

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday
May 14, 2013
6:00 p.m.

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

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

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Chair Robinson

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Geoff Bradley, Shelley Brittingham, Dan DeWald, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Randy Leifer, Christopher Masek (Transportation), Shelley McVein, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Matt Amundsen, Diana Ford, Troy Rodvold

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Grindeland at 6:18 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember George to approve the April 9, 2013, Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

Diana Ford, Eastside Heritage Center

On behalf of the Eastside Heritage Center, Ms. Ford showed a video about the early history of the Chapin property. The property is nearly five acres in size, located at NE 20th and Bellevue Way.

In 1918, Ms. Ford’s grandparents, Louie and Mina Schafer, purchased the property and built a home. There were four generations of Schafer’s that lived on the property. Then, the property was eventually purchased by the City of Bellevue and is now being developed with a trail system. Ms. Ford asked that the history of the property be kept in mind when naming the park and suggested that the park be honored with the name of “Schafer Park.”

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Stokes congratulated Mr. Smith for being awarded the Citation of Merit—Professional Award recognizing his long-time commitment to providing services for youth, people with disabilities, and the general community. In addition, Councilmember Stokes invited Boardmembers to attend the Bellevue Neighborhood Forum regarding *Climate Change and Our Community*.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Vice-Chair Grindeland congratulated Boardmembers Heath and Powell for being reappointed to the Board. Vice-Chair Grindeland was also reappointed to the Board.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Heath recently participated in a Habitat for Humanity project in Portugal.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Attended the Downtown Livability Advisory Committee walking tour of downtown Bellevue.
- Visited the off-leash dog area in Robinswood Park.
- Visited the Winters House.

Boardmember Evans made the following report:

- Volunteered at the North Bellevue Community Center Mother’s Day celebration.
- Visited Meydenbauer Beach Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Biked through Mercer Slough.
- Visited Chism Beach Park.

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Participated in the Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration.
- Attended a Bellevue Youth Theatre production.
- Visited Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

Vice-Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Visited Robinswood Park off-leash area.
- Attended the Wild-n-Wooly Sheep Shearing event at Kelsey Creek Park.
- Attended the Bellevue Youth Theatre Groundbreaking Ceremony.
- Visited Mercer Slough.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran congratulated Mr. Smith for receiving the Citation of Merit—Professional Award from the Washington Recreation & Park Association (WRPA). In addition, he highlighted the following projects, programs, and people that were recognized by WRPA:

- Spotlight Award—Best Trail: Ravine Experience Bridge at the Bellevue Botanical Garden
- Spotlight Award—Special Use Facility: Robinswood Park off-leash area renovation
- Spotlight Award—Trail Map/Interpretive Sign: Mercer Slough Nature Park interpretive trail signage
- Teen Services Section Outstanding Teen Program Award: Kelsey Creek Farm Teen Volunteer Program
- Park Resource Section Distinguished Service Award: Pat Harris, Grounds Operations Manager

Mr. Foran also invited Boardmembers to attend the June 7, 2013 focus area roundtable session for Cultural Diversity.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Mountains to Sound Greenway “Bellevue Gap” Update

Mr. DeWald explained that the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail is an approximately 100-mile regional trail system that connects the Seattle waterfront with Central Washington. This important trail and greenway system provides connections for pedestrians and cyclists for both recreational and commuting purposes.

Mr. DeWald noted that there are significant gaps and barriers on the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail within the City of Bellevue. The trail ends abruptly at Factoria Boulevard, and

the next trail access is located about two miles east at the Sunset Trail (located east of SE 35th Place and SE Eastgate Way).

Mr. DeWald showed a video that provided an overview of the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail.

Mr. Masek discussed the trail study, which was to be based off of the preferred alignments identified in the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use and Transportation Study. The purpose of the design study is to develop details and guidance to fill the 3.6 mile “Bellevue Gap” in the Mountains to Sound Greenway Regional Trail System. The proposed trail cross sections are 12 foot wide paved pedestrian and bicycle trail with 2 foot buffers on each side of the trail. In addition, the proposed trail would include planters, when the trail is adjacent to a roadway, and pervious asphalt, where feasible.

Mr. Masek broke the 3.6 mile “Bellevue Gap” into segments and discussed proposed plans to close each gap. The following is a list of the segments:

- Segment 1: at grade trail, Factoria Blvd. SE to 142nd Pl. SE
- Segment 2: at grade trail, 142nd Pl. SE to 150th Ave. SE
- Segment 3: at grade trail, 150th Ave. SE to 161st Ave. SE
- Segment 4: at grade trail, 161st Ave. SE to SE Newport Way Trail Crossing
- Segment 5: at grade trail, SE Newport Way Trail Crossing to Lakemont Blvd. SE
- Segment 6: Flyover Bridge at 150th Ave. SE
- Segment 7: Flyover Bridges, Factoria Blvd. SE Vicinity

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested clarification on what constitutes a “trail.” Mr. Masek explained that a trail is typically 12 feet in width and designed for 2-way bicycle traffic. However, he noted that alterations may need to be made in the Factoria area due to topography constraints.

The approximate cost to close the 3.6 mile gap is \$28 million. However, a large portion of this funding is for the flyover bridges in Segments 6-7.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke asked if consideration has been given to move the trail away from the main thoroughfare to reduce expense. Mr. DeWald explained that many scenarios have been considered, and the general consensus is to keep the trail near the I-90 corridor. Mr. Masek added that the priorities through public outreach include a direct route (i.e., near the I-90 corridor) and 12 foot wide continuous lanes. Mr. DeWald added that no rights of ways need to be purchased to complete the proposed trail work.

