

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

Tuesday  
January 10, 2017  
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E-113  
Bellevue, Washington

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Heath, Vice-Chair Kumar, Boardmembers Deng, Nieuwenhuis, Synn, Van Hollebeke<sup>1</sup>

**BOARDMEMBER ABSENT:** Boardmember Grindeland

**COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT:** Councilmember Robertson

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Bradley Calvert (PCD), Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Nathan McCommon (City Manager's Office)

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Kathy George, Betsi Hummer, Nichelle Mineiro

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Boardmember Synn and second by Vice-Chair Kumar to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

Chair Heath noted that Boardmember Van Hollebeke requested to participate in tonight's meeting remotely, since he is currently in New York City and not able to be physically present at the meeting.

**Motion by Vice-Chair Kumar and second by Boardmember Nieuwenhuis to approve remote participation for Boardmember Van Hollebeke at tonight's meeting. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

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<sup>1</sup> Via conference call; departed at 8:03 p.m.

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

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

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

Betsi Hummer, East Bellevue Community Council  
14541 SE 26<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellevue, WA

On behalf of the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC), Ms. Hummer distributed a copy of her presentation that highlighted some of the concerns of east Bellevue constituents. Some of the items noted included:

- Adult family homes and the inequitable distribution of these homes throughout east Bellevue. Need more transparency in the application process.
- Lack of affordable housing—need a broader city plan, not a cluster of affordable housing in Bellevue.
- Single family rentals—need to develop a registration process.
- Dilapidated homes; absent owners—need consequences.
- Abandoned vehicles—need response in meaningful manner.
- Parks—build it for use; plan for upkeep and maintenance; zone for its intended use; bathrooms; notification on improvements and changes.
- Bellevue College—need to maintain open communications and relationships; the City Liaison needs to understand the concerns of the surrounding residents; the college needs to be integrated with the Bike/Ped Plan.

Kathy George, 1126 – 34<sup>th</sup> Ave., Suite 307, Seattle, WA  
Nichelle Mineiro, 16234 NE 30<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. George recommended that the City consider purchasing a greenbelt parcel located on Bel-Red Road on the eastern edge of the Bel-Red corridor map. Ms. Mineiro noted that she was recently notified by the property owner that the parcel is currently for sale.

Councilmember Robertson clarified that a land purchase is not under the Park Board's authority. She requested staff to further investigate the parcel and opportunity.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robertson noted that Council received the Park Board's Preliminary 2017-2023 Parks Capital Investment Program memo, dated November 8, 2016, which was included in the Park Board packet. However, since some of the Councilmembers have other projects that they are working on, there wasn't Council support to move forward with the recommended new park projects. In addition, the budget approval process was slightly different than in years past so not all items were discussed. Therefore, the suggested new park projects were not included in the

approved budget. Councilmember Robertson added that the lack of discussion by Council did not reflect a lack of support for the projects—there were other higher priorities for Council.

Boardmember Synn expressed his disappointment and frustration that the new park projects were not discussed and/or included in the 2017-2023 Parks Capital Investment Program budget. Boardmember Van Hollebeke and Vice-Chair Kumar also expressed their disappointment with the budget process but appreciated the clarification and transparency.

In regards to the Oral Communications comments regarding adult family homes, Councilmember Robertson clarified that adult family homes are governed under federal regulations.

Lastly, Councilmember Robertson reported that Councilmember Slatter announced plans to resign from her Council position. Councilmember Slatter has been appointed to be a representative in the Washington House of Representatives.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran introduced Nathan McCommon, who was recently hired as Bellevue's Deputy City Manager. In addition, Mr. Foran distributed a project summary regarding the Park Point planned unit development just off of Coal Creek Parkway. There have been many questions raised regarding this project so the project summary addressed the overall project (i.e., description of proposal, location, status of review, process, community concerns, and staff contacts). Chair Heath noted that the Park Board has no authority over this project.

