

East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

September 6, 2016
6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Capron, Vice Chair Hummer, and Councilmembers Gooding, Hughes, and Kasner

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Ian Toms, Client Services Division Manager
Stephanie Dompier, Program Administrator

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m. with Chair Capron presiding.

2. **ROLL CALL**

The Deputy City Clerk called the roll. All Councilmembers were present.

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

Chair Capron led the flag salute.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL**

Jens Nedrud, Senior Project Manager, Puget Sound Energy (PSE), said he wanted to correct a misstatement from the last meeting. He said East Bellevue would be affected by rolling blackouts along with the entire Eastside area, if corrective actions were needed. He said the need for the Energize Eastside project is real and affects residents' access to reliable power. He said a national pipeline safety expert is continuing its study regarding collocating the transmission lines with the oil pipeline. Additional photo simulation will be added based on feedback received at the last EBCC meeting. PSE continues to refine its project design, including pole locations. The project will replace every four poles with one pole. Mr. Nedrud said the City recently released The Phase 2 DEIS (Environmental Impact Statement) Scoping Report. He said PSE is committed to keeping the EBCC updated on the project.

Councilmember Kasner questioned the schedule for the remainder of the year. Mr. Nedrud said the City's Phase II scoping work has been completed, which will result in a Phase II Draft EIS (DEIS) to be published in January. There will be a public comment period before the Final EIS (FEIS) is completed. Responding to Mr. Kasner, Mr. Nedrud said rolling blackouts would be part

of a corrective action plan, if needed. Mr. Nedrud said the Energize Eastside project travels through four cities. Construction is anticipated to last for four to five months.

Councilmember Kasner thanked Mr. Nedrud for the update.

Councilmember Hughes observed that his vote as an EBCC member pertains to the 16 blocks through East Bellevue. He said it is up to another entity whether the project is built, but the EBCC's role is to address the portion of the project through the EBCC jurisdiction.

Responding to Mr. Kasner, Mr. Nedrud said that, after the FEIS is issued, PSE will make a final decision on the route and submit permit applications, which is tentatively set for early next year.

Responding to Don Boettiger, Mr. Nedrud said the existing poles are approximately 55 feet tall, and the new poles will be up to 95 feet. He said PSE is preparing a photo simulation to demonstrate how the project will look.

Chair Capron thanked Mr. Nedrud for the update.

Michelle Wannamaker expressed concern about the Eastgate/I-90 Land Use Code Amendment under consideration by the City Council. She said most of the area is not within the EBCC jurisdiction. However, development in that area will affect all areas of East Bellevue. She said the plan will add 6,000-9,000 new employees and approximately 1,000 new residents in Eastgate. She said Metro does not plan any improvements to its Eastgate transit services until 2025. She expressed concern that the City has not funded needed traffic congestion relief projects in Eastgate. She asked the EBCC to not approve the Land Use Code Amendments affecting the parcels within their jurisdiction (Champions Centre and Shell gas station) until the traffic and transit improvements to address the existing conditions and to accommodate the additional workers and residents are implemented. She would like the City to delay approval of the LUCA until transportation improvements are completed. She said the City's traffic study of the area was completed in 2010.

Chair Capron said the EBCC's future vote on the LUCA will be restricted to the Shell gas station and the Champion Center. He encouraged Ms. Wannamaker to provide input to the Transportation Commission and City Council.

Councilmember Kasner encouraged her to organize neighbors to work with her and the City, including advocating for an updated traffic study of the area.

a) Staff presentation on relaunch of MyBellevue App

Ian Toms, Client Services Division Manager, announced the relaunch of the MyBellevue mobile app. He introduced Stephanie Dompier, who administers the app on behalf of the project committee. The app was created in 2013 and allows the public to report concerns and requests to the City. The new app provides an auto-translate function for a number of languages to help serve the diverse population of Bellevue. The app provides City news and information on events, allows citizens to sign up for a number of alerts, and enables access to City social media. Mr.

Toms said the app has a built-in map feature to identify a specific area when a citizen is reporting a problem or issue, and photos may be attached as well.

Responding to Councilmember Kasner, Mr. Toms confirmed that a citizen may choose to submit a request or report publicly or to submit a request or report only to be viewed by the appropriate City staff. He said Code enforcement reports are always confidential.

Mr. Toms described additional features of the app, including the different colors used to indicate the status of a request or report. Commonly reported issues include Code violations, traffic concerns, parking, traffic signal problems, street maintenance, and tree maintenance.

Responding to Mr. Kasner, Mr. Toms said all items submitted to the City may be accessed through the City's Open Data internet portal, which is also available on the MyBellevue app. Mr. Toms said it is possible to filter and sort the data a number of ways, and to print reports. If there is an area of interest within the EBCC jurisdiction, staff could run a specialized report.

