

BELLEVUE NETWORK ON AGING

MINUTES

September 3, 2026, 8:30am - noon

MEMBERS' PRESENT: Elaine White, Roxi Wilson, Andrea Kline, Kan Liang, Eleanor Lee, Kari Marino, Suresh Velagapudi, Chelcy Flores, Beth Hanley, John DePalma, Bhavana Pahwa, Julie Hart,

MEMBERS ABSENT: Hannah Kimball, Madhu Kachru, Shilpa Mehta, Anne Rittenhouse, Guang-an Wu,

STAFF PRESENT: Dan Lassiter -Community Services Supervisor
Christy Stangland- Human Services Planner

GUESTS: Abigail Brown

PRESENTER(S): Cameron Parker-Assist Park Director & Christy Stangland-Human Services Planner on **“What is a Commission and a Board appointed by City Council.”**

RECORDING SECRETARY: Daniel Lassiter, Bellevue Parks & Community Services

WELCOME AND ROLL CALL: The meeting was called to order by chair Elaine White at 8:30a.

Approval of MINUTES: Minutes for August 2026 were reviewed and approved.

PUBLIC COMMENTS: Alex Tzimmerman – Does not like morning older adult meetings. Issues with councilmember Robinson. Bellevue has lack of affordable housing and transportation.

Hannah Green – CCC Transportation Council. Listening to community needs.

Stuarte Arsema – Adult Family Home. Interested in what BNOA is doing.

Presentation: What makes a Commission or Board by City Council.

How BNOA compares to the standard governance model used by City of Bellevue Council-appointed boards and commissions

Appointed Boards and Commissions at the City of Bellevue

- Arts Commission
- Civil Service Commission
- Environmental Services Commission
- Human Services Commission
- Parks & Community Services Board
- Planning Commission
- Transportation Commission

Non-Appointed Boards & Commissions

- Bellevue Equity Advisory and Community Outreach Network (BEACON)
- Bellevue Network on Aging
- Youth Link Board

Council-appointed boards and commissions

Fixed board size - Membership is a set number — typically five or seven seats — defined in the enabling ordinance.

Four-year terms - Standard term length is four years, with expirations staggered so no more than a few seats turn over in the same year.

Two-term limit - No person may serve more than two consecutive terms (with narrow exceptions for filling an unexpired term).

Residency requirement - Members generally must be Bellevue residents at the time of appointment; some boards add narrow conflict-of-interest exclusions.

Comparison

	Standard Council Board	BNOA
Created by	City Council ordinance (Bellevue City Code)	PCS Dept.
Governed by	Ordinance & Municipal code, set by Council Conforming Bylaws Open Public Mtg Act, Public Records Act	Adopted by-laws by PCS
Membership	Open Application Process Council Liaison selects and confirmed by full City Council.	Network's own Nominating Committee, via application/interview.
Reports/ Advice	City Council Only	PCS Dept. Other agencies and elected officials through advocacy efforts.
Limitation	No advocacy on behalf of city or board Cannot engage in regional issues not Specifically assigned by Council.	Board sets priorities and and workplan. Can Participate in advocacy and Regional issues.
Board Size	Fixed – typically 5 or 7 members.	Variable range 9–15 member With options for liaisons.
Term Length	Four years, staggered	3 year terms staggered.
Residency	Must be Bellevue resident	Work or live in Bellevue
Sub Committee Structure	Typically no subcommittees	Standing/ad hoc sub- committees.

Common Ground

Advisory, Not legislative - Neither body has independent decision-making power — recommendations flow up to the appointing authority.

Bellevue-connection requirement - Both require a tie to Bellevue — residency for standard boards; residency or business presence for BNOA.

Collaborate with City staff toward common mission - All working toward maintaining Bellevue's quality of life factors.

Unpaid volunteer service - Members of both the Network and standard commissions serve without compensation.

Open, regular public meetings – Both hold recurring, publicly notice meetings with a quorum and majority-vote requirement for action.

Multi-year, staggered terms – Both stagger member terms so the body keeps continuity year over year rather than fully turning over.

Other Questions and Comments:

City boards and commissions do not work in subcommittees as everything has to be open to public.

BNOA has the ability to not be open to public.

City boards and commissions can visit sites but cannot advocate, unless they have been directed by council.

City boards and commissions cannot have a quorum in attendance at any public function.

Boards and commissions can only work on specifically what council tells them to work on.

Suggestions on getting older adult issues heard go to the variety of public boards and commission meetings and take the three minutes to present the issues older adults are facing.

Human Services Needs Update – Christy Stangland

The funding cycle continues with HS commission. Preliminary recommendations have been identified, and the group will review and set before council by mid-October. The SBBG recommendation of Federal Funds will also be decided on at the same time. Visits to current groups with funding are currently occurring.

COMMITTEE REPORTS: *Members were asked to read the committee reports before the meeting for discussion.*

Advocacy: The legislative agenda was presented to BNOA and was approved as written by the BNOA and Kirkland Senior Council. Appointments are being made with elected officials. The congresswoman DelBene visit at North Bellevue Community Center was successful with approximately 90 individuals attending with a wide variety of questions posed.

Housing & Transportation: No meeting was held in August.

Outreach: Crossroads Farmers Market final day will be September 29th. Four people are needed to run the table. Hannah will set up in the morning, and Andrea will close in the afternoon. The Bellevue Farmers Market was discussed as an older adult day with the new director of the Market Char.

Public Meetings: No meetings attended.

Ad hoc committees:

Celebration Committee: Chelcy is working to secure a BNOA fund raiser to help remove barriers for the public to enjoy the Botanical Gardens by providing up to two specialized wheelchairs to the Botanical Society. The celebration will be at the Botanical Garden on October 14th, 4-6p. Emphasis will be to invite past members, valued partners, and City of Bellevue staff and officials involved in its development. Councilmember Robinson has been asked to keynote, and originator of the BNOA program Cathy VonWald will be asked to present the BNOA beginnings. Food/ beverages/pictures/gifts are all being sponsored thanks to Chelcy's efforts.

Recycled Computer Program:

No further information this month.

NEW BUSINESS:

Age Friendly meeting with King County – Hannah reports that the group is working to gain traction for designation with King County.

September is the beginning of recruitment month. Suresh agreed to chair the committee with assistance to interview and select candidates from Julie, Elaine, Andrea, Suresh, Bhavana, and John.

Next month instead of a speaker, the BNOA members will review the variety of boards and commissions available to visit, split up as teams to visit with the pre-written statements about supporting older adults of Bellevue and make visits happen.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:30a

Next meeting is October 1, 2026.