

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

Tuesday
November 8, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Heath, Vice-Chair Kumar, Boardmembers Deng, Grindeland, Nieuwenhuis, Synn, Van Hollebeke¹

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Betsi Hummer, Loretta Lopez

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Nieuwenhuis and second by Boardmember Synn to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the agenda.

Chair Heath noted that Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested to participate in tonight's meeting remotely, since he is currently in New York City and not able to be physically present at the meeting.

Motion by Boardmember Synn and second by Vice-Chair Kumar to approve remote participation for Boardmember Van Hollebeke at tonight's meeting. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Kumar and second by Boardmember Nieuwenhuis to approve the October 11, 2016 Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

¹ Via conference call.

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

Chair Heath reminded Boardmembers about Vision 672 (7 Park Boardmembers, providing 8 volunteer hours per month, for 12 months out of the year, which equals 672 hours). Chair Heath would like Boardmembers to make decisions with sufficient information. He added that the Park Board's work need to be intentional, process and goal driven, and decisions need to be made with integrated and meaningful work.

Betsi Hummer, East Bellevue Community Council
14541 SE 26th Street, Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC), Ms. Hummer distributed a copy of her presentation that was provided to City Council regarding the Larsen Lake restrooms. She made an official request to Council to keep the restrooms at Larsen Lake open year-round. Ms. Hummer was pleased to report that Council supports this request and will allocate the appropriate funding.

Ms. Hummer noted that she reviewed the Park Board meeting minutes over the past several years (starting in the 1970s), which reflected intentional work. She expressed her concern that Larsen Lake is a major wetland zoned residential area. However, it is currently recommended as commercially zoned. Ms. Hummer encouraged Boardmembers to evaluate the zoning and support residential zoning for the Larsen Lake community.

Lastly, Ms. Hummer reported that she recently attended a EBCC versus Puget Sound Energy hearing. She noted that Puget Sound Energy is questioning the validity of the Urban Boulevard Initiative. Ms. Hummer urged Boardmembers to keep the gems of the streets free from unsightly utility poles.

Loretta Lopez, 13419 NE 33rd Lane, Bellevue, WA
Bridle Trails Community Club

Ms. Lopez encouraged Boardmembers to request funding for the Bridle Trails 140th Avenue NE Neighborhood Park. She reminded Boardmembers that the community is in support of this project and a Master Plan is complete for the project.

5. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

In response to previous Oral Communications and staff follow-up items, Mr. Foran provided the following report:

- There was a recent communication sent to Council regarding the Kelsey Creek playground. Staff is monitoring any Council decisions.
- Council did not approve funding for the restrooms to be open year-round at Larsen Lake. However, Council did request further information from staff regarding park facility restrooms that are open and/or closed throughout the year.

- In regards to the Mercer Slough and Enatai Beach Park being utilized for the East Link Project, Councilmember Robertson had clarified at an earlier Park Board meeting that this is a Council issue, not a Park Board issue. Council is evaluating the information and will make any final decisions.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Vice-Chair Kumar enjoyed many Bellevue parks over the last month, while walking her dog.

Boardmember Grindeland recently visited Ivanhoe Park.

Boardmember Synn spent time over the last month reviewing the budget.

Boardmember Deng attended the Great Pumpkin Hunt at Northwest Arts Center as well as the ice arena meeting. She will also be graduating next week from the Bellevue Essentials Program.

Boardmember Nieuwenhuis commended the Parks Department for resolving the drainage issues on the pathways around Larsen Lake. He also recently attended the ice arena meeting and meeting regarding the proposed men's shelter in the Eastgate area.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke commended staff for listening to the community and being willing to amend the plans, based upon community feedback, for the Kelsey Creek playground.

7. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

In response to some of the confusion expressed at previous Board meetings regarding the relationship between the Park Board and the Human Services Commission, Chair Heath met with the Chair of the Human Services Commission to gain some perspective about the two Boards.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Budget/CIP**

Mr. Sanner provided an overview of the Preliminary 2017-2023 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan and the Council process until budget adoption in December. He also summarized the proposed memo from the Park Board to City Council, which requests funding for neighborhood parks in Bridle Trails and Newport Hills.

Mr. Sanner noted that the proposed Budget/CIP includes a \$7M contingency fund that would be the source of funding for the two neighborhood parks, and also includes the following projects:

- Multicultural center feasibility study
- Pacific Northwest Ballet
- Housing Development Consortium

Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the Park Board's memorandum to City Council on the 2017-2023 Parks Capital Investment Program.

Boardmember Synn reiterated his request to have the budget funding restored to the same levels that they were before the levy was passed. Voters approved the levy with the assumption that they were enhancing the park funding. Boardmember Synn views the proposed memo to Council as very limiting. In particular, the Spring District and Grand Connection are not mentioned in the memo. Boardmember Synn views the memo as too "small-picture" and thinks that the memo limits the Board's ability to ask for specific projects. He suggested that the Board request a specific budget allocation that allows the Board to appropriate the dollars rather than request budget amounts for specific projects. Boardmember Synn views a budget allocation as an opportunity where the Board can provide insight and direction, therefore bolstering its value and presence.

Motion by Vice-Chair Kumar and second by Boardmember Deng to amend the Parks Capital Improvement Program memo to Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers and include a reference about the Grand Connection in page 2, paragraph 3 of the memo. At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0).

At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the Preliminary 2017-2023 Parks Capital Improvement Program memo to Mayor Stokes and City Councilmembers as amended.

Chair Heath thanked staff for facilitating the budget process. On behalf of the Board, Chair Heath will attend the November 21, 2016 Council meeting where the Board's memo will be presented. In addition, Boardmembers would like to send an ongoing message to Council that more funding is needed for parks.

B. Park Board Development

Chair Heath provided highlights from his recent meetings with the Human Services Commission Chair. He noted that the Human Services Commission mainly provides the Needs Update and funding for the community. Mr. Smith added that the Needs Update provides a valuable perspective for the community, especially those in need. It also provides information about the community members that visit Bellevue park facilities and attend various community events.

Boardmembers requested that a template be prepared for them to establish bylaws. Chair Heath clarified that the City Attorney's Office is working on the project now. The City Clerk has stated that a template should be ready in December.

Chair Heath reminded Boardmembers that the Annual Holiday Celebration for the Park Board and Human Services Commission will be held on December 6, 2016. He stressed the importance of Boardmember attendance at the event.

Chair Heath proposed the following agenda items for the Board retreat:

- Bylaws, Policies and Procedures—topics may include:
 - Clarity around scope, roles and responsibilities of Board.
 - Threshold for what gets communicated to the Board.
 - What can the Board actually do?
 - What about the community services piece?
 - Pro-active strategy for establishing relationships.
- Work Plan—topics may include:
 - Understand allocation of time and resources necessary for forthcoming Council requests.
 - Plan for Board Retreat priorities:
 - Board Retreat priorities may include: a) Another way to approach the Board's scope, roles and responsibilities; b) What can the Board actually do? c) What about the community services piece? d) Pro-active strategy for establishing relationships.
 - Prioritize value-added education:
- Big Vision—topics may include:
 - Alternative funding.
 - More park land in the Spring District.
 - Experience of homelessness.
 - Consistency with the long-term budget discussions and/or communication to Council

Boardmember Grindeland suggested that the Board also consider how to deal with protests/rallies, Pokémon Go or other crazes, etc.

Boardmembers agreed to conduct the retreat on Saturday, February 11, 2017 from 9:00 a.m. – 1:00 p.m. Mr. Foran expressed concern for the quick turnaround time between the retreat and the February Board meeting, particularly if staff action is needed for the meeting. Chair Heath clarified that the February Board meeting will most likely be a continuation of the Board retreat.

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

Chair Heath announced that the Mayor appointed Vice-Chair Kumar to be the Park Board representative on the Grand Connection Citizens Advisory Committee. The committee will meet one time per month for approximately one year. Vice-Chair Kumar will provide updates as needed. Chair Heath mentioned that the Board will learn more about the Grand Connection in January.

10. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

11. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Email re SBCC

12. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—January 10, 2017, Bellevue City Hall

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

None.

14. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Kumar and second by Boardmember Synn to adjourn the meeting at 7:47 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).