

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

Tuesday
June 14, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Vice-Chair Grindeland, Boardmembers Heath, Kumar, Synn¹, Van Hollebeke

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Elaine Acacio, Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Jenni Mechem, Cindy Shelton, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Renay Bennett, Geoffrey Bidwell, Yudy Deng, Betsi Hummer, Mike Ogliore, Alan Smith, Diann Strom

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Grindeland at 6:17 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 (4-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Heath to approve the May 10, 2016 Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.

Boardmember Heath called attention to page 5, second to last paragraph, last two sentences, noting that there have been several email discussions amongst community members regarding the levy funding and allocations. Boardmember Heath noted that he received a copy of a 2008 City Council agenda memorandum that referenced \$2.5M for Bridle Trails. In addition, this funding was also indicated in a 2008 handout for the Parks & Natural Areas levy, which referenced two neighborhoods. Boardmember Heath also called attention to a 2012 presentation that also referenced this funding. From a community perspective, Boardmember Heath finds the information confusing and

¹ Arrived at 6:20 p.m.

suggested that the last two sentences of the second to last paragraph on page 5 be modified.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Heath to amend page 5, second to last paragraph, last two sentences of paragraph of the meeting minutes to reflect the following:

“However, Boardmember Van Hollebeke pointed out that the Bridle Trails community received a significant amount of funding from the levy. ~~Since the allocation in the levy (\$2.5M) was spent on the Bridle Trails Corner Park, no additional funds are earmarked for the Bridle Trails community.~~”

At the question, motion carried unanimously (4-0) to approve the amendment to the main motion.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (4-0) to approve the May 10, 2016 Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes, as amended.

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

Mike Ogliore, Bellevue Downtown Association

Cindy Shelton, Northwest Arts Center/City of Bellevue

On behalf of the City of Bellevue and the Bellevue Downtown Association, Mr. Ogliore and Ms. Shelton invited Boardmembers to the 25th Annual Bellevue Collection Bellevue Family 4th celebration presented by PACCAR. The event is the largest 4th of July celebration on the Eastside and will take place in Bellevue Downtown Park where families and friends can enjoy food, games, live music, and a spectacular fireworks show.

Betsi Hummer

East Bellevue Community Council

14541 SE 26th Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Hummer distributed a map for bicycling in Bellevue. On behalf of the East Bellevue Community Council, Ms. Hummer requested that Boardmembers disapprove TFP 158 in the Capital Improvement Project. She explained that this project pertains to improvements on 16th Street from 148th to 156th (near Larson Lake). Although this area is in need of regular maintenance, the East Bellevue Community Council does not recommend improvements to the bicycle and pedestrian right-of-ways. Alternatively, it is recommended that the funds allocated for this project be redirected toward improvements along Newport Way (near Hidden Village apartments). There are no sidewalks on the north side of the street, off of SE 24th.

Another area for bicycle and pedestrian improvement is near Stevenson Elementary, since the access for bicyclists/pedestrians disappears near NE 8th Street.

Geoffrey Bidwell

1600 109th Avenue SE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Bidwell explained that the Trust for Public Land (TPL) is actively involved in acquiring land for public agencies. The TPL was instrumental in working with Bellevue to acquire land in the Mercer Slough. Mr. Bidwell distributed a handout noting that the recent selling of land at Mercer Slough is the only instance where public lands acquired through TPL has been sold for other than its original intent, which is park use. Mr. Bidwell stated that Bellevue has refused to allow citizens a voice in this decision.

Mr. Bidwell feels that the actions that the city has taken are unethical, immoral, and most likely in violation of the law. He encouraged Boardmembers to stand up for the Mercer Slough Nature Park and taxpayers.

Renay Bennett

Save Mercer Slough Committee

Ms. Bennett distributed a copy of an email from the Sound Transit Legal Department. The email noted that 260,700 cubic yards of soil will be removed from Mercer Slough for the Sound Transit project. She also informed Boardmembers that an email from the Sound Transit legal department noted that park land at Mercer Slough will be utilized as a staging area along with the estimated acreage. She advised Boardmembers that state law prescribes a six month or longer possession will determine the land to be a permanent impact.

