CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
May 13, 2014
6:00 p.m.

South Bellevue Community Center
Community Room
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Grindeland, Vice-Chair Evans[1], Boardmembers George, Heath[2], Kumar, Powell

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Van Hollebeke

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Brad Bennett, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Camron Parker, Joan Perugini, Terry Smith, Lawrence Woods (BBGC)

OTHERS PRESENT: Daniel Fievez, Mary Ellen Hundley

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Grindeland at 6:06 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the April 8, 2014 Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

[1] Arrived at 6:14 p.m.
[2] Arrived at 6:39 p.m.

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

Daniel Fievez, 4600 SW Maple Way, Seattle

On behalf of the Ballet Bellevue Arts Center, Mr. Fievez asked Boardmembers to reconsider the proposal from 1990 that includes the acquisition of Ballet Bellevue Arts Center in lieu of parking spaces. Mr. Fievez explained that Ballet Bellevue has over 10,000 hours of student activities per year and the number is growing at a substantial rate. In addition, there are over 200 children per week that visit Ballet Bellevue.

Mr. Fievez explained that the maintenance on the Ballet Bellevue building would be far less costly than demolishing the building. In addition, the City would not be required to find an alternate location for Ballet Bellevue.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Grindeland welcomed Debra Kumar to the Parks Board and thanked South Bellevue Community Center for hosting the Board meeting. Chair Grindeland also congratulated Boardmember Van Hollebeke for his reappointment to the Board.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Visited Lewis Creek Park and various other parks throughout the city.
- Attended the Cultural Diversity Workshop.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Commended the Parks Department for the well-planned Earth Day/Arbor Day Celebration.
- Visited Robinswood Park.
- Visited Larson Lake.
- Visited the Mercer Slough.

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Attended the recent Bellevue Youth Court session.

Vice-Chair Evans made the following report:

- Volunteered at North Bellevue Community Center's Mother's Day Luncheon.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

No report.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. South Bellevue Community Center – Tour and Facility/Program Overview

Mr. Bennett provided an overview of the South Bellevue Community Center (SBCC). The SBCC opened in 2005. The SBCC has many partners, including the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club (BBGC).

Mr. Woods, Community Director for BBGC, discussed some of the programs offered at the SBCC through the BBGC. There are approximately 150 kids enrolled in after-school programs. The BBGC offers various recreational sports and has one of the largest basketball programs in the nation. In addition, the BBGC offers a variety of other youth-related programs, including a teen drop-in program.

Mr. Smith explained that the BBGC was looking to add a satellite program at the same time the SBCC came to fruition. In the unique partnership, the BBGC contributed $1.5 million in exchange for use of the facility.

Mr. Bennett discussed some of the facility spaces at the SBCC, including the mezzanine, main floor, lower floor, and outside. In addition, Ms. Perugini, SBCC Fitness Coordinator, discussed the fitness programs offered through the SBCC, including:

- Cardio equipment
- Strength training equipment
- Personal training
- Group exercise classes
- Preschool classes
- Specialty classes

Ms. Perugini discussed a focus group that was recently conducted to obtain public opinions about the SBCC. Some of the common themes included:

- Convenience
- Welcoming
- Clean
- Well-staffed
- Safe
- Great variety of equipment
- Not overly crowded
- Community feel
- Educational

- No membership required
- Orientation

Ms. Perugini noted that all of the instructors at SBCC are certified, trained experts. She also discussed some of the marketing efforts for the classes, which include advertisements in *Connections,* fliers, brochures, and contracted instructors.

Mr. Bennett explained that one of the City's programs at SBCC is the Natural Start preschool. In addition, he discussed some of the other programs offered at SBCC, including:

- Special interest and extended learning
- Community service projects
- Drop-in activities
- Public Art
- Climbing wall
- Bellevue Challenge Course
- Bellevue Zip Tour
- Various special events

Mr. Bennett applauded Robin Haaseth and Colin Walker for their efforts with publicizing the Zip Tour's grand opening and making the event such a huge success.

