

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

Tuesday
May 12, 2009
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Bennett, Boardmembers George¹, Karle, LaPine, Robinson, Roland

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmember Chelminiak

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Paul Anderson, Jim Bennett, Geoff Bradley, Melissa Brown, Isaac Cunningham, Dan DeWald, Christina Dyson-Farrell, Patrick Foran, Maurice Gary, Nancy Harvey, Mike Hauer, Jay Heasty, Laura Hughes, Kevin Husemann, Christina Krueger, Tom Kuykendall, Shelley Marelli, Terry Smith, Chris Vandall, Cathy VonWald

OTHERS PRESENT: Gary Dickerman, Ian Elliott, Chad & Ann Harkness, John Stokes

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 Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Roland to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Karle and second by Boardmember Roland to approve the April 14, 2009 Regular Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

¹ Departed at 8:04 p.m.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Chad Harkness, 6036 – 118th Ave. SE, Bellevue

On behalf of the Newport Hills Park neighborhoods, Mr. Harkness asked Boardmembers to reconsider the upgrade planned for Newport Hills Neighborhood Park. The neighborhood feels that the proposed upgrade and the increase in programming will significantly change the use of the park due to the following reasons:

- Limited buffer area.
- Limited parking.
- Newport Hills Park is designed as a neighborhood park, not a community park.
- Lighting and noise concerns.

Mr. Harkness encouraged the Parks Department to partner with Bellevue School District to develop recreational and sports facilities that will meet the needs of the community and adhere to the 2003 Bellevue Parks & Open Space 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.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

None.

6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Boardmember Robinson attended the collaboration between Bellevue youth and the Bellevue Police Department to break down barriers of communication. She felt the event was a great start for opening communication channels and dialogue between the two groups. She also enjoyed the BYT production of “The Comedy of Errors.”

Boardmember George celebrated Earth Day at Lewis Creek Park. In addition, she attended Youth Link’s Gumbo Night. Chair Keeney and Vice-Chair Bennett also enjoyed the event and visiting with the youth members.

Chair Keeney and Vice-Chair Bennett discussed the fun activities celebrated at the Kelsey Creek Sheep Shearing event.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

Councilmember Chelminiak expressed his appreciation to Vice-Chair Bennett and Boardmember Karle for their service and dedication to the Parks Board. He also reported on the following Council activities:

- City Council authorized the City to move forward with the purchase of the Mid-Mountain property.
- The City recently awards from the Washington Recreation & Parks Association for the Crossroads Water Spray Playground and the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.

8. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Network on Aging Update

Mr. Dickerman, Vice-Chair of Bellevue Network on Aging, explained that the fastest growing segment of the population nationwide is individuals over the age of 85. The Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA) is looking ahead and making changes now, which will allow Bellevue to take advantage of the largest population of skilled and educated older adults in history.

Mr. Dickerman explained that the BNOA is a volunteer community advisory board that examines issues to ensure a successful aging community. The 2009 Work Plan includes:

- Advocacy—housing and mobility
- Research—needs assessment
- Education—safety and support

Some of the outreach tools that are utilized by the BNOA were summarized by Mr. Dickerman. In addition, he discussed the partnership with the Kirkland Senior Council that advocates for Eastside seniors.

Mr. Dickerman discussed the following items:

- Special needs.
- Available resources.
- City services, including North Bellevue Community Center.
- Overlake Hospital Senior Care.
- Evergreen Care Network.
- Group Health resources.
- Local hospital resources.
- Elder Abuse and victimization resources.
- “Handful of Help,” which is an outreach tool to advocate the BNOA program throughout neighborhood communities.

Chair Keeney recognized Boardmember Robinson for her assistance with the BNOA committee. In addition, Boardmember LaPine thanked the BNOA for all of their efforts in improving the quality of life for older citizens. Boardmember Robinson commended both Mr. Dickerman and Ms. VonWald for advocating for the older adult community.

There was a general discussion about transportation options for older adults, in particular King County Metro. Ms. VonWald clarified that \$3 senior buss passes are available for anyone over the age of 65.

B. Natural Resources Division Overview

Mr. DeWald provided a background of the Parks & Open Space system. Some of the interdepartmental projects include:

- Forest Management & Native Growth Protection Areas
- Street Tree & Arterial Landscapes
- Trails & Greenways
- Community Parks & Visitor Centers

Mr. DeWald discussed the Environmental Stewardship Committee and the recent Tree Canopy study conducted by the committee. During this study, satellite imagery was obtained from 1985 to 2006 that showed a tree canopy loss of 20%. Mr. DeWald also discussed the Great Streets project, which makes the Central Business District more pedestrian friendly. These are just a few of the projects the Environmental Stewardship Committee is working on.

Natural Resources staff members provided an overview of their job duties. The following is a sampling of some of the duties.

Jim Bennett:

Mr. Bennett cooperatively manages over 1,800 acres of program area. Management goals are applied throughout the City. There is an extensive inspection process of the Open Space property on an annual basis. In addition, there is an extensive focus in managing hazardous trees, encroachments, and other risks.

Chris Vandall:

Mr. Vandall assists with enhancements and works with customers that call about tree hazards.

Tom Kuykendall:

Mr. Kuykendall is the supervisor of Street Tree and Arterial Landscape Programs. In addition, he manages formal landscapes that are primarily built through the Transportation Department. Mr. Kuykendall provides inter and intra departmental support on technical expertise. He also performs project management and implementation for neighborhood outreach programs, as well as many other departments throughout the City.

