

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

Tuesday
June 9, 2015
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Grindeland, Boardmembers George, Heath¹, Kumar, Powell², Van Hollebeke

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robinson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Pam Myers, Alex O'Reilly, Camron Parker, Terry Smith, AnnaMarie Solomonson

OTHERS PRESENT: Dallas Evans, Steve Kasner, Mike Ogliore, Pam Toelle

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the April 28, 2015 Parks & Community Services Board Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the May 12, 2015 Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:17 p.m.

² Arrived at 6:13 p.m.

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

Mike Ogliore, Bellevue Downtown Association

Pam Myers, City of Bellevue, Parks & Community Services

On behalf of the City of Bellevue and the Bellevue Downtown Association, Ms. Myers and Mr. Ogliore invited Boardmembers to the 24th Annual Bellevue Collection Bellevue Family 4th celebration presented by PACCAR. The event is the largest 4th of July celebration on the Eastside and will take place in Bellevue Downtown Park where families and friends can enjoy food, games, live music, and a spectacular fireworks show. Mr. Ogliore stressed that safety is of utmost importance for the event.

Pam Toelle, 14541 SE 26th Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Toelle encouraged Boardmembers to rename the Crossroads Community Center to the Nan Campbell Community Center at Crossroads Park. Alternatively, she suggested that another structure or park within the Crossroads area be named to honor Ms. Campbell.

Ms. Toelle highlighted some of Ms. Campbell's many accomplishments and read testimonials from various community members in support of this name change.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robinson discussed recent City Council activities, including:

- Park renaming for Bovee Park to Georgia Zumdieck Park.
- Preliminary review of the Comprehensive Plan.

Councilmember Robinson suggested that if the Park Board would like to suggest that a Crossroads structure or park be renamed in honor of Nan Campbell, she will bring forth the suggestion to City Council.

6. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Grindeland reported that Dallas Evans recently submitted his resignation from the Park Board. Mr. Evans recently moved to the City of Kirkland. Boardmembers expressed their appreciation to Mr. Evans for his dedication and contributions to the Park Board.

In addition, Chair Grindeland made the following report:

- Attended Youth Link's 25th Anniversary and Community Leadership Awards Ceremony.
- Visited many of Bellevue's parks.
- Met with the "Keep Ashwood Green" group.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Kumar made the following report:

- Enjoyed many of Bellevue's parks and trails.
- Experienced the South Bellevue Community Center Zip Tour.

Boardmember Heath made the following report:

- Attended the Meydenbauer Bay Park: Phase 1 public meeting.

Boardmember Powell made the following report:

- Visited the newly renamed Georgia Zumdieck Park.
- Enjoyed the new driving range at Bellevue Golf Course.
- Hiked the Tam O'Shanter nature trail.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke made the following report:

- Participated in the Spirit of Bellevue 12K race, which originated at Downtown Park.
- Attended the June 4, 2015 Public Hearing for Downtown Park and encouraged staff and City Council to get creative on transportation flows and parking solutions.

Boardmember George made the following report:

- Attended Youth Link's 25th Anniversary and Community Leadership Awards Ceremony.
- Visited Airfield Park and encouraged City Council to move forward with the development of this park.

Boardmember Kumar expressed her concern about tree management near Airfield Park and Spiritridge trail. There is a widespread area where trees have been cleared. Staff will research this issue and report back to Boardmember Kumar.

8. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran encouraged Boardmembers to attend the upcoming Strawberry Festival at Crossroads Park on June 27-28, 2015.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Board Elections

Chair Grindeland opened nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position.

Motion by Boardmember Powell to appoint Boardmember George as the Parks & Community Services Board Chair.

Motion by Chair Grindeland to appoint Boardmember Van Hollebeke as the Parks & Community Services Board Chair. Boardmember Van Hollebeke declined the nomination.

Chair Grindeland requested other nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried (6-0) to appoint Boardmember George as the Parks & Community Services Board Chair.