Ms. Bennett asked Boardmembers to consider standing up for parks and sending a message to City Council letting them know that the destruction at the Mercer Slough Nature Park is immoral, unethical, and a violation of the public's trust.

Lastly, Ms. Bennett encouraged Boardmembers to attend the upcoming Planning Commission meeting where they will be discussing the Sound Transit impacts at Mercer Slough.

Yudy Deng

9401 NE 1st Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Deng is a business owner of Fit for Mom in Bellevue. She teaches some of her classes at Downtown Park and wanted confirmation that the entire park will not be fenced off during construction. In addition, she requested that a covered picnic area be added to the park.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

No Report.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Vice-Chair Grindeland informed Boardmembers that the City Clerk will attend the July Park Board meeting to provide a briefing of the Board's roles and responsibilities. Since there will be two new Boardmembers in the near future, this session was postponed until July.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Vice-Chair Grindeland expressed safety concerns about the parking area at Meydenbauer Beach Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke reported that he accepted a temporary research fellowship project in New York, which will begin in September. This project will run from September through May. He clarified that this is a temporary relocation and it will not impact his Bellevue residency status. Since Boardmember Van Hollebeke will be traveling between New York City and Bellevue, he does not foresee any major conflicts with his availability to attend future Board meetings.

Boardmember Heath recently attended the Seattle Downtown Association Annual Meeting. Part of this meeting included a session about taking back the parks from problematic behaviors/activities. The Downtown Association hired a company that helps facilitate these efforts. Boardmember Heath also discussed a Bel-Red Look Back Study that is currently being conducted. These discussions review past decisions to see how they have impacted the community. Lastly, Boardmember Heath is looking forward to the City Clerk's presentation so that the Park Board's roles and responsibilities can be clarified and communicated to citizens.

Boardmember Kumar commended Parks staff Curtis Kukal and Chris Vandall for their efforts at Lewis Creek Park. Boardmember Kumar also discussed a request she recently submitted to install a park bench at Lewis Creek Park. Lastly, Boardmember Kumar discussed concerns about a recent transient tent that was set up at Airfield Park.

Boardmember Synn expressed his enthusiasm for the numerous kid-friendly programs and summer camps offered by the city.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported that on June 20 Council will be presented the construction contract for approval of the Complete the Circle project at Downtown Park. If the bid is approved, construction will begin after the 4th of July celebration. Mr. Foran reminded Boardmembers that they are invited to a groundbreaking ceremony on June 21 for the Complete the Circle project and the Inspiration Playground.

Mr. Foran also reported that Phase 1 of the Meydenbauer Beach Park project was contested. The Hearing Examiner ruled in the city's favor and the decision was not appealed. Therefore, permits are moving forward and construction is expected to begin in 2017.

Boardmember Kumar inquired if consideration has been given to naming the Inspiration Playground after Rachel Beckwith. This request was made during Oral Communications at the May Board meeting. Rachel was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 2011. She was 9 years old.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Board Elections of Chair and Vice-Chair

Vice-Chair Grindeland opened nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to nominate Boardmember Heath as the Parks & Community Services Board Chair.

Vice-Chair Grindeland requested other nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (5-0) to elect Boardmember Heath as the Parks & Community Services Board Chair.

Vice-Chair Grindeland opened nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position.

Motion by Boardmember Synn to nominate Boardmember Kumar as the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair.

Vice-Chair Grindeland requested other nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (5-0) to elect Boardmember Kumar as the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair.

B. Diversity Advantage Plan Update and Review of Draft ADA Self-Assessment and Transition Plan

Mr. Smith explained that the Diversity Advantage Plan was adopted by City Council in December, 2014. Ms. Acacio noted that the Diversity Advantage Plan initiative focuses on economic development, civic engagement, human services, public safety, and education. In addition, there are five areas of focus within the Plan. These include:

- Equity
- Access
- Inclusion
- Opportunity
- Cultural Competence

Mr. Smith discussed some of the ways that community outreach and engagement have taken place for the Diversity Advantage Plan Update. In addition to community outreach and engagement, Mr. Smith also discussed the Diversity Advantage Network that has been formed. This is similar to the Network on Aging and is a City Manager appointed group. Mr. Smith added that another area that staff is working on is to create a concept of a Bellevue Diversity Institute to help educate the community and build relationships.