The SBCC revenue in 2006 was approximately $350,747. Today, Mr. Bennett reported that the revenue is approximately $806,331. He noted that the fitness center fees have remained the same since the center's inception.

Mr. Bennett discussed the scholarship program at SBCC noting that approximately $91,000 has been provided in scholarships, since SBCC opened. The center recovers approximately 70% of all costs.

Ms. Perugini discussed the fitness trends and the efforts made to keep up with current trends and stay competitive.

Facility Tour 7:19-7:30 p.m.

B. <u>Comprehensive Plan Update</u>

Mr. Parker explained that Boardmembers have provided input on various elements of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan at several of the meetings over the past year. Based upon the input received, Mr. Parker reviewed the proposed Parks, Open Space and Recreation Elements of the plan. The following is a list of discussion items regarding the proposed policy changes:

- The first part of PA-3 is different from PA-6. Boardmembers concurred to add "meet present and future 'parks and' open space needs." to PA-3.
- The term "equitable" was discussed under PA-4. Boardmembers concurred to keep this terminology in the policy.
- "Acquire and develop" should be added to PA-7.

- PA-21 does not capture all of the information that was originally captured in the policy. In addition, PA-2 does not capture all of the information (i.e., the Mountain-to-Sound is not included). To capture all of the changes desired, PA-2 was reworded to include "…neighboring city parks, trails, 'greenways and facilities.'" The proposed change for PA-21 remained as written.
- Should there be a policy that promotes volunteerism? It was determined that PA-36 encompasses this program element.
- Suggest consistent terminology (e.g., community centers versus recreational facilities; parks versus open spaces, etc.).

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Ms. Kumar to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

After reviewing all of the Element Goals and Policies versus the Proposed Changes, Boardmembers concurred on the following list of recommendations:

Element Goals and Policies		Action	If action proposed, why?	Proposed change
PA-1	Establish a coordinated and connected system of open space and greenways throughout the city that provide multiple benefits including preserving natural systems, protecting wildlife habitat and corridors, and providing land for recreation.	Keep		
PA-2	Support a region wide park and open space system.	Edit	Too vague – specifically call out connections to other city, county and state park facilities and systems	Connect Bellevue's parks and trails to the regional system of nearby state, King County and neighboring city parks, greenways, trails and facilities.
PA-3	Obtain land throughout the community to meet present and future open space needs.	Edit	Clarity	Obtain land throughout the community to meet present and future parks and open space needs.
PA-4	Equitably distribute neighborhood park and recreation opportunities by type throughout the city.	Merge	Broaden the scope of PA-4 to allow deletion of PA-18, which has common themes	Equitably distribute a variety of parks, community centers and other indoor and outdoor recreation facilities throughout the city.

Element Goals and Policies		Action	If action proposed, why?	Proposed change
PA-5	Incorporate utility, storm drainage, and other public lands into the open space system through cooperative use agreements.	Merge	Broaden scope to allow deletion of PA-8 and PA-25	Maximize use of public lands by collaborating with other City projects and programs to incorporate utility, storm drainage, underutilized right-of-way and other public lands into the parks and open space system.
PA-6	Obtain, for preservation, natural areas that are sensitive to urbanization or represent a valuable natural and aesthetic resource to the community.	Keep		
PA-7	Provide additional public access to Lakes Washington and Sammamish.	Merge	Merged with PA-23	Acquire and develop waterfront property to increase public access to Bellevue's lakes.
PA-8	Coordinate park planning, acquisition, and development with other city projects and programs that implement the Comprehensive Plan.	Delete	Theme captured in edited PA-5	
PA-9	Actively pursue private dedication of land and funds for park related purposes through a variety of methods such as purchase, donation, easement, and through the development review process.	Edit	Clarification edits – includes Board recommendation to reference regulatory incentives as a tool to leverage private investment in urban neighborhoods.	Pursue private dedication of land and funds for park related purposes through a variety of methods such as purchase, donation, easement, and land use code incentives..
PA-10	Actively seek funding from a variety of sources to help implement a park acquisition and development program.	Keep		
PA-11	Develop partnerships with school districts, other public agencies, and private groups to meet the open space and recreation needs of the city and region.	Delete	Theme of partnerships with school district and other groups captured in PA-14, 15, & 16.	
PA-12	Determine the appropriate uses within natural areas based on the environmental sensitivity of the site.	Delete	Unnecessarily specific for the Comprehensive Plan. Also duplicative with PA-30	

