CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
June 10, 2014
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Grindeland, Vice-Chair Evans[1], Boardmembers George[2], Heath, Kumar, Powell[3], Van Hollebeke[4]

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Lynne Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Greg Bockh, Cherie Clayton, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Eric Guerra, Donny Harrel, Mike Ogliore, Mary Ellen Hundley, Philip Tschopp, Patricia Wheeler

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Grindeland at 6:03 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Heath 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 13, 2014 Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

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[1] Arrived at 6:06 p.m.
[2] Departed at 7:22 p.m.
[3] Arrived at 6:31 p.m.
[4] Arrived at 6:04 p.m.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Cherie Clayton, City of Bellevue
Mike Ogliore, Bellevue Downtown Association

On behalf of the City of Bellevue and the Bellevue Downtown Association, Ms. Clayton and Mr. Ogliore invited Boardmembers to the 23rd Annual Bellevue Collection Bellevue Family 4th presented by PACCAR and Puget Sound Energy. 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.

Ms. Clayton stressed that safety is of utmost importance for the event. She discussed some of the security and crowd control strategies that will be implemented at this year's event.

Philip Tschopp, 1545 Cherry Lane Place South, Seattle, WA

Mr. Tschopp invited Boardmembers to the upcoming Ballet Bellevue production of *Giselle.*

Mr. Tschopp explained that Ballet Bellevue will begin a "GoFundMe" campaign, in addition to other fundraising efforts for the organization.

5. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:

Councilmember Robinson provided a recap of some of the Council's recent discussions and activities, including:

- CIP Budget
- Phase 1 of the Meydenbauer Bay project
- Completion of the Downtown Park circle
- Planning and early implementation of the connection between BNSF railway and Meydenbauer Bay Park
- Ashwood Park Master Plan
- Cultural Center

6. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

Chair Grindeland encouraged Boardmembers to attend the 4th of July celebration at Downtown Park, as well as the Grand Opening Celebration of Bellevue Botanical Garden's new Visitor Center.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Visited Wilburton Hill Park.
- Visited Ivanhoe Park.
- Enjoyed Lewis Creek Park.
- Visited Robinswood Park.
- Visited Sunset Park.
- Attended the Youth Link Community Leadership Awards Ceremony.

Chair Grindeland noted that improved way-finding signage is needed around Bellevue Square and Downtown Park.

Vice-Chair Evans made the following report:

- Attended the Youth Link Community Leadership Awards Ceremony.

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Attended the Youth Link Community Leadership Awards Ceremony.
- Visited the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke is pleased to see that the Parks Department is engaging the Old Bellevue Merchant's Association. He suggested that the parking and traffic problems be addressed during some of these conversations. He stressed the importance of the Parks Department being involved in this process to keep Downtown a vital economic area for the City.

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Visited Bannerwood Sports Park.
- Attended the recent Sound Transit meeting.
- Attended the Youth Link Community Leadership Awards Ceremony.

Boardmember Kumar made the following report:

- Attended the Youth Link Community Leadership Awards Ceremony.
- Visited the Mercer Slough.
- Visited Airfield Park.
- Visited Lewis Creek Park.

Boardmember Kumar noted that improved way-finding signage is needed around the Mercer Slough area.

8. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Foran made the following report:

- Construction will soon begin on the Bridle Trails Corner Park.
- A recent all-department meeting was held at the Bellevue Botanical Garden's New Visitor Center. Boardmembers are encouraged to attend the Grand Opening Celebration, which will be held June 14-15, 2014.
- The 2014 Lake-to-Lake Greenway Trail Bike Ride will be held on Saturday, June 14. The 2014 Lake-to-Lake Greenway Trail Walk will be held on Sunday, June 15. Boardmembers are encouraged to attend.
- The Budget Team is currently reviewing and prioritizing all proposals.

Mr. Foran distributed a book written by Lee Springgate, former Parks & Community Services Director, about how some of Bellevue's parks came to fruition. Mr. Springgate played an integral role in Bellevue's history.

9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Board Elections

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

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to reappoint Chair Grindeland as the Parks & Community Services Board Chair.

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 (7-0) to reappoint Chair Grindeland as the Parks & Community Services Board Chair.

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

Motion by Boardmember Powell to reappoint Vice-Chair Evans as the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair.

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 (7-0) to reappoint Vice-Chair Evans as the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair.

