CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES

Thursday
July 8, 2008
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Keeney, Vice-Chair Bennett, Boardmembers George, Robinson, Roland

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmembers Henrickson, Karle

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember John Chelminiak

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Mike Bergstrom (PCD), Shelley Brittingham, Robin Cole, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Brian Krause, James McClain, Jerry Nissley, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Barbara Eisenstein, Patti Grime, Nancy Malvin, Travis Reisner, Anita Skoog-Neil, David Velderman

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Roland and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to approve the meeting agenda. Motion carried unanimously (5–0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Roland and second by Vice-Chair Bennett to approve the June 10, 2008 Meeting Minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Chair Keeney welcomed new Boardmembers Lynne Robinson and Kathy George to the Park Board.

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

David Velderman, 16007 SE 31st St., Bellevue, WA

Mr. Velderman lives in the Spiritridge neighborhood near the Eastgate meadow. He expressed his opposition toward a sports complex in the Eastgate meadow location. He is in the process of gathering signatures to advocate against this proposed plan and will submit these at a later date.

Nancy Malvin, 3804 – 130th Lane SE #B2, Bellevue, WA

Patti Grime, 624 Bellevue Way SE, #C, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Malvin represents the Bellevue Dogs organization and requested an off-leash dog area or off-leash dog hours at the Downtown Park. She reviewed a handout summarizing her recent visit to the Hazelia Field Dog Park in Portland, Oregon, which depicted ideal characteristics for a dog park.

Ms. Grime would like off-leash dog parks disbursed throughout the city and offered any assistance needed.

Barbara Eisenstein, 12609 SE 29th St., Bellevue, WA

Ms. Eisenstein expressed her opposition towards the Eastgate sports field concept discussed in the Parks & Open Space System 2003 Master Plan.

Travis Reisner, Boardmember/BYT Foundation, 3800 NE Sunset Blvd., Renton, WA

Mr. Reisner expressed the BYT Foundation's support of the development plan for the Bellevue Youth Theatre. In addition, he thanked Boardmembers and city staff for allowing the BYT Foundation to actively participate throughout the planning process.

Anita Skoog-Neil, 93025 E. Shoreland Dr., Bellevue, WA

Ms. Skoog-Neil informed Boardmembers that she feels there is an impression being given that there has been consensus on the upland portion of the Meydenbauer Bay Park planning process. She felt that the Steering Committee meetings ended with a lack of consensus among the Steering Committee members. Some of the issues Ms. Skoog-Neil feels that need to be addressed include: parking, densities, upzoning, and various other issues.

5. CHAIR COMMUNICATION:

6. BOARD COMMUNICATION:

Boardmember Roland recently attended the final Light Rail Best Practices Steering Committee meeting.

Vice-Chair Bennett attended the following events: 24-Hour Relay Challenge, BYT Public Meeting, 4th of July celebration.

Chair Keeney attended the following events: 24-Hour Relay Challenge and the 4th of July celebration. In addition, Chair Keeney reported that the Meydenbauer Bay Steering Committee is starting to work on the park and land use aspects of the planning process.

Chair Keeney expressed his appreciation to Boardmembers Roland and Karle for all of their work on the Light Rail Best Practices Steering Committee.

7. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

See notes below.

8. CONSENT ITEMS:

None.

9. DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

A. Welcome to new Boardmembers

See notes above.

B. Meydenbauer Bay Project Update

Ms. Cole and Mr. Bergstrom updated Boardmembers on the Meydenbauer Bay project. The specific focus for this project is the park and land use.

The land use concept for the Meydenbauer Bay Park was reviewed by Mr. Bergstrom. In addition, Ms. Cole summarized some of the various issues in which the committee has deferred. She added that a new consulting company, EDAW, has recently been hired. This company has an ecological approach to planning.

Ms. Cole reported that the Meydenbauer Bay website is being updated. The updated site will be available in the near future.

The Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan process diagram was reviewed. Ms. Cole summarized some of the timeframes listed on the diagram, which included Steering Committee meetings as well as City Council presentations.

Ms. Cole summarized some of the emerging themes derived from the May 29, 2008 Steering Committee meeting. These themes will lead into the public workshop on July 30, 2008.

Chair Keeney encouraged Boardmembers to attend the public forums to assist them in being well-informed on the various park issues.

CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATIONS:

Councilmember Chelminiak welcomed the new Boardmembers to the board. He also reported that the City Council has decided to proceed with a levy for the upcoming fall ballot.

Councilmember Chelminiak made Boardmembers aware that there have been presentations made by citizens regarding the Eastgate Open Space area as well as requests for additional dog parks.

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS (Cont.):

C. Bellevue Youth Theatre Update

Mr. Krause reported that a public outreach meeting was held on July 1, 2008 regarding the Bellevue Youth Theatre expansion. Feedback from this meeting strongly favored locating the theatre near the Crossroads Community Center.

Mr. Krause reviewed some of the comments received from this meeting. He noted that the purpose to expand and locate the BYT near the Crossroads Community Center is to serve the original purpose and focus of the BYT program, which is to serve the disadvantaged and disenfranchised teens in the Crossroads community. This project will fulfill the current theatre space needs and allow the BYT to grow in accordance with the BYT 2004 program action plan.

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Roland to recommend to City Council approval of the expansion of the Bellevue Youth Theatre adjacent to Crossroads Community Center. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

D. Park Board Tour

The Park Board Tour will be held July 12, 2008. Mr. Smith reviewed some of the sites that will be visited.

10. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:

Mr. Foran discussed the levy planned for the fall ballot as well as the many upcoming Master Plans being conducted.

11. OLD BUSINESS:

A. Boardmember committee/liaison reports

Boardmember Roland discussed her final thoughts regarding the Light Rail Best Practices Steering Committee meetings.

Vice-Chair Bennett encouraged Boardmembers to attend the various upcoming Master Plan meetings.

12. NEW BUSINESS:

A. Future agenda items

13. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. Staff Reports

B. CIP Project Report

C. MSEEC Monthly Project Report

D. Letter from Nancy Malvin (Bellevue Dogs.org) re dogs in Downtown Park

E. Email from Paul and Chris Hovind re Bellevue parks

F. Email from Gerald and Anne Watkins re park property in Lakemont area

G. Email from Don and Joyce Mackenzie re Boeing/Eastgate Area Properties

14. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. July 16 – City vs. Seniors Softball Challenge

C. September 9 – next Park Board meeting (no meeting in August)

15. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:

Irene Roberts, *past Park Boardmember*
Ms. Roberts thanked Boardmembers for their support of the BYT expansion.

16. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Vice-Chair Bennett and second by Boardmember Roland to adjourn the meeting at 7:15 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).