

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

Tuesday
March 13, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Van Hollebeke, Vice-Chair Synn¹, Boardmembers Hamilton, Heath², Kumar, Trescases

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Deng

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Betsy Hummer, Pamela Unger

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Hollebeke at 6:04 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the February 13, 2018 meeting minutes as presented.

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Kumar to amend page 6 of the meeting minutes, first paragraph to read: “Boardmembers Trescases and Kumar encouraged inclusion of concessions around Downtown Park, since the park commented that the Downtown Park is a hub to many retail establishments. This should be considered when exploring the idea of concessions in the park.” At the question, motion carried unanimously (4-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:15 p.m.

² Arrived at 6:13 p.m.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (4-0) to approve the meeting minutes as amended.

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

Betsi Hummer
14541 SE 26th Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Hummer expressed her enthusiasm for the potential aquatic center project. She also thanked Boardmembers for their continued leadership and receptiveness to public comments.

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

No report.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran explained that a study was presented to Council in 2009 for an aquatic facility. At that time, Council expressed general support for a major aquatic facility and directed staff to explore regional partnerships with adjacent cities and King County. Staff reported back to Council in early 2010, that after a thorough review, neighboring cities were not ready to pursue a partnership at the time. At the March 12, 2018 Council meeting, staff reported that interest is growing in support of the aquatic center from adjacent cities, King County, Bellevue College, and the Bellevue School District. Council approved a resolution authorizing the city to spend up to \$250,000 to study questions surrounding feasibility, financing, scope and operations of an aquatic facility.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Kumar continues to participate on the Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee. A more detailed report will be provided later in the meeting agenda.

Boardmember Hamilton continues to acquaint himself with Bellevue parks. He recently visited Kelsey Creek Farm and Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

Vice-Chair Synn has been enjoying the pathways on the Eastside Rail/Kirkland Corridor. He also has been engaged on a Microsoft Accessibility Committee. Vice-Chair Synn noted that an accessibility training program is being developed for all Microsoft employees. He is working to obtain proper authorization so that he can share some of the Best Practices from the Microsoft Accessibility Committee with Boardmembers.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Van Hollebeke clarified that the Board retreat was delayed due to the delay in release of the Council priorities. Council priorities are expected to be released in the next few weeks and then the Board retreat will be scheduled. Chair Van Hollebeke also provided the following report:

- Hiked the Coal Creek Nature Trail.
- Attended the Holi Festival of Colors event at Downtown Park.

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

A. Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee

Boardmember Kumar distributed her Wilburton CAC report for March. Community members are encouraged to comment on the draft EIS through March 19, 2018. Boardmember Kumar noted that the Wilburton CAC is in the process of determining the preferred alternative recommendations. Vice-Chair Synn suggested that a formal memo be prepared, on behalf of the Board, to make a formal alternative recommendation. Chair Van Hollebeke suggested that Boardmembers evaluate the following Wilburton alternatives at the Board retreat:

- Enhanced Natural Systems
- ERC Spine
- Central Civic Space

There was general consensus to eliminate the smaller plazas and open space alternative.

Boardmember Kumar noted that there was an open house on February 28, 2018 so community members could comment on the alternatives. However, no one from the community attended.

B. Bylaws Subcommittee

Vice-Chair Synn explained that he would like to meet with the City Attorney representative to discuss the intent of the Bylaws and why they are being created. Mr. Smith clarified that the Bylaws evolved because Council wanted consistency for all Boards/Commissions. Therefore, a Bylaws template was created by the City Attorney's Office which can be customized where needed. Vice-Chair Synn noted that there are items in the Bylaws template that are outside of the scope for process. He would like to understand the process before he recommends any edits to the Bylaws.

