

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

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

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E-113  
Bellevue, Washington

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

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Kim Indurkar, Jennifer Mechem, Shelley McVein, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith, Helena Stephens

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Renay Bennett, Zach England, Alice Fong, Joydeep Hazra, Jamie McCoy

**COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT:** Councilmember Robertson

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair George at 6:02 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the March 8, 2016 Parks & Community Services Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

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<sup>1</sup> Arrived at 6:05 p.m.

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

Jamie McCoy, Zach England, Joydeep Hazra  
Youth Link Board

Youth Link Boardmembers discussed the 2016 Youth Link Board priorities. The Youth Link Board will partner and work with local youth organizations to address:

- Homelessness—Youth Link will promote, educate and support youth agencies focusing on homelessness throughout the Eastside community. Youth Link will create new alliances and utilize existing partnerships to achieve greater understanding for the root cause of youth homelessness and work with impacted youth to advance change.
- Career Development/Mentorship—Youth Link will work with a variety of local businesses to develop career and mentorship opportunities. The goal is to assist youth in career planning and address youth employment through programs such as Youth Link University and other business mentor programs for middle and high school students.
- Equity—Youth Link will engage in partnership opportunities with a variety of diverse youth organizations to create a higher understanding of equity issues that impact children and youth in the Bellevue area.

Youth Link Boardmembers also invited Park Boardmembers to the 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Gumbo Night, which will be held at Sherry Grindeland's house and to serve as presenters at the upcoming 26<sup>th</sup> Annual Community Leadership Awards event, which will be held on May 25, 2016.

Renay Bennett  
Save Mercer Slough Committee

On behalf of the Save Mercer Slough Committee, Ms. Bennett requested that Boardmembers protect Mercer Slough. She said that the Mercer Slough is under attack by Sound Transit. Ms. Bennett explained that there are more parcels in the Mercer Slough area that are being taken for the land conversion than originally disclosed. She stated that currently, 29.74 acres are being permanently taken from the Mercer Slough by Sound Transit.

Ms. Bennett asked Boardmembers to advocate on behalf of the Mercer Slough so that the additional acreage is not taken. She thinks that staff did not inform Boardmembers of the additional land that is being permanently taken away and encouraged them to speak up on behalf of the Mercer Slough.

Ms. Bennett distributed handouts for her presentation: 1) Exhibit R—City of Bellevue-Sound Transit Property Conveyance; 2) What do those acronyms mean?; 3) Letter to Harriet Spanel from Michael Harbour dated March 10, 2015.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

No report.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

No report.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Vice-Chair Grindeland reported that she recently spoke with Mary Ellen Hundley, Executive Director of Ballet Bellevue. She was pleased to hear that Ballet Bellevue found a new location to provide their services.

Chair George reported that the Lake Hills Greenbelt Trail, just north of Larsen Lake, was recently under water due to heavy rain.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke expressed his concern regarding the Mercer Slough comments made during Oral Communications. He requested additional information to evaluate the acreage discrepancies. Boardmember Van Hollebeke also expressed his enthusiasm for the conclusion of the SEPA hearings.

Boardmember Powell was dismayed at the data provided in Exhibit R of Ms. Bennett's Oral Communication comments.

**Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Heath to add an agenda item to discuss the Sound Transit acreage discrepancy.**

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that further discussions regarding the acreage conversion and discrepancy at Mercer Slough be discussed at the May Park Board meeting to allow staff an opportunity to research the information. Other Boardmembers concurred with this recommendation.

**At the question, motion failed (7-0) to add an agenda item to discuss the Sound Transit acreage discrepancy.**

Boardmember Heath expressed his appreciation for the services and amenities offered at the Bellevue Aquatic Center. He appreciates the safe environment that the center offers. He is also looking forward to seeing the Neighborhood Enhancement Program improvements that will take place in the Bridle Trails community.

Boardmember Kumar recently enjoyed a "Bird In My Ear" course offered through Bellevue College.

Boardmember Synn recently visited Napa, California. He was impressed by the tremendous amount of knowledge in sustainability and stewardship within each vineyard. He would like to see Bellevue tie last month's staff presentation to stewardship and sustainability with the community, since Bellevue has a wealth of knowledge amongst staff members.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

On behalf of staff and the City Council, and in recognition of National Volunteer Recognition Month, Mr. Foran thanked Boardmembers for their time and efforts to the Board and Bellevue.

