

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

Tuesday
January 13, 2015
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Grindeland, Vice-Chair Evans, Boardmembers George¹, Heath², Kumar, Powell, Van Hollebeke³

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Mike Ingram (Transportation), Camron Parker, Gwen Rousseau (PCD), Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Erica Jacobs (KC Parks & Rec), Susan Nelson

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the November 13, 2014 Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Powell to approve the December 2, 2014 Parks & Community Services Board Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:17 p.m.

² Arrived at 6:02 p.m.

³ Arrived at 6:03 p.m.

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

None.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Volunteered at the Crossroad Community Center Holiday Party.
- Visited the Garden d'Lights display.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Vice-Chair Evans made the following report:

- Volunteered at the Crossroad Community Center Holiday Party.
- Visited the Garden d'Lights display.
- Volunteered at the North Bellevue Community Center Holiday Luncheon.

Boardmember Kumar made the following report:

- Volunteered at the Crossroad Community Center Holiday Party.
- Visited the Garden d'Lights display.
- Enjoyed the Snowflake Lane festivities.

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Visited the Garden d'Lights display.
- Volunteered at the North Bellevue Community Center Holiday Luncheon.
- Attended the Meydenbauer Bay Open House.
- Visited Bridle Trails Corner Park.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Visited Robinswood Park.
- Visited the Mercer Slough Nature Park.
- Visited Lewis Creek Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Enjoyed the joint Park Board and Human Services Commission holiday gathering.
- Attended the Meydenbauer Bay Open House.

- Enjoyed the ice rink in Downtown Park.
- Visited Hidden Valley Sports Field.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported that Kevin Henry, who has been with the City for over 20 years, will retire on February 2, 2015. Mr. Henry has been instrumental in creating a legacy for the City's Diversity Initiative.

Mr. Foran recently spoke to City Council about acquisition strategies. His presentation can be viewed on BTV. The theme of the presentation was in regards to investing in linear parks and corridors.

Mr. Parker called attention to a memo that was distributed to Boardmembers regarding a joint boards and commissions forum on February 25, 2015 to review the draft Comprehensive Plan. Boardmembers are encouraged to attend this event.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Bellevue's Changing Demographics

Ms. Rousseau discussed Bellevue's changing demographics. In particular, she provided the following highlights:

- Job growth continues to outpace population growth in Bellevue. The number of jobs in Bellevue has grown at an average annual growth rate of 1.6% over the last 17 years.
- With the recent annexations in south Bellevue, Bellevue's population climbed to 134,400 in 2014—maintaining its position as the fifth largest city in Washington State.
- About a third of Bellevue's residents were born in Washington State, another third in a different U.S. state, and another third were born in a foreign country. The foreign born population comprised 66% of Bellevue's growth from 1990 to 2000 and 107% between 2000 and 2010.
- Over the past decade, the largest population increases in Bellevue occurred in its high density neighborhoods, such as Downtown and Crossroads. Significant growth also occurred in the west, north and southeast portions of the City, while the central and eastern parts of the City experienced smaller growth and in some cases small declines in population.
- Central and western areas of the City witnessed the largest increases in the number of children, while areas in the east and south witnessed declines.
- Cougar Mountain/Lakemont has the largest number and highest percentage of children (4,500 and 27%), yet Crossroads witnessed the largest increase, reaching 3,300 in 2010, and second largest number of children in the City.

- Bellevue's median age continued to increase from 2000 to 2010, but at a slower rate, going from 35.4 in 1990 to 38.2 in 2000 to 38.5 in 2010.
- Bellevue has an increasingly diverse population. In 2010, minorities comprised 41% of Bellevue's population up from 28% in 2000, and 15% in 1990.
- According to the U.S. Census Bureau, the top languages, other than English, spoken at home in Bellevue include: Chinese, Spanish, Korean, Hindi, and Russian.
- Approximately 62.1% of Bellevue residence 25 or older have attained a Bachelor's degree or higher.
- The average household income distribution in Bellevue is approximately \$91,260.
- One-third of Bellevue's households were spending 30% or more of their income on housing in 2011-2013.

Ms. Rousseau noted that Bellevue's population growth is expected to continue. Although Bellevue's population is aging, the age distribution for Bellevue is becoming more diverse.

When evaluating the community demographics, Boardmember Heath encouraged everyone to think about what 'descriptors' were most relevant and important to the City of Bellevue.

Boardmember Powell requested a comparison about populations within Bellevue versus available open spaces. She also encouraged the City to obtain additional swimming facilities.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that the City address the following items:

- How do you connect a needs assessment that goes beyond transportation and housing?
- What are the changing demands of the aging population as well as the changing demographics?
- What are people's desires, wants, and needs for cultural profiles?
- How does the H1B visa classification and the growth of technology relate to the growth of Bellevue's residents?
- With the increase of jobs in Bellevue, are people that work in Bellevue also living in Bellevue? Is housing affordable?

Vice-Chair Evans stressed that employers will not attract additional employees unless the City addresses transportation issues that arise from a lack of affordable housing.

B. Eastside Rail Corridor Update

Erica Jacobs, with King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks, discussed the development of the Eastside Rail Corridor (ERC), and the opportunities the corridor holds for its various stakeholders.

