

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

Tuesday
May 10, 2016
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair George, Vice-Chair Grindeland, Boardmembers Heath, Kumar, Powell, Synn¹, Van Hollebeke²

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Nancy LaCombe (Transportation), Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Scott VanderHyden

OTHERS PRESENT: Renay Bennett, Eric Dawes, Pamela Johnson, Patricia Wheeler

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robertson

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 Vice-Chair Grindeland to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Boardmember Powell to amend the meeting agenda and add clarification to Item 9.b. to include a specific response to the Save Mercer Slough Committee's concerns that were expressed by Renay Bennett at the April 12, 2016 Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

At the question, motion carried unanimously (5-0) to approve the meeting agenda as amended.

¹ Arrived at 6:06 p.m.

² Arrived at 6:09 p.m.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to approve the April 12, 2016 Parks & Community Services Regular Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

Eric Dawes

15365 SE 49th Pl., Bellevue, WA

Mr. Dawes asked Boardmembers to consider an exhibit or memorial at the Inspiration Playground to honor Rachel Beckwith. Rachel was tragically killed in an automobile accident in 2011. She was 9 years old.

Mr. Dawes explained that Rachel's 9th birthday wish was to raise money for a charity providing water to villages in a third world country. Donations for this charity grew to over \$1M.

Pamela Johnson

3741 122nd Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Johnson expressed her support of the Park Board's decision to request additional funding from Council to allocate toward parks. She also requested that the additional rebate amount (approximately \$400,000) that was received from King County for the Bridle Trails Corner Park be reallocated to the Bridle Trails 140th Ave. NE Neighborhood Park.

Lastly, Ms. Johnson suggested that Bellevue participate in the One Million Trees project that King County recently launched. This initiative is to help confront climate change and improve the health of neighborhoods and natural habitats across the county. The goal is to plant one million trees by 2020.

Renay Bennett

Save Mercer Slough Committee

On behalf of the Save Mercer Slough Committee and to follow-up on comments made at the April 12, 2016 Board meeting, Ms. Bennett made the following remarks:

- The Balatico property was selected as having the highest priority for the Mercer Slough property acquisition (map of *Mercer Slough Ownership* was distributed).
- Resolution No. 5080 approved the purchase of a 22.34 acre parcel of land to expand Mercer Slough Park (a copy of the Resolution was distributed).
- In the Draft Appraisal Report, the Balatico property is described as "unimproved and the zoning is R-1, which is a low-density residential zoning that is in place to protect the wetlands from high intensity use." (Page 1 of this memo was distributed). Ms. Bennett noted that a final report was not issued.

- Various parcels purchased by the state and Lake Washington Conservation Fund were sited on a map, which was distributed.

Ms. Bennett noted that there will be a road behind the South Bellevue Park and Ride for Sound Transit, and the Balatico property will be utilized as a staging area. She also discussed the visual and structural impacts of the transit system.

Ms. Bennett is vehemently against the attack on Mercer Slough by Sound Transit and urged Boardmembers to advocate on behalf of the Mercer Slough Nature Park.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robertson read Commendations for Chair George and Boardmember Powell to thank them for serving on the Park Board. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Foran presented both Boardmembers with tokens of appreciation.

Councilmember Robertson provided the following report:

- City Council recently adopted interim zoning controls regulating recreational marijuana sales.
- Council is currently working on the CIP budget.
- A charrette has been prepared to create the Wilburton-Grand Connection. Council recently approved a development agreement with Kemper Development Company for a sky bridge. In return, Kemper Development Company will prepare the first part of the Grand Connection.

Boardmember Heath explained that the Park Board respectfully requested that the City Council increase appropriations for the Parks Department at the last Board meeting. He inquired if Council had a chance to respond to this request. Councilmember Robertson clarified that Council is currently working on budget-related items and this request will most likely be part of the next budget discussion (Council has not received the formal request).

Boardmember Heath also asked Councilmember Robertson what the Park Board's role was during the Sound Transit planning/alignment process. Councilmember Robertson responded that there were no expectations of the Park Board. Council has always held the alignment decisions. Park Boardmembers are welcome to advocate as private citizens regarding their viewpoints. In addition, there have been a number of subcommittees to advise Council on particular issues, but the core policies and decisions have been made by Council.

