

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

Tuesday
September 12, 2017
5:30 p.m.

Bellevue Botanical Gardens
Aaron Education Center
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Van Hollebeke, Vice-Chair Synn, Boardmembers Deng, Heath, Kumar, Nieuwenhuis¹, Trescases

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robertson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Bradley Calvert (PCD), Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Nancy Kartes, Camron Parker, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Lee Springgate, Bob & Patricia Wheeler

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Hollebeke at 5:36 p.m.

2. **BELLEVUE BOTANICAL GARDEN TOUR:**

Ms. Kartes led Boardmembers on a tour of Bellevue Botanical Gardens. The tour concluded at 6:08 p.m.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Heath to approve the meeting agenda as presented.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Boardmember Kumar to amend the meeting agenda and move Item 11a to be presented after Item 5; and to move Item 9 to Item 11d. At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the amendment to the main motion.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the main motion, as amended.

¹ Departed at 5:45 p.m.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the July 11, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

None.

Agenda Amendment:

DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:

- A. **Presentation of Book—“A Miracle in Downtown Bellevue: The Story of the Bellevue Downtown Park”**

Mr. Springgate discussed his book “A Miracle in Downtown Bellevue: The Story of the Bellevue Downtown Park.” The book describes the extraordinary leadership, innovative financing, creative partnerships and a design for the ages. Mr. Springgate noted that Downtown Park has helped define and shape Bellevue’s central business district, while simultaneously influencing the development of an entire park system. He added that Downtown Park has become a landmark and a source of pride and identity for the entire community. Mr. Springgate’s book describes how Downtown Park was acquired, designed and developed over a period of 35 years and why this was such a monumental achievement for both the City of Bellevue and the urban park movement within the United States.

Mr. Springgate provided copies of his book to Boardmembers.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

Councilmember Robertson reported on the following items:

- The Downtown Livability Update is nearly complete. Council hopes to adopt the plan in October/November, 2017.
- Interim regulations were adopted to ban heroine injection sites citywide. There is also an initiative that will be on the February ballot to do the same for King County.
- Council is working to streamline regulations for homeless shelters. Council recently adopted interim regulations regarding homeless shelters.

- The Argosy Christmas ships may change their traditional Christmas caroling route, due to construction at Meydenbauer Bay Park.
- The Splash Aquatic Center 2.0 group recently formed to bring the aquatic center concept to fruition.

Councilmember Robertson noted that Council has not specifically discussed park impact fees. She clarified that there have been discussions about inserting impact fees into the Livability legislation. However, Council may ask staff to conduct additional work, outside of the Livability Study.

7. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported that approximately 25% of the Meydenbauer Bay Park project is complete. The project is progressing according to schedule.

8. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Kumar spent a lot of time biking throughout the community. She looks forward to the Eastside Rail Corridor completion.

Boardmember Heath enjoyed spending time at Downtown Park and taking his daughters to classes at Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

Boardmember Deng enjoyed the Bellevue Botanical Gardens: Garden Explorers program during the summer with her daughter. She also attended the Newcastle Beach Park Backyard Campout during the summer.

Boardmember Trescases enjoyed spending time at Downtown Park with her family, taking note of the trampoline area, which reminded them of a park they had visited this summer in Cambridge, England.

9. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

A. Next Quarter's Agenda Items

Postponed until later in the meeting agenda.

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

A. Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee

Boardmember Kumar distributed a report from her recent Wilburton CAC meetings. She noted that the Wilburton CAC has been working on a tactical urbanism project and is currently fleshing out feasibility and logistics.

Boardmember Heath stressed the importance of including incentives for parks and open spaces that are effective. He also would like the Board to evaluate alternative funding models for parks.

B. Planning Commission Follow-Up

No report.

11. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. Presentation of Book—"A Miracle in Downtown Bellevue: The Story of the Bellevue Downtown Park"

Presented earlier in the meeting agenda.

B. Board Visioning/Planning

Chair Van Hollebeke reminded Boardmembers about the following themes that were identified at the July 11, 2017 Board meeting. These include:

- Alternative funding.
- Education/partnerships.
- Advocacy.

Chair Van Hollebeke asked Boardmembers to be mindful of these themes when discussing the Grand Connection.

C. Grand Connection—Board Response

Mr. Parker highlighted the Grand Connection route. The Grand Connection will create a defined and distinctive connection from Meydenbauer Bay Park, through Downtown, over I-405, through Wilburton to the Eastside Rail Corridor. Mr. Parker noted that the Draft Framework Plan is currently open for public comment. This plan focuses on the western portion of the Grand Connection, between Meydenbauer Bay Park and City Hall.

Chair Van Hollebeke suggested that the Grand Connection area include a sense of place or unified feel. He would like the area to emphasize parks and open spaces, including community gathering areas and link the goals back to the long-term vision for parks and open spaces.

Boardmember Heath suggested that Lincoln Center be considered as a viable option for an open space or homeless shelter.

Mr. Calvert clarified that the Grand Connection: Phase 1 includes aspects of Compass Plaza, Bellevue Transit Center, the Convention Center, and other areas. Mr. Parker noted that there is also an opportunity to affirm parts of the framework plan that the Parks Board views as a priority and/or important.

Boardmember Trescases views the park-like aspect of the I-405 crossing as essential. She also would like to include wayfinding and park connections within the plan to enhance the public visual aspects and usability. Chair Van Hollebeke added that this could be included in a memo to highlight the “Pearls on a String” concept.

Vice-Chair Synn requested additional information on artist renderings of the themes and how these will be implemented. Mr. Calvert clarified some of the concepts and examples for implementing the Board’s ideas.

