CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
May 12, 2015
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

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

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Powell

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Robin Haaseth, Nancy Harvey, Nancy Kartes, Shelley McVein, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Sue Herber, Brandon Macz

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Grindeland at 6:01 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

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

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Powell to approve the April 14, 2015 Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Sue Herber, 1615 – 109th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

There have been many suggestions for renaming Bovee Park. However, Ms. Herber explained that some of the names would not be appropriate for the neighboring

community, particularly Ashwood, Northtowne, Nan Campbell, or Kemper Freeman. Ms. Herber suggested that the Bovee Park be renamed to Georgia Zumdieck Park.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

No report.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Attended the Bridle Trails Corner Park Grand Opening Celebration.
- Walked through Bovee Park.
- Attended the Sheep Shearing Event at Kelsey Creek Farm Park.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Walked the Lake Hills Greenbelt.
- Visited Downtown Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Participated in the Bellevue 10K/5K Run & Walk, sponsored by the Bellevue Breakfast Rotary Club.
- Visited Bovee Park.

On behalf of the Bridle Trails Community Club, Boardmember Heath expressed his appreciation to the Parks Department for Bridle Trails Corner Park.

Boardmember Kumar made the following report:

- Enjoyed the streetscapes along SE 24th Street.
- Visited Weowna Park and many neighboring trails.
- Visited Lewis Creek Park.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

No report.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Name Change for Bovee Park

Chair Grindeland suggested that the Board forward a recommendation to City Council to have them rename the Crossroads Community Center to the Nan Campbell Community Center at Crossroads Park.

Ms. Haaseth reported that approximately 1,400 online responses were received for renaming Bovee Park. Recommendations were collected for nearly one month. Ms. Haaseth noted that the data collection was not scientific. The intention was for respondents to be limited to one response per IP address. However, there were some IP addresses with multiple responses. The Resolution for naming public parks and recreational facilities states the following:

- Neighborhood or geographical identification;
- A natural or geological feature;
- A historical figure or name of historical or cultural significance; and/or
- A corporation, non-profit organization, or an individual (living or deceased) who has made a significant land and/or monetary contribution to the park system and who has a compelling connection to Bellevue and/or the park system.

Boardmember George noted that some of the name recommendations submitted during the selection process are already associated with other park facilities (i.e., Burrows Park). Ms. Haaseth clarified that the name Burrows is from a nearby plat addition, just east of the current park site. In addition, Burrows Landing is named after Roland (Rhodie) Burrows' father.

Boardmembers debated the meaning of the Resolution above that states, "A corporation, non-profit organization, or an individual…" While Vice-Chair Evans interpreted this as meaning if a park is named after a person, the person must be deceased, other Boardmembers interpreted this differently.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke noted that Dr. Naomi Sugar, although quite accomplished, was not a person culturally significant to Bellevue and does not fall under the Resolution guidelines. Therefore, Dr. Sugar's name should be removed from the name recommendations. Other Boardmembers concurred with Boardmember Van Hollebeke.

Boardmember George noted that making a large financial or land donation is a criterion for naming a park after a person. She pointed out that women traditionally have not been able to make such donations. Therefore, Boardmember George suggested that Bovee Park be renamed after Georgia Zumdieck because: a) it's time for Bellevue to have a park named for a woman; b) the Bovee Park neighborhood supported naming the park after Ms. Zumdieck because of her positive role in that community, whereas some neighbors did not support Campbell Park; and c) this particular park is being re-named because it previously honored a man who victimized young girls, making it symbolically appropriate to now honor a woman.

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to recommend that Bovee Park be renamed to Zumdieck Park.

Boardmembers discussed the number of current Bellevue parks named after individuals. Staff noted that there are just a few.

Boardmember Kumar has heard conflicting opinions from the neighboring community about naming the park after Georgia Zumdieck. She would like to see more involvement from the neighbors in the decision making process. She suggested that Ms. Zumdieck be honored in a different way (i.e., a bench in the park or similar gesture).

Boardmember Heath explained that he would have preferred a different process for the park renaming. Boardmember Heath suggested that the park renaming be sent back to the neighboring community to conduct several community meetings to determine a recommendation. On the contrary, Boardmember Van Hollebeke views the park renaming process as deliberate and thoughtful. He attended the special meeting and thought that the neighboring community was represented well. Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that Bovee Park be renamed to a geographical name, rather than after a historical figure.

Boardmember George thinks that the park renaming process was inclusive of the neighboring community. She noted that there was targeted outreach and an opportunity for the community to voice their opinions. She also felt that the neighboring community was effective in voicing their opinions. Based upon the neighborhood feedback, Boardmember George is opposed to naming the park after Bellevue's first female mayor, Nan Campbell.

In reviewing the Resolution, Vice-Chair Evans thinks that renaming the park after a historical figure would be extremely controversial. He supported renaming the park after a geographical name. Although Nan Campbell has made a lot of significant contributions to Bellevue, Vice-Chair Evans does not think renaming Bovee Park after her would be the option most supported by the neighboring community.

Boardmember Heath suggested that Boardmembers be mindful of all of the comments received about the park renaming, rather than just the comments received at the special meeting. He suggested that the neighboring community be brought together to gain further input for the park rename.

