



Meydenbauer Bay

PARK AND LAND USE PLAN

Public Hearing Comments received between February 26, 2010 and 5:00 PM March 9, 2010

Robin Cole
Project Manager, Parks & Community Services, city of Bellevue

I would like to share my thoughts and comments regarding the Meydenbauer Bay Parks Plan. I do so without emotion and hopefully with a learned and vested interest as a residence of Bellevue for approximately 56 years.

We have a wonderful City and wonderful Parks there are five parks within a five minute walk of our home. One of these Parks is Meydenbauer Park.

It is a lovely Park and indeed needs expanding for a greater portion of the population to enjoy. I fully support the actions of the City to have acquired on a timely and an acceptable process to the properties owners, the lands to accommodate that expansion-- A brilliant display of vision and wisdom..

However I strongly oppose the Plan as now proposed by you and your staff. Your proposed Plan is a plan that has not recognized the terrific input by me, my neighbors, and others with an interest in Meydenbauer Bay and the Park. You apparently have ignored the community meetings and many other inputs by forging ahead with a Plan that is unacceptable to all of those mentioned above.

- We do not need a Community Center at the Park -- we have enough of those already!
- We do not need a Walkway/Elevator or other costly and unsightly structures as part of the Plan.
- We do not need Retail Kiosks!
- We do not need additional parking at this location as it impractical and cost prohibitive!
- We do not need to change the Residential Zoning of the immediate neighborhoods to accommodate more commercialization!

But

- We do need the access for locals by maintaining the present 100th Avenue as a functioning public street!
- We do need the income from the long established Marina—why forego the income when we need it so much!
- We need some of the existing Marina spaces for daily visitors or to allow them use as has been denied in the past!

Please maintain Old Bellevue as it was meant to be—it is our community, not a project conceived with fatal characteristics as proposed by you and your staff who apparently do not want to listen to us or best represent us with a plan acceptable to those of us who are the Taxpayers and your employers.

I personally stand ready to discuss any or all of the contents of my communication or to contribute my personal time to assist you in anyway possible, to move the Park plan in the right direction and make it acceptable to the Bellevue City council for approval and funding in the future.

With Respect, but criticism

W. N. "Bill" Gross
9830 Lk. Wash. Blvd. NE
Bellevue WA, 98004
425-637-2770

From: Amywms1@aol.com [mailto:Amywms1@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 4:43 PM
To: Cole, Robin
Subject: Against major changes to Meydenbauer Park

Robin,

This is fifth time I have submitted comments *against* major park changes to the natural Bellevue beauty known as Meydenbauer Park.

You and the planning Mikes, who don't live near the park, don't understand how those of us living in and around the area would not want to see a large scale public project brought in close proximity to the privacy of our homes, backyards, our families, and our lives.

My neighbors have been fighting this project for years. They have never given up because, they, like me, are 100% clear that this project is out of line, out of scale, and just plain wrong. We are not Kirkland, Sausalito, Miami, Ocean City, or San Antonio. We do not need to draw citizens or visitors to Bellevue shops or dining. Bellevue is already a city thriving. However, those who have held public office have had visions beyond their minds and spend beyond their means. This would include yourself.

Almost 18 months ago, our national economy took a nose dive because of irresponsible people living beyond their means. The same thing is going on within many city, state, and federal governments. Those in office don't know when to stop spending other people's money. Scrap the Meydenbauer Park plan that has already been a ridiculous waste of time and money. Sell the acquired properties and model a conservative approach to being fiscally responsible. Meydenbauer Park is beautiful the way it is now: natural and serene. A space where land meets sky and sea, a place for picnics, play, naps, and dreams.

Why don't you take a look at a park close to where you live and draw up plans for what looks like an off ramp right next to your house. Would you want 1,000 people a day visiting your back yard? I don't think so.

Bellevue needs to begin looking within for ways to clean house and cut jobs. I vote yours and the Mikes the first three to go.

Amy Williams
Bellevue, Washington

Hello!