Ms. Jacobs noted that the ERC through Bellevue is primarily owned by King County, with a segment from approximately SR-520 to NE 6th Street in Sound Transit ownership. She added that King County holds a trail easement along the entire corridor, including the segment owned by Sound Transit.

The ERC stretches from Woodinville to Renton and includes five public entities with property interests, including King County, Sound Transit, Puget Sound Energy, Redmond, and Kirkland. In Bellevue, King County has been studying future trail connections, including: the SR 520 Trail, the Wilburton Gap at I-405, and the Mountains-to-Sound Greenway at I-90. Since there are multiple owners throughout the ERC, a Regional Advisory Council was formed to plan for a regional trail without precluding future use for transit and utilities. Bellevue is considered an “associate member” of the Regional Advisory Council, since it is not an official owner of the ERC.

Ms. Jacobs noted that she is currently finalizing corridor inventory reports. These reports will be published online and made available to the public. Then, King County will move into the definitions phase of the corridor. The first stakeholders outreach meeting will be held in February. This meeting will be jointly hosted and sponsored by Bellevue and King County Planning and Development staff.

Although the risk is low, Ms. Jacobs discussed the potential reactivation of the rail for freight and the risks associated with this reactivation. She clarified that most of the existing rails are not usable and are in such despair that a freight operator would most likely have to start over, which would be cost prohibitive.

Boardmember Heath suggested that Bellevue Legal Department may want to review recent developments in a pending class action lawsuit to determine if there might be any impact on future use of the trail system.

Mr. Ingram summarized the general policy for the ERC in Bellevue’s Comprehensive Plan. Policy PA-21 states: “Coordinate with other jurisdictions, including state agencies and the Port of Seattle, in the planning and development of regional greenways, parks, cultural, and recreational facilities, including the BNSF trail system.”

Mr. Ingram reviewed the various rail segments and noted the following:

- Bellevue North Segment:
 - Kirkland has removed rails in 5.75 miles of the segment, and constructed “interim” trail improvements.
 - The North segment in Bellevue presents the fewest apparent challenges to trail implementation.
- Bel-Red Subarea:
 - This segment is owned by Sound Transit. There may be a future Sound Transit OMSF Station in this area, as well as the future Sound Transit Hospital Station.

- Downtown/Wilburton:
 - This segment will require a significant amount of planning attention because of the multiple street crossings.
 - There is a forthcoming planning initiative to focus on the Wilburton special opportunity area (NE 8th Street to Main Street)
 - There is a concept for a grand connection to Downtown and the waterfront.
- Wilburton Trestle/I-405 Crossing:
 - The historic trestle presents an opportunity for an iconic element of the trail.
- I-405 Crossing:
 - There is a missing segment over Southbound I-405. The Wilburton Tunnel was removed in 2008. There was an agreement with WSDOT that provides for restoration of the connection. This also allows potential links for the ERC to connect to Mercer Slough Nature Park.
 - A wildlife crossing will be considered when restoring the connection.
- ERC at I-90/Mountains-to-Sound
 - The City is currently working on designs for the Mountains-to-Sound Trail “gap” from Factoria to West Lake Sammamish Parkway. The goal is to make this area functional for users but also a quality experience, while taking cost into consideration.
- Bellevue South Segment
 - This segment includes connections to Newcastle Beach Park, Newport Hills, and Gene Coulon Park.

Mr. Parker discussed the next steps for Bellevue, which includes supporting the King County Trail Master Planning process. In addition, further direction from City Council is anticipated regarding CIP funding allocations.

Boardmember George questioned if King County ultimately controls the overall planning process. Mr. Ingram clarified that King County owns the corridor and is currently in the planning process. Although King County is interested in Bellevue’s opinions, the final decision ultimately lies with them. Boardmember George expressed her concern regarding the potential of having a rail corridor on both sides of Mercer Slough Nature Park. Mr. Ingram explained that Sound Transit is currently evaluating solutions paralleling I-405.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested clarification regarding the key differences between Bellevue and Kirkland regarding this project. Mr. Ingram explained that Kirkland’s community has taken interest and acknowledged that the trail is a community trail. He added that there is not enough recognition in Bellevue to understand the full potential of the trail. Mr. Ingram encouraged Boardmembers to attend the stakeholder outreach meeting on February 24, 2015. This meeting will primarily focus on the Wilburton area. Mr. Parker clarified that if Bellevue purchased the land, similar to Kirkland, all of the easements would still be in place.

Boardmember Kumar questioned if the trail will have a different look and feel based upon the ownership. Mr. Foran explained that Bellevue's trail will be relatively the same. The vision is to create a park-like experience for users. However, other jurisdictions may have a different vision. Therefore the trail experience may change.

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

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

A. Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park Update

Boardmember Heath noted that development update cost for the Bridle Trails Neighborhood Park was approximately \$835,000.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested further Board Retreat follow-up regarding specific recommendations for visioning and the strategic plan discussed/created.

Boardmember Kumar requested that the Park Board receive a tour of the new Bellevue Youth Theatre.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Email from Boardmember Heath re Bridle Trails Corner Park

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—February 10, 2015

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these minutes on February 10, 2015.

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Evans and second by Boardmember George to adjourn the meeting at 8:38 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).