Ms. Mechem reported on some of the disability demographics in Bellevue, including the following:

- Number of residents with disabilities: approximately 5,000 males and 8,700 females
- 33% of people in Bellevue with disabilities are 65 and older
- 13% of American Indian and Alaska Indian Bellevue residents have disabilities; 11% of black or African American and White Bellevue residents have disabilities

Ms. Mechem discussed the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990. Overall, the basic requirements from this Act include:

- Program Accessibility
- Effective Communication
- Policy & Operations
- Integration
- Employment
- Administrative Requirements
- Facility Accessibility
- Transition Plan

In order to make facilities more accessible, Ms. Mechem noted that Bellevue conducts an ADA self-evaluation and transition plan. She noted that the self-evaluation and transition plan covers a number of different areas. The ADA self-evaluation and transition plan includes the following elements:

- Introduction and Background
- History of Compliance
- Self-Evaluation
- Transition Plan
- Recommendations

Ms. Mechem noted that the self-evaluation findings included best practices (i.e., hearing loop installation, sidewalk and curb ramp program, adaptive recreation, park access and inclusion, and Comprehensive Plan Update), and opportunities (website redesign, regional coordination, and

integration of disability access with broader diversity goals). Ms. Mechem added that the list of recommendations from the self-evaluation and transition plan includes:

- Staff training on disability awareness
- ADA customer service resources and tools
- Internal coordination strategy
- Public engagement strategy

Ms. Mechem reported that part of the process in assessing the self-evaluation and transition plan is having it available for public involvement and comment. The next steps for the ADA Plan include:

- Incorporate public comment into the final plan (July 6)
- City Council study session (July 25)
- Council adoption (August 1)

Ms. Mechem requested input from Boardmembers regarding the following questions:

- What are you hearing in the community about accessibility?
- Are there other groups we might connect with?
- Suggestions on access to facilities?
- Suggestions on access to programs and services?

Boardmember Synn suggested that faith-based communities be included in the ADA discussions.

Boardmember Kumar suggested that a feature be added to the MyBellevue application to include suggestions/comments about accessibility.

Boardmember Heath expressed his support of including all disabilities. He views this as a unifying issue throughout the community. Mr. Smith added that the city has purposely incorporated all disabilities (i.e., age, ethnicity, etc.). Many cultures isolate or ostracize people with disabilities. Mr. Smith added that education still needs to occur regarding equity and diversity.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke inquired if the American Pedestrian Signals (APS) system is mandated under the ADA. Ms. Mechem clarified that yes, this is part of ADA. In addition, the city has been steadily increasing the number of APS (i.e., every time a signal is in need of a repair, the APS system is installed). However, Ms. Mechem noted that there's a recent issue regarding the tones that are used for the APS system. The recommended tones may change in the future.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke commented that good universal design has a halo effect, resulting in people of all abilities enjoying the improvements. He also sees many opportunities to discuss the diversity amongst the community with Bellevue's history. Lastly, Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that disability awareness be included in a cultural center.

Mr. Foran suggested more in-depth discussions with the School District to understand what the District is doing to help identify cognitive disabilities. In addition, Boardmember Synn suggested that Ms. Mechem reach out to Mosaic Children's Services to discuss resources that they may have available.

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

None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Vice-Chair Grindeland encouraged Boardmembers to attend the upcoming Strawberry Festival.

Boardmembers would like to discuss the request that was made during Oral Communications at the May Board meeting to name a memorial element in the Inspiration Playground after Rachel Beck.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested further guidance regarding the rules/protocols for installing memorial recognitions in parks.

In regards to previous Bridle Trails Community discussions and their financial allocations, Boardmember Heath requested that staff follow up with Loretta Lopez to clarify the allocations.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Bellevue Family 4th of July Memo

C. Bel-Red Look Back memo

D. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation

E. Memo re Bellevue Youth Theatre Award

F. Email re problem with trail and subsequent praise for trail crew

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

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Bellevue Family 4th of July—Downtown Park
- C. Next regular Park Board meeting—July 12, 2016, Bellevue City Hall

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Kumar to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