Element Goals and Policies		Action	If action proposed, why?	Proposed change
PA-13	Develop pedestrian and bicycle linkages between neighborhoods and major natural areas, recreation facilities, and education centers.	Edit	Add "commercial" to list of places	Develop pedestrian and bicycle linkages between neighborhoods and major natural areas, recreation facilities, schools and commercial centers.
PA-14	Develop partnerships with other public agencies and the private sector to meet the demand for cultural and recreational facilities in the city.	Edit	Clarify and broadened scope to allow deletion of PA-11	Develop partnerships with other public agencies and the private sector to provide parks, open space, and cultural and recreation facilities in the city.
PA-15	Develop partnerships with not-for-profit organizations in planning, developing, and utilizing facilities.	Keep		
PA-16	Develop partnerships with the public school districts to utilize school sites to provide active recreation and cultural facilities.	Keep	Do not merge – important to call out school district partnerships specifically due to scope and scale.	
PA-17	Provide geographically dispersed community centers, using city owned facilities as well as partnerships with the school districts and other nonprofit agencies, to meet residents' needs for indoor recreation, athletic instruction, arts, meeting space, and special activities.	Edit	Focus policy on the collective impact service delivery model. Themes of geographic distribution and partnerships covered in PA-4, PA-15 and PA-16.	Collaborate with school districts and private and non-profit providers to deliver a coordinated array of recreation, athletic instruction, arts, gathering spaces and community services.
PA-18	Develop a variety of active and passive facilities in a coordinated system of neighborhood and community parks.	Delete	Themes of coordination and variety captured in PA-1 and edited PA-4.	
PA-19	Develop parks and facilities in a quality manner to assure attractiveness, full utilization, and long term efficiency.	Keep		
PA-20	Promote a diversity of privately funded recreational and cultural facilities throughout the city, especially in coordination with major employment centers.	Edit	Clarity.	Encourage privately funded recreational and cultural facilities throughout the city, especially in major employment centers.

Element Goals and Policies		Action	If action proposed, why?	Proposed change
PA-21	Coordinate with other jurisdictions, including state agencies and the Port of Seattle, in the planning and development of regional greenways, parks, cultural, and recreational facilities, including the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) trail system.	Edit	Regional park planning and development captured in PA-2. Focus on ERC to create a policy foothold for the City as others develop this facility in the future.	Collaborate with King County, Sound Transit and neighboring jurisdictions in the planning and development of the regional Eastside Rail Corridor trail system.
PA-22	Encourage the linkage and access of private facilities with those in the public system.	Keep		
PA-23	Expand and develop public waterfront sites.	Delete	Merged with PA-7	
PA-24	Encourage the development of facilities for special purpose recreation.	Keep		
PA-25	Retain and develop underdeveloped public right-of-way for public access and passive recreation where appropriate.	Delete	Theme captured in edited PA-5	
PA-26	Require a public review process for the conversion to non-recreational use of lands and facilities that were acquired, purchased, and developed with voter-approved funding, CIP project funding, or private donation.	Edit	Clarity: The revenue streams can be deleted since they encompass just about every type of revenue we use.	Require a public review process for the conversion to non-recreational use of park lands and facilities.
PA-27	Designate active and passive recreation uses and cultural use of parkland through the master plan approval process.	Keep		
PA-28	Establish a funding plan for long term maintenance and operation before constructing park-related facilities.	Keep		

