

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

Tuesday
June 8, 2010
6:00 p.m.

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

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Roland, Vice-Chair Robinson, Boardmembers George¹, Grindeland, LaPine, and Stokes

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmembers Robertson and Chelminiak

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Pam Fehrman, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Victoria Hollerbach, Glenn Kost, Shelley McVein, Gwen Rousseau (PCD), Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Dick Applestone, Bill Aron, David Cannon, James Dillon, Ivaylo Draganov, William Easterbrook, Kathy Haggart, Merle Keeney, Loretta Lopez, Lee Maxwell, Diane Pottinger, Tom Twig

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Roland at 6:02 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Stokes and second by Boardmember Grindeland to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Boardmember LaPine made the following correction to page 4, Item 8.A. of the May 11, 2010 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board:

Vice-Chair Roland opened nominations for Board Chair.

Nomination by Boardmember LaPine to elect Vice-Chair Roland as the Board Chair.

¹ Departed at 7:09 p.m.

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these minutes on July 13, 2010.

~~*Motion by Boardmember Stokes to appoint Vice-Chair Roland as the Board Chair.*~~

Vice-Chair Roland requested other nominations for the Board Chair. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried unanimously to elect Vice-Chair Roland as the Board Chair (6-0).

Motion by Vice-Chair Robinson and second by Boardmember Stokes to approve the May 11, 2010 regular meeting minutes of the Parks & Community Services Board with the change noted above. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

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

Mr. Applestone introduced Surrey Downs Park Committee members in attendance.

On behalf of the Surrey Downs Park Committee, Mr. Applestone recognized former Park Board Chair Keeney for his personal encouragement and Board leadership in making the Bellevue Parks system the outstanding success it has become. A certificate of appreciation was presented to Mr. Keeney. The certificate memorialized and thanked Mr. Keeney for his visionary and passionate efforts on behalf of the “City in a Park.” Mr. Applestone added that Mr. Keeney’s outstanding leadership helped the Parks & Community Services Board perform the difficult task of supporting competing priorities with shrinking budgets.

In addition, Mr. Applestone reiterated Surrey Downs Park Committee’s continued interest in the implementation of the approved Surrey Downs Park Master Plan and finalization of the Park’s “white space.” The Committee eagerly awaits its implementation. However, the Committee recognizes that Bellevue is faced with many high priority issues, which has set back the original implementation timeline. Nevertheless, a lot of time, money, and community participation with spirited vision and expectation has gone into the development of the Master Plan. The Surrey Downs Park Committee encourages the City to proceed with the implementation of the project and believes the approach the Surrey Downs Park Committee suggested is an approach that can be used to activate implementation throughout the Park.

The Surrey Downs Park Committee continues its work and is addressing the possible impact of East Link. Mr. Applestone added that the Committee is willing and waiting to take an active part, with the City, in making the Master Plan vision a proud reality.

Diane Pottinger, 13626 Main Street, Bellevue, WA
James Dillon, 16426 SE 1st Street, Bellevue, WA
David Cannon, 1254 – 167th Ave. SE, Bellevue WA

Ms. Pottinger encouraged the Parks Department and Board to brainstorm unique ideas for Scout troops. Sample Eagle Scout project pictures were distributed, which included a flag tile project at Crossroads Park, a dog wash station for Medina Parks Department, and resting benches, to name a few. Ms. Pottinger suggested that the scouts be challenged to earn money to help fund materials for projects.

Mr. Dillon is a Life Scout of Troop #662. He would like to work on an Eagle Scout project near his home, which is between the Crossroads Park and Lake Hills Community Park. He hopes to major in Landscape Architecture and would like to work on a project that is trail work or plant installation related.

Mr. Cannon is also from Troop #662. Mr. Cannon lives near Weowna Beach Park and would like to work on an Eagle Scout project at this park. He suggested that stairs be added to the park to alleviate muddy runoff.

Kathy Haggart, 209 – 100th Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA
Ivaylo Draganov, Bellevue, WA
Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue

Ms. Haggart introduced Bellevue Boys & Girls Club Youth of the Year recipient Ivaylo Draganov who is involved with the Boys & Girls Club and Ground Zero Teen Center.

Mr. Draganov discussed his experience about moving from Bulgaria to America and how the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club changed his life. Mr. Draganov became a Bellevue Boys & Girls Club Kid in May 1999, which became a key turning point in his life.

Mr. Draganov found a passion in graphic design, which has led him to be the National Winner of the Boys & Girls Clubs Club of America Digital Arts Festival in 2009. He is currently giving back to the program through his involvement in the Keystone program as well as the Tech Coordinator at the South Bellevue Boys & Girls Club.

Mr. Draganov is expected to graduate from high school in 2011 and plans on attending the Art Institute of Seattle for graphic design and Renton Technical College for automotive tech.

Ms. Haggart thanked Mr. Smith who served as a judge for the statewide Youth of the Year selection process.

5. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION:**

Vice-Chair Roland introduced some guests in the audience including: former Park Boardmember Bill Aron, Councilmember Chelminiak, and former Park Board Chair Merle Keeney.

6. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Grindeland recently visited Lewis Creek Park and attended the Youth Link Community Leadership Awards ceremony.

Boardmember Stokes made the following comments:

- Visited several parks including Meydenbauer Park.
- Recently worked with the Eastside Heritage Center to take three youth groups to the Winters House for tours.

Boardmember LaPine made the following comments:

- Lima, Peru committed a mile long stretch of land to a waterfront park, which is beautiful and well-used; looking forward to a similar experience at Meydenbauer Bay.

Boardmember George made the following comments:

- Attended the Youth Link Community Leadership Awards ceremony, which was inspiring.
- Participated in the Downtown Art & Park Walk.
- Attended two outstanding performances at Bellevue Youth Theatre.

Vice-Chair Robinson made the following comments:

- Attended the Youth Link Community Leadership Awards ceremony, which was an amazing program.
- Visited the Downtown Park.

7. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Robertson reported on the following items:

- City Council appointed Mark Van Hollebeke as the new Park Board member.
- The Meydenbauer Park Plan was introduced to City Council. The Council will conduct further study sessions on the Plan. There are many elements in agreement and a few details to explore in further detail.

Chair Roland thanked Boardmembers Grindeland, Stokes, and LaPine for attending the City Council Study Session presentation regarding Meydenbauer Bay.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Farewell to Merle Keeney**

Former Chair Merle Keeney has served two terms on the Parks & Community Services Board. Councilmember Robertson read a Commendation from the City Council to recognize Mr. Keeney for his years of service and reviewed the many accomplishments and projects in which Mr. Keeney has played an integral role.

On behalf of the Parks Department, Mr. Foran presented Mr. Keeney with a plaque as a token of appreciation. In addition, Mr. Keeney was presented with a framed picture of the Meydenbauer Bay Master Plan.

Councilmember Chelminiak and other Parks Boardmembers expressed their appreciation for Mr. Keeney's efforts.

Mr. Keeney expressed his appreciation to the Board and staff for all of their hard work. In particular, he thanked the late Phil Noble, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, and his wife.

B. **Bridle Trails Levy Project**

Ms. Fehrman explained that the Parks Department is working with the Bridle Trails neighborhood to identify the Bridle Trails neighborhood's preferred Parks & Natural Area Levy projects.

Ms. Fehrman reminded Boardmembers that the 2008 Bellevue Parks & Natural Area Levy was strongly supported by the Bellevue voters. Levy funds were to be used to acquire, develop or enhance parks and open spaces. Specifically, \$5 million was designated for a neighborhood park development in the Lake Sammamish and Bridle Trails neighborhoods.

Ms. Fehrman explained that the Bridle Trails Community Club (BTCC) approached the Parks Department to express interest in working with the neighborhood and the City to form and ultimately recommend the preferred Parks & Natural Area Levy project for their neighborhood.

Ms. Fehrman reviewed the BTCC's Parks & Natural Areas Levy project criteria to help evaluate projects. The principles and project criteria were shared with the neighborhood and ratified by the Bridle Trails Community Board. Ms. Fehrman explained that the project principles identify that the committee is operating to protect and preserve the rural, equestrian, and residential character of Bridle Trails and to make maximum use of existing resources to benefit the community by actively partnering with the City.

Some of the suggestions received through the public outreach process included:

- Horse Arena
- Off-Leash Dog Area
- Community Meeting Center
- Trails

The neighborhood Park & Natural Area site suggestions were shown on a neighborhood map. The top four preferred sites for the neighborhood park development include:

- Atchison property (Project F)
- Corner of 24th and 134th (Project E)
- Bridlecrest/King County Trail (Project G)
- View Point Nature Park

Ms. Fehrman reviewed the next steps for the project. The BTCC recommendations will be shared with the Board in the fall.

Mr. Foran added that the Board will be asked to validate the Committee's work and verify the following:

- Does the proposal match the intent of the levy approved by the voters?
- Does the proposal match the Parks & Open Space Plan goals and objectives?
- Does the proposal meet the criteria of the neighborhood association?

Furthermore, Mr. Foran clarified that the planning process for this project is different because it was specifically identified in the levy.

Boardmember George commented that planning from the neighborhood up is a great way to approach a project.

Ms. Lopez explained the differences between the Bridle Trails Community Club versus the Bridle Trails State Park Foundation. The BTCC represents the entire Bridle Trails area in Bellevue. The BTSPF is an organization that supports the State Park, which is not in Bellevue. She added that in the past, the State Park was primarily for equestrian use. Approximately 10 years ago, the State closed the park; thus, the Bridle Trails State Park Foundation was formed. The BTSPF has entered into an operating agreement with the State to provide half of the park's operating costs for the next 40 years. Therefore, the park has remained open.