Chair Grindeland opened nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to appoint Boardmember Powell as the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair. Boardmember Powell declined the nomination.

Motion by Boardmember Kumar to appoint Chair Grindeland as the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair.

Chair Grindeland requested other nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried (6-0) to appoint Chair Grindeland as the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair.

B. Human Services Needs Update

Every two years, the Human Services Division staff prepares a comprehensive needs assessment, the Bellevue Human Services Needs Update, that presents an overview of the key health and human services issues and trends in Bellevue, and also references relevant regional, county, state and national data. Ms. O'Reilly provided an overview of the timeline for the 2015-2016 report, due to be released in January, 2016.

Ms. O'Reilly discussed some of the methodology used to gather information for the next report. These also include Community Conversations that occur throughout Bellevue. Every year, approximately 20 Community Conversations are held with a variety of groups.

The focus areas for previous years were reviewed by Ms. O'Reilly. For 2015-2016, the report will focus on Bellevue's Diversity Initiative.

Ms. O'Reilly noted that the report will be written during the summer. A draft will be presented to the Human Services Commission after Labor Day. The final draft will be presented to City Council in January, 2016 with the release shortly afterwards. In March, 2016, applications for 2017-2018 funding will be posted with the due date sometime in April, 2016.

Boardmember George called attention to page 7 of the 2013-2014 Human Services Needs Update Executive Summary. In particular, she noted that there are still gaps within the community for services for people with disabilities. Ms. O'Reilly concurred with Boardmember George, stating these are due to funding limitations. She noted that the City is working with Kindering Center to serve not only adults and children with disabilities, but also veterans.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke called attention to the growing need for mental illness treatment. Oftentimes, the first line of interaction for people with mental disabilities comes from the police. Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that the police force be engaged and questioned if there is a better way for improving these interactions. Ms. O'Reilly explained that there is an internal team that works on various human service needs. The police are a major partner in the collaboration efforts and have been extremely sensitive to some of the needs. In addition, she noted that all of the Eastside cities pool funds together not only for outreach but also for resources for the homeless. The Human Services staff works with the Police Department to determine where homeless populations congregate so they can be informed about the services available.

Boardmember Heath stressed the importance of the Collective Impact concepts, as well as the collaboration between government, nonprofit, and business. He encouraged Ms. O'Reilly to continue to engage nonprofit businesses. He also suggested that the community conversations list be evaluated to determine if there are additional groups that should be included in these conversations. Boardmember Heath stressed the importance of the "crime vine" and suggested that broad conversations and outreach occur with the Police Department as well.

C. Parks & Open Space System Plan Update

Mr. Parker explained that over the next nine months, Parks & Community Services will be updating one of its long-range policy planning documents, the Parks & Open Space System Plan. The Park Plan guides staff and the board when making recommendations to the City Council on the acquisition, development, and management of parks and open space citywide. The current plan was last updated in 2010 and is on a six year schedule for renewal and adoption by City Council.

The elements that are required to be included in the Park Plan include:

- Goals, objectives.
- Inventory.
- Public involvement.
- Demand and needs analysis.
- Capital Improvement Program.
- Adoption.

Mr. Parker noted that the Park Plan Update would focus on a preliminary list of topics, including:

- Importance of parks and natural areas.
- Park system access and equity.
- Urban park systems.
- Environmental stewardship: tree canopy.
- Historic resources/cultural arts.
- Public access to shorelines.
- Maintenance and renovation.

In addition, the public participation process includes things like surveys, community events, presentations to boards, commissions, stakeholders, and advisory groups, as well as a public hearing.

The goal for the Park Plan is to have a draft completed by October, 2015, with board approval in November, 2015, and Council adoption in January/February, 2016. Final submission to the state is anticipated in March, 2016.

Boardmember Heath suggested that the needs of all park users be considered, including residents and employees/workers that may live outside of the Bellevue area.