Chair Capron said he reported a pothole one day and City workers responded within 33 minutes to fix the problem.

Responding to Councilmember Hughes, Mr. Toms said a staff directory is not currently available on the app. However, the City is redesigning its web site, which will enable access to the directory on mobile devices in the future. Mr. Hughes said it would be helpful, in the City's internet calendar, to post staff contacts related to Board and Commission meetings.

Mr. Toms described how the MyBellevue portal is also located on the City's web page to make it convenient to use the report/request feature and other elements. Councilmember Hummer said she has had timely responses to her requests and reports of problems through the app.

Mr. Toms distributed brochures and cards with information on using the MyBellevue app.

5. **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

(a) Community Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Hummer said she attended a meeting at Bellevue College regarding the State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review of the college's student housing plan. Responding to residents' previously expressed concerns about parking, the project now includes an additional small parking lot in the neighborhood. Ms. Hummer met with a City transportation staff person in advance to be able to share information with attendees at the Bellevue College meeting.

Ms. Hummer said she and Chair Capron participated in a tour of the East Bellevue area and projects.

Councilmember Kasner said he attended the grand opening of the Overlake Hospital clinic at Lake Hills Village. He participated in a walking tour of Downtown Bellevue. He would like to see tours of East Bellevue regarding the history of the neighborhood. He attended the Eastside Transportation Alliance meeting, which included a discussion about I-405 toll lanes. Mr. Kasner

said the grand opening of the new Odle Middle School is September 8, which is also the date for the next Lake Hills Neighborhood Association meeting. For the latter, Mayor Stokes and City Councilmember Wallace will debate the Sound Transit 3 (ST3) November ballot measure.

Councilmember Kasner noted the memo in the desk packet regarding the Kelsey Creek mitigation funds related to the redevelopment of the Kelsey Creek Center. At that time, the developers contributed \$582,000 over five years to remove invasive vegetation and to provide other wetland mitigation and maintenance. Additional work has been completed since that time through the City Parks Department's partnering with EarthCorp.

Councilmember Gooding said many invasive blackberries were removed along Larsen Lake, and dead trees were placed along the perimeter to prevent the blackberry plants from reestablishing. He said speed humps have been installed at multiple locations in East Bellevue.

Councilmember Hughes said he submitted photos to the City of the Great Horned owl nesting area behind the Mormon Temple and Chaplin's car dealership. He said Chaplin's has plans to expand its facility. Mr. Hughes said he shared his concerns with City staff, who indicated they would speak to the developer about the issue.

Mr. Hughes expressed interest in an update on the single-family residence room rental ordinance. He is aware of houses with seven to eight tenants. Others present at the meeting suggested he submit a complaint or inquiry to the City. Responding to the Council, Chair Capron said the EBCC could request an update from staff on that issue and on Airbnb locations. Mr. Capron said staff provided information during a previous update about the number of complaints and how they have been handled.

Councilmember Kasner said City staff previously reported that three non-compliant cases were being prepared for litigation. He requested an update on those cases.

Chair Capron said the Highland Village matter was resolved recently when the King County Housing Authority bought the property from the developer who had initiated eviction of the residents to redevelop the site. The purchase price was \$20 million and the project will preserve 76 units of affordable housing. Noting the level of disrepair at the apartment complex, Mr. Capron opined that King County overpaid for the building. He said many of the apartments are occupied by a high number of individuals, which he believes King County will not allow to continue. He believes that many of the residents will not be there over the long term. He said the Housing Authority is obligated to repair and upgrade the housing units.

Councilmember Kasner said there were concerns about children being displaced early in the school year. He expressed support for the resolution of that housing crisis, even if families do not stay for more than two or three years.

Councilmember Capron said the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association does a good job of organizing and informing residents. However, he observed that neighbors might not understand that the LHNA does not formally represent residents' interests to the City. He encouraged LHNA leaders and residents to take their concerns directly to the City Council.

Councilmember Hughes said he has heard comments from residents who are pleased to see that the LHNA is increasing its visibility and attracting more neighbors to the meetings. He opined that the role is educating the public, not necessarily advocating for specific issues.

Responding to Councilmember Hummer, Charmaine Arredondo, Assistant Director for the City Clerk's Office, said that past issues of *It's Your City* are available on the City's web site. The major redesign of the City's web site is anticipated to be completed in November. Chair Capron said it would be helpful in the future to link the newspaper's issues relevant to East Bellevue from the EBCC's page.

