

CITY OF BELLEVUE
SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

January 8, 2026
8:30 a.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Virtual Meeting

MEMBERS PRESENT: Susan Freeburg – Parks
Rick Bailey – Parks
Andrew Oltman – Fire
Maggie Whittemore – Fire
Robert Spingler – Police
Casiano Atienza – Transportation
Laurie Scott – Community Representative - Downtown
Mike Ogliore – Business Representative - Downtown
Eric Stewart – King County Metro
Meredith Langridge – Visit Bellevue

OTHERS PRESENT: Emily Martella, Parks; Grant Harrington, Legion 5K;
Lizzette Flores, Community Development; Claude Iosso,
City Manager’s Office; Hazel Phillips, Emergency
Management; Joedy Morrow, Utilities; Nathan Hasselblad,
FAM; Tyler Pederson, King County Metro

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:32 a.m. by Chair Freeburg who presided.

2. COMMUNICATIONS: Written and Oral - None

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

A motion to approve the agenda was made by Laurie Scott. The motion was seconded by Robert Spingler and the motion carried unanimously.

4. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

A motion to approve the December 11, 2025, meeting minutes as submitted was made by Meredith Langridge. The motion was seconded by Casiano Atienza and the motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

❖ Routing and Location Subcommittee Report

Casiano Atienza said the only upcoming event currently under review for 2026 is the Valentine’s

Day Dash scheduled for February 14. The event organizers intend to convert the race to a timed format, which would require closing a traffic lane rather than limiting activity to sidewalks, as has been done previously. Police and transportation staff are already working with the organizers to address the changes.

6. OLD BUSINESS – None

6. NEW BUSINESS

❖ **2026 Applications of Intent**

A. Shades of Brilliance Artwalk

Chair Freeburg said the event is proposed for the grass around the loop in Downtown Park on June 7 from 12:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The event has been held twice before without any major issues reported.

Laurie Scott asked if there were any prior issues with the event. Chair Freeburg confirmed there had been no previous concerns.

Mike Ogliore pointed out that the date for the event is the next day after the Paws and Pride event and asked if the event will require any advanced setup. Chair Freeburg clarified that setup for the event will begin the morning of June 7 at 9:00 a.m., alleviating any concerns about overlap.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for Shades of Brilliance on June 7 in Downtown Park was made by Robert Spingler. The motion was seconded by Maggie Whittemore and the motion carried unanimously.

B. The Concert Truck

Chair Freeburg noted there had previously been several events involving the concert truck at various locations. The event was described as requiring only a simple setup on the plaza at 2:30 p.m. ahead of the concert, which is slated for 4:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for The Concert Truck event on June 21 was made by Laurie Scott. The motion was seconded by Rick Bailey and the motion carried unanimously.

C. Youth for Impact

Chair Freeburg said the event, which is a children's business fair, was held last year without incident and is proposed for June 28 in Downtown Park from 3:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m., and has an anticipated attendance of approximately 300 participants in addition to multiple vendors.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the Youth for Impact event on June 28 in Downtown Park was made by Meredith Langridge. The motion was seconded by Maggie Whittemore and the motion carried unanimously.

D. Bellevue Family 4th

Chair Freeburg said the annual Independence Day Bellevue Family 4th event is held in partnership with the Bellevue Downtown Association. It was noted that there were no major changes anticipated from the prior year's event.

Mike Ogliore confirmed that no significant differences were planned.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the Bellevue Family 4th on July 4 in Downtown Park was made by Rick Bailey. The motion was seconded by Laurie Scott and the motion carried unanimously.

E. Bellevue Children's Business Fair

Chair Freeburg described the Bellevue Children's Business Fair event as one of the original children's business fairs hosted in the city, and noted that it is proposed for July 11 from 2:00 p.m. to 6:30 p.m. at Downtown Park. Approximately 75 vendors expected. The footprint is expected to remain largely unchanged, and no major issues were reported in prior years.

A motion to approve the Bellevue Children's Business Fair on July 11 in Downtown Park was made by Robert Spingler. The motion was seconded by Rick Bailey and the motion carried unanimously.

F. Flavors of India

Chair Freeburg said the Flavors of India event, including its associated parade, is proposed for July 12 from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Crossroads Park. Attendance is projected to be approximately 3,000. The event has a long history without significant issues.

Robert Spingler voiced a concern regarding the proposed change to the parade route, noting that the organizers had previously expressed an interest in a different route, one that staff had already indicated would not be feasible. There have been no follow-up discussions as yet.

Andy Oltman pointed out that the parade triggered impacts to emergency response in the previous year and advised that additional staffing requirements might be necessary. That issue will be addressed by the Routing and Location Subcommittee.

Chair Freeburg acknowledged the concern and agreed that any routing issues regarding the parade will need to be worked through by the Routing and Location Subcommittee.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the Flavors of India event on July 12 in Crossroads Park from noon to 6:00 p.m. was made by Rick Bailey. The motion was seconded by Maggie Whittemore and the motion carried unanimously.

G. Seattle International Cultural and Arts Festival

Chair Freeburg said the Seattle International Cultural Arts and Festival event includes performances and vendor booths. Over the years the event has triggered a few minor issues.

Rick Bailey reported that there were no notable issues during the previous