How you can call a capitulation to unbridled capitalist developers a Park, amuses me. Why didn't you just call this fiasco the Furtherance of the Rape of Bellevue Project. You should all collectively be ashamed of your lack of regard for the people who pay your way. Bellevue is no longer a wonderful place to live, and you want to make it even less of a destination for homeowners. Shame on you.

Paul Eenhorn
115 100th Ave NE
Bellevue WA 98004

Hello,

My wife and I are residents of 'The Vue at Meydenbauer Bay', 9951 Lake Washington Blvd NE, and would like to add our comments to the public input concerning the Meydenbauer Bay Park Project as we are not able to attend the upcoming meeting March 9th.

Since our home is actually in the center of this development we are both excited and concerned. To keep this short, we favor the positions of the Meydenbauer Bay Neighborhood Association;

- Favor a true "Park Development"
- Oppose closing 100th Ave
- Oppose elevated walkway
- Oppose building with elevator near 100th
- Oppose floating walkway (unless kept Northwest of Whale Building)
- Oppose removal of any moorage spaces
- Oppose community center building
- Oppose vendors within the park
- Oppose increased densities of surrounding future developments

Thank you for your careful consideration of these issues,

Al & Kim Calcagno
9951 Lake Washington Blvd NE #33
425-502-8268

From: Lee Maxwell [mailto:lorraineleemaxwell@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 10:50 AM
To: Smith, Terry; Harvey, Nancy
Subject: Meydenbauer Park

Dear Park Boardmembers,

As a Bellevue Parks YES team member, a greater downtown resident, and trustee of the Eastside Heritage Center, I am writing you to ask your consideration of today's presentation of the new Meydenbauer Park Master Plan.

Volunteers like yourself have worked for years to represent the Bellevue park-user and create a significant park plan that will serve the City for many many years to come. Celebrating the Old Bellevue area and Meydenbauer Bay in a City Park will serve to acknowledge and interpret this birthplace of our City. Not only can stories of pioneer activities be told, but actual structures and archives are available to make those stories come to life for long-timers and new Bellevuites alike.

Waterfront recreation is also an important element of the plan. And it makes the warmth and excitement of the water's edge available to me and others who do not own waterfront property or use a watercraft. I feel that the plan is respectful of the Lochleven and Old

Bellevue neighborhoods, while enabling the sharing of the special heritage and waterfront resources that exist there.

As we grow as a City, we must grow as a community as well, and this park is a test in many ways to this end. Change is not comfortable at best, but as we age singularly and as a community it happens.....and is recognized by many of us as an exciting opportunity for growth. Those of us active over the years in creating the new Bellevue, have waited and looked forward with great anticipation for this day. I am excited and proud to ask for your support of this project.

L. Lee Maxwell
933-111th Place SE
Bellevue WA 98004

Bellevue Mayor, Members of City Council, Director of Parks,

The Bay that is Meydenbauer is a special gift. The eagle cries and swoops down from it's nest high in the cedar trees and catches a fish from the lake. The crows chase after the eagles, dive bombing and attacking. "Mr. Beaver" swims by in the early morning after checking the shores for materials for his dam. Under the dock is a pile of freshwater clam shells left by the muskrats. In the fall many new and different waterfowl arrive to spend the winter here. In the spring the ducks parade around the bay with their fuzzy little babies. And yes, even the dirty, noisy Canadian geese add a certain charm! A rower skims over the calm water. In summer we hear the happy voices of kids and families enjoying the park, swimming and picnicking - in fact there are often swimmers swimming across the bay and all around the shores, dock to dock. Boaters from the yacht club and marina slowly and respectfully entering and leaving the bay. Kayackers paddle along enjoying the sights. THIS is Meydanbauer Bay, full of history and beauty, and to be shared with our friends and neighbors of Bellevue.

SO WHY would we want to change it into something it is not? The charm of the Bay is it's natural, quiet beauty. An elevated walkway and elevator would be a blight on this tranquil landscape. Retail kiosks would bring unnecessary commercial activity into the area - Main Street merchants have made that area vital and attractive - why not keep the commercial activity there? A large community building is not in keeping with the quiet ambiance of the Bay, bringing crowds of people to the area along with parking and noise problems. Let's keep the treasure of Meydenbauer Bay authentic with it's history and beauty.