Ms. Hummer questioned whether Chair Capron's synopsis of the Puget Sound Energy land use issues could be added to the EBCC page. Ms. Arredondo said information is provided in one section of the City's web site. However, the City Council web page does not provide links to that information, and the EBCC's page will likely be handled in the same manner.

Ms. Hummer would like more signs to publicize the EBCC meetings. Ms. Arredondo said she will pursue the issue with other city staff.

Councilmember Kasner questioned whether a formal presentation of the EBCC budget, including performance measures, is planned. Ms. Arredondo said the annual budget is approximately \$4,000. Monies related to litigation expenses during the past year were provided by a separate City fund. Mr. Kasner said that, in the past, staff distributed a 2-3 page summary of the EBCC budget. He believes there were 7-8 performance measures at one point, including the number of meeting attendees.

Mr. Kasner requested the following future agenda topics: 1) traffic and intersection concurrency data for East Bellevue, 2) Spiritwood Room Rental Code Enforcement, and 3) EBCC budget. Ms. Arredondo said she would email the budget proposal to the EBCC.

Ms. Hummer would like periodic updates on Parks and Utilities projects in East Bellevue. Chair Capron concurred with the request for updates on Parks improvement projects. However, he observed it is not reasonable to request updates on all maintenance activities.

Ms. Arredondo said she asked Development Services staff to begin providing a report of permittable items within the EBCC jurisdiction, whether or not the EBCC has authority over the permit decisions. She will speak with Parks and Utilities staff to determine what type of information might be available as well.

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Hughes seconded the motion, which carried unanimously.

7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

(a) Memo re: 148th Avenue SE Traffic Signal Upgrade

Chair Capron referred the Council to the memo regarding the 148th Avenue SE traffic signal upgrade. He said he spoke with the City transportation project engineer to express concerns regarding impacts to his business and other surrounding properties. Mr. Capron would like to see more work hours to expedite project completion. He said the project provides new traffic signals, new ADA curb ramps, and storm drainage improvements.

Don Boettiger concurred that he has not seen workers on site since the initial week or so when the project started. Mr. Capron said he shared that observation with the project manager.

8. **PUBLIC/COURTESY HEARINGS:** None.

9. **RESOLUTIONS:** None.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

(a) Potential Future Agenda Items

- Eastgate Land Use Code Amendments
- Low Impact Development (LID) Principles
- Final Regulations on Marijuana Uses
- Critical Area Ordinance Amendment

Chair Capron reiterated Councilmember Kasner's interest in budget information. Mr. Capron said the EBCC could discuss potential performance measures in the future. Mr. Kasner said he would like to track the number of EBCC meeting attendees, as well as the number of other meetings and events attended by EBCC members. Ms. Arredondo said staff can track those items of interest. However, they would not necessarily be connected to the budget because EBCC funding is statutorily required. Ms. Arredondo said the two performance measures in the EBCC budget are electorate approval and the total number of regular and special meetings.

Chair Capron said he would like presentations by Code Enforcement staff every six months on the Spiritwood room rental ordinance. For now, given the recent staff presentation, he said a written update on the litigation cases would be appreciated.

Chair Capron reiterated the EBCC's interest in periodic updates on Parks improvement projects and in traffic concurrency information.

Ms. Arredondo anticipates an update on the Eastgate LUCA project in November, and on the Low Impact Development principles and regulations in December. An update on the Critical Areas Ordinance is anticipated for November as well.

EBCC members expressed an interest in traffic counts on 148th Avenue SE. Mr. Kasner requested information on: 1) which intersections in the East Bellevue area are measured for concurrency, and 2) whether a traffic study has been conducted since 2010.

Ms. Wannamaker said she was told that the Transportation Commission will be addressing the Eastgate traffic issues and data.

Responding to Councilmember Kasner, Ms. Arredondo said issues discussed by the City Council in September could be placed on the EBCC's October agenda.

(b) Update on Puget Sound Energy Litigation

Chair Capron provided an update on the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Lake Hills Transmission Line project to loop the two electrical substations down 148th Avenue. The case will be heard before a three-judge panel, and oral argument is anticipated in January. Mr. Capron said he plans to attend the oral arguments. He would like to see an alignment along 164th Avenue, Lake Hills Boulevard, and 156th Avenue. He would like the project to include sidewalk, landscaping, and buried lower voltage lines.

13. **CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

15. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(a) Summary Regular Meeting Minutes of August 2, 2016

Councilmember Hummer moved to approve the minutes of the August 2, 2016 Regular Meeting, and Councilmember Gooding seconded the motion. The motion carried unanimously.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:48 p.m., Chair Capron declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
Assistant Director
City Clerk's Office

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