

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

Tuesday
February 14, 2012
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Robinson, Vice-Chair Grindeland, Boardmembers Evans, George¹, Roland

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Van Hollebeke

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmembers Robertson and Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Dick Applestone, Rob Rose

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Robinson at 6:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Grindeland and second by Boardmember Evans to approve the January 10, 2012 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:01 p.m.

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

Dick Applestone, 319 – 111th Ave. SE, Bellevue, WA
Surrey Downs Community Club Park Committee

On behalf of the Surrey Downs Community Club Park Committee, Mr. Applestone asked Boardmembers: (1) to support the Surrey Downs Community Club utilizing members of the Park Board in an ongoing involvement in the design and implementation of activities within the East Link Collaborative Design Process (CDP); and (2) suggest that the Parks Department be more specifically identified as participants in the design and implementation of activities within the CDP.

In addition, the Surrey Downs Community Club Park Committee believes there should be a Park Area Planning process, as well as a Station Area Planning process, for the Sound Transit East Link project. The Committee questioned how the Surrey Downs Park Master Plan would be updated, specifically regarding the following:

- Change and loss in access to the park.
- Loss (and possible addition) of park property.
- Park designation (neighborhood versus community).
- Impact of a nearby Main Street station.
- Impact on current Little League and soccer fields.
- Current court facility versus new building.
- Parking.
- New Surrey Downs park designation.

Since the project schedule and timelines indicate the Land Use/Permitting begin during the first quarter of 2012, Mr. Applestone requested a response to the above questions within the next one to two weeks.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Robinson attended the following events:

- Bellevue Youth Theatre Fundraiser.
- Youth Link Gumbo Night.
- Bellevue Downtown Association 38th Annual Celebration—congratulations to Council for receiving the Leadership award.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Vice-Chair Grindeland attended the Bellevue Youth Theatre Fundraiser, as well as hosted the annual Youth Link Gumbo Night.

Boardmember George also attended the annual Youth Link Gumbo Night, and visited various parks throughout the city.

Boardmember Evans will be attending the North Bellevue Community Center volunteer luncheon tomorrow.

Chair Robinson recently spoke with Robert Shay about the project to restore the WWI Memorial Monument in Bellevue's Downtown Park. Mr. Shay's design plans were recently approved by the Eastside Heritage Society. Mr. Kost reported that he also met with Mr. Shay. Further information will be presented at the March Board meeting.

7. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robertson reported on the following items:

- Recently met with Mr. Shay and looking forward to restoring the WWI Memorial Monument.
- The Park Board will be revising the Surrey Downs Master Plan. The park will become a neighborhood focused park.
- Two new Park Board members will be appointed prior to the March Board meeting.
- There are four areas in Bellevue undergoing annexation. An April 1, 2012 effective date is anticipated for these areas.
- The budget process is forthcoming. A significant amount of the city's budget will depend upon the state legislature.
- If time allows, City Council would like the Park Board's input on the East Link Collaborative Design Process.

Boardmember George questioned whether or not staff can address Mr. Applestone's concerns within the timeframe specified (one to two weeks). Councilmember Robertson explained that the Sound Transit alignments may be altered and/or the park boundaries may change so it is premature to start a formal planning process. Mr. Foran added that when there is enough certainty about Sound Transit's plans, the planning process will commence. The current and approved Surrey Downs Master Plan will serve as a barometer for the planning process.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Recognition for outgoing Boardmember**

On behalf of the City Council, Councilmember Robertson read a Commendation for Councilmember Stokes to thank him for serving on the Park Board. In addition, Mr. Foran presented Councilmember Stokes with a plaque and framed picture as a token of appreciation.

Break 6:30-6:35 p.m.

B. Downtown Park Play Area – Partnership with Bellevue Downtown Rotary

Robert Rose, incoming president of the Downtown Bellevue Rotary, provided information regarding a proposed project and partnership to create an accessible, interactive, age-friendly play area for people with and without disabilities within the current playground area at the Downtown Park.

Mr. Rose explained that the Bellevue Downtown Rotary is interested in funding a project to commemorate 50 years as a club. The current primary proposal includes:

- Development/expansion of the current playground area. Would include/expand elements that provide greater interaction (play) opportunities for individuals with and without disabilities.
- Providing additional space within the park that enhances park experiences for individuals with all abilities. Examples include a fragrance garden, meditation garden with wind chimes, interactive pathways for blind park users, interactive art that provides opportunities for experiences with textures, shapes, and surfaces.

For funding of this project, Mr. Rose discussed the following:

- Bellevue Rotary Commitment: \$250,000 (raised over three years).
- City of Bellevue's Contribution: Planning, Permitting, and Implementation Costs.
- Total cost of Project: \$1.5-\$2.5 million.
- Additional Funding:
 - Corporate Sponsors.
 - Government Grants.
 - Private Foundation Donors.
 - Individual and Corporate "title" sponsorship.

Mr. Rose reported that the Bellevue Downtown Rotary Board of Directors unanimously approved their support of this project. In addition, the next incoming Bellevue Downtown Rotary Presidents are fully supportive of this project and have agreed to carry it forward in their Rotary years.

Mr. Rose suggested the following next steps:

- Create a BRC Steering Committee to work closely with the Parks Department and City Council to further plan and develop the project.
- Council agreement for Parks Department to manage planning, permitting, and implementation.
- Kick-off launch party in June.

Mr. Rose was commended for his passion and vision for the playground and for being a champion for the project.

Boardmember George expressed her enthusiasm to hear there is a well organized group in Bellevue committed to helping kids. She would like to see playground equipment for kids with all development abilities included in the park.

Boardmember Roland encouraged Mr. Rose to utilize small businesses for sponsorship.

Vice-Chair Grindeland encouraged project planners to gain input from parents of children with disabilities (i.e., Arc of King County).

Motion by Boardmember Roland and second by Boardmember Evans to support the Downtown Park play area partnership with Bellevue Downtown Rotary. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

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

A. Eastgate Corridor Study

The recent Eastgate Corridor Study meeting was cancelled due to a lack of quorum. Further information will be provided at the next Board meeting.

B. Network on Aging

No report.

C. Other Groups

No report.

10. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reported that the budget process has begun. No changes to the city's financial situation are foreseen.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

None.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Report
- B. Memo from Parks Natural Resource Division re volunteer program
- C. Email and article about Robinswood Tennis Center

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. March 13 – next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember George and second by Vice-Chair Grindeland to adjourn the meeting at 7:23 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).