CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday
July 14, 2015
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair George, Boardmembers Heath, Kumar, Van Hollebeke

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmembers Grindeland, Powell

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Alina, Scott Armstrong, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Patrick Simmons, Terry Smith, Helena Stephens, Cathy VonWald

OTHERS PRESENT: Dallas Evans

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair George at 6:02 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

Motion by Boardmember Kumar to amend the meeting agenda and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to add an agenda item to discuss a Music in the Parks program. Motion carried unanimously (4-0)

At the question, the amended motion carried unanimously (4-0) to approve the revised meeting agenda.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the June 9, 2015 Parks & Community Services Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

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

None.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robinson reported that the Council recently adopted verbiage regarding the advisory role for Boards and Commissions. She added that the Planning Commission will be the lead Commission in terms of the Comprehensive Plan Update that will be forwarded to Council for approval.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair George asked Boardmembers to ponder whether the Board Communications portion of the meeting agenda should be utilized for Boardmembers to report on their previous month's activities or if it should be used to discuss potential action items.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Kumar made the following report:

- Attended the 24th Annual Bellevue Collection Bellevue Family 4th celebration.
- Enjoyed the Chow Downtown Bellevue Food Truck Round Up.
- Visited many of Bellevue's parks and trails.

Boardmember Kumar would like to see the Boardmember reports include reports on previous month's activities to keep park-related activities at the forefront. However, she also liked Chair George's suggestion of designating the time for brainstorming potential action items.

Boardmember Heath favors keeping the Board Communications the same by including reports on previous month's activities. Councilmember Robinson recommended that Boardmembers suggest any potential meeting agenda items/future business to the Board Chair so it can be discussed with staff at the pre-meeting. In addition, Mr. Foran clarified that agenda Item 11.a. is typically where New Business/Future Agenda Items are discussed/included.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke explained that he likes to discuss park-related activities during Board Communications to highlight various parks and/or commend staff about the value that they are adding to Bellevue. He views the Park Board's role with City Council like a trusted advisor or friend.

There was general consensus that the Board Communication portion of the meeting agenda continue to include reports on the previous month's activities. If there is a particular subject matter that needs to be addressed, Chair George encouraged Boardmembers to call attention to it during Board Communications.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran provided highlights from the 24th Annual Bellevue Collection Bellevue Family 4th celebration. The event was well attended with no major incidences.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested additional information regarding the extended environmental review for the Downtown Park "Complete the Circle" Development. Mr. Foran clarified that both the environmental and construction permit review continues because of the complex nature of the project.

Mr. Foran reported that Bellevue received additional state funding for many projects including: Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 1, KidsQuest Children's Museum, and Downtown Park Inspiration Playground to name a few. Mr. Foran commended Bellevue's advocates for their efforts with obtaining funding for these projects.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Recognition of Outgoing Boardmember Dallas Evans

Councilmember Robinson read a Commendation for Mr. Evans to thank him for serving on the Park Board. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Foran presented Dallas Evans with a plaque and framed picture as a token of appreciation. In addition, Boardmembers and staff expressed their appreciation to Mr. Evans.

B. Aquatics Program Overview

Mr. Armstrong provided an overview of Bellevue's Aquatic Program. The Bellevue Aquatic Center's (BAC) mission is to provide public safety, diverse quality programming, and sound fiscal management. The BAC opened in 1997 and had 154,226 visits in 2014 with approximately $857,273 in revenue. There are two pools at the BAC, which offer a variety of programs including competitive training, warm water pool, swimming lessons, water exercise, etc. Both pools are accessible with lifts and stairs. Special events at the BAC include April Pool's Day, Youth Appreciation Day, and Fit for the Feast master swim workout.

Mr. Armstrong noted that the BAC works on sound fiscal management utilizing energy efficiency and various contractors for the facility.

Mr. Simmons discussed Bellevue's outdoor aquatics, which includes six beach parks (Newcastle, Enatai, Chesterfield, Chism, Meydenbauer, and Clyde). He noted that the beach parks had

approximately 113,310 in attendance during lifeguarded hours in 2014. There are approximately 30-40 lifeguards on duty during the school year. This staffing increases to 60-75 during the summer months.

Mr. Simmons noted the following statistics for 2014:

- 11,246 preventative actions
- 111 medical aids
- 16 rescues
- 1 lost person
- 103 boat warnings
- 8 police/medic calls
- 3,906 launches at the SE 40th Street Boat Launch

Mr. Simmons explained that the City of Bellevue has a use agreement with a subcontractor for small canoe, kayak, and stand-up paddleboard rentals, interpretive trips, and recreation trips. Nearly 8,000 people participate in these programs each year.

Boardmembers commended Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Simmons and their staff for their efforts with the BAC and the beach parks.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke inquired what the BAC is lacking relative to community demand. Mr. Simmons responded that the BAC pool is not set up for swim meets because of the pool depth. Mr. Foran added that the region is lacking the swim capacity for schools and swim teams.

Chair George inquired if there is still an interest in a major aquatic facility, as discussed at the Board retreat and in the past with other organizations. Mr. Foran clarified that there is still interest in a major aquatic facility. However, Council support and funding are major obstacles for the facility. Mr. Smith added that there are different philosophies on how to manage the swim demand of the communities. There is so much demand that some communities have opted to move forward on their own.

C. Youth Link Update

Ms. Stephens provided an overview of Bellevue Youth Link, which started in 1990 by 75 members of the community. The program provides leadership opportunities for teens in addressing issues affecting youth through involvement. It works in partnership with the Bellevue School District and other community-based organizations in the community and around the world.

For over 25 years, Ms. Stephens noted that Youth Link has impacted the lives of 7,000 youth in Bellevue. The program created, sponsored, and partnered over 50 projects and programs.

