and Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 1.
- Councilmembers approved a contractor to replace a portion of the walkway at the Crossroads Park Water Spray Play Area.

Councilmember Robinson also enjoyed participating in the Youth Link Gumbo Night, hosted by Chair Grindeland.

6. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

Chair Grindeland expressed her enthusiasm for the Council's appointment of Debra Kumar to the Parks Board. Ms. Kumar will fill a void on the Parks Board for the South I-90 corridor. In addition, Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Gumbo Night was a huge success—Helena Stephens, Terry Smith, and Glenda Real should be commended for their hard work with Youth Link.
- Recently attend the Surrey Downs meeting.
- Visited Ashwood, Ivanhoe, and McCormick Parks.
- Encouraged Boardmembers to attend the upcoming Sheep Shearing event at Kelsey Creek Farm.

7. BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:

Vice-Chair Evans made the following report:

- Attended the Bellevue Zip Tour Grand Opening event.
- Attended the Surrey Downs meeting.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Visited many of the local beach parks—Meydenbauer Beach Park, Clyde Beach Park, Chism Beach Park.
- Visited Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

In addition, Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested attendance information regarding the Bellevue Zip Tour Grand Opening event.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Visited Lewis Creek Park.
- Visited the Mercer Slough.
- Enjoyed Robinswood Park.

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Attended the Youth Link Gumbo Night.
- Reviewed the CIP information.
- Visited Lewis Creek Park.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

On behalf of the staff, Mr. Foran expressed his enthusiasm for the recent appointment of Brad Miyake as the next City Manager for Bellevue.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Surrey Downs Master Plan Update

Mr. Kost reminded Boardmembers that staff presented the proposed Master Plan Update for Surrey Downs Park at the January 14, 2014 Study Session. The Surrey Downs community supported the plan but requested additional noise protection along 112th Avenue SE for the residents living adjacent to the park.

Mr. Vander Hyden discussed the public review process to-date. There was a public meeting held in September, 2013. Some of the outcomes from this meeting included access, program elements, and light rail screening. In addition, the public made some recommended and not recommended suggestions. Then, there was a meeting held in November, 2013, which introduced the conceptual plans. The main changes in these plans included:

- Programmed Sports Field to Play Meadow.
- Parking Lot/Access off of SE 4th Street.
- Reduced Parking.
- Eliminated Park Elements/Reduced Programs (skate spot/climbing wall).
- Relocated "Woodland Maze."
- Pedestrian Overlook.
- 112th Avenue SE Parkscape Revisions.

Mr. Vander Hyden discussed some of the community's concerns with noise mitigation. Taking these concerns into consideration, proposed plans were created, which Mr. Vander Hyden showed. He noted that Section 1, along 112th Avenue SE, would include a two-tiered wall and safety fence. No park access will be available along 112th Avenue SE.

The following elements are recommended for the 112th Wall Edge, Sound Mitigation and View Corridors:

- Park Interior:
  - Grading and contour berming.
  - Trees and plantings for screening and "softening" retaining walls and fences.
  - Work with park neighbors on perimeter property line fencing options.
- 112th Avenue SE—Sound Transit Frontage:
  - Two terraced retaining wall approach to achieve desired grades (15' wide maximum width terrace between retaining walls at 4:1 slope).
  - Do not recommend solid fence/wall option to top of second retaining tier.

Mr. Vander Hyden discussed some of the findings from a recent "Surrey Downs Noise Wall Performance Analysis." The study compared several noise wall, landscaping, and fencing options. Overall, the wider landscape planting strip was preferred to allow for a wider variety of plant materials with various heights, etc.

Boardmember Heath inquired about the types of plant material that will be utilized and if artwork can be included on the wall. Mr. Kost clarified that these elements will be determined during the construction phase.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke inquired if the walls will be as straight as depicted in the drawings. Mr. Vander Hyden clarified that more work is needed for the contour and flow designs of the walls, along with the grade elements.

On behalf of the Surrey Downs community, Ms. Muller expressed her appreciation to Parks staff members for their efforts in finding the best solutions possible. The community is looking forward to the best noise mitigation and welcomes the opportunity to be involved with some of the design and safety elements.

Since there is no access to the park from 112th Avenue SE, Boardmember Van Hollebeke reiterated the need to make the wall and berms as aesthetically pleasing as possible. Ms. LaCombe noted that Sound Transit is currently at approximately 60% of their design stage. A formal permit review has not been submitted for the Surrey Downs section. It is expected in the next few months. Ms. March added that there is a Citizens Advisory Committee dedicated to the permitting process for light rail in Bellevue. This committee will be tasked with more of the design elements for the project. In addition, there is someone from the Surrey Downs community on the committee.

Mr. Vander Hyden discussed the next steps for Surrey Downs Park. Eastlink construction is expected to begin in mid-2015.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to recommend that the City Council adopt the Surrey Downs Park Master Plan Update.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke commended the engagement process between the Surrey Downs neighborhood and staff. Boardmember Evans concurred with Boardmember Van Hollebeke. He added that the planners need to be mindful of the community members most impacted by the light rail route. In addition, he favors the 15' setback. Boardmember Heath concurred and added that the neighbors' concerns are also representative of the park user's experience.