Nancy Ellison
9406 SE Shoreland Dr.
Bellevue, WA 98004

March 3, 2010

MAR - 4 2010
CITY COUNCIL

Councilmembers
Bellevue City Council
City of Bellevue
450 110th Avenue NE
P.O. Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009-9012

Mayor,
We discussed this
at Bellevue Rotary
Pamela

Councilmembers:

I am a resident of the Meydenbauer neighborhood and adamantly oppose most aspects of the current proposed Waterfront Park.

The Bellevue City Council needs to consider the following:

- Closure of SE 100th west of the Chevron station would add to the traffic gridlock that already exists on Main Street.
- Why abandon two piers and then add a moorage?
- Adding restaurants, floating docks and tour boats is inappropriate for the neighborhood. This is not Downtown Kirkland and we have no need to mimic Kirkland...Bellevue should have it's own unique identity: quality shopping with a variety of special petite parks and contained business center.
- Commercial usage in parks is totally wrong.

The above are only a few of my concerns.

The City Council is moving in a direction that would negatively impact the waterfront and the Meydenbauer neighborhood and would turn it into a commercial development. Your plan would demish home values and decrease taxes.

I request you reevaluate your plans in order to minimize the commercial redevelopment in this quiet neighborhood. Regardless of what you say....residents concerns are not being listened to!

Sincerely,

Pamela Rolfe

Pamela/Meydenbauer/Councilmembers March 2010

March 8, 2010

Robin Cole
Project Manager
Parks & Community Services
City of Bellevue
PO Box 90012
Bellevue, WA 98009

Dear Ms. Cole:

We live at The Vue condominium complex at 9951 Lake Washington Blvd NE and we will be abutting the proposed Meydenbauer Bay Park on our East and South sides. Because of our intimate proximity to the project, we have a strong interest in how we can be a good neighbor to the Park and the Park be a good neighbor to us.

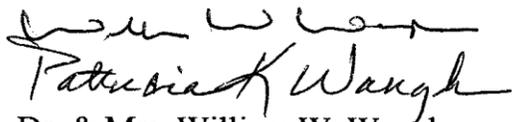
When we moved here from Olympia two years ago, one of the positive considerations was the future of a green, quiet park-like setting surrounding the complex. However, what is being proposed is a far cry from the tranquil green park environment that we envisioned. Yes, we are a short walk to Bellevue Square and the hustle and bustle of downtown, but when we return to our oasis we enjoy the peace and quiet it affords. That peace and quiet will vanish if the present proposal is enacted. There is no need for noisy, obtrusive structures or commercial ventures, period. A switchback style gradual walkway down through tasteful landscaping is all that is necessary between 100th and our complex. Further, it is imperative to maintain 100th for a multitude of reasons including safety, emergency vehicle access, congestion and even historical consideration. Quite often it is difficult to get through the traffic congestion when the Meydenbauer Yacht Club has functions. Historically, the street played an important role in early Bellevue when it was the path to the whaling fleet pier located in the Whaler's Cove end of Meydenbauer Bay. An old aerial photograph on the wall at the QFC store on 8th Avenue clearly depicts the early road leading to the pier. That history should be honored and maintained.

Regarding the marina, it is a clean, quiet, well-maintained neighbor. Part of the enjoyment of living at The Vue is watching the boat traffic coming and going from the marina and yacht club. It is an irreplaceable, revenue generator for Bellevue and should not be tampered with. It serves its citizens who are not fortunate enough to own waterfront property and removing any portion of it would be a disservice. All that is needed is a nice wide concrete walkway all along the shoreline with, perhaps, embedded historical/nautical artifacts (i.e. Brass "dance steps" on Broadway in Seattle, or the inlays at the new Seatac terminal floor, or ceramic designs as on the new 4th Street Bridge in Olympia). The view of the Bay itself will "improve" as one walks West past the marina,

but there is nothing wrong with boat watching and dreaming as it is an integral part of the mystique of the Seattle area.

