

**East Bellevue Community Council**  
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

November 1, 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: None.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:33 p.m. with Chair Capron presiding.

2. **ROLL CALL**

Assistant Director Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers were present.

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

Chair Capron led the flag salute.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL:** None.

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

(a) Community Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Kasner said he has been participating in the Bellevue Essentials class, which will hold its graduation on November 16 in the City Council Chambers. The guest speaker will be James Whitfield, Executive Director of Leadership Eastside.

Mr. Kasner reported that he and Vice Chair Hummer attended a meeting regarding the proposed Eastgate homeless shelter.

Mr. Kasner said he attended the first Movies that Matter film, which focused on the environment and is sponsored by a coalition of churches. The second film, Fix It, addresses the healthcare system and will be presented on the second Tuesday of November. Discussion is scheduled to follow the movies.

Vice Chair Hummer said she attended the Planning Commission meeting to convey the East Bellevue Community Council's support for keeping the Larsen Lake restrooms open year-round. Ms. Hummer provided formal comments to the City Council during the October 17 Regular Session as well.

Ms. Hummer commented on the removal of approximately twenty five 100-year-old trees near Bellevue College related to the development of student housing. She expressed concern that this conflicts with the City's goal of retaining the tree canopy. Ms. Hummer said a representative of the college responded to her regarding her concern. Construction is scheduled to begin in January. The college is also developing new soccer fields.

Ms. Hummer said she attended the meeting regarding the proposed Eastgate homeless shelter, as noted earlier by Councilmember Kasner. She was disappointed that the Eastgate/I-90 Citizen Advisory Committee (CAC) and the Planning Commission, as well as residents, were not aware of the shelter plan until August. Ms. Hummer said the shelter will be located near Bellevue College, other schools, and residential areas.

Responding to Irene Fernandes in the audience, Ms. Hummer said Bellevue College has been very responsive to neighbors' concerns regarding campus projects. Ms. Hummer said one resident sold their home at market price for the projects.

Ms. Hummer said the college is zoned as R-5 (Residential - 5 units per acre). She feels property should be zoned according to its use. Ms. Hummer said parks are in residential zoned districts as well. She expressed concern that part of Enatai Beach Park will be used as a staging area for I-90 light rail construction. Ms. Hummer said she is concerned that parcels on Larsen Lake could ultimately be converted to a non-park use.

Ms. Hummer referred to the church parking lots to be used by Sound Transit and Metro during light rail construction and noted that each church will receive \$100,000 over 4-5 years.

Councilmember Hughes said he attended the candidates forum, which had approximately 40 attendees.

Mr. Hughes said he recently read an article about a petroleum pipeline in another state that exploded during maintenance work. He said the pipeline is similar to the one through Bellevue that carries jet fuel.

Mr. Hughes said students have returned to Odle Middle School, although the contractors are working to complete the project.

Mr. Hughes said he was appointed to the independent salary commission established to review the City Council's compensation.

Councilmember Hughes noted that Bellevue College held a community meeting to receive input from residents regarding the type and configuration of lighting to be used for the new soccer fields.

Councilmember Hummer said she uses the MyBellevue app ([www.publicstuff.com](http://www.publicstuff.com)) to submit photos of concerns (e.g., clogged drains, vegetation, sidewalks, etc.) to the City, and she always receives a good, quick response.

Chair Capron expressed support for the development of affordable housing. However, he would like to see better planning by the City and King County, as opposed to the recent urgent acquisition of Highland Village. He observed that the parties overpaid for the development, and it will be costly to complete necessary renovations. He expressed concern that many of the residents might not be able to stay in the housing for the long term. He said it is important to implement projects that are designed to provide a hand up versus a handout.

Mr. Capron said the 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue traffic light project is ongoing. City staff notified him that the project will be completed by Thanksgiving. Don Boettiger, a meeting attendee, said he was told that the light poles will not be delivered for two to three more weeks.