Mike Hauer:

Mr. Hauer is a Contract Administrator for the Street Tree Team. There are approximately 132 separate sites that are managed through general service contracts that Mr. Hauer helps manage. He also assists with some natural resource emergency services (i.e., pruning), and manages approximately 120 irrigation systems throughout the City. Mr. Hauer also coordinates the use of the Green Machine.

Melissa Brown:

Ms. Brown maintains the database inventory and acts as a liaison between IT and Natural Resources. She also helps keep track of maintenance schedules and is involved in some of the CIP projects.

Kevin Husemann:

Mr. Husemann oversees the Trails and Greenways portion of the Natural Resources Division. There are approximately 70 miles of trails and 30 acres of blueberry farms that are maintained. Mr. Husemann's primary responsibility is to maintain the trail system. He provides support to other work groups as well as deals with obnoxious weeds. Some completed projects include: installation of bridges, new trail connections, and new viewing platforms.

Isaac Cunningham:

Mr. Cunningham oversees the field operations for special projects as well as maintenance of farms.

Jay Heasty:

Mr. Heasty primarily focuses on trail systems. He also assists with the blueberry farms and other areas.

Maurice Gary:

Mr. Gary's primary task is focusing on the trail system at Mercer Slough. He also assists with other trail systems and tasks.

Paul Anderson:

Mr. Anderson's primary focus is Vasa Creek, the Somerset area, a portion of Mercer Slough Environmental Center, and he drives the Green Machine.

Geoff Bradley:

Mr. Bradley oversees some of the wetland parks and the outreach programs to the community. This encompasses educational centers, farmlands, and volunteer programs (i.e., Park Stewards, Stewardship Saturdays, partnerships with Eastside Heritage, etc.).

Laura Hughes:

Ms. Hughes is the Park Ranger for the Lake Hills Greenbelt Ranger Station. She runs the community garden as well as the summer Park Ranger program. Ms. Hughes also manages the contract with Diamond Parking for the Downtown Park.

Christina Krueger:

Ms. Krueger is the Park Ranger for Lewis Creek Park, which is the host site for Earth Day/Arbor Day. Ms. Krueger helps orchestrate the Earth Day/Arbor Day celebration and oversees the program delivery and coordination.

Christina Dyson-Farrell:

Ms. Dyson-Farrell is the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center Park Ranger. The majority of her focus has been spent opening the center. Ms. Dyson-Farrell discussed her role with the center as well as the partnership with the Pacific Science Center.

Boardmembers commended the staff for the informative presentation and their commitment to Bellevue. They expressed their gratitude for the staff's dedication and professionalism. Mr. Foran also expressed his appreciation to the staff members.

C. Board Elections

- Chair

Chair Keeney opened nominations for Board Chair.

Motion by Boardmember Roland to reappoint Chair Keeney as the Board Chair.

Chair Keeney requested other nominations for the Board Chair. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried unanimously to reelect Chair Keeney as the Board Chair (7-0).

- Vice-Chair

Chair Keeney opened nominations for Board Vice-Chair.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett to nominate Boardmember Roland as the Board Vice-Chair.

Motion by Boardmember Karle to nominate Boardmember Robinson as the Board Vice-Chair.

Chair Keeney requested other nominations for the Board Vice-Chair. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question to elect Boardmember Roland as the Board Vice-Chair, motion carried (4-3).

D. Recognition of Outgoing Boardmembers

Mr. Foran read a Commendation from the City Council to recognize Vice-Chair Bennett and Boardmember Karle for their years of service. Mr. Foran discussed the many accomplishments and projects both Boardmembers have played an integral role in accomplishing.

On behalf of the Parks Department, Mr. Foran presented Vice-Chair Bennett and Boardmember Karle with a plaque as a token of appreciation.

On behalf of the Board and community, Vice-Chair Bennett was presented a framed picture of the Kelsey Creek Park and Boardmember Karle was presented with a framed picture of Downtown Park as an acknowledgement of their efforts.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Roland to extend the meeting an additional 20 minutes. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

9. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Foran reported that two of Bellevue's parks have won state recognition. The Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center and Crossroads Water Spray Playground both earned awards from the Washington Recreation and Park Association.

In addition, Mr. Foran congratulated Terry Smith for earning the association's President's Award for promoting statewide standards for accessibility to parks programs and facilities.

10. ONGOING/OLD BUSINESS:

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Chair Keeney reported that the Meydenbauer Steering Committee plans to meet regularly with the goal of a formal recommendation by the end of summer for Parks Board and City Council.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember Robinson suggested that a presentation regarding the Probation Services Division be included as a future agenda item.

Boardmember Roland suggested that an emergency preparedness presentation be added as a future agenda item.

Vice-Chair Bennett recommended adding more offsite meeting locations for Park Board meetings.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Report

B. News Release—State awards for Bellevue park facilities and staff

C. Letter from Lisa Echigoshima re skate park camp

D. Note from Sandy Friedman re MSEEC and Christina Dyson-Farrell

- E. Email from Michelle Psychogeos re Eastgate Park
- F. Email from Ellen Stone re Surrey Downs and killdeer nest
- G. Email from Keith Dougherty re Craig Beck and ballfields
- H. Email from Jo Scott re urban forestry

13. INFORMATION:

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Youth Link's Community Leadership Awards—nomination forms and invitation to ceremony
- C. June 9—next scheduled Park Board meeting

14. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Ann Harkness, 6036 – 118th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Harkness requested that the Newport Hills Park neighbors have a staff contact to communicate neighborhood concerns. She feels the neighborhood's voice is not currently being heard. Ms. Harkness feels there is a disconnection between the community's desires versus the neighborhood's desires.

15. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Boardmember Roland and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to adjourn the meeting at 8:16 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).