Boardmember Heath explained that there have been a number of situations where citizens get frustrated with the Park Board because the Board is unaware of a particular situation. The Park Board's roles and responsibilities are not always clear to citizens or Park Boardmembers. Councilmember Robertson suggested that a task list of Park Board projects, along with the Park Board's roles and responsibilities be discussed at a future Board meeting.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair George expressed her appreciation to fellow Boardmembers and staff for their assistance and dedication to the Board.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmembers expressed their appreciation and gratitude to Chair George and Boardmember Powell for their contributions to the Board and the City.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran noted that the recent Kelsey Creek Farm Sheep Shearing event was a huge success. He also expressed his appreciation to the Eastside Heritage Center for their assistance with the event.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Bridle Trails – 140th Avenue NE Neighborhood Park**

Mr. Kost reminded Boardmembers that the Parks & Natural Areas levy included an allocation (\$5M) for neighborhood park development—\$2.5 of this allocation was earmarked for Bridle Trails Corner Park.

Mr. VanderHyden noted that property was recently acquired at 4432 – 140th Ave. NE (Ginzburg property). This property is approximately 1.65 acres in size. To date, the following milestones have occurred regarding the Ginzburg property:

- Kick-off community meeting/project intro (May, 2015)
- Online survey (May-July, 2015)
- House demolition complete (Aug., 2015)
- Second community meeting—designs presented (Oct., 2015)
- Third Community meeting—preferred plan presented (Feb., 2016)
- Bridle Trails Community Club General Meeting (March, 2016)

Mr. VanderHyden discussed the results and comments received from the online survey. Overall, the top improvements that the community would like to see in the new neighborhood park include:

- Playground
- Trails and nature viewing and/or interpretive elements
- Open lawn area for play/non-programmed sports
- Picnic shelter/covered gathering area and picnic table/BBQ/benches

Mr. VanderHyden noted that an original concept was presented at the second community meeting (Concept Plan View-A). Input/feedback was received from this meeting and Concept Plan View-B was created. The preferred plan includes the following elements:

- Play areas for ages 2-5, 5-12, and adventure play
- Picnic shelter for community gathering
- Onsite parking
- Crosswalk for pedestrian accessibility
- Picnic tables and benches
- Both hard and soft surface paths and loop trail
- Interpretive signage
- Open lawn area for non-programmed sports and play
- Native plantings and wildlife viewing
- ROW frontage improvements

Boardmember Synn suggested that water fountains and restroom facilities be included in the park features. Mr. VanderHyden explained that the park area is located in dense wetlands and vegetation, which make the restroom facilities cost prohibitive. However, an area has been designated for a Sani-can with an enclosure.

Ms. Lopez noted that the final preferred plan had unanimous support amongst community members.

Boardmember Heath expressed his appreciation to staff for accommodating/considering all of the community's initial concerns.

The next steps for the Ginzburg property include:

- Park Board recommendation
- Council review and approval
- Funding
- Design and permitting
- Construction

Boardmembers discussed the \$400,000 rebate that was received from King County for the Bridle Trails Corner Park project. Mr. Kost noted that the purpose of the money was for King County Conservation Futures, which is fundamentally to purchase property, not to develop property. Ms. Lopez advocated that the \$400,000 rebate be allocated to the Ginzburg property, particularly since it was a result of the Bridle Trails Corner Park project. However, Boardmember Van Hollebeke pointed out that the Bridle Trails community received a significant amount of funding from the levy.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to approve the development plan for the 140th Ave. NE neighborhood park.

Boardmember Heath noted that he is a member of the Bridle Trails neighborhood, he is on the Board of Directors for the Bridle Trails Community Club, and he attended all of the community meetings related to the 140th Ave. NE neighborhood park. However, Boardmember Heath did not participate in the survey or make any affirmative suggestions for what should or should not be included in the park.

Mr. Foran clarified that Boardmembers are encouraged to participate in planning processes that relate to planning and developing parks, particularly to hear what the community has to say.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0).

B. East Link Update

Mr. Parker and Ms. LaCombe provided an East Link Update. Ms. LaCombe noted that the process is currently in the technical permits phase with construction to begin in 4Q16.

Boardmember Powell asked what alternatives are being considered if the Department of Transportation does not approve the floating bridge concept for light rail. Ms. LaCombe clarified that from the City's understanding, the only thing that needs to be clarified is the verbiage in the agreement. The overall concept for the floating bridge has been approved.

