

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

Tuesday
January 12, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair George, Vice-Chair Grindeland, Boardmembers Heath¹, Kumar², Powell, Synn, Van Hollebeke³

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Franz Loewenherz (Transportation), Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Laurie D'Alessandro, Betsi Hummer

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair George at 6:06 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Powell to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to approve the November 10, 2015 Parks & Community Services Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

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

Laurie D'Alessandro
917 147th Lane NE, Bellevue, WA 98007

Ms. D'Alessandro requested that the restrooms at Larsen Lake be open year-round. She noted that this is the only medium-use facility on the 2015-2016 Restroom Closure List

¹ Arrived at 6:15 p.m.

² Arrived at 6:10 p.m.

³ Arrived at 6:13 p.m.

with a restroom closure. Ms. D'Alessandro explained that the trails around this park are used throughout the year and there are no other restroom facilities in the near vicinity.

Betsi Hummer

14541 SE 26th Street, Bellevue, WA 98007

Ms. Hummer expressed her opposition against the Puget Sound Energy permit to build a transmission line in Lake Hills. Based upon Ms. Hummer's research, she found that the application as presented did not meet the criteria B, which states: "The design is compatible with and responds to the existing or intended character, appearance, quality of development and physical characteristics of the subject property and immediate vicinity." Ms. Hummer noted that ~~the~~ some of the streets along the proposed route, from 164th Ave. NE, along NE 8th, down 148th Ave., and SE 16th, are designated Urban Boulevards. She added that the transmission line would not only remove the lush vegetation, it would also put 80 foot poles along the boulevards. In addition, the wires would crisscross the boulevards in several areas, creating visual pollution. The poles would be the only visible outcropping along the Larsen Lake wetlands. Ms. Hummer concludes that the permit does not meet the criteria section B.

Ms. Hummer commended the Parks Department and Board for improving the boulevards over the years and looks forward to the Board continuing the environmental stewardship that the parks represent.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

No report.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

No report.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Vice-Chair Grindeland recently volunteered at the holiday festivities at Crossroads Community Center.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke expressed his appreciation for the many holiday festivities offered throughout Bellevue, including Garden d'Lights and the Magic Season Ice Arena. He noted that he is continually asked about the Complete the Circle Project at Downtown Park—people are eager to see this project come to fruition.

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Attended the Christmas Ship Festival.
- Enjoyed the holiday festivities at Crossroads Community Center.
- Visited the Magic Season Ice Arena.
- Enjoyed Garden d’Lights.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Enjoyed Garden d’Lights.
- Met with Mr. Parker to discuss changes and improvements regarding the Parks & Open Space Plan.
- Visited Mercer Slough.

Boardmember Kumar recently attended the Eastside Rail Corridor Summit.

Boardmember Synn volunteered at Crossroads Community Center and enjoyed Garden d’Lights.

Chair George made the following report:

- Attended the joint Park Board and Human Services Commission Holiday Dinner.
- Enjoyed Garden d’Lights.
- Volunteered at the holiday festivities at Crossroads Community Center.

8. **DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported that there was a recent proposal by Councilmember Robertson to create 11 on-street parking spaces along the southern edge of Downtown Park. Council has not approved the proposal. However, public comment is requested. Mr. Foran discussed some of the impacts to Downtown Park if this proposal is approved.

In regards to the restroom closures at Larsen Lake, Mr. Foran noted that this change was made approximately two budget cycles ago during budget cuts. There have not been funds available to restore this budget cut.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Bellevue Pedestrian & Bicycle Initiative**

Mr. Loewenherz explained that the City of Bellevue’s Pedestrian and Bicycle Implementation Initiative (PBII) aims to generate better data on pedestrian and bicycle activity, crashes, and infrastructure, and to build partnership opportunities to advance the implementation of non-motorized projects and programs. PBII is being overseen by the City’s Transportation Commission whose scope of work is guided by Council approved program principles.

Mr. Loewenherz provided a status report on PBII focusing on the wikimap outreach effort, stakeholder interviews, and facility design work associated with Task 2 – the development of a Bicycle Priority Corridor Design Report. Mr. Loewenherz noted that the 2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Plan:

- Formulated vision, goals, and objectives.
- Assessed gaps in the non-motorized network.
- Established performance targets.

