

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

Tuesday  
November 10, 2015  
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E-113  
Bellevue, Washington

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair George, Vice-Chair Grindeland<sup>1</sup>, Boardmembers Heath<sup>2</sup>, Powell, Synn, Van Hollebeke

**BOARDMEMBER ABSENT:** Boardmember Kumar

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Mary Pat Byrne (PCD), Patrick Foran, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Terry Smith

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Mohamed Bala, Putter Bert, Katherine Jordan

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair George at 6:03 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to approve the October 13, 2015 Parks & Community Services Regular Board Meeting and Public Hearing Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

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<sup>1</sup> Arrived at 6:10 p.m.

<sup>2</sup> Departed at 8:41 p.m.

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

Putter Bert

KidsQuest Children's Museum

Ms. Bert reported that the KidsQuest Children's Museum has reached approximately 75% of their goal of fundraising \$12.7 million. The museum is expected to open next fall. Ms. Bert noted that the KidsQuest Children's Museum would like to see a collaborative effort between the museum and the Parks Department. In addition, the museum is willing to participate in fundraising efforts for a parking structure if desired.

Katherine Jordan

15214 SE 2<sup>nd</sup> Pl., Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the Bellevue Youth Theatre (BYT), Ms. Jordan invited Boardmembers to the BYT Annual Benefit Dinner Theatre and Auction, which will be held on January 23, 2016 at 7:00 p.m. Ms. Jordan distributed invitations for the event to Boardmembers.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

No report.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Synn recently met with Mr. Foran and Mr. Smith to educate himself about the various park activities.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Visited Mercer Slough.
- Visited Tam O'Shanter Park.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Used the Meydenbauer Bay Boat Launch. The improvements at the boat launch have been noticeable, including the addition of the park ranger.
- Excited to see Meydenbauer Bay Park development and construction of the Downtown Park ice rink.

Vice-Chair Grindeland noted that she has received positive feedback from friends regarding Bellevue parks. She also asked staff to follow up with the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club at Hidden Valley to see when they will start being open early in the morning. Vice-Chair

Grindelund recalls a commitment to community members that this would be the case but it currently is not.

Chair George recently attended a Leadership Eastside event that brought together community members and leaders to collaborate about how to address regional challenges. In particular, Chair George participated in a roundtable discussion about education. She shared information about Bellevue's Youth Court program with the roundtable. She also noted that there doesn't seem to be an effort by the Bellevue School District to inform schools about Bellevue youth programs, particularly regarding special needs. Mr. Foran explained that it has been challenging to disseminate information throughout the school district because of their strict protocols.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

No report.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Arts Program Overview & Update

In response to a previous inquiry by Boardmember Kumar regarding the city's Arts Program, Ms. Byrne highlighted the many components of the Arts Program, including:

- Liaison to Arts Commission.
- Public Art Program—CIP.
- Funding Programs: Eastside Arts Partnerships & Special Projects—General Fund.
- Cultural Compass and other cultural policy work.
- Cultural Facilities and other special initiatives.

Ms. Byrne discussed the Public Art Program, which includes a capital fund of approximately \$350,000 annually. The goals of the program are to:

- Establish/enhance an urban walkway extending the length of the Grand Connection.
- Encourage developers to incorporate public art into their projects.
- Engage neighborhoods in commissioning new public art for their neighborhoods.

Ms. Byrne noted that some of the Public Art in the Parks and Community Centers program includes multi-level collaborations with the Parks Department. These efforts include working with Parks Planners, Resource Management, Community Center Managers, the Assistant Director, and Director. The collaborations range from formal projects to collaborations to cross-consulting.

Various pictures of artwork throughout the community were shown.

Ms. Byrne noted that one of the largest collaborations the city has is the Bellevue Sculpture Exhibition, which was established in 1992 in the Downtown Park. Today, Bellwether, a signature event, is an art walk. The event takes a full year of preparation for about 45 sculptures and installations, City Hall to Downtown Park.

Currently, the largest ongoing project for the Arts Program is the Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 1. Public Art will be integral to the design of this project and will reflect the design goals of the park. Ms. Byrne showed a map of approximate locations for art placement at Meydenbauer Bay Park. In addition, she discussed some of the recent and current projects, including:

- Bridle Trails Neighborhood.
- Newport Hills Neighborhood.
- Lamp Posts Project.
- Storefronts.
- Light Rail Stations.
- Lattawood Park.
- Lake Hills Utility Pole Project.