Chair Grindeland encouraged community members to stay involved in the planning process.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (5-0) to recommend that the City Council adopt the Surrey Downs Park Master Plan Update.

B. Budget/CIP Update

Mr. Sanner summarized the discussions regarding the 2015-2021 Parks Capital Investment Program (CIP) Budget that took place at the March Board meeting. The overall Park Board "themes" from the 2013-2019 CIP include:

- Continue the commitment to voters from the 2008 Parks Levy, and restore the City's matching dollars to make the projects a reality;
- Initiate the first phase of park development at Meydenbauer Bay;
- Maintain the existing capital infrastructure, both parks and natural assets; and
- Continue to invest in the ongoing planning of Bellevue's park and open space system.

Boardmember Comments:

- Boardmember Van Hollebeke reiterated the longtime commitment to the community to complete Downtown Park.
- Chair Grindeland expressed her support for property acquisitions and the remaining matching dollars for these acquisitions.
- Boardmember Evans would like the funding focused on high-density areas. He suggested additional property acquisitions in the Bel-Red corridor. In addition, he is totally against doing the Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park development even though he lives down there. He reported that the park property is not a sandy beach and that nobody is going to want to walk on three inch pebbles.
- Boardmember Van Hollebeke recommended that the money designated for Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park be reallocated to Airfield Park.
- Boardmember Heath expressed his support for property acquisitions and suggested that additional money be reallocated to acquisitions.
- Boardmember Powell concurred with the comments provided and favors reallocating funding from the Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park development to property acquisitions.

Mr. Sanner clarified that the Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park project would be delayed beyond the 2015-2021 CIP, but only City Council can totally delete a voter-approved Park Levy project.

Mr. Sanner discussed the unfunded Parks capital needs, which include:

- Bel-Red Acquisition and Development
- Airfield Development Phase II
- Downtown Acquisition and Development
- Shoreline Redevelopment
- Downtown Community/Cultural Center
- Joint Enhancement with Bellevue School District
- Ashwood Park Development
- Major Trail Improvements (MTS, BNSF, Ped Bike, etc.)
- New Aquatic Center
- Sportsfield Improvements
- Meydenbauer Bay Phase II
- Neighborhood Parks
- NE 2nd Park Row
- Resource Management Facility

Mr. Foran added that the capital needs of the City cannot be met with traditional funding methods that have previously been used. There are many organizations looking for the City's support. Boardmember Van Hollebeke added that there are many community members that support the unfunded capital needs.

Boardmember Powell suggested that the land use maps be reviewed to identify areas for land acquisition. Then, community groups can be encouraged to be creative in their visions on helping the City and community acquire the property. Mr. Foran noted that there is a staff member who actively researches properties to identify acquisition opportunities.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to endorse the following list of parks levy and non-levy capital projects for inclusion in the 2015-2021 Capital Investment Program:

- **2015-21 Bellevue Levy Proposals**

Levy Project	2013-19 Balance (M)	Levy ($6.8M)	CIP Match ($17.5M)	2015-21 Proposed (M)
Downtown Park	$5.0	$5.0	$0.0	$10.0
Surrey Downs	0.7	1.8	3.5	6.0
Acquisition (+$2.5M)	9.3	0.0	10.0	19.3
Airfield Park	1.3	0.0	4.0	5.3
Neighborhood Parks (-$2.5M)	1.0	0.0	0.0	1.0

- **2015-21 Non-Levy Proposals:**
  - **Projects Competing for New City Funds:**
    - **Park Planning, including Ashwood Master Plan**
    - **Complete the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center**
  - **Projects with Existing/Dedicated Funding:**
    - **Meydenbauer Park Development ($9M City, $3M State)**
    - **Inspiration Playground—State/Rotary funding to build accessible playground in Downtown Park**
    - **Renovation—ongoing major maintenance in 2020-21**
    - **Enterprise Improvements—user fees transferred to CIP for golf/enterprise improvements**
    - **King County Levy—6-year levy for trails, open spaces, parks**

At the question, motion carried unanimously (5-0).

10. **BOARDMEMBER COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

A. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

No report.

B. Downtown Livability Study

No report.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember Powell requested that a presentation be provided about how park properties are acquired. In addition, Chair Grindeland requested a historical presentation about how Bellevue parks were acquired.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Email from Nicole Price re ivy in parks

13. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—May 13, 2014

14. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Philip Tschopp, 1545 Cherry Lane Place South, Seattle, WA

Ms. Tschopp is a Conductor for Ballet Bellevue. Mr. Tschopp explained that Ballet Bellevue is more than a professional organization. It's a community organization that supports dance in general. Ballet Bellevue brings professional and classic ballets to Bellevue. These have been offered at affordable rates because of the generous lease agreement with the City of Bellevue. Since the Ballet Bellevue's lease agreement with the City expires in 2015, they are pleading with the City to find an alternate location so the partnership can be continued and affordable dance programs can be offered.

Steve Kasner, 1015 – 145th Pl. SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Kasner expressed his concern with the deferment of the Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park property. In addition, he noted that community members have confidence in the Boards and Commissions to make the best decisions for the community.

Mr. Kasner encouraged Boardmembers to attend the upcoming Sammamish High School Urban Environment Project.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to adjourn the meeting at 8:13 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).