Mr. Loewenherz clarified that a master planning process is not needed for the update because the vision has already been identified. The 2019 Performance Target identified in the 2009 Pedestrian and Bicycle Transportation Plan is: “Within 10 years, implement at least two completed, connected, and integrated north-south and at least two east-west bicycle routes that connect the boundaries of the city limits, and connect to the broader regional bicycle system.”

The scope of work for the PBII includes:

- Ped-Bike Safety Assessment Report.
- Bicycle Priority Corridor Design Report.
- Transit Master Plan Integration Report.
- Implementation/Funding Strategy Report.
- Count Technology Report.
- Bike-Share Implementation Report.
- Performance Management Report.

Mr. Loewenherz noted that the proposed 2016-2027 Transportation Facilities Plan includes a Pedestrian-Bicycle Implementation (PBII) Reserve allocation of \$22.5M, with indication that the allocation to particular projects (not necessarily limited to the 11 listed in the TFP) will be determined via the ongoing PBII process.

Mr. Loewenherz discussed public feedback received regarding the PBII, particularly regarding the buffer types and perceived comfort. The goal is to: “Advance the implementation of Bellevue’s planned Bicycle Priority Corridors to facilitate continuous bicycle travel along a connected grid of safe facilities throughout the city and the region.” When reviewing the protected solutions, the following statistics were provided regarding bicycle users:

- 1% = Strong and Fearless
- 7% = Enthused and Confident
- 60% = Interested but Concerned
- 32% = No Way, No How

Overall, the proposed plan is a significant movement from where the PBII is today versus the future vision. The Rapid program is proposed to accomplish connected, protected, and rapid (CPR) quickly so a culture can be built for the PBII. Next steps for the PBII include benchmarking and timelines.

Boardmember Kumar suggested that a phone application be created to show all of the available bike paths throughout Bellevue.

Boardmember Powell would like to see a more ambitious bicycle path along 108th Avenue ~~NE~~ SE (north from Bellevue Way through Downtown) and north of Main Street. Mr. Loewenherz explained that this route is challenging because there is limited space and significant bus travel along this route. He added that 106th Avenue NE is being evaluated as a protected facility.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke questioned how the bicycle routes are determined. Mr. Loewenherz clarified that they are mainly determined based upon available paved surfaces, opportunities, vehicle volume, speed limits, etc.

Boardmember Kumar questioned if any improvements are being considered for Factoria Boulevard. Mr. Loewenherz discussed the challenges with Factoria Boulevard, including the volumes, footprint, etc. However, SE 36th Street has a proposed non-motorized crossing over the street that is included in a grant that was recently received.

From a park perspective, Boardmember Heath suggested that Boardmembers evaluate what parks may benefit from connectivity of bicycle/pedestrian paths. He noted that the majority of the PBII project falls under the Transportation Department. Boardmember Heath suggested that safety-related issues be addressed prior to improvements for amenities. He used an example of hazardous pedestrian areas near Bridle Trails, noting that situations like this should be addressed prior to improving bicycle paths. Boardmember Heath advocated for a cost-benefit ridership analysis for improvement projects.

As passion grows for people getting outside, Mr. Smith believes that there is going to be a paradigm shift. From the perspective of health and wellness, the goal is to get 60% of the population outside and feeling safer, and ultimately connect people to multiuse trails.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke views the top visions of the PBII as safe, desirable pathways/connectivity, plans for current usage to projected usage, and enticements. However, the only criteria he has heard during the presentation is what pathways will fit where. Boardmember Van Hollebeke views the Parks Department and Board's role as making the corridors attractive.

Vice-Chair Grindeland expressed her interest in statistical information regarding how commutes are impacted. She also suggested that the City promote brighter clothing/identification for pedestrians and bicyclists. She expressed her support for safer bicycle and pedestrian trails. She also suggested that Bellevue's pedestrian street crossings/indicators be evaluated, since some of them do not allow ample time for a pedestrian to cross the intersection.

Chair George discussed the biking trail along West Lake Sammamish Parkway noting that it is embarrassing for Bellevue that the bike lane ends at the Redmond/Bellevue city line. She also expressed her lack of favoritism for Seattle's 2nd Avenue bicycle corridor. She does not think this corridor creates a bicycle-friendly corridor, resulting in confusion for users.