Mr. Parker noted that there are other opportunities in the planning and visioning phase of the Grand Connection, including evaluating routes from a cyclist’s perspective.

Boardmember Heath expressed his support of including wayfinding in the Plan. However, he noted that the Grand Connection area included in Phase 1 does not include many parks. He suggested that the Board request that another park property, within the Grand Connection Phase 1 area, be identified. Boardmember Heath encouraged Boardmembers to advocate for a vision (i.e., a Grand Connection that goes east, west, and connects Bellevue Botanical Gardens). Chair Van Hollebeke does not view the wayfinding concept as limited to the Downtown Grand Connection area. He would like the wayfinding concept to include connectivity to all of the parks. Chair Van Hollebeke reminded Boardmembers of Mr. Springgate’s comments that the Board needs to identify a vision that inspires but does not overwhelm. Chair Van Hollebeke envisions a Grand Connection that includes more open spaces with plazas and community gathering spaces.

Boardmember Deng expressed her support of wayfinding throughout the parks and would like the Grand Connection area to include a running or biking race.

Chair Van Hollebeke, Vice-Chair Synn, and Boardmember Trescases will work with staff to prepare a memo to forward to City Council regarding the Grand Connection. This letter will be reviewed/approved at the next Board meeting.

D. Board’s Future Work

Chair Van Hollebeke reviewed the list of Board Agenda Items Planning 2017/2018 that was included on page 14 of the July 11, 2017 Board Packet. He suggested that the October meeting agenda include a discussion regarding: historical funding mechanisms; funding sources available but have been utilized less frequently; and funding forces available but have not been used.

Boardmember Deng requested that Boardmembers discuss options for a Parks Foundation. Boardmember Heath noted that he made a suggestion at the 2014 Parks Board Retreat to consider a Parks Foundation. He also cited other examples of successful foundations (e.g., Rotary, Bellevue Youth Theatre, etc.). Boardmember Heath would like further education/research conducted about alternative funding sources. Then this information should be presented to Council. Boardmembers agreed that the majority of the next meeting agenda should include education on additional funding sources.

- Liaisons to other Boards/Commissions

Councilmember Robertson explained that the concept of the Parks Board having a formal liaison to other Boards/Commissions is an unusual practice and may cause confusion. She noted that Boardmembers can sign up to receive other Board/Commission meeting agendas and attend meetings to speak as individual citizens.

Boardmember Heath explained that the concept of Board liaisons was derived to create connectivity with other citizen volunteers. He prefers previous ways of Boards and Commissions getting together. Boardmember Heath noted that the concept of Board liaisons may “ruffle feathers” because people are afraid of change. He encouraged Boardmembers to continue with the Board liaison concept and suggested that the process move slowly and prudently. Boardmember Heath also encouraged Boardmembers to review other Board/Commission meeting minutes and talk with other Board/Commission representatives. In response to the Parks Board’s communications with the Planning Commission, Boardmember Heath clarified that the Parks Board responded this way because of miscommunication. He encouraged Boardmembers to educate others about the positivity of talking to other Boards/Commissions.

Vice-Chair Synn noted his agreement with Boardmember Heath’s comments. He clarified that the Parks Board reacted to a situation, when dealing with the Planning Commission, rather than being able to proactively communicate. He added that the Board was not properly informed of the CAC process so Boardmembers needed to react. Vice-Chair Synn suggested that a formal liaison creates value.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Vice-Chair Synn to extend the meeting until 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Chair Van Hollebeke asked if the same goals can be accomplished with an informational commitment, rather than an official liaison title. Then, if there is official Board consensus, someone can speak on behalf of the Board, if needed.

Boardmember Heath reminded Boardmembers that a policy was adopted at the May 19, 2017 Board meeting to approve formal Board and Commission liaisons.

Boardmember Trescases explained that she attends other Board/Commission meetings, along with Council meetings, as a private citizen. She also expects staff and the Council appointed

Board liaison to keep each Board/Commission informed of upcoming issues, etc. Boardmember Trescases does not view it necessary for the Parks Board to appoint liaisons for other Boards/Commissions. If necessary, Boardmembers can appoint the Chair or a designee to report information to other Boards/Commissions. Boardmember Trescases expressed concern with the amount of time involved for reporting during meetings if the Board designates formal Board/Commission liaisons.

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

Chair Van Hollebeke suggested that Boardmembers review their passions at the next Board meeting to see if anyone is interested in attending other Board/Commission meetings.

- Board Bylaws

Vice-Chair Synn, and Boardmembers Heath and Deng will review the work that has been done thus far on the Board Bylaws and bring forth their recommendations to the next Board meeting.

Motion by Vice-Chair Synn and second by Boardmember Deng to appoint Boardmembers Heath and Deng to the Bylaws Subcommittee. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

- Agenda Priorities

Items noted above.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

13. **ESTABLISHING AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Boardmembers requested that the following topics be included in the next meeting agenda:

- Review Grand Connection memo.
- Alternative funding options.
- Next steps for liaison assignments.
- Next steps for the Bylaws.

14. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Note re TRACKS programs

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these minutes as amended on October 10, 2017.

- C. Email re presentation about the Bellevue Botanical Garden
- D. Email re Little Free Library
- E. Email re 4th of July celebration
- F. Email re Bennett Elementary field turf
- G. Email re Youth Sports summer camp
- H. Email re Newcastle Beach Park rental
- I. Email re Robinswood Park dog area

15. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Next regular Parks Board meeting—October 10, 2017

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

None.

17. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Heath to adjourn the meeting at 8:41 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).