At the question, motion failed (2-4) to recommend that Bovee Park be renamed to Zumdieck Park. Boardmember Heath's abstention was counted in the affirmative.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to defer a decision for renaming Bovee Park for two months. During this time period, staff is directed to work with the neighboring community to obtain additional feedback and a consensus on their top suggestions. Concurrently, staff is directed to conduct further due diligence on the proposed names and the background behind each of the top selected names.

Rather than asking the neighboring community of Bovee Park to identify the top selected names, Vice-Chair Evans recommended that the Board identify the top few names, suggested through public comment and the online survey, for the community to deliberate over. He wants to rename the park something that the community can embrace. However, he feels that there are too many recommended names to select from.

Boardmember Kumar noted that there have been many emails and comments received from community members. In addition, there has been information provided about the meaning of most of the renaming recommendations.

Mr. Foran discussed Council's expectations for the park renaming and the importance of making the best decision, rather than rushing the process. Boardmember George questioned the necessity for the public comment special meeting if the process is not being rushed.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke called attention to the email included in the Board handouts from Colin Walker regarding the Eastside Heritage Center's top recommendations. These include Blueberry Park, Burrows Park, Holiday Hill Park, and Brierwood Park.

Boardmember George said she didn't understand how the Board could defer to the neighborhood to choose a park name without an election. Any additional comments would be just as unscientific as the comments already received.

At the question, motion failed (2-4) to defer a decision for renaming Bovee Park for two months.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that the top three names selected during the online survey be forwarded to Council. These include: Burrows Park, Zumdieck Park, and Holiday Hill Park. Community members can attend the Council meeting if they want to provide additional feedback and then the Council can make their final decision. Boardmember Kumar concurred with this recommendation. However, she suggested that only two names be forwarded to Council.

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Vice-Chair Evans to recommend to Council that Bovee Park be renamed to either Burrows Park or Zumdieck Park. Motion carried 6-0, with Boardmember Heath's abstention counted in the affirmative.

When forwarding this recommendation to Council, Boardmembers requested that staff provide the rationale of why two names were being brought forth. Specifically, these were the two names that were the top suggestions from the neighboring community.

B. Bellevue Botanical Garden Update

Ms. Kartes discussed the Mission and Vision for the Bellevue Botanical Garden (BBG). She noted that a visitor's survey was conducted last summer that concluded visitors want to know more about the plant names. To assist with this, the following tools are used:

- Plant identification labels
- Web-based plant bed markers
- Interpretive signage
- Interactive maps
- Ephemeral exhibits
- Paper-based maps, guides, and other information
- Personal connections—docents, staff, and volunteers
- Education programs—lectures, classes, and demonstrations
- Trillium Store whose merchandise supports the mission

Ms. Kartes noted that the BBG received a "Museums for America" grant from the Institute of Museum and Library Services. This grant helped fund many of the items listed above. In addition, the BBG Visitor Center, including The Aaron Education Center, earned the US Green Building Council's Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design gold certification for its innovative environmental design and sustainable features.

Ms. Kartes noted that there are four educational programs conducted each month with four lectures held each year. Some of the other highlights of the garden include the newest partners: North American Rock Garden Society and Washington Native Plant Society; and a limited mobility shuttle pilot program.

The BBG has approximately 250,000-300,000 visitors per year with 20,000 volunteer hours per year. There have been 2,093 children served in the Living Lab program and over 1,000 adult education program participants. In addition, the BBG has established nine community partner organizations to assist with its success.

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

None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to suggest that Council rename Crossroads Community Center to Nan Campbell Community Center at Crossroads Park.

Although Boardmember Heath supports the idea of renaming the Crossroads Community Center, he would like this subject matter added to a future meeting agenda so the Board can deliberate on the concept as well as obtain community input. Other Boardmembers concurred with this suggestion.

At the question, motion failed unanimously (0-6).

Boardmember Heath requested additional information about how many parks in Bellevue are named after individuals.

Boardmember George discussed the outpouring of support for naming a structure/park in Nan Campbell's honor. She would like to recognize the community's interest and suggested that this topic be added to a future meeting agenda.

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Kumar to add a future meeting agenda item to discuss renaming the Crossroads Community Center to Nan Campbell Community Center at Crossroads Park.

Boardmember Heath suggested that perhaps the Board would want Council direction before starting a process to recommend that Council rename a park and/or structure.

At the question, motion carried (5-1) to add a future meeting agenda item to discuss renaming the Crossroads Community Center to Nan Campbell Community Center at Crossroads Park.

Boardmember George suggested that Resolution No. 8229 be reevaluated and that Section 1 include further clarifying language for the criteria.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested that an update be provided regarding the parking issues at Downtown Park. Mr. Foran clarified that Council recently took action to complete the final quadrant of Downtown Park. The City will move forward with the plan on record.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Grindeland congratulated the Parks & Community Services Department for receiving the numerous top honors from the Washington Recreation & Park Association.

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. News release re WRPA Awards

C. National Kids to Parks Day – memo and proclamation

D. MyBellevue email re Kelsey Creek Farm Park

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—June 9, 2015, Bellevue City Hall

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 8:17 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).