Finally, the City needs to listen to its constituent's needs and not try to ram through something that the neighborhood does not want. We have enough of that kind of attitude in Washington, DC. Bellevue is a very special community and we are above that. Please listen to and adopt the suggestions of the Meydenbauer Bay Neighborhood Association.

Sincerely,



Dr. & Mrs. William W. Waugh
9951 Lake Washington Blvd NE #50
Bellevue, WA 98004
425-679-6416

Robin,

Please forward the following to the members of the Park Board:

Members of the Bellevue Park Board,

My name is David Schooler and for three years I have been a member of the Meydenbauer Bay Park Planning Committee. I am unable to attend this evening's hearing but would like to comment on some elements of land use, traffic and parking.

LAND USE. I believe the recommended changes are modest, appropriate and sound. Around the park we did suggest increased density, but not height, as a tradeoff for public amenities. By keeping heights the same we hoped to maintain the same profile of development. We were presented with proposals for much more significant changes by both staff and consultants; we did not adopt those. Inside the park we proposed to delete single and multi-family uses. We proposed to maintain existing recreational uses. We proposed to maintain the marina use, though with fewer slips. We proposed adding:

- A building for public gathering comparable to the one in Lewis Park;
- Boat rentals similar to the one at Chism Park; and
- A few vendors to sell convenience items, such as coffee.

We did not propose other, commercial uses, though some were suggested repeatedly by our consultants.

TRAFFIC. We did not believe the park adds any significant traffic, nor did our traffic consultant, beyond today's condition. We did propose closing 100th south of Main. We believed that would create a superior park experience. We also proposed that the closure should not occur until after improvements to NE 2nd are completed between 100th and 112th. Therefore, any eastbound traffic from Bellevue Square, which currently uses Main St, would more likely use NE 2nd.

PARKING. Staff and consultants proposed various ways of approaching parking. We chose a number at the high end of the range. Because people would approach the park from different directions and would use different portions of the park, we decided to disperse the parking locations.

Thank you for allowing me to address you.

David Schooler
600 106th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98004
(425) 455-8167

Dear Parks and Community Services Board Members,

As a 20+ year neighbor to Meydenbauer Bay Park and co-chair of the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Steering Committee I strongly encourage the Parks and Community Services Board to recommend adoption of the Master Plan. The expansion of the park as envisioned by the Master Plan will provide for all Bellevue residents, workers and visitors a park that:

- Accommodates and encourages both passive and active recreation uses
- Expands public access to the water
- Broadens the range of users
- Improves the ecology of the site
- Provides for a variety of access modes
- Respects the history and heritage of Meydenbauer Bay
- Provides opportunities for year around use
- Connects the waterfront to the adjacent neighborhoods, downtown, Old Bellevue, Wildwood and Downtown Park.

The Steering Committee's deliberations considered extensive public input, technical studies and the different perspectives of all those impacted. Those issues that were beyond the scope or the Committee's work but were considered to be of critical importance to resolve for the park to function have also been identified within the Steering Committee's Report.

To achieve the vision represented in the Master Plan and realize the creation of a public amenity that our limited public waterfront deserves the highest standards of design and creativity will need to be applied. In the past Bellevue has demonstrated the leadership necessary to realize such a vision as is evident in the nearby Downtown Park. I encourage you to take another critical step in the fulfillment of this 23 year old vision and recommend adoption of the Master Plan.

Sincerely,

Doug Leigh
508 98th Ave NE
Bellevue, WA 98004

Subject: Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan

Ms. Crystal R. Madison 10101 S.E. 3rd Street, # 307, Bellevue, WA 98004 representing (my mom) M.E. Barker, Ten Thousand Meydenbauer Condominium, 10000 Meydenbauer Way SE, Bellevue, WA 98004

Dear Ms. Cole:

For over two years local homeowners and business owners have worked diligently and in good faith, with the City of Bellevue on the Meydenbauer Bay Park Project. What brought over a thousand people together to work so hard, speak with one voice, donate large and small amounts, during these bleak economic times? The *Meydenbauer Bay Park Project*, this project will affect each resident's life and property for many years to come.