C. Demographic/Census Presentation

Ms. Rousseau discussed the American Community Survey and Bellevue's changing demographics. The American Community Survey replaced the Census Long Form. She added that the Census is sent to every household in the United States, while the American Community Survey is sent to a sample of households.

Some of the survey results highlighted by Ms. Rousseau included:

- With a median age of 40, Bellevue had the 11th highest median age of Washington's large places. The median age ranged from approximately 47 years of age in Mercer Island to 22 years of age in Pullman.
- One of the fastest growing segments of Bellevue's population is older adults, which made up 10.4% in 1990, 13.4% in 2000 and 14.4% in 2006-08.
- It is projected that the percentage of our nation's population over 65 years of age will increase to 20% by 2030.
- In 2000, Downtown Bellevue census tracts had the highest proportions of older adults.

- Bellevue is in the top third of Washington places for highest racial/ethnic diversity.
- Bellevue's racial distribution differs markedly from that of the state and nation.
- Bellevue ranked #1 for the highest proportion of Asian residents of Washington's large places.
- Youth in Bellevue were more racially diverse than older adults.
- Bellevue was ranked #6 of Washington's large places for the highest proportion of residents with a Bachelor's degree or higher, with 59.2%.
- Nearly 30% of Bellevue's workforce residents commuted via means other than "driving alone."
- Bellevue's median household income was \$81,184 and over 54% of Bellevue's households had an annual income over \$75,000.
- Bellevue had the 5th highest median housing value of Washington's largest places at \$577,200.

Boardmember LaPine commented that there seems to be a large adult population without kids in Bellevue, and building more ball fields may not serve the needs of this population. He suggested that the Board prioritize and identify interests that will serve the needs of this age group. Ms. Rousseau clarified that the fluctuation between the age group proportions is occurring between the older adults and the workforce population. The proportion of children has stayed relatively stable and has grown at the same rate as the overall population. Vice-Chair Robinson stressed the importance of creating multi-age use facilities, which may include ball fields.

Ms. Rousseau explained that the Census assists with strategic planning, determines political representation and distribution of funding for various resources. A full profile data from the 2010 Census will be available in June 2011.

NOTE: After the Park Board meeting, Ms. Rousseau noted an error in one of the statements she made during the meeting. In 1990 married couples with children comprised only 23 percent of Bellevue's households, not 55 percent as was stated. This percentage remained the same in 2006-2008.

D. Parks Department Accreditation Update

Ms. Hollerbach explained that the Parks Department initially obtained Commission for Accreditation of Park & Recreation Agencies (CAPRA) accreditation in 2005. As part of this process, the Department was required to submit a self-assessment report to CAPRA. The most recent self-assessment report was submitted on May 25, 2010. As with the last process, the assigned CAPRA site visitors will be reviewing the report in preparation for the site visit and final review scheduled for July 19-23, 2010.

Ms. Hollerbach discussed the importance and benefits of the accreditation. The following City departments are accredited:

- Parks Department
- Police Department
- Police Communications/Dispatch
- Utilities Department

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these minutes on July 13, 2010.

- Transportation
- Fire Department
- All supporting departments are indirectly evaluated through direct service departments.

Ms. Hollerbach noted that there are currently 90 Parks & Recreation Agencies that have obtained CAPRA accreditation. Bellevue is one of two accredited cities in Washington State. In addition, Ms. Hollerbach highlighted the accreditation standards and categories for the accreditation process.

Motion by Boardmember Stokes and second by Boardmember Grindeland to extend the meeting until 8:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Boardmember Stokes requested a copy of the accreditation report.

Ms. Hollerbach explained the Park Board's role during the accreditation process, which includes:

- Understand and communicate the importance of Bellevue's National Accreditation.
- Act as ambassadors of the Department in Accreditation efforts.
- The Board may need to assist in policy review if gaps or deficits are identified in order to obtain Accreditation.

Official notification will be granted at NRPA Congress in Minneapolis, MN in October 2010.

9. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

No report.

10. **ONGOING/OLD BUSINESS:**

A. **Boardmember committee/liaison reports**

Boardmember Grindeland commended Bellevue Parks for being voted #4 for 2010 Best of Northwest Escapes.

Vice-Chair Robinson reported that the Bellevue Network on Aging is creating a website to provide information about senior housing in Bellevue.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Future agenda items

- Boardmember LaPine requested a status report regarding the swimming pool options as well as copies of all questions and/or responses to/from City Council regarding Meydenbauer Bay.
- Boardmember Grindelund requested an update on Wrap-Around Services.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. CIP Project Report

B. Memo to Board re Symetra Family 4th of July event

C. Copy of letter to St. Andrew's Lutheran Church from Patrick Foran re off-leash dog area

D. Email re good staff work – Melissa Brown

E. Letter re Greenway Days

13. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. July 13 – next scheduled regular Park Board meeting

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

By general consensus, the meeting was adjourned at 8:10 p.m.