Ms. Byrne noted that there are approximately 123 art works in Downtown Bellevue. A guide map to view Public Art in Downtown Bellevue was distributed to Boardmembers. In addition, there are two city funding programs totaling \$110,000: Eastside Arts Partnerships and Special Projects.

Ms. Byrne discussed some of the trends among arts groups along with the various facilities throughout Bellevue that feature art, including:

- Bellevue Youth Theatre.
- Ten20 Theatre Space.
- KidsQuest Children's Museum.
- Resonance at Soma Tower.
- Tateuchi Center.

Art is incorporated into major city policies and plans including the Comprehensive Plan, Cultural Compass, Parks & Open Space System Plan, BelRed Vision and Subarea policies, and City of Bellevue Light Rail Best Practices. Ms. Byrne noted that other interesting, ephemeral work includes Chop Shop Contemporary Dance Festival, Pianos in the Parks, and Theatre Simple at Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke would like to see the city provide the venue (parks) for events to be held throughout the community. He used the Shakespeare event that has been held at Ashwood Park as an example. Ms. Byrne explained that this particular event has been sponsored by a citizen group. Typically, there have been challenges with liability insurance for city-sponsored park events. In addition, if revenue is involved at a park event it is difficult to cordon off the park. Typically, a sponsored event, like Shakespeare, is the best option because the event is sponsored by a third party. Mr. Byrne added that the Downtown Association sponsors a Jazz Festival. There is also Wintergrass, which is sponsored by a number of businesses.

When asked how the Park Board can assist the Arts Program, Ms. Byrne explained that the Board can collaborate with other Boards and Commissions to incorporate arts throughout the community, and use the neighborhood outreach to communicate with neighborhoods about art programs.

Boardmembers expressed their appreciation to Ms. Byrne for her dedication to arts and the city.

## B. Park Plan Update

Mr. Parker reminded Boardmembers that the Parks & Open Space System Plan is updated at six year intervals. New Plan items for 2016 include:

<u>Chapter</u>	<u>Action</u>
Policy Framework	Aligning goals from Comprehensive Plan
Planning for the Future	Update survey data needs by Neighborhood Area
Capital Project Objectives	Board's October modifications
Maintenance, Renovation, & Security	More detail on renovation plan, security, and emergency response
Financing Capital Projects	Signal need for future park bond/levy Increased focus on partnership, grants, and donations

Mr. Parker clarified that the Community Profile included in the Plan has been updated based on the U.S. Census Bureau's 2009-2013 and 2013 *American Community Survey* data sets.

Boardmember Heath called attention to the "Community Profile/Economic Well-Being" (see page 22) noting that the information addresses prosperity but not non-prosperous statistics (i.e., free and reduced-priced lunch). He suggested that this information be added and change the title to "Economic Diversity."

In regards to the "Natural Resource Characteristics" (see page 22) Boardmember Powell suggested that additional language be added to increase the tree canopy. Private land owners should be incentivized to retain and increase the tree canopy. In addition, Boardmember Powell suggested that more clarifying language be added under "Park Facilities/Acquired a 6.2 acres property in Mercer Slough..." (see page 26) to address subtractions of tree canopy and park land.

Boardmember Heath suggested the following change to "Park Facilities" (see page 26):  
"Acquired 1.65 acres in Bridle Trails that, ~~together with adjacent~~ **will provide a neighborhood park that is** open space property owned by Bellevue Utilities. ~~will provide a neighborhood park and preserved open space."~~

### Parks & Community Services Policy Framework

Mr. Parker noted that the following changes were made to the “Parks & Community Services Policy Framework” section:

- Aligned references to vision, goal, and policies of the 2015 Bellevue Comprehensive Plan Update.
- Edited Parks & Open Space System Plan Goals.

Vice-Chair Grindeland suggested that the quote marks be removed from the list of other Elements of the Comprehensive Plan (see pages 29-30 Citizen Engagement, Land Use, Neighborhoods, Capital Facilities, Transportation, Economic Development, Environment, Human Services, Shoreline Management Program, and Urban Design).