B. Bannerwood Park Proposal

Mr. Kost explained that Seattle University (SU) has used the Bannerwood Park Stadium to host their baseball games beginning in 2009, and would like to consider Bannerwood as their long-term home baseball field. SU has made substantial upgrades to the facility, including improvements to the dugouts, bullpens, grandstand and a new scoreboard. However, weather and field conditions during the college baseball season limit their use to games-only. SU would like to expand their use to include practices during their baseball season, which runs generally from mid-February through the end of May, and to add fall practice times. To achieve this, they would like to convert the playing field to a synthetic surface. Mr. Kost noted that the City staff supports this concept, but lacks funding to participate substantially. The City's main interest is to create a lighted, year-round multi-sport facility. Additional benefits include decreased field maintenance costs and more reliable field availability.

Mr. Kost noted that the property is owned by the Bellevue School District (BSD). The facility was constructed by the City with both City and King County funds in accordance with the current (40-year) 1978 Agreement. The City is responsible for scheduling, and BSD retains priority use of the facility. Bannerwood was formerly the varsity baseball field shared by all BSD high schools. However, after recent upgrades to all high school varsity baseball fields, BSD is much less dependent on this facility, and BSD staff would not object to this arrangement.

Mr. Kost discussed the following business points of the Bannerwood proposed agreement:

- The City would fund the design and other project soft costs, estimated at $120,000, and would manage the construction as a standard public works project;
- SU would fund all construction costs, estimated at $540,000;
- The City would continue to schedule and maintain the field, coordinating field use with SU and other community organizations. The City would retain the final decision on field playability and closure;
- SU would have priority use of the field for 70 days between mid-February and the end of May, and for 20 days between early September and mid-October;
- SU would continue to pay for (rent) the use of the facility in accordance with the fee schedule for those times they use the field;
- Any agreement is subject to the approval of the Bellevue School District and City Council, and would include neighborhood outreach as necessary to introduce the project to the neighbors.

Boardmember Powell asked if there have been any complaints received about the park. Mr. Kost responded that he is not aware of any notable complaints.

There was a general discussion about the design elements of a synthetic infield and the lifespan of turf.

Boardmember Heath asked the following questions. The responses were provided by Mr. Kost.

- Has an analysis been performed to determine how long it would take for the City to obtain capital costs for their investment?
  - Response: A formal analysis has not been conducted but the community would benefit from the investment.
- Have other groups expressed an interest in partnering with Bellevue for the facility?
  - Response: No other groups have expressed an interest in a partnership for the facility.
- What is the biggest concern and/or risk for the City?
  - Response: There are no large risks for the project. It is a great opportunity for the City.

Boardmember George asked the following questions. The responses were provided by Mr. Kost.

- If SU has priority of the field, who would they have priority over?
  - Response: They would have priority over everyone during the times requested. However, most of these days do not conflict with the current use of Bannerwood, so no current users would be displaced because of this agreement.
- Has neighborhood outreach already been conducted?
  - Response: No community outreach has been conducted thus far. However, public opinion will be sought from the surrounding community members. Opposition to the proposal is not anticipated because there is no material change to the facility.
- Will the surface material be similar to the material used at Robinswood Park?
  - Response: Yes—very similar.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke asked the following questions. The responses were provided by Mr. Kost.

- Who will have priority use of the facility?
  - Response: There is a set usage schedule based upon the time of year, etc. Bellevue School District is in agreement with this schedule. The City also supports the recommendation.
- Will the facility usage increase resulting in an increase in revenue?
  - Response: A significant change in revenue is not anticipated. The improvements will make the field more dependable.

Boardmember Kumar asked the following questions. The responses were provided by Mr. Kost.

- Is staff aware of an increased risk of Staph infection from turf fields?
  - Response: Staff is aware of this concern, but there has been no scientific evidence produced to date that supports this claim.
- Are there concerns about beverages being spilled on the turf?
  - Response: Beverages are restricted from the field but there have been people that don't follow this rule. There are no concerns about this, as the field will drain. Chewing gum typically causes more harm to the turf field than beverages.

Vice-Chair Evans asked the following questions. The responses were provided by Mr. Kost.

- Where will the financial obligation for the City come from?
  - Response: Most likely the financial obligation will come from the Parks budget, although there is no budget impact since the City will receive a substantially improved facility. The City may fund a portion of the project upfront and be reimbursed for the initial capital costs over time from SU.

A SU representative clarified that the SU baseball team typically conducts practice three days per week, usually between 12:30-3:00 p.m.

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember Powell to direct staff to move forward with the proposal to partner with Seattle University and install synthetic turf on the Bannerwood Park baseball infield. The motion carried with six members voting in favor. The "nays" were not called, and a vote was not recorded for Boardmember George.

C. Probation Division Program Overview

Mr. Bockh explained that the mission of the Bellevue Probation Division is to monitor adult misdemeanor offenders and hold them accountable to complete court-ordered sanctions. As a community service agency, the Probation Division works together with the courts, law enforcement agencies, community organizations, leaders and victim advocates enhancing community safety and facilitating offenders' rehabilitation.

Utilizing a risk-needs-responsivity model, Bellevue Probation conducts in-depth assessments, determines areas of greatest need and, within the guidelines set by the court, refers individuals to the appropriate program(s), tracks progress and monitors outcomes.

Mr. Bockh noted that the Probation Division oversees misdemeanant cases referred by King County judges. There are approximately 1,000 individuals per year with average daily population of 450 supervision cases and 500 administrative cases. The cases by charge type breakdown as follows:

- Driving under the influence (60%)
- Domestic violence (14%)
- Theft (13%)
- Assaults/disorderly behavior (5%)
- Drug offenses (2%)

The net cost of the program in 2012 was $676,000.

In addition to the misdemeanant cases, Bellevue Probation within the Parks & Community Services Department also oversees Electronic Home Detention (EHD) programs, which include:

- Electronic monitoring in lieu of jail or pre-trial.
- Average daily population of approximately 20 individuals.
- Net cost of $287,000 in 2012 plus jail savings of approximately $200,000.

Mr. Bockh discussed some of the targeted programs and services also provided by the Probation program, including:

- Domestic Violence Intervention
- Alive at 25
- Youth Court
- Work Crew
- Defensive Driving
- Gateway Program
- Thinking for a Change
- Driver's License Support

Mr. Foran discussed the success of the EHD program because the program lessens the jail costs and keeps the offender employed.

In 2012, a Bellevue Oversight Team completed a thorough probation and EHD study. Mr. Bockh noted that this was an extensive analysis of whether or not Bellevue should keep the probation program or outsource the program. Findings from the study included:

- Fill the probation manager vacancy.
- Invest in data management.
- Work with King County judges to increase cases referred to Bellevue Probation.
- Identify process improvement opportunities with focus on most productive tasks.
- Maintain adherence to research proven practices "Best Practices" and collective impact.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke stressed the importance of identifying people in need of mental health outreach and addressing related issues.

When asked about budgetary requirements for the probation program, Mr. Foran explained that the Probation and Electronic Home Detention Program has a flat budget except for uncontrollable items (i.e., software upgrades). The division is working to get optimum performance with the current resources available. Then, the impact of applying more resources for bigger results will be evaluated.

Mr. Bockh explained that recidivism (or new convictions) is a meaningful measure to determine if jail alternatives are having a positive effect. An industry standard is typically 40% to 50%. Bellevue just completed a three-year follow-up of all probation cases closed in the time period from January through May, 2011. The results showed that of the 395 offenders closed, 110, or 27.85%, incurred new charges anywhere in Washington State. Thirty-two, or 8.10%, incurred new Bellevue convictions. Those numbers alone reflect that Bellevue Probation is providing an excellent return for the dollars invested.

Boardmember Heath discussed his experience with the legal system as an attorney, judge, etc. and stressed the importance of Bellevue's involvement to fill the gaps because of King County's lack of funding.

10. BOARDMEMBER COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

A. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

Boardmember Heath reported that the Bridle Trails Board is evaluating a variety of potential park locations.

B. Downtown Livability Study

Boardmember Powell reported that the Downtown Livability Committee is refining the work conducted thus far and is nearing completion of their project.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that the Board conduct a Board Retreat to discuss the future vision of Bellevue (30-50 year timeframe) and where the Board should focus their efforts.

Vice-Chair Evans reiterated his previous requests for a Board meeting to be held at the Bellevue Golf Course.

12. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Status Report

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

C. Memo from Patrick Foran to City Council re Bellevue Botanical Garden Announcement

D. Memo from Patrick Foran to City Council re World Elder Abuse Awareness Month

E. MyBellevue PublicStuff comment re trail maintenance

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—July 8, 2014

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).