

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting
Council Retreat

February 1-3, 2007

Resort at Port Ludlow – One Heron Road
Port Ludlow, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Degginger, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Balducci, Davidson, Lee, Marshall, and Noble

ABSENT: None.

1. Thursday, February 1

Mayor Degginger convened the special meeting at 9:00 p.m. following dinner on Thursday, February 1. All Councilmembers were present.

(a) Review 2006 Accomplishments and Initiatives

City Manager Steve Sarkozy opened discussion by briefly reviewing the purpose of the retreat and the City's goals and underlying principles. He reviewed the Citywide Work Plan, which outlines work completed within the City and ongoing functions and priorities. He asked Council to think about its priorities and internal process that will help assure the alignment of priorities with staff's understanding of where to concentrate their efforts.

Staff and Council noted two major transportation initiatives: 1) Sound Transit 2 (light rail between Seattle and the Eastside), and 2) RTID, the Regional Transportation Investment District. All agreed it is important to continue to monitor and plan an intergovernmental strategy well in advance as decisions will likely need to be made quickly at different points within the Sound Transit and RTID processes.

Mr. Sarkozy led discussion of the major achievements and work items of 2006:

- Moving to the New City Hall.
- Achieving funding for and expediting the NE 10th Street Extension Project.
- City coordination of services during extensive downtown development.
- Successful emergency response to the crane accident and windstorm.
- Adoption of the Critical Areas Ordinance.
- Awards, including the Park Gold Medal and 100 Best Cities for Youth.
- Technology leadership including the eGov Alliance and introduction of a wireless network in City Hall and through part of the downtown.

- Maintained recognition as a safe city.
- Continuing accreditations of City departments.
- The City's participation in and contributions to programs within Bellevue School District.
- Streamlining and consolidation of customer and public services through Service First.
- Continued growth in public involvement and feedback in planning processes.

Council discussed opportunities for continued improvement including refinement of the emergency response plan and addressing new budget initiatives earlier in the budget process. Council made suggestions about items concerning the City Hall facility including public art and signage.

Mr. Sarkozy said he is proud of the organization's achievement of multiple accreditations and a positive working environment. However, he acknowledged a fair amount of stress among staff and workloads that have reached their maximum capacity. Most citizens are unaware of employees' efforts, particularly in situations such as the emergency response to the windstorm.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00 p.m.

2. Friday, February 2

The meeting was called to order at 8:25 a.m., with Mayor Degginger presiding.

Mr. Sarkozy and Council reviewed the 2007 work plan and highlighted the following items:

Environmental Stewardship Initiative – Council requested an update on what has been and what more can be done. Councilmembers want to move forward with action items as soon as possible, and they discussed the importance of incorporating ESI items into Bel-Red planning and Meydenbauer Bay development efforts, among others. They would like aesthetic elements to be factored into the effort as much as possible.

US Mayors' Climate Protection Agreement – Councilmembers expressed an interest in repackaging this initiative to be more Bellevue-centric with clearly stated local objectives that are feasible and achievable.

Long-range Capital and Operational Financing Plan – Council stated the need to address the long-term operational budget along with the long-term Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. Councilmembers also discussed the need for greater public understanding of the budget and the need to supplement general revenues. Councilmembers encouraged a preliminary presentation of basic budget elements including the tax structure. Regarding the \$60 million Supplemental Budget identified by Council during the last budget process, there was a consensus to address allocations through three \$20 million packages over the next six years. Council would like to move forward with developing a parks bond measure for presentation to the voters.

Downtown Circulator/People Mover and Great Streets Initiative – Several Councilmembers identified this as a high priority and suggested a name change to Downtown Pedestrian Mobility Plan and Implementation, incorporating some aspects of Sound Transit Phase 2 and the Great

Streets Program. There is a need to clarify the vision and location of a people mover, its relationship to a circulator system, and whether both elements are needed. Some Councilmembers identified fulfillment of the Pedestrian Bicycle Plan and the Neighborhood Initiative Strategy as competing high priorities. They discussed the need to encourage walking and a desire to clarify the vision for the system and innovative technologies that could be used.

Neighborhood Livability – Council appreciates the quarterly updates on the various projects related to neighborhood livability.

Volunteer Program – Council supports efforts toward a more cohesive program with a system for the early integration of volunteers with key projects and/or existing work plan items. Opportunities should be announced on the City's web site and designed to be easy and worthwhile for volunteers.

Surrey Downs Park Master Plan – Council discussed the need for park planning, including the potential use of the site for Sound Transit 2 construction staging. Further analysis is needed of the Boys and Girls Club of Bellevue's proposal for this project, and the position of Surrey Downs' residents regarding the site's future.