Boardmember Trescases noted that she reviewed the proposed Bylaws and is in favor of approving the most recent version, as presented.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **2019-2025 Parks CIP Budget**

Mr. Sanner provided an overview of the 2019-2025 Parks Capital Investment Program budget process. He reminded Boardmembers that the budget is a 2-year Operating Budget and 7 year Capital Investment Program (CIP). He noted that the Board's typical budget role is to:

- Act as an advisory Board to Council on Parks capital needs
- Review potential Parks CIP proposals at the March-April meetings
- Develop a Parks Board communication to Council, when ready

Mr. Sanner discussed the 2008 Parks & Natural Areas Levy and the status of the projects, which are as follows:

- Previously Completed: Sportsfields (Wilburton & Newport Hills), Lewis Creek Picnic Area, Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitors Center and Ravine Garden, Bellevue Youth Theatre, Trail Development, Bridle Trails Corner Park, Hidden Valley Partnership, Property Acquisitions (Bridle Trails, Newport Hills, NE 2nd)
- Funded in 2017-2023 CIP: Downtown Park (Complete Circle, NE Entry), Surrey Downs, Airfield Park Design/Permitting, Property Acquisition
- Remaining Projects: Airfield Park Phase I Development, Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park

The non-levy Parks CIP Projects include:

- Meydenbauer Bay Development—Phase I development previously estimated at \$17.2M
- Renovation & Refurbishment—add ongoing funds for 2024-25 (+\$6M/year)
- Park Planning—add ongoing funds for 2024-25 (+\$.3M/year)
- Mercer Slough East Link Mitigation
- Enterprise Improvements—user fees transferred to CIP for golf/enterprise improvements
- King County Levy—6-year levy for trails, open space, parks (expires in 2019)

Mr. Sanner also reviewed the preliminary strategy for the CIP, including projects requested by the Board during the last budget process. Boardmembers stressed the importance of continuing the commitment to voters from the 2008 Parks Levy. In addition, they discussed the mixed opinions throughout the community about Airfield Park and future plans. A portion of the community would like Airfield Park to remain in a natural state, while others would like the park to be developed.

Boardmember Trescases recommended that the items listed on the Capital Project list be included on the CIP request list, particularly since these items were also priorities during the last budget process. Vice-Chair Synn added that some of the priorities may shift from time-to-time.

Chair Van Hollebeke stressed that the Parks Board priorities need to align with Council's priorities. One of the priorities that Chair Van Hollebeke would like to reiterate is the need for Council to fund the funding gap for the Parks Capital project list.

Boardmember Hamilton requested clarification on the process for the Council memo. Mr. Sanner clarified that a memo is typically prepared/distributed to Council via the Board Chair. However, Boardmembers stressed the importance of waiting to prepare the memo until after the list of Council priorities has been released.

Boardmember Heath cautioned that political capital must be spent wisely. He discussed the process two years ago when the Parks Board recommended funding for projects and Council didn't consider the recommendation. Boardmember Heath does not want the Board to expend significant effort on preparing a list of project recommendations for the CIP if there is no political capital.

Chair Van Hollebeke noted that political capital is a renewable resource that is built through relationships. He stressed the importance of aligning the Parks Board priorities with Council priorities. Boardmember Trescases added that it takes time to build relationships. She suggested that recommendations and funding requests be made early so that Council has an opportunity to vet questions they may have prior to decision making.

Mr. Foran encouraged Boardmembers to keep their minds open when evaluating all opportunities and funding mechanisms.

Boardmember Trescases called attention to recent tourism discussions and encouraged Boardmembers to keep tourism in mind when determining overall strategies. Vice-Chair Synn added that the aquatic center is also a great attraction and can be considered a community service amenity.

There was general consensus to discuss the Parks Board priorities once the Council priorities have been released.

B. Board Retreat Planning

Chair Van Hollebeke will work with staff to determine a date for the Board Retreat.

11. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

12. ESTABLISHING AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

Boardmembers requested that an update be provided on the aquatic center.

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on May 8, 2018.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Status Report

14. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Parks Board meeting—April 10, 2018

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

None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Kumar to adjourn the meeting at 8:27 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).