Expectations from Our Leaders

Taxpayers in Meydenbauer Bay are made up of all income levels and backgrounds. They include those who have worked all their lives to be able to live and retire in this peaceful setting; families who have lived here for generations, now paying taxes that were unheard of when their homes were built. We have many founders of Bellevue around the Bay; people who gave of themselves to build the hospital, schools and parks! Point being, most of us are not in "the big leagues," we have worked extremely hard all our lives to feel secure in our homes.

The Closure of S.E. 100th - Ten Thousand Meydenbauer Condominium

Safety – Emergency Vehicles must have unobstructed access to the *Front Entrance* of this building. Handicapped and elderly citizens use the *Front Entrance* as does the mail, utilities and guests. Also, "one to three designated parking spaces" will not suffice. Currently, parking is routinely taken up by construction workers or traffic from Main Street. They repeatedly block our fire hydrant (without citation). It has been "suggested" that the "garage be used as the entrance to the building." At this time I will not get into the *horrific logistics* of being forced to change the security entrance to this building to a small dark garage with a garbage bin, dealing with cars coming and going. However; what about the scenario of an Emergency Vehicle trying to get to this building while a Garbage Truck was picking up, or the Yacht Club was having an event? Add this to all the people walking to the now closed square and elevators that you created? Seconds count during a Heart Attack.

Property Value and Privacy - Ten Thousand Meydenbauer Condominium

You are all very bright men and women; you know what the proposed elevated footbridge (*with a view into our homes*) and elevators would do to our property values. *In a City such as Bellevue, especially in such precarious times, we expect our Cities' Leaders to do everything possible to protect Residents' safety and their way of life in neighborhoods they worked so hard to thrive in. One would never expect your own City Council or other City member to needlessly jeopardize that.*

Environment The City of Bellevue has accepted awards for being environmentally friendly. If the City places an elevated footbridge (*with a view into our homes*), elevators, canoe rentals, washrooms, food concessions, garbage receptacles, etc., on the property next to SE 100th and removes two old growth trees, how is that "environmentally friendly." The very wildlife you say you "care about" live and nest in the area that you want to dig up for the elevated footbridge and commercial ventures. *A compromise would be the low impact "zig zag" park setting and to leave the two old growth trees. In addition, move the other commercial enterprises west (by the whaling station) where it makes sense for public activity to be.*

Crime - Vandalism

Over the past several years, condo's and homes in our immediate area have seen a rise in break-ins, vandalism, drug/alcohol issues on the streets, aggressive young drivers, groups shouting profanity, and litter that contains *items* not fit to be touched! This behavior has taken place on our immediate street (Meydenbauer Way S.E. / S.E. 100th). As bad as it is now, increased population,

an elevated footbridge (*with a view into our homes*), elevators, canoe rentals, washrooms, food concessions, garbage, will increase this problem tenfold.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter, it is appreciated. Along with so many other long term Bellevue Residents, it is vital that we minimize the negative impact on Ten Thousand Meydenbauer Condominium, the surrounding Meydenbauer neighborhood, the Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club, and above all to protect the abundant Wildlife that currently calls this small Bay home.

Most sincerely,
Crystal R. Madison

From: Kathy Gwilym [mailto:kathio42@comcast.net]
Sent: Tuesday, March 09, 2010 4:29 PM
To: Davidson, Don; Lee, Conrad; Balducci, Claudia; Degginger, Grant; Chelminiak, John; Robertson, Jennifer S.; Wallace, Kyla
Cc: Cole, Robin
Subject: Meydenbauer Park

Dear Council Members,
Most of you know, I have been actively engaged and interested in our neighborhood for over thirty years. The single most important emphasis from residents is that this be a large green space. With the density increasing and more infill, open green space becomes more precious and important for citizens in the future.

I had an initial impression from this committee and their discussions that has remained with me throughout this process. There seemed to be an arrogance that they were the "appointed" ones making the decision, and citizen input was inconsequential. In the beginning, they focused so much on how to rezone a portion of the West Bellevue Community that it seemed their main thrust was to redevelop the neighborhood; not a park. It felt as though their main goal was to get high rises into the neighborhood and down to the water. Repeatedly, this emphasis and direction was in opposition to the residents desire for a park that is open green space and no development.