Councilmember Hughes expressed concern about the impact of the 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue project on local businesses. He said the Hearing Examiner's report regarding the 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue transmission line project indicated there would be no impacts on commerce for that specific project. However, Mr. Capron said October sales at his gas station were down 700 gallons per day compared to last year.

Councilmember Hummer said she took a photo of the big ditch by the Samena Club and sent it to the City inquiring about plans for landscaping and vegetation.

## 6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Kasner suggested amending the agenda to add a discussion of East Bellevue items in the City's budget under Agenda Item 11, Unfinished Business.

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Councilmember Hughes seconded the motion. The motion carried with a vote of 4-1, with Chair Capron voting nay.

## 7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

### (a) Letter regarding Kelsey Creek/NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Culvert Replacement

Chair Capron noted the letter in the meeting packet from City staff providing information on the NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street culvert replacement project at Kelsey Creek, east of 132<sup>nd</sup> Avenue NE. Corrugated metal pipe installed in the 1980s will be replaced with a new three-sided box culvert with a permanent fish-passable stream channel. The project will involve 10 days of full closure of NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street, which is intended to reduce the construction period by one month. Construction is anticipated to occur during the summer of 2018.

Councilmember Hummer said Jim Nicolls is the project manager. He will come to an EBCC meeting next spring or early summer to provide an update on the project.

Ms. Hummer said there are five culverts on the east side of Larsen Lake that convey the Kelsey Creek flow under the pedestrian parks maintenance trail. The culverts have been found to be undersized, and there has been a vertical shift in the culverts. A project to improve the conveyance capacity under the maintenance trail is planned.

Responding to Chair Capron, Ms. Hummer said she was sharing information from an email from Jerry Shuster, the project manager. Ms. Hummer said she is concerned, with the recent developments on park lands, that something could happen to Larsen Lake. She believes the Community Council needs to continue to monitor this activity and to be in contact with the Utilities Department. Ms. Hummer said her last question to Mr. Shuster was to request assistance regarding the proposed closure of NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street.

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

9. **RESOLUTIONS:** None.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

(a) 2017-2018 City Budget Items in East Bellevue

Chair Capron noted that it would have been helpful if Mr. Kasner had alerted him to his interest in discussing the topic tonight, which would have allowed Mr. Capron to request relevant information.

Councilmember Kasner said his most important concern relates to the SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street project (148<sup>th</sup> Avenue to 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue). Mr. Capron observed that the road widening project is believed by the EBCC to be on the project list in order to accommodate Puget Sound Energy's power line.

Responding to Mr. Capron, Mr. Kasner said he wants the EBCC to continue to request that the project be removed. Mr. Capron concurred that the project is not necessary. He said he wishes the City would maintain the current vegetation and sidewalks. He observed that it is a fairly steep roadway for a bike trail.

Councilmember Hummer said she was not able to find the SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street project or Larsen Lake restrooms in the City's budget. She said she was told by City staff to communicate budget requests to the City Council.

Stephanie Walter said that City Councilmember Robertson suggested she contact Toni Call, Interim Finance Director, for a map of the projects in the City's budget, including in East Bellevue. Ms. Walter said she has not yet had the time to do so, but she suggested that other citizens call City staff to pursue requests.

Councilmember Kasner said it would be helpful if that information could be available to the EBCC before the City Council budget hearing on November 21. Responding to Chair Capron, Mr. Kasner confirmed that the SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street project is his main concern.

Councilmember Kasner said he received an email update from the developer of the Lake Hills Village project. They have signed leases for two new restaurants in the Overlake Building (Building B). The Hard Wok Café is open, and the Green Leaf Vietnamese restaurant will open soon. A chiropractic office and a child care center will be moving into the center at some point. The developer has indicated that they have not been able to attract a grocery store.

Councilmember Hummer said she would like to see a coffee shop at the center.