Bel-Red Area Master Planning/Coordination with existing BROTS (Bel-Red Overlake Transportation Study) Agreement – Council discussed the importance of comparing potential development of Bellevue's 900 acres in the Bel-Red area with Redmond's plans for almost equivalent development on 45 acres bordering Bellevue, and how to engage with Redmond Council and staff. A long-range infrastructure plan and recreational elements should be included in the plan. Council and staff also discussed the need to develop a strategy for addressing Redmond's interest in concentrating development in this area instead of in its downtown.

Additional priorities briefly reviewed included:

- Benefits of municipal wireless network.
- Developing an interest statement on future use of the Burlington Northern Santa Fe (BNSF) right-of-way.
- Expanded information on the City's web site regarding planned, completed, and/or implemented projects.

After additional brief review of items on the work plan, Mayor Degginger declared a 15-minute break at 10:35 a.m.

Continuing with review of the 2007 work plan, Council discussed the following items:

International Trade – Staff is preparing a presentation on the draft economic development plan for Council consideration.

Cascade Water Alliance – Councilmembers feel this major regional alliance and its planned construction of water infrastructure should be classified as an audacious goal. The alliance is a historic partnership spanning 20 legislative districts that has built new regional relationships as

well as demonstrating major environmental benefits including an increase of water flow into the White River.

Response to Emergencies – Council would like staff to look into issues such as: 1) Modifications to prescription drug plans to allow locally filled prescriptions for more than a 30-day supply, 2) Consider a policy regarding back-up generators for gas stations, 3) Provide showers at emergency shelters, 4) Use of emergency broadcast system, 5) Emergency assistance from the State and King County during regional emergency events, and 6) Working with Puget Sound Energy to develop a better communications plan.

Councilmembers requested a report from Comcast and Quest regarding the impact of the storm on their services. In terms of utilities, they would like a cost-benefit analysis of placing them underground as well as an analysis of what percentage of the community's utilities are already underground.

Councilmembers also discussed the need for a public safety plan for downtown, including the addition of a fire station; a strategic integrated plan for connecting neighborhoods; and a human services needs analysis.

Additional topics discussed included:

Eastgate Transfer Station – Councilmembers expressed the need to discuss alternative uses for this site with King County.

Human Services Financing – Councilmembers discussed the current population-based funding methodology and the need to look at other alternatives since needs are outpacing population growth.

Succession planning – Similar to national trends, a growing percentage of City staff are approaching retirement age. On the state level, there is a need for more openings in the state academy for public safety and law enforcement training to enable the City to fill public safety vacancies.

The meeting recessed at 12:20 p.m. for lunch and resumed at 1:40 p.m.

Diane Carlson, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, and Goran Sparrman, Transportation Director, reviewed Council's priorities and the work plan on RTID (Regional Transportation Investment District) and Sound Transit Phase 2 planning. Mr. Sparrman discussed the need to prepare for infrastructure improvements related to redevelopment of the Wilburton and Bel-Red corridor areas. He described the potential for the extension of NE 6th Street and the benefits of this project. Council and staff agreed to develop an interest statement regarding tolling as a financing tool to support replacement of the SR 520 bridge.

At 4:30 p.m., Mayor Degginger declared recess for dinner.

Council resumed discussion following dinner, focusing on a variety of partnership mechanisms that might be utilized to achieve some City goals and objectives while leveraging City resources. These opportunities include:

- Partnering with private sector development to achieve public benefits such as public plazas, shared parking, and store front spaces for museum exhibits and activities.
- Indoor Aquatics Center – Council authorized staff to work with the organization SPLASH to complete a feasibility study.
- Potential partnership with Boys and Girls Club of Bellevue to construct a new community center.
- Creating a sustainable model for Cultural Arts facilities.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:10 p.m.

3. Saturday, February 3

The meeting reconvened at 9:10 a.m.

Ms. Basich led a discussion with Council on revisions to the City Code sections relating to Council-appointed Boards and Commissions. Each original Code section was written at a different point in time, drafted by different staff, and approved by different Councils. The result is a number of dissimilarities in treatment of Board/Commission logistics as well as a need to revisit and revise the roles and responsibilities assigned to each Board and Commission to reflect current Council needs.

Ms. Basich walked Council through documents describing the current Code; previously received Council, Board/Commission, and staff suggestions for modifications; and Council-provided direction for revisions. Ms. Basich will work with the City Attorney to draft revised Code sections and return to Council later this Spring for discussion and approval. Ms. Basich will also draft Bylaws documents for each of the Boards and Commissions and schedule annual orientation sessions with each group. The Mayor and Deputy Mayor will meet jointly with the Chairs and Vice Chairs of each Council-appointed Board/Commission to provide an overview of each group's revised roles and responsibilities.

Ms. Basich noted suggested revisions to the Rules of Procedure for City Council which are currently represented in Resolution Nos. 5987 and 6399. Staff is seeking Council feedback on these and any other proposed changes.

The meeting adjourned at approximately 11:30 a.m.

Myrna L. Basich
City Clerk

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