Another key point for the committee is to close 100th. The City has been trying to open all end streets over the past decade to help improve traffic flow in and near the CBD. The thought of closing this street not only goes against your policy, but would eliminate an important option for many in this neighborhood which is a necessity during peak traffic hours. Certainly it is not essential to close 100th to make this park viable.

I have followed with interest, through the years, the impacts of Seattle Parks on their neighborhoods. You do not want to create traffic and noise problems that will become a liability. You have one of the most upscale, nearby communities in West Bellevue. Please

encourage a park that fits in with and compliments the neighborhood and will be an asset for the City and for future generations.

From: Toni Sarzello [mailto:sarzius@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 9:48 PM

To: DDavdson@bellevuewa.gov; Lee, Conrad; Balducci, Claudia; Wallace, Kyla; Chelminiak, John; Robertson, Jennifer; Degginger, Grant; Anita Skoog; Cole, Robin

Subject: Fw: Meydenbauer expansion plans { a very BAD idea }

Dear Counsel Members,

This is the first time I have ever engaged fingertips to keypads on behalf of a community cause.

My name is Toni Sarzillo and I live in the Meyderbauer Heights area on the top of the hill above Meydenbauer Bay. After WW2 my father came to Bellevue with his little family, homesteaded up here in 1957 and built a thriving beauty business that survived for decades in all sorts of crazy economies. I graduated from Bellevue High School and have lived and worked in this area my entire life following his career path and raised my daughter here.

To date I have NO plans to move, ever.

The areas surrounding Old Bellevue Main Street, the Yacht Club, [which my parents were members of], all of Meydenbauer, Lake Washington Blvd and across the bay would be ruined with the disruptive noise, traffic and chaos that would be the end result of this major negative impact on our little community. The beauty of our shared space and the respect with which we as homeowners and small businesses care and maintain our little corner of Bellevue has created a synergistic ambiance between land/water use, nature, business and families. This abomination that is being proposed would be a violation to our community and must not be allowed. Surely there is enough space to accomodate a multitude of visitors at the Downtown Bellevue Park or the Convention Center with closer access to those expensive highways, public transportation and the light rail that you are contemplating adding. We dont need to entertain this ridiculous expence considered for this part of town. A plan that would be so negatively detrimental to our part of town when it could be used for something truly worthy of community funds. You need to lead with clarity and keep a lean eye for what is REALLY important. Fiscal responsibility, tighten your belts and do what needs to be done. Service before ego and greed. This is not the right business model for this community of Old Bellevue and Meydenbauer.

I voted for all of you. Don't make me regret it.

Please do your job and respect and protect us citizens from the egos that have only there own best intest in mind and not those of the people who live here and those they are privledged to SERVE.

----- Forwarded Message -----

From: Anita Skoog <askoog@gvakm.com>

To: marvinbpeterson@msn.com

Sent: Sun, March 7, 2010 7:46:11 PM

Subject: Pleas send Letters to Council & Park Director - Here's their email addresses!!!

To: Don Davidson (DDavidson@bellevuewa.gov); Conrad Lee (CLee@bellevuewa.gov); Claudia Balducci (CBalducci@bellevuewa.gov); Kevin Wallace (kwallace@bellevuewa.gov); John Chelminiak (JChelminiak@bellevuewa.gov); Jennifer Robertson (jrobertson@bellevuewa.gov); Grant Degginger (GDegginger@bellevuewa.gov)
Cc: Patrick Foran (PForan@bellevuewa.gov)

Robin Cole (RCole@bellevuewa.gov)

Meydenbauer Bay Neighbors –

Thank you all so much!

We are hearing from residents who are writing comments to Robin Cole, the staff person in charge of the park effort, and want to encourage you to also forward your letters to Council and to the Director of Parks – so please see the email addresses above.

Especially for a public hearing, letters count a lot, so please write if you cannot attend!!!!