## 12. NEW BUSINESS

### (a) Potential Future Agenda Items

- Eastgate Land Use Code Amendments [*Update in 2017*]
- Low Impact Development (LID) Principles [*December 6 meeting*]
- Final Regulations on Marijuana Uses [*December 6 meeting*]
- Lake Hills Art Project
- Neighborhood Area Planning [*December 6 meeting*]

Ms. Arredondo said the Eastgate Land Use Code Amendment is anticipated to come before the EBCC in 2017. The LID principles/regulations and the permanent marijuana regulations will be presented to the EBCC on December 6. An update on the Lake Hills art project has not been scheduled. City staff presented information on neighborhood area planning during the neighborhood forum held in October, which conflicted with the EBCC's October 4 meeting. Ms. Arredondo said staff will provide an update during the EBCC's December meeting.

Councilmember Kasner said he was told that one of the sculptures installed near the Bellevue Arts Museum for the recent exhibition throughout Downtown Bellevue might be permanently located in East Bellevue. However, he was not certain of the location.

### (b) Update on Puget Sound Energy (PSE) Litigation

Chair Capron provided an update on litigation with Puget Sound Energy regarding the proposed 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue route for a transmission line, which was rejected by the EBCC. PSE sued the EBCC, and the Community Council prevailed. Oral arguments before the Court of Appeals in Seattle will be held on November 7. Mr. Capron said the hearing has been noticed as an EBCC Special Meeting due to the potential that a quorum of the EBCC will be in attendance.

## 13. CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS

Warren Halverson, a resident of Bridle Trails, recalled that representatives of PSE and CENSE (Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy) spoke before the EBCC on August 2 to discuss PSE's Energize Eastside project. He thanked the EBCC for providing the opportunity for both sides to present their perspectives. Mr. Halverson said he is concerned about the industrialization of neighborhoods. He shared his research regarding the project, which includes 100-foot metal poles compared to the current 55-foot wooden poles. The current poles are one

foot in diameter, and the proposed poles are four feet in diameter. Mr. Halverson expressed concern regarding the visual impact.

Chair Capron said he received an email from PSE earlier in the day stating that PSE is preparing an artistic concept of the project. However, he has not had time to review the information. Councilmember Hummer said the email went to the full EBCC.

Mr. Halverson said his understanding is that PSE's graphics are anticipated to depict the visual impacts from an aerial view, as well as the view from the ground.

Chair Capron noted that PSE has not applied for the Energize Eastside project permit at this time. Ms. Hummer said the Ardmore substation in the Crossroads area and the area near Lowe's on 124<sup>th</sup> Avenue have similar-sized poles.

Councilmember Hughes opined that the SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street project was proposed to make it easier for PSE to place poles on both sides of the street. He said PSE subsequently changed its Lake Hills transmission line project to avoid the street. He concurred with Councilmember Kasner's opposition to the project. Mr. Kasner said City staff indicated to him that the project is required by the City's Pedestrian-Bicycle Plan.

Chair Capron said his recollection of the transmission line project was that the Hearing Examiner determined that PSE could not use both sides of SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street. At that point, PSE changed its project and indicated that the segment was not needed. However, Mr. Capron said PSE staff told the EBCC before going to the Hearing Examiner that there was no point in doing the project without separate lines. It appeared to him that the project was a cost shifting from PSE to the City.

Councilmember Hughes said the proposed sidewalk on SE 16<sup>th</sup> Street is not needed, and he does not believe individuals will ride their bikes due to the steep hill.

Councilmember Kasner noted that Mr. Halverson was one of the only members of the public who testified before the Hearing Examiner in November 2014. Mr. Kasner said EBCC members were not allowed to attend the hearing because it was a quasi-judicial matter. Mr. Kasner thanked Mr. Halverson for his efforts.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

15. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(a) Summary Minutes of September 6, 2016 Regular Meeting

Councilmember Hummer thanked staff for adding to Ms. Wannamaker's comments in the minutes.

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve the minutes of the September 6, 2016 Regular Meeting, as amended. Councilmember Gooding seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

## (b) Summary Minutes of October 4, 2016 Regular Meeting

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve the minutes of the October 4, 2016 Regular Meeting. Councilmember Hughes seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:07 p.m., Chair Capron declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
Assistant Director  
City Clerk's Office

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