Mr. Foran reported that Council recently discussed the two Comprehensive Plan amendments that were submitted for review. He clarified that there are two steps for the review process: 1) threshold decision; 2) if the amendments pass the threshold decision, then a Comprehensive Plan process will be conducted with public involvement. If the amendments pass the threshold decision, then the Park Board would be involved in providing an opinion. Staff will keep Boardmembers informed of the process.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Programming & Access for People with Disabilities**

Ms. Mechem explained that there are 33% of Bellevue residents, 65 and older, with disabilities, and 15% of residents over 5 with disabilities (approximately 15,487 people). She noted that there are more females than males with disabilities.

Ms. Indurkar explained that the City of Bellevue began providing adaptive recreation activities for individuals with disabilities in the 1970s. The Recreation for People with Disabilities Choices Plan was developed in 2006, with the Diversity Advantage Plan created in 2015. The Choices Plan is currently being updated. This plan includes:

- Inclusion in general recreation, with or without accommodations
- Adaptive recreation as an additional choice for those who benefit
- Community expressed need for adaptive recreation

This plan is for individuals with disabilities, parents/guardians of relatives with disabilities, community recreation providers, recreation professionals, and elected officials, Boards, and Commissions.

The Choices Plan was developed by gathering information and provides various adaptive recreation opportunities. Ms. Indurkar noted that the inclusion process for adaptive recreation participation provides the following:

- The greatest choice of recreation activities and experiences
- Support of full and active participation of individuals with disabilities in the same community activities as individuals without disabilities

- Community support and encourages attitudinal changes to reflect the right of all people to dignity, self-respect, and community involvement

Ms. Indurkar discussed some of Bellevue's partners that provide adaptive services, including:

- Bellevue School District
- Special Care Agency
- Kiwanis
- Special Needs PTA

Ms. Mechem noted that the Americans with Disabilities Act is one part of the new Diversity Advantage Initiative. The Diversity Advantage Initiative includes:

- Equity, access, inclusion and opportunity for all
- ADA compliance
- Title VI of Civil Rights Act
- Cultural competence
- Outreach and engagement

Ms. Mechem added that Bellevue recently conducted an ADA self-evaluation, transition plan, and major Comprehensive Plan updates. Council approval is anticipated in mid-2016. She clarified that the transition plan assesses the city and pedestrian facilities and determines how to make these accessible for all. In addition, the Natural Resource's Trail Guide is in the process of being updated to include ADA and program access and accommodations. Some of the ADA and program access services in Bellevue include:

- Hearing loops installed in City Hall and Bellevue Youth Theatre
- Captioning, ASL, Braille, large print
- Staff training
- City website redesign with improved accessibility and multi-language web pages
- Community input, including events, program priorities, and emergency planning

Chair George requested further clarification regarding the Bellevue statistics for people with disabilities. She noted that the Bellevue School District's percentage of people with disabilities is much higher than the figures provided in this presentation. Ms. Mechem noted that the figures that she provided are from the census data, which is believed to significantly undercount people with disabilities, but is the best data available.

Vice-Chair Grindeland questioned how Bellevue's programming and access for people with disabilities compares to other cities. Ms. Indurkar noted that Bellevue has far more accessible services than surrounding cities. She added that Bellevue is trying to encourage people that have grown up in the Adaptive Program to get out and about in the community, particularly in diverse cultures. She added that in many cultures it is a long-standing belief not to integrate people with disabilities. Bellevue is looking for ways to address perceptions of disability in different cultures, and the Cultural Conversations program may be a good way to engage the community on this topic.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke inquired if either Ms. Indurkar or Ms. Mechem were involved with the Inspiration Playground planning process. Ms. Indurkar noted that she was involved

with the expo event and technical piece. She will also assist with training and integration of kids with disabilities to help people make connections.

Boardmember Kumar hopes that the Inspiration Playground will be an inspiration to make changes at other parks to provide accessibility and opportunities. Ms. Mechem added that as things become more ADA compliant, staff is turning to the community for feedback (i.e., should a few parks be concentrated with accessibility or many parks encompass some accessibility).