Element Goals and Policies		Action	If action proposed, why?	Proposed change
PA-29	Evaluate existing parks and facilities, and renovate, where appropriate, to maximize efficient maintenance and operating practices, improve safety and accessibility for all users, and to reduce, where feasible, the impacts on adjacent properties.	Keep		
PA-30	Design, construct, operate, and maintain parklands and facilities to preserve the ecology of natural systems on parklands.	Keep		
PA-31	Protect and retain, in a natural state, significant trees and vegetation in publicly and privately-dedicated greenbelt areas.	Keep		
PA-32	Conserve energy, water, and other natural resources, and practice efficient and environmentally responsible maintenance and operation procedures.	Keep		
PA-33	Manage Bellevue's forest resources, including street trees, formal plantings, and self-sustaining natural stands, to ensure their long term vitality.	Keep		
PA-34	Provide a variety of services and programs throughout the city serving the general population and placing special emphasis on programs and services for youth, seniors, the disabled, and the disadvantaged.	Edit	Reworded to use contemporary terms. To avoid generalizing the needs of certain population groups, reference to "those with limited opportunities" added for clarity, per Board recommendation.	Provide a variety of services and programs accessible to all throughout the city with special emphasis on serving those with limited opportunities including low-income households, youth, individuals with disabilities and older adults.
PA-35	Promote partnerships with public and private service providers to meet cultural, recreational, and social needs of the community.	Keep		

Element Goals and Policies		Action	If action proposed, why?	Proposed change
PA-36	Provide opportunities for individuals to develop a sense of community through services and programs.	Edit	Phrase added per Board recommendation	Provide opportunities for individuals to develop a sense of community through services and programs including programs that encourage intercultural interaction.
PA-37	Actively solicit community input in the planning and delivery of services and programs to ensure that they are convenient and beneficial.	Keep		
PA-38	Accommodate social services at recreation facilities and community centers when they complement recreational, cultural, and social programs.	Edit	Per Board recommendation	Welcome social services at recreation facilities and community centers when they complement the site's recreational and cultural programming.
PA-39	Offer programs that utilize the unique resources and variety of indoor and outdoor facilities within the park system.	Keep		
PA-40	Provide a nature interpretation program to increase the community's awareness, understanding, and appreciation of natural areas.	Edit	Per Board recommendation, reword to broaden scope of policy.	Provide environmental stewardship and nature education programs to increase the community's awareness, understanding, and appreciation of Bellevue's natural environment.
New-1		Add	Per Board recommendation that signage and wayfinding will increase utilization of existing recreation resources.	Provide signage and wayfinding tools to direct individuals to park facilities from nearby streets and trails in order to promote and facilitate public use of parks.
New-2		Add	Reflects how parks are now and increasingly will be used to preserve Bellevue's history and cultural heritage	Use parks to celebrate, promote and preserve Bellevue's history, cultural arts and local heritage when consistent with the park's design and programming.
New-3		Add	Reflects the department's desire to understand an ever-changing customer base and remain nimble in service provided.	Monitor and respond to the community's evolving recreation and community service needs to ensure a diverse mix of relevant and effective facilities and programs.

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

A. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

Boardmember Heath reported that the Bridle Trails Community Club Board will be voting on proposed park locations.

B. Downtown Livability Study

Boardmember Powell reported that the Downtown Livability Committee is refining the work conducted thus far.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Mr. Smith discussed the various activities conducted during the Earth Day/Arbor Day event. In addition, he called attention to the letter included in the Board packet from Mr. and Mrs. Schrag and noted that a tree planting ceremony was held at Ashwood Park. A response was sent to Mr. and Mrs. Schrag in regards to their email and the activities that were conducted on Earth Day/Arbor Day.

A. Future agenda items

Vice-Chair Evans inquired when a future Board meeting will be held at the Bellevue Golf Course. In addition, Boardmember George requested further in-depth information about the Ballet Bellevue building and the Park Board's role in the decision making process about the building.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Memo from Carol Helland (PCD) to Parks Board re Shoreline Master Program

C. Memo from Parks staff (Patrick Foran and Bo Du) to City Council re Older Americans Month

D. Email from Dwight and Mary Schrag re planting for Arbor Day 2015

E. Email from YuJung Chang re Frank Lasso, Parks employee

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—June 10, 2014

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember Kumar to adjourn the meeting at 8:43 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).