Lastly, Mr. Foran expressed his appreciation to everyone that was involved in the Crossroads Community Center holiday gift giveaway, specifically the Fire Department.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Vice-Chair Kumar is the Park Board liaison for the Wilburton-Grand Connection Initiative Community Advisory Committee. She encouraged Boardmembers to provide feedback to her regarding the project.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Heath announced that the Board Retreat will be held on February 11, 2017. He requested a bylaws template from staff in December and expressed his frustration that the template is still not complete. Staff confirmed that the template will be complete by the end of the week.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Grand Connection/Wilburton Initiative**

Mr. Calvert provided an overview of the Bellevue Grand Connection. He discussed the charrette that was created to provide updates on the project.

Mr. Calvert noted that the public engagement process for the Grand Connection includes the following items:

- Interviews
- City Hall and Online Engagement Maps
- Online Open House
- Stakeholder Outreach and Discussions
- Surveys

The scope of work for the Grand Connection includes two phases: 1) establish and overall identity; identify opportunities to support route identity with cohesive strategies; and identify opportunities to improve public spaces; 2) I-405 crossing, interface with Downtown and Eastside Rail Corridor.

Mr. Calvert discussed some of the visioning schemes for the corridor. He noted that one of the first public comments received was to expand the route. He showed some of the short-term and long-term route suggestions, along with cyclist routes.

Some of the elements of the corridor include:

- Identity
  - A Natural Landscape
  - A Communal and Historical Landscape
- Cohesive Design Strategies
  - Vegetation
  - Weather Protection
  - Paving
  - Connectivity and Experience
- Placemaking and Public Space Improvements
  - Downtown Park
  - Bellevue Way and NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street
  - Compass Plaza
  - Activation
  - Bellevue Transit Center
  - Eastside Rail Corridor
- Connectivity and Range
  - Improved Pedestrian Range and Connectivity
- I-405 Crossing

Mr. Calvert discussed the next steps for the corridor, which include: refinement of the themes and concepts; early implementation; test the three alternatives through EIS; and produce a proposal for the I-405 crossing, Compass Plaza, and alternative transportation.

The Wilburton Land Use encompasses approximately 303 acres. Mr. Calvert noted that there is a Property Owners Panel and a Citizen Advisory Committee to assist with the planning efforts for the Wilburton area. Councilmember Robertson suggested that staff include the agendas from the Citizen Advisory Committee meetings in the Board packet, particularly since Boardmember Kumar sits on this committee.

**Motion by Boardmember Synn and second by Boardmember Deng to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

B. Park Board Development/Retreat

Boardmembers discussed the agenda and format for the Board Retreat. Specific agenda items include: bylaws and work plan. In addition, Boardmember Synn suggested that the Board discuss ways to build more community interaction between the Board and community.

**Motion by Boardmember Nieuwenhuis and second by Vice-Chair Kumar to extend the meeting until 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

Boardmembers discussed the purpose of the retreat and what they envision for the bylaws. Chair Heath reiterated his frustration with the delay in receiving the bylaws template. There was a discussion on whether or not the retreat was still warranted. Mr. Foran reminded Boardmembers that there have been extensive discussions about conducting a retreat and the agenda items desired. In November, the Board had decided to conduct a retreat, and Boardmembers at that time requested that the agenda include bylaws and the work plan. Boardmembers determined that they would like to move forward with the retreat. Vice-Chair Kumar requested that the notes from the previous retreat be available at the February retreat.

**Motion by Boardmember Nieuwenhuis and second by Vice-Chair Kumar to extend the meeting until 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

Boardmember Synn suggested that the Park Board “Charter” be discussed at the upcoming retreat, since this is often confusing and/or unclear. However, Vice-Chair Kumar disagreed with this viewpoint noting that the Ordinance states the Board’s role and authority. It may appear confusing because not all items are under the Board’s purview.

**Motion by Boardmember Nieuwenhuis and second by Boardmember Synn to extend the meeting until 9:05 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

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

None.

*The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on February 14, 2017.*

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Park Board memo to City Council re Preliminary 2017-2023 Parks CIP Budget
- C. Email re Parks Scheduling Office and Paula Schoenrock

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Park Board Special Meeting – Retreat – February 11, 2017 at the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center
- C. Next regular Park Board meeting—February 14, 2017, Bellevue City Hall

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Vice-Chair Kumar and second by Boardmember Nieuwenhuis to adjourn the meeting at 9:06 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**