Mr. Parker discussed the various communications that Boardmembers have received regarding East Link. This included the following:

Presentation	06/12/07	Light Rail Best Practices Committee Kick-off
Presentation	05/13/08	Light Rail Best Practices Committee Report
Presentation	02/10/09	Draft Environmental Impact Statement Comment Opportunity
Discussion	02/09/10	Letter to Council regarding proposed B7 modified alignment
Memo	07/07/10	Describing City's Proposed B2M Alignment
Memo	11/02/10	Supplemental Draft EIS Comment Opportunity
Presentation	01/10/12	First City/Sound Transit Memorandum of Understanding
Presentation	07/09/13	Final Alignment Overview
Presentation	09/09/14	Public Comment Opportunity on Grant-funded Land Conversion
Discussion	10/14/14	Voted Not to Send Letter to State RCO Regarding Conversion

Chair George noted that in the Parks & Open Space System Plan the Park Board revised the wording to address preservation of Mercer Slough to protect it from light rail. This was to ensure that the park uses were consistent with the Master Plan.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke reminded Boardmembers that they strongly advocated for Regulation 4f in the approved land conversion regulation at Mercer Slough. He reiterated the importance of keeping the integrity of the agreement. If the acreage in the converted amount has changed, then Boardmembers need to be made aware of the change and revisit the issue.

Mr. Parker discussed the various changes that will occur at Surrey Downs Park. Mr. Parker noted that there is \$412,000 allocated to construct the entrance roadway, parking area, and associated landscaping. There is also a link lid park that will be designed and constructed by Sound Transit, based upon the City's design concepts. During construction, some of the Mercer Slough public access points will be altered, and the Park & Ride will be closed.

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

Vice-Chair Grindeland inquired if the Blueberry Farm and Winters House will be maintained during construction. Mr. Parker noted that the Winters House will have vibration monitoring equipment with protective lighting. All of the protective language is being written into the contracts. In addition, there will be fencing around the house and a security system. Mr. Parker noted that a full assessment is being conducted at the beginning and end of the project. If any concerns arise, Sound Transit will be the responsible party.

Mr. Parker discussed the various easements that will be utilized along the East Link route. He also discussed the discrepancies between the City's calculations and Ms. Bennett's calculations. Mr. Parker noted that the figures in the reports are the same. However, it is necessary to determine permanent/temporary easements (i.e., above ground, below ground, etc.). He clarified that these easements are not all separate square feet. The easements are complex. Mr. Parker used an example of a mitigation site that has temporary easements and is a wetland mitigation site with a native growth protection easement so this future easement applies in perpetuity.

Mr. Parker offered to meet with Ms. Bennett to review the East Link alignment as it relates to the Mercer Slough.

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Kumar to extend the meeting until 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Mr. Parker showed diagrams of the East Link route along Bellevue Way, including future access and visions for the Blueberry Farm retail building and access road, and the Winters House. He noted that parking capacity will be improved for these locations. In addition, Mr. Parker reviewed the Sweyolocken Mitigation Plan and the Bel-Red West Tributary wetland.

Boardmembers discussed the land conversion property at Mercer Slough. Mr. Parker noted that this land was privately owned and has been on the City's acquisition list for quite some time. The intent for the property is to provide a connection trail so a formal trail system can be provided throughout Mercer Slough. In addition, sidewalks for this newly acquired land can be added/improved.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to extend the meeting until 9:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

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

None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

Vice-Chair Grindeland requested a status update regarding the restroom facilities at various park locations.

Boardmember Heath requested that organizational development be provided for Boardmembers—“advising the City Council” is too vague. He noted that the Park Board has no authority and spends a significant amount of time discussing subject matters that Council is not informed about. The Park Board needs to understand what is expected of them and how to relate with the public.

Boardmembers Powell requested that guidance be provided to Boardmembers about appropriate use of business cards when out in the community.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. National Older Americans Month Proclamation

C. Email re “Rave” for trails system crews

D. Email from homeowners association re neighborhood project

E. Email re Scott Schoenrock

F. Thank you from 3rd Grade class

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Park Board meeting—June 14, 2016, Bellevue City Hall

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

Renay Bennett

Save Mercer Slough Committee

Ms. Bennett stated that the staff presentation regarding Mercer Slough is not true. She stated that the Final Assessors report has not been prepared because it would expose the reality that is going on. In addition, she fears that the Winters House will be ruined by the construction that will take place by Sound Transit and added that the trench along the Winters House will change the hydrology. She noted that there is a large discrepancy in the number of trees that will be removed. Ms. Bennett believes that the Board has been purposely and deliberately left out of the planning process for Sound Transit and the Mercer Slough area.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Synn to adjourn the meeting at 9:09 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).