Mr. Masek discussed the next steps for the trail system. He explained that Council approved \$430,000 for design work in 2013-2014. This design funding will be used to design Segments 1 and 2. Currently, there is no funding for construction. Mr. Masek noted that the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trust is pursuing \$7.5 million in state funding for construction of Segments 1 and 7. In addition, Mr. Masek reviewed the design schedule—approximately 90% of the design work is anticipated to be complete by December, 2014.

Boardmember George inquired who would own the trail system. Mr. Masek clarified that the state does not give right of ways—they lease the property. The City would maintain the trail system, while the Washington Department of Transportation would own the property.

Boardmember Powell commented that the project is long overdue and a great idea.

If the Bellevue gap is closed, Boardmember Van Hollebeke questioned how much connectivity would be gained. Mr. Masek explained that there will still be a few gaps in the mountains but access will be well beyond Issaquah.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke asked if there is logic in how far the design phase is completed so that federal funding assistance can be requested. Mr. Masek explained that it is hard to compete for federal funding if a project is not shovel ready.

B. Golf Operations

Mr. Leifer provided an overview of the golf operations at Bellevue and Crossroads Golf Courses, including the business model, history, programming, capital improvements and future plans. The course typically generates net revenue between \$300,000-\$600,000 per year to help offset some of the other programs throughout the city (e.g., Bellevue Aquatics Center and the Robinswood Tennis Club). The golf course is operated by Premier Golf Centers, LLC.

Mr. Leifer noted that the Bellevue Golf Course offers a driving range, banquet room, restaurant, and pro shop. He added that the property is a certified Audubon cooperative sanctuary. In addition, Mr. Amundsen discussed the marketing efforts, which include a website, email blasts, direct advertising, general advertising, and social media. In addition, a new mobile app is offered to golfers. This app offers the following services:

- Book T-Time
- Order food/view menus
- GPS
- Course tour
- Weather forecast
- Scoreboards
- Live leaderboards
- Share rounds on Facebook
- Push notifications
- Hole information/handicap

In addition, the Bellevue Classic is hosted at the Bellevue Golf Course. This event is one of the Seattle area's premier amateur golf events.

The Crossroads Par 3 is also part of the Bellevue golf operations. Mr. Leifer noted that this course offers a practice area and clubhouse. Aerial views were shown of the Crossroad Par 3 and Bellevue Golf Courses.

Mr. Rodvold discussed some of the renovations that the Bellevue Golf Course will soon undergo, including a new driving range building.

Mr. Foran explained that the City Council approves the budget for the golf club and Premier oversees the day-to-day operations. In addition, the quality that Premier has added to the Bellevue Golf Club is outstanding.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke questioned if the Premier Golf Centers' contract is a consortium contract. Mr. Amundsen explained that Premier Golf Centers has an individual contract with Bellevue.

Boardmember Heath asked what key performance indicators are used in measuring the quality of the Bellevue Golf Course. In addition, he wondered how the Bellevue Golf Course compares to other local courses. Mr. Leifer explained that the following information is taken into consideration when measuring the Bellevue Golf Course's success: revenue, rounds, and quality. In addition, Mr. Foran noted that the City measures the quality of Premier's services provided through customer feedback and net profit goals.

Mr. Amundsen explained that the world of golf has changed, since the 1980s. There used to be little supply and great demand for golf courses. Today, there are numerous courses available to golfers, which have spread the demand throughout these courses.

Vice-Chair Grindeland asked if the majority of golfers are Bellevue residents. Along with Bellevue residents, Mr. Rodvold noted that a significant amount of golfers are from Redmond and Kirkland.

Boardmember George suggested that a miniature golf course be added to either the Bellevue or Crossroads Golf Courses. Mr. Rodvold appreciated the suggestion and thought the miniature golf could be quite successful at the Crossroads Golf Course.

Vice-Chair Grindeland asked if there is ample parking available for golfers at the Bellevue Golf Course. Mr. Rodvold discussed some of the larger coinciding events at the course and Premier Golf Centers' ability to accommodate parking. The Bellevue Golf Course has a sizable parking lot.

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. Downtown Livability Study

Boardmember Powell participated in a Downtown Livability Advisory Committee tour. The next meeting will be held on May 15, 2013.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

- Boardmember Evans suggested that a future Park Board meeting be held at the Bellevue Golf Course.
- Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that the proposed Code of Ethics legislation be added to a future meeting agenda.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Memo to City Council from Lori Riordan (City Attorney) and Myrna Basich (City Clerk) re Proposed Code of Ethics Legislation

C. Memo to City Council from Patrick Foran re Arbor Day/Earth Day and Tree City USA Award

D. Memo to Sherry Grindeland from Myrna Basich re reappointment to Park Board

E. Memo to Stuart Heath from Myrna Basich re reappointment to Park Board

F. Memo to City Council from Patrick Foran re WRPA Awards

G. Memo to City Council from Patrick Foran and Cathy VonWald re National Older Americans Month Proclamation

H. Memo to City Council from Patrick Foran re National Kids to Parks Day

I. Email from the Dougherty family complimenting parks crew

These minutes are in DRAFT form until approved by the Parks & Community Services Board.

J. Email from Greg Zupansic complimenting parks crew

K. Email from Donny Harrel complimenting parks crew

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting is scheduled for June 11 at North Bellevue Community Center

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 8:24 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).