Boardmember Powell suggested that the Transportation Commission and Department approach neighborhood community councils and groups to seek their assistance in pressuring politicians to fund some of the PBII concepts. She agreed with Chair George regarding the confusion along

2nd Avenue in Seattle and encouraged a bike route that does not include Main Street. Boardmember Powell also encouraged Bellevue to embrace the ~~White Ghost~~ Bicycle Program, which is a bicycle program to lock a white bicycle at a place where a person has died, while biking, to bring more awareness to accidents and deaths with bikers/drivers. sharing program.

Boardmember Heath reiterated the importance of safety and suggested that the City consider an educational program that includes distributing reflective vests.

B. Re-Naming Facility in Honor of Nan Campbell

Vice-Chair Grindeland reminded Boardmembers that she suggested at the May, 2015 Board meeting that the Crossroads Community Center be renamed in honor of Nan Campbell. Mr. Foran clarified that the renaming of a park facility is supposed to be a very rare occurrence. He asked Boardmembers to be mindful that the context for a policy of renaming a park be in the same context that it's a rare occurrence.

Chair George noted that Resolution No. 8229 signifies that the direction for renaming a park comes from the City Council. However, there is nothing in the Resolution that states the Park Board cannot recommend that a park facility name change.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke recommended that Council provide direction for renaming a park or facility in Nan Campbell's name. Mr. Foran noted that the Resolution is clear that the Council has the authority to rename a park or provide direction for renaming a park/facility. However, Council suggested that the Park Board be involved in the process of considering renaming a facility in honor of Nan Campbell. Boardmember Van Hollebeke does not want to set a process that encourages further name changes, etc. The process needs to stand the test of integrity.

From an objectivity standpoint, Boardmember Heath does not agree with renaming a park after Nan Campbell. Although Boardmember Heath truly supports Ms. Campbell and all of her efforts with the community, he thinks that renaming a facility may open Pandora's Box.

Mr. Smith explained that former Mayor Balducci requested that the Park Board propose a process that Council can use that would reflect renaming Crossroads Community Center after Nan Campbell. He asked if the Park Board would like to present a process to Council for renaming (or not renaming) Crossroads Community Center after Nan Campbell.

Boardmember Heath requested that Item 3 of Resolution No. 8229 be clarified so that there is a more clear definition of a "historic figure."

Although there is influence from former Mayor Balducci and Councilmember Robinson to explore renaming a park/facility in honor of Nan Campbell, Boardmember Synn does not view the process as Council direction. Other Boardmembers concurred with Boardmember Synn. Mr. Foran explained that the Council discussion was not precise and it is very customary for a Mayor to provide staff direction without a formal vote.

Motion by Boardmember Synn and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Synn to postpone agenda Item 9.c. Park Board Work Plan until the next Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

When discussing policies about renaming parks, Boardmember Heath suggested that Boardmembers act objectively. He questioned if a park is renamed in honor of Nan Campbell, if another park should be renamed in honor of another significant Councilmember.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Synn to forward the following process for renaming Crossroads Community Center in honor of Nan Campbell to City Council:

- **Step 1: By a vote of the Council, the Park Board is directed to initiate the process of investigating the renaming of Crossroads Community Center.**
- **Step 2: Compile the material.**
- **Step 3: Conduct (2) community meetings.**
- **Step 4: Conduct online survey.**
- **Step 5: Present information to Park Board.**
- **Step 6: Forward recommendation to Council.**

Note: at any step in the process the Park Board may recommend ceasing this process. At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to extend the meeting until 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

C. Park Board Work Plan

Postponed.

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

None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember Kumar requested an update regarding Airfield Park. However, she suggested that this be done via email, rather than on a future meeting agenda.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Memo re Parks & Open Space System Plan – final edits
- C. Emails re Bellevue Aquatics Center
- D. Email re Crossroads Dreamhoops

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Next regular Park Board meeting—February 9, 2016, Bellevue City Hall

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

Since a large majority of the upcoming pedestrian and bicycle improvements are in Ms. Hummer's community, Boardmember Synn asked Ms. Hummer if she thinks the community agrees with the consensus of the target audience surveyed for the project. Ms. Hummer explained that she just finished her first year as a Councilmember on the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC). She noted that the EBCC recently made a presentation to City Council requesting that the funds for the Transportation project to connect Kamber Road and SE 16th Street down to 156th Avenue SE between 148th Avenue SE and 156th Avenue be utilized for another project. She noted that the surrounding community does not favor this project and that bicyclists prefer direct routes.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).