**B. 2017-2023 CIP Budget**

Mr. Sanner reviewed the draft 2017-2023 Parks CIP budget and list of proposed projects.

Boardmember Kumar suggested that the money allocated for property acquisitions be reallocated to other priorities. Mr. Foran explained that a lot of the funds allocated toward property acquisitions are also used to leverage state or other funding sources. He added that there are many acquisitions that need to take place (e.g., Bel-Red Subarea). Typically, the property acquisitions are opportunity based. Boardmember Kumar suggested that the money allocated for property acquisitions be reallocated to Airfield Park.

Mr. Sanner reviewed the proposed 2017-2023 Parks Capital Investment Program by Park Board Theme. These include:

<b>Park Board CIP Theme:</b>	<b>2017-2023 Parks CIP Proposal List:</b>
Continue your commitment to voters from the 2008 Parks Levy, and restore the City’s matching dollars to make the projects a reality;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downtown Park Development (2017 Complete Circle; 2019 NE Entry)</li> <li>• Surrey Downs Park Development (2019)</li> <li>• Airfield Park Design (2017)</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Open Space Acquisition (Ongoing)</li> </ul>
Initiate the first phase of park development at Meydenbauer Bay;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meydenbauer Bay Phase I Development (2018)</li> </ul>
Maintain the existing capital infrastructure, both parks and natural assets; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks Renovation &amp; Refurbishment Plan (Ongoing)</li> <li>• Enterprise Facility Improvements (Ongoing)</li> </ul>
Continue to invest in the ongoing planning of Bellevue’s park and open space system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park Planning and Design (Ongoing)</li> </ul>
Additional Park Capital Projects with dedicated revenues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspiration Playground at Downtown Park (2017)</li> <li>• King County Parks Levy (2017-2019)</li> <li>• Mercer Slough East Link Mitigation</li> </ul>

Chair George inquired why the Lake Sammamish Park is not on the proposed 2017-2023 Parks Capital Investment Program list. Mr. Sanner clarified that the Lake Sammamish Park is not currently an approved project on the 2015-2021 CIP. If this were to be added, funding for another levy project would need to be reduced/reallocated. Mr. Foran added that the Lake

Sammamish and Airfield Park projects are voter-approved levy projects, but funding has not yet been available for these projects. He clarified that the CIP list is a list of priorities for the next seven years, not approval of levy projects—both Lake Sammamish and Airfield Park are beyond the current CIP time period.

Chair George would like to see the Lake Sammamish Park project be a current priority. Boardmember Van Hollebeke agreed that the Lake Sammamish Park project should be a priority. However, he would like to see acquisitions remain a high priority due to the rapidly expanding City and cost of land. As the public begins to see the changes that Sound Transit's access will provide to the Spring District, Bellevue needs to be poised to act rapidly on acquisitions. Boardmember Van Hollebeke advocated for keeping acquisitions a higher priority than development of Lake Sammamish Park.

There was a brief discussion regarding the Council's history on approving additional funding requests for the CIP budget. Mr. Foran clarified that the last time the Council approved a general CIP additional fund request was for the Meydenbauer Beach Park project. He added that this was a recommendation by the City Manager's office because it was already a high priority of the City Council.

Boardmember Kumar inquired why development of Airfield Park has taken so long and if citizens have complained about the delay. Mr. Foran explained that there is a significant amount of design and permitting that needs to occur at Airfield Park, prior to park development. This is largely related to the soil contamination issues at the site due to the site once being a landfill. In addition, citizens have made requests that Airfield Park remain natural. Chair George added that the neighborhoods surrounding Airfield Park would like the least amount of development at Airfield Park as possible.

Boardmember Powell requested clarification for the implications of the parks and open space acquisitions on the levy. Mr. Foran explained that the 2008 levy included \$10 million for acquisitions, but it did not specify where the acquisitions were to occur.

Boardmembers concurred that the Parks CIP needs a larger budget, particularly because of the tremendous amount of growth throughout the City. Boardmember Van Hollebeke added that Bellevue is known to be a 'City within a Park.' There may be significant missed opportunities if the budget is not increased and/or the City's matching dollars is not reinstated. Boardmember Synn added that it is difficult to continue the ongoing voter commitment and growing needs of the community with the current budget allocation.

Boardmembers discussed funding within the CIP that could be reallocated to acquisitions and/or other reallocation options. However, after the discussion there was general consensus that none of the proposed allocations should be decreased. Chair George noted that acquiring more land won't be helpful if the current land that has already been acquired cannot be developed. Boardmember Van Hollebeke would like to see acquisitions be the Board's priority.

Boardmember Kumar inquired what role the Parks Board will play with the grand connection and rails-to-trails program. Mr. Foran noted that Council allocated approximately \$1M in the

general CIP to move forward with the grand connection project. King County is the responsible party for planning and design of the trail system, unless the City opts to accelerate the project.

Boardmembers questioned whether the Parks CIP receives the same relative funding levels or percentages that it received before the levy was passed. Voters approved the levy with the assumption that they were enhancing the park funding.

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

**Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to send the following message to City Council: “The rapidly growing parks and open space demands of the community are not being met by the current levy and REET funds. Parks Boardmembers respectfully request that the City Council increase appropriations for the Parks Department. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

Boardmembers requested the following changes be made to the list of proposed projects for the 2017-2023 CIP:

- Add Lake Sammamish Park planning and design to be included with the other proposed Parks levy projects.
- Add a new category for Parks projects without a dedicated funding source and in need of additional City CIP funding. Projects to be requested in this category include Ashwood Park Design; Planning, Design, and Development of the Newport Hills/Tyler property; and Planning, Design, and Development of Bridle Trails/140<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park.

**Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Synn to extend the meeting until 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

**Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Heath to make the following edits to the 2017-2023 Parks Capital Investment Program by Park Board Theme.**

<b>Park Board CIP Theme:</b>	<b>2017-2023 Parks CIP Proposal List:</b>
Continue your commitment to voters from the 2008 Parks Levy, and restore the City’s matching dollars to make the projects a reality;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Downtown Park Development (2017 Complete Circle; 2019 NE Entry)</li> <li>• Surrey Downs Park Development (2019)</li> <li>• Airfield Park Design (2017)</li> <li>• Parks &amp; Open Space Acquisition (Ongoing)</li> <li>• <b><u>ADD: Lake Sammamish Park Planning and Design</u></b></li> </ul>
Initiate the first phase of park development at Meydenbauer Bay;	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Meydenbauer Bay Phase I Development (2018)</li> </ul>
Maintain the existing capital infrastructure, both parks and natural assets; and	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Parks Renovation &amp; Refurbishment Plan (Ongoing)</li> <li>• Enterprise Facility Improvements (Ongoing)</li> </ul>



Continue to invest in the ongoing planning of Bellevue’s park and open space system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Park Planning and Design (Ongoing)</li> </ul>
Additional Park Capital Projects with dedicated revenues	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inspiration Playground at Downtown Park (2017)</li> <li>• King County Parks Levy (2017-2019)</li> <li>• Mercer Slough East Link Mitigation</li> </ul>
<b><u>ADD: Additional Park Capital Projects with dedicated revenues and needing City CIP funds</u></b>	<b><u>ADD</u></b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ashwood Park design</li> <li>• Design, permitting, and construction of Newport Hills/Tyler</li> <li>• Design, permitting, and construction of Bridle Trails/140<sup>th</sup> Avenue Park</li> </ul>

At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0) to approve the edits to the list of proposed projects for the 2017-2023 Parks Capital Investment Program by Park Board Theme.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Kumar to extend the meeting until 8:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

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

None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Future agenda items

Boardmembers requested that further information be provided at the next Board meeting regarding Ms. Bennett’s concerns expressed during Oral Communications regarding Mercer Slough.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Email from Lisa P re trail marker signs

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events

*The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on May 10, 2016.*

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—May 10, 2016, Bellevue City Hall

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

Renay Bennett

Save Mercer Slough Committee

Ms. Bennett reiterated her request to protect and preserve the Mercer Slough. She added that if a park is utilized for more than six months then it is for the taking, per state law.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

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