Boardmember Powell requested that more land and tree canopy preservation be a priority. She expressed her disappointment about the park land conversion for Mercer Slough and the loss of trees that are affected by the project. She would like to see the Park Plan defend tree canopy and habitat.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke explained that a lot of the Board's previous discussions at the retreat and other meetings can act as pre-work for the Plan Update. There are substantive issues that need to be carried forward, long-term, such as connectivity, and Collective Impact. These issues also need to carry forward through transportation, arts, and human services.

Boardmember George suggested that the strategies identified from the Board retreat be revisited. The focus area of the Plan Update should reflect the results of the resident's surveys. Mr. Parker clarified that the main function of the survey is to identify the following:

- How the parks system is used.
- Frequency of use for various types of parks.
- Preference for additional parks.

Mr. Parker added that the survey questions are intended to be similar from update to update so the results can be compared/tracked to identify any trends.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke encouraged fellow Boardmembers to be involved in the Plan Update process. He requested that the draft plan be forwarded to Boardmembers a few weeks prior to any necessary Board action. He also suggested that surveys be solicited at parks so a wide range of results can be obtained.

Chair Grindeland agreed with Boardmember Powell's earlier comments about the tree canopy. Canopy preservation should be a priority. She would also like to see more parks, not pocket parks, and trail systems with bigger connections.

D. Potential Re-Naming a Facility in Nan Campbell's Honor

Chair Grindeland explained that she suggested at the May Board meeting that the Crossroads Community Center be renamed in honor of Nan Campbell due to the outpouring of warmth, memories, and love to honor Ms. Campbell.

Motion by Boardmember Powell and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to conduct the next board meeting at Crossroads Community Center and to notify the community that there will be an open comment period during this meeting regarding renaming the facility.

Boardmember Van Hollebeke suggested that the outreach regarding renaming the Crossroads Community Center be partial to the Crossroads surrounding community. He suggested that a methodical action plan be put into place to allow the Board to make an informed recommendation to Council based upon community support, outreach, and a thorough understanding of the issue.

Boardmember Kumar inquired if an online survey should be conducted to allow for other naming suggestions/recommendations. Mr. Foran explained that the integrity of the online survey process for Georgia Zumdiek Park was difficult to manage. He suggested that an alternate method be utilized.

Boardmembers discussed the handful of parks that have been named after individuals. Boardmember Heath suggested that Boardmembers may want to have a discussion about the historic criteria for naming a park after an individual. Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested additional information regarding Nan Campbell's historic significance in the community. Chair Grindeland suggested that the Eastside Heritage Center attend next month's meeting to provide information.

At the question, motion failed (1-5) to conduct the next board meeting at Crossroads Community Center and notify the community that comments will be received during this meeting regarding renaming the facility.

Motion by Boardmember Van Hollebeke and second by Boardmember Powell to request that staff provide a more substantive process for renaming the Crossroads Community Center and the criteria for doing so.

Boardmember Heath was concerned that naming a park or facility after an individual can ultimately divide the City. He added that geographic designations remove any personalities.

At the question, motion failed (1-5) to request that staff provide a more substantive process for renaming the Crossroads Community Center and the criteria for doing so.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Boardmember Powell to postpone further discussions regarding re-naming a facility in Nan Campbell's honor until the September Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Future agenda items

Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested that an update be provided regarding completion of the Downtown Park circle.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Memo re Bellevue Family 4th of July
- C. Council Agenda Memo and Resolution re Bovee Park Re-Naming (from Council Packet)
- D. National Older Americans Month Memo, Proclamation, and BNOA Annual Report (from Council Packet)

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Next regular Park Board meeting—July 14, 2015, Bellevue City Hall

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

Former Vice-Chair Dallas Evans, 8331 NE Juanita Drive, Kirkland, WA

Mr. Evans reported that there are some benches that are severely deteriorating in Weowna Park. He asked that the Parks Department repair/replace these benches.

Mr. Evans also expressed his deep appreciation to Parks staff and the Board for their dedication and commitment to Bellevue. He added that it has been a pleasure working with everyone.

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on July 14, 2015.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Van Hollebeke to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).