Over 1,500 teens were surveyed in 2011 to confirm youth leadership trends in Bellevue. In addition, Ms. Stephens reported that over 150 Youth Link alumni have served and continue to participate through the Youth Link Facebook page, and three youth formerly on the Youth Link Board have transitioned to Youth Link as adult Boardmembers.

Ms. Stephens showed a video that provided highlights of Youth Link over the past 25 years. In addition, she discussed some of the Youth Link projects and partners.

The Youth Link Board consists of six adult members, six youth members, a City Councilmember, and a School Board liaison. Youth Link also has an abundance of partners, which Ms. Stephens discussed.

As one of the new Youth Link programs, Youth Link University was launched. Mr. Alina noted that Youth Link University (YLU) started as a casual discussion between Bellevue Youth Council (BYC) members and adults during Youth Link's 2014 Gumbo Night. The YLU Planning Committee was created by BYC members within 30 days. In late April, 2015, the Executive Development Institute (EDI) 2014 Leadership Navigation Class partnered with Youth Link. Together, the EDI team and youth members, developed a unique leadership course to:

- Address young people (middle and high school age).
- Focus on soft skills development.
- Areas of business leadership, planning, project management, conflict resolution/negotiation, finance, networking, and other essential business skills.

Mr. Alina noted that the YLU program is 10 months in length.

Mr. Alina provided highlights from the Youth Link Robotics program at Crossroads Community Center that launched the second week in April, 2015. The project was a partnership between Bellevue Youth Link, Crossroads Community Center, Wrap-Around Services, Bellevue Girls & Boys Club, and a non-profit organization called Robot Innovators of Tomorrow. It was an eight week program for low-income Bellevue elementary school students. There were approximately 15 students enrolled in the program. They built a robot which was fully operational. BYC members were volunteers for the program.

In addition to the programs discussed above, Mr. Alina noted that the Youth Involvement Conference will be held in Spring, 2016.

Boardmember Heath applauded the Youth Link program. He thinks that it is valuable to have conversations about revenue generating programs and encouraged Ms. Stephens and Mr. Alina to track the statistics and trends about the program.

Chair George commended Youth Link for creating YLU so quickly. She called attention to Bellevue School District's below average rating for mainstreaming kids with disabilities into regular classrooms and suggested exploring whether Youth Link could help with fostering social interaction between students with impaired social abilities and their typically-developing peers.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke applauded staff for their efforts with Youth Link. He expressed his concern with possible overreach with the YLU program and stressed the importance of the program being youth driven.

D. Music in the Parks

Boardmember Kumar heard that the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra performed in a Seattle park recently. She would like to see the symphony in a Bellevue park. Boardmember Kumar discussed some of the larger parks that already have music programs and suggested that some of the smaller parks (e.g., Lewis Creek Park, Lake Hills Park, etc.) would benefit from the addition of music in the park. Boardmember Van Hollebeke expressed his support of this idea and called attention to the Parks and Open Space System Plan Update that discusses the collective impact and collaboration that would be advantageous for arts and parks. He added that there needs to be more formal outreach between the Park Board and the Arts Commission.

Mr. Foran discussed some of the music programs already scheduled throughout Bellevue parks, including Pianos in the Parks. Mr. Smith added that Bellevue supports arts and culture through the Cultural Diversity Program, which focuses on various performances related to drama, music, movies in the park, etc. Although Boardmember Kumar appreciates these programs, she would like to see the programs extend beyond the Downtown area. Chair George added that she has enjoyed Wooden O's *Shakespeare in the Park* performances in Mercer Island and would like to see them in Bellevue parks.

Chair George requested information about the purpose of the Arts Commission. In addition, Boardmembers requested that someone from the Arts Commission attend a future Park Board meeting to discuss the Commissions' purpose and how the two Boards/Commissions can collaborate.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Kumar to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

10. BOARDMEMBER COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:

None.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

In regards to the discussions that occurred at the last Board meeting regarding renaming parks (e.g., Degginger Park, Conrad Lee Park, Nan Campbell Park, etc.), Boardmember Heath suggested that further discussions be postponed until the September Board meeting.

Chair George asked Boardmembers if they would like to conduct another Board Retreat. Boardmember Van Hollebeke expressed interest in seeing action on the items identified at the 2014 Board Retreat, rather than conducting a 2015 Board Retreat. Chair George clarified that the notes from the 2014 Board Retreat include a list of ideas. The list was intended to be a general vision and does not translate into action items. She added that another retreat may help

translate these items into action items or the retreat can be used to flush out ideas for new business. Boardmembers favored a work session to determine how the 2014 Board Retreat ideas can translate into action items, in particular the Park Foundation concept.

Boardmember Heath suggested that the Board determine the best way to work with Council, staff, and the community. He does not want to repeat previous actions of having a retreat with no collaboration or change from the ideas generated.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Kumar to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that Boardmembers determine the Board's vision and forward this information for the Comprehensive Plan Update. In addition, he would like to learn if there are other organizations similar to the Parks Foundation concept that the Board desires.

Mr. Smith noted that staff has an extensive list of agenda items for Boardmembers. He suggested that the Chair and Vice-Chair be involved in reviewing the list to help understand upcoming demands and identify priorities.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation (from City Council packet)

C. Parks and Recreation Month Proclamation (from City Council packet)

D. Agenda Memo and Background re Patterson Property Acquisition (from City Council packet)

E. Memo re Presentation of Check to Council from BBGS

F. Email from Alicia F re Youth Sports Camps

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. No Board meeting is planned for August.

C. Next regular Park Board meeting—September 10, 2015, Bellevue City Hall

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to adjourn the meeting at 8:44 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).