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that information be included in the Plan that demonstrates the Parks & Community Services commitment to environmental stewardship by exemplifying what private land owners might do (i.e., Shoreline Management). Mr. Parker suggested that this clarification be added to Balanced Stewardship (see page 31). Boardmember Heath added that the city should lead by example (i.e., the city should incentivize land owners to increase the tree canopy). Additional narrative also needs to be added to the Plan that would allow for collaboration and cooperation.

### Planning for the Future

Mr. Parker noted that the following changes were made to the “Planning for the Future” section:

- Updated population projections.
- Updated with 2015 park survey data.
- Updated Neighborhood Area level of service gap analysis.

### Capital Project Objectives

Mr. Parker noted that the following changes were made to the “Capital Project Objectives” section:

- Highlighting historic preservation as an increasingly important topic.
- Updated references to the Eastside Rail Corridor with status of planning underway.
- Increased focus on neighborhood scale connections through trail development of other pedestrian/bicycle capital projects.
- Incorporation of new tree canopy preservation and expansion target in Comprehensive Plan.
- Added narrative for off-leash dog areas.
- Added references to Downtown Livability and Grand Connection projects.
- Incorporated new Eastgate I-90 Land Use Plan park and trail elements.

Boardmember Powell would like the Parks Board to be more influential when defending parks. She suggested that specific agencies be noted in the plan (i.e., Puget Sound Energy, Sound Transit, etc.) because these agencies have had a negative impact on the tree canopy.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that information be added to page 43 about defending the integrity of parks. Boardmember Powell does not want to compromise on park land. She

would like to preserve and defend the land. Boardmember Heath suggested using the term “advocacy.”

Vice-Chair Grindeland noted that the “Downtown Pedestrian Corridor” (see page 59) is not weather protected for people with disabilities.

#### Maintenance, Renovation, & Security

Mr. Parker noted that the following changes were made to the “Maintenance, Renovation, & Security” section:

- Added additional narrative regarding park safety and security.
- Better described Parks & Community Services role in emergency response and disaster relief.

#### Financing Capital Projects

Mr. Parker noted that the following changes were made to the “Financing Capital Projects” section:

- Overall Funding Strategy remains unchanged.
- Maintenance and Operations are no longer funded from CIP, but by General Fund Revenue.
- Signaling the need to consider a future voter-approved bond or levy as projects from the 2008 levy are on track for completion.
- Increased reliance on grants, partnerships and donations for major projects.
- Use of zoning incentive systems in the land use code (BelRed and Downtown) to help support urban park and trail system development.

**Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

**Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Powell to postpone agenda Item 9C: Re-Naming a Facility in Honor of Nan Campbell. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).** Boardmembers requested that this item be the first item under Discussion/Action Items at the next Board meeting.

Mr. Parker noted that the next steps for the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan include:

- SEPA Review.
- Layout and Graphics.
- Council Consideration.
- Submittal to State Recreation & Conservation Office.

**Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried (5-1).**

**Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to recommend that the City Council approve the 2016 update to the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan.**

**Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to make the following amendments to the 2016 update to the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan:**

- **In the “Policy Framework” section add clarifying language regarding: advocate and champion preservation of open space, tree canopy, and aquatic habitat with the public, other governmental agencies, corporations, organizations, and private land owners.**
- **In the “Policy Framework” section add clarifying language regarding: partner and provide assistance to Bellevue landowners to preserving and developing open space and thriving ecosystem functions through incentives, best practice examples, and guidance.**
- **In the “A City in a Park” section, add clarifying language regarding: Mercer Slough East Link mitigation project and more detail regarding the Bridle Trails land acquisition.**

**At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the amendments to the 2016 update to the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan.**

(Boardmember Heath departed at 8:41 p.m.)

**At the question, motion carried unanimously (5-0) to recommend that the City Council approve the 2016 update to the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan as amended.**

Boardmembers would like to review the final Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan at the January, 2016 Board meeting.

C. Re-Naming Facility in Honor of Nan Campbell

*Postponed.*

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

None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

None.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

*The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on January 12, 2016.*

B. Memo re Golf Course Driving Range

C. Email re park Maintenance

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—January 12, 2016, Bellevue City Hall

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Powell to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**