

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

Tuesday  
October 11, 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 Hollebeke

**COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT:** Councilmember Robertson

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Shelley Brittingham, Bradley Calvert (PCD), Nancy Harvey, Terry Smith, Kyle Stannert (City Clerk)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Renay Bennett, Shelly Bowman, Lizette Hedberg, Patricia Wheeler

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Heath at 6:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Vice-Chair Kumar and second by Boardmember Nieuwenhuis to approve the September 13, 2016 Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented.**

**Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Synn to amend the September 13, 2016 Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes as follows:**

- **Page 1/Boardmembers Absent: ~~Vice-Chair~~ Boardmembers Grindeland, ~~Boardmembers~~ Nieuwenhuis, Van Hollebeke**

*The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on November 8, 2016.*

- **Page 4/Discussion/Action Items/A. Park Board Roles & Responsibilities/1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 6<sup>th</sup> line should read: “This vision is named from 7 Park Boardmembers, providing 8 volunteer hours ~~meeting 1 day~~ per month, for 12 months out of the year.”**
- **Page 5/3<sup>rd</sup> paragraph/2<sup>nd</sup> sentence should be stricken: “~~After the retreat, the Board unanimously agreed to not have a future retreat.~~”**

**At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the amendment to the main motion.**

**At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the September 13, 2016 Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes as amended.**

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

Renay Bennett, Save Mercer Slough Committee  
826 108<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the Save Mercer Slough Committee, Ms. Bennett requested that Boardmembers protect Mercer Slough. She said that Park Boardmembers were deliberately excluded from decisions that were made regarding parcels sold at Mercer Slough. She clarified that two parcels at Mercer Slough were part of a land conversion. However, approximately 4.5 acres are being permanently taken by Sound Transit. In addition, approximately 26 acres will be impacted longer than 6 months, which means that the acreage will be permanently taken by Sound Transit. Ms. Bennett expressed frustration that public hearings were not held for the land conversion or other activities.

Ms. Bennett asked Boardmembers to advocate on behalf of the Mercer Slough. She thinks that staff is misinforming Boardmembers about their authority. In addition, she called attention to Ordinance 6241 that provides the Board proper authority for making decisions about the master planning process, long-range planning, and recommending new matters to Council. Ms. Bennett asked Boardmembers to utilize this authority.

Ms. Bennett also expressed concern regarding the misinformation provided regarding Enatai Beach Park. She distributed a page from the East Link Project Final EIS (July 2011) that noted in Section 4.17.2.2 Segment B “Enatai Beach Park, located under the east approach of East Channel Bridge between Mercer Island and Bellevue, is located under the project and would not be impacted by the project.” However, in a recent Next Door posting (handout distributed), Ms. Bennett called attention to an informational meeting that was being held to discuss “Sound Transit’s 20-30 month use of the Enatai Beach Park for seismic retrofitting to the I-90 bridge columns and equipment staging for East Link.” Ms. Bennett requested that Boardmembers protect Enatai Beach Park and requested clarification regarding the impacts to this park.

5. **WELCOME TO NEW BOARDMEMBERS:**

Chair Heath welcomed Boardmembers Deng and Nieuwenhuis to the Board.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

On behalf of Mr. Foran, Mr. Smith reminded Boardmembers that City Council will have a budget presentation next week. In addition, staff has been working with the Kelsey Creek community regarding the playground comments that were provided during the September Oral Communications portion of the Board meeting.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Vice-Chair Kumar reported that she participated in the recent mediation reconciliation training. She also enjoyed many Bellevue parks over the last month, while walking her dog; and visited various parks in India, while traveling.

In addition to visiting various Bellevue parks, Boardmember Grindeland also helped run a day camp at Robinswood Community Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke commended staff for the handling of the Downtown Park construction project. He also reminded Boardmembers that context matters in regards to parks.

Boardmember Synn recently visited Meydenbauer Beach Park.

Boardmember Deng has been impressed with the number of people utilizing Downtown Park during construction. In addition, she attended the Big Backyard Family Campout at Newcastle Beach Park as well as the Boys & Girls Club Grand Opening.

Boardmember Nieuwenhuis recently visited Larsen Lake. He also recommended that Boardmembers watch "*The High Line*." This film is a documentary about elevated thinking within New York City that reinforces the importance of parks.

Chair Heath clarified that Boardmember Van Hollebeke accepted a temporary research fellowship project in New York. This project will run from September through May. This is a temporary relocation and it will not impact Boardmember Van Hollebeke's Bellevue residency status. In addition, Chair Heath clarified that Boardmember Deng is a current contractor for the City. However, after a legal review it was determined that there are no conflicts for Boardmember Deng to be part of the Park Board.

8. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robertson reported on the following Council activities:

- Received a presentation about Low Impact Development (LID) Principles, and discussed the work remaining to complete the LID Principles Project. These principles will lead to more natural systems in some of the community right of ways.
- Conducted a Public Hearing regarding the Critical Areas Overlay Update.
- Discussed the 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE Neighborhood Park plan in the Bridle Trails neighborhood.
- Discussed the Grand Connection Visioning process, upcoming work and events.
- Received a budget briefing. The Council's priority is to honor the park levy projects that were included in the 2008 levy. Although there are two levies on the upcoming November ballot, Council will review the budget without the revenue for these levies. If the levies pass, Bellevue will have a robust budget amendment process in 1Q17.

9. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

A. Next Quarter's Agenda Items

Chair Heath discussed some of the upcoming agenda items and events for the Park Board, including:

- Budget Presentation (November)
- Holiday Event (December)
- Board Retreat (January)

B. Follow-up on Oral Communications/public comments from prior meetings

Chair Heath reminded Boardmembers about Vision 672 (7 Park Boardmembers, providing 8 volunteer hours per month, for 12 months out of the year). Chair Heath would like Boardmembers to make decisions with sufficient information. He would like to see the Park Board's work as intentional, process and goal driven, and decisions need to be made with integrated and meaningful work. In addition, Chair Heath suggested that the following principles be utilized for Board development:

- Value diversity
- Respect history
- Want everyone included
- Want everyone to feel safe
- Assume positive intent

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Review & Discussion of City Ordinance 6241 (Park Board Roles & Responsibilities)**

Mr. Stannert provided an overview of Ordinance 6241. This ordinance includes the following:

- Section 3.62.010 Parks and Community Services Board established
- Section 3.62.020 Officers
- Section 3.62.030 Meetings
- Section 3.62.040 Council communications
- Section 3.62.050 Bylaws and procedures
- Section 3.62.060 Staff support
- Section 3.62.070 Powers and duties
- Section 3.62.080 Limitations

In addition, Mr. Stannert reminded Boardmembers that the Board needs to operate within the guidelines of the Open Government Training Act.

Mr. Stannert clarified that the Parks & Community Services Board works in a policy advisory capacity to assist the City Council. Council makes the final decision on all policies. Mr. Stannert suggested that the Board consider establishing Bylaws to provide a framework for the Board's roles and responsibilities.

Boardmember Synn questioned the Board's role and authority in regards to regional issues. Councilmember Robertson clarified that the Park Board's work primarily comes from work performed by staff and Council. The Park Board should not speak on behalf of the Board about their opinions without Council approval. However, Park Boardmembers are always encouraged to advocate as private citizens. Councilmember Robertson also noted that if the Park Board would like to address a specific issue, then the subject matter should first be presented to staff and/or Council.

If Boardmembers see a common theme from citizens, Councilmember Robertson suggested that they report these to staff and/or Council. In addition, if a citizen requests information during Oral Communications, staff can copy Boardmembers on the responses. However, Councilmember Robertson reminded Boardmembers that Oral Communications is not an open dialogue session. It is an opportunity for Boardmembers to listen to the public and gather information. Then, if needed, Boardmembers can relay information to staff and/or Council.

At the Board Retreat, Boardmembers would like to discuss the Board's relationship with the Human Services Commission, as well as the meaning of "community services" as it relates to the Board's roles/responsibilities.

Boardmember Synn asked if there are written policies regarding how a Boardmember should act within the community. Councilmember Robertson explained that Boardmembers should encourage citizens to attend Board meetings if they have an issue that they would like to address. Boardmembers should not use their Board position as an authoritarian or for personal gain. Park

Boardmembers should act as ambassadors for the city. Mr. Stannert added that there is an ethics training video for all Boardmembers that addresses this issue in more detail.

Chair Heath called attention to Ordinance 6241/Section 3.62.070 Powers and duties/Item M, which states: “In addition, the Board shall provide at least quarterly communication to the Council, highlighting major activities, future work plans, changes in work plans, and any policy direction requested.” Chair Heath was uncertain on whether or not the Board has been providing quarterly communications to Council. Mr. Stannert explained that the Park Board provides communications to Council as needed, along with other Boards and Commissions.

Councilmember Robertson added that the Board is welcome to submit a memo and/or attend a Council meeting if there is a particular issue or agenda item that they would like discussed. However, she cautioned Boardmembers that if the issue is one that has already been discussed (i.e., Mercer Slough) and Council has provided direction or advised Boardmembers that it is a Council-specific issue then it would be advisable for Boardmembers to focus on other Board-related items.

Chair Heath inquired if Boardmembers should attend a Council meeting to present an issue that they would like addressed. Councilmember Robertson suggested that a better option would be for the Board to discuss the issue with staff then forward a transmittal letter to Council. This way, staff can provide insights and may be able to help with presentation materials. Currently, Council is working on the budget, the Grand Connection, Eastgate Land Use Planning, Wilburton Land Use Update, and the Eastside Rail Corridor. If Boardmembers have any comments/suggestions regarding these particular issues, it is an ideal time to forward a transmittal.

Councilmember Robertson suggested that at the Board Retreat, Boardmembers take a 2-3 year historical look to establish a 2-3 year forward looking perspective. She noted that there are many trends with workflow.

Chair Heath inquired if Boardmembers can form Subcommittees to address particular issues (i.e., a Bylaws Subcommittee). Councilmember Robertson confirmed that this is appropriate. However, she reminded Boardmembers that a Subcommittee must be comprised as a non-majority of Boardmembers (i.e., three Boardmembers or less).

B. Grand Connection

*This agenda item was postponed due to time constraints.*

C. Park Board Development/Retreat

*This agenda item was discussed during the Review & Discussion of City Ordinance 6241.*

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

None.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Staff memo re Summer Ranger Program
- C. Staff memo re Well-KEPT Program
- D. Email re Kelsey Creek Summer Camps
- E. Email re Big Backyard Community Campout
- F. Email re Forest Hill Neighborhood Park concerns

14. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Next regular Park Board meeting—November 8, 2016, Bellevue City Hall

**Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Boardmember Synn to extend the meeting until 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

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

Renay Bennett, Save Mercer Slough Committee  
826 108<sup>th</sup> Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Bennett expressed her concern about representatives of government telling Boardmembers the issues that should be discussed. She reiterated her concerns about the park land at Mercer Slough and asked Boardmembers to request that Council conduct a public hearing about this issue. In addition, she suggested that the Park Board require Council to ask for an addendum to the Environmental Impact Statement to address the impacts to Enatai Beach Park (*see comments during first Oral Communications session*).

*The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on November 8, 2016.*

16. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Staff will work with Boardmembers to determine a date for the Board retreat.

**Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Boardmember Synn to adjourn the meeting at 8:36 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**