

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

Tuesday
July 9, 2013
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Grindeland, Vice-Chair Evans, Boardmembers George¹, Heath, Powell

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmembers Robinson, Van Hollebeke

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Michael Kattermann (PCD), Camron Parker, Terry Smith

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 Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember Powell to amend the meeting agenda correcting items 1 and 10.a. to note "Chair Grindeland," rather than "Chair Robinson." At the question, motion carried unanimously (4-0) to amend the meeting agenda.

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember Powell to approve the meeting agenda as amended. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Vice-Chair Evans to approve the June 11, 2013, Parks & Community Services Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:06 p.m.

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

None.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Attended the Youth Link Community Leadership Awards ceremony.
- Visited Bannerwood Sports Park.
- Visited Lewis Creek Park.

Chair Grindeland suggested that directional signs be placed throughout the trail system at Lewis Creek Park.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Heath attended the Downtown Livability Open House. He noted that the Park Board recommendations discussed at the last Board meeting were included in some of the Downtown Livability marketing materials.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Visited the off-leash dog area at Robinswood Park.
- Walked the Airfield Park property.
- Visited Meydenbauer Beach Park.
- Visited Chism Beach Park.
- Attended the 4th of July celebration.

Vice-Chair Evans made the following report:

- Volunteered at the North Bellevue Community Center Father's Day celebration.
- Visited many parks via Lake Washington.
- Visited the future park site on West Lake Sammamish Parkway.

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Biked through Robinswood Park.
- Walked the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Boardmember George noted that there is a crack in the sidewalk, near Phantom Lake, that needs tending. There are snakes living beneath the cracked sidewalk area.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported that the annual Symetra Bellevue Family 4th Celebration at Bellevue Downtown Park was a huge success with approximately 56,000 people in attendance. He also noted that the City is in full swing of summer day camp programs.

Mr. Foran reported that the swimming area at Meydenbauer Beach was closed on July 2 due to poor water quality. The beach was reopened on July 3. King County Water and Land Resources routinely tests and monitors water quality at beaches on Lake Washington to ensure that they are safe for swimmers.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **East Link Update**

Mr. Kattermann provided an update on recent decisions and next steps related to the East Link light rail extension through Bellevue. In particular, he showed a map of the final alignment route. The following is a list of the six stations in Bellevue:

- South Bellevue P&R
- Downtown
- 130th Avenue NE
- Hospital/Wilburton
- East Main Street
- 120th Avenue NE

Some of the recent decisions about the East Link light rail extension through Bellevue include:

- Bellevue Way SE—the rail will be kept in a lidded trench in front of the Winters House.
- SE 15th Street—the roadway will go up and over the light rail route.
- SE 4th Street—there will be emergency vehicle access only and modified access to Surrey owns Park.
- Downtown Station—NE 6th Street tunnel/at-grade/elevated section with up to \$5 million for station and pedestrian enhancements.

Mr. Kattermann noted that City is working on Station Area Planning, approximately one-quarter to one-half mile radius from each station. This planning will be tailored to each area depending on the issues. As a separate matter, Sound Transit is designing each station to be distinct, and the station design will be reviewed through the City's permitting process, separate from station area planning. This planning program will provide the tools to achieve better integration and make the most out of the light rail system when it is finally operational. Unlike the light rail project itself, which is Sound Transit's responsibility, the Station Area Planning is completely within the responsibility and authority of the City.

Vice-Chair Evans asked if the Station Area Planning will include coordination with the various transit systems so schedules can be in synch. Mr. Kattermann noted that the City is currently in the process of working on the Transit Master Plan.

Boardmember Powell had heard rumors that the 120th Street Station might be eliminated. Mr. Kattermann explained that there would be no benefit or cost savings to the City if this station is eliminated. However, Sound Transit has stated that they have no intent to eliminate any of the stations.

Mr. Kattermann discussed the Station Area Planning proposed schedule and the next steps for the final design of the light rail project. In addition, he showed simulations of some of the station concepts.

Boardmember Heath asked if Sound Transit planners have looked into the future to determine if additional stations will need to be added. Other than possible extensions to Redmond, Mr. Kattermann explained that there are no existing plans to add additional stations and/or routes. However, if needed, additional trains could be added to existing routes to accommodate an increase in demand.

Boardmember Heath inquired if the City has been involved with acquiring properties for the East Link light rail route. Mr. Kattermann clarified that Sound Transit is responsible for acquiring property for the project. The City's involvement is only for any of the property the City has committed to provide for the project or for City-related projects.

Chair Grindeland inquired if bicycle routes are being incorporated into the planning designs. Mr. Kattermann explained that there will be bike lockers, storage racks, and/or sanctuaries incorporated into the design for each station. In addition, the connectivity to stations via bicycle will be evaluated as part of station area planning.

Mr. Kattermann explained that Sound Transit is evaluating certain areas for their maintenance yard. An environmental analysis on the alternatives will be conducted. Then, the Sound Transit Board will review the information and ultimately make the decision.

Mr. Parker discussed some of the impacts to the park areas; in particular, he noted that many of the features and attributes located along the western edge of the Mercer Slough Nature Park are being re-designed to allow for the light rail facility adjacent to Bellevue Way. These facilities include the Sweyolocken boat launch, the Overlake Blueberry Farm, the Heritage Loop Trail, the historic F.W. Winters House, the Perimeter Loop Trail and the Mercer Slough Water Trail.

Mr. Parker discussed the funding sources for the Mercer Slough portion of the light rail project.

At Surrey Downs Park, the activities and features currently located in the park are also being reconsidered. Mr. Parker noted that the light rail facility will close the two vehicular and pedestrian access points along 112th Avenue Southeast. Park driveways will be relocated to points accessible from the west, through the Surrey Downs neighborhood. As part of the East Link MOU, the City has committed to updating the park's current master plan, which was

adopted in 2009. With the limited access to Surrey Downs Park, Mr. Parker noted that a multi-use building that was approved in the 2009 master plan is not feasible. In addition, it will be difficult to heavily schedule the sports fields with limited access and parking.

The goal is to make sure that 112th Avenue Southeast has a “green” experience along the way. One of the design elements along 112th Avenue Southeast includes a multipurpose path to accommodate bicycles and other users. The area will incorporate 8-10 foot sidewalks with 4 foot planting strips.

The corner of Main Street and 112th Avenue Southeast will be Sound Transit’s tunnel portal entrance. Mr. Parker discussed the design elements for this area, which will ultimately be turned over to the City as a new parcel of open space.

Boardmember George requested clarification regarding the impacts to the Canoe Trail from the light rail routes. Mr. Parker explained that the main light rail impact to the canoe trail will be at 112th Avenue Southeast. He noted that there will be a change to the overall look of the area. However, there are opportunities for restoration.

Mr. Parker noted that there are opportunities for improvement along the light rail route. He provided highlights of some of these areas. Along the route, there are some properties that the city will purchase and some properties that Sound Transit will purchase. These properties are identified in the MOU.

Mr. Parker discussed some of the potential park impacts and opportunities for park improvements around the Downtown Bellevue and Bel-Red light rail station.

Mr. Kattermann encouraged Boardmembers to attend the final design open houses that Sound Transit will be hosting beginning this fall.

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

A. Network on Aging

No report.

B. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

Boardmember Heath reported that the Bridle Trails neighborhood has voted to name the new park, “Bridle Trails Corner Park.”

C. Downtown Livability Study

Boardmember Powell invited Boardmembers to attend the Downtown Livability Forum that will be held tomorrow.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Future agenda items

None.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Email from Dick Applestone re Surrey Downs Park
- C. Email Suzie Lyons re Van Gogh day camp

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. No regular Park Board meeting in August
- C. Next regular Park Board meeting is scheduled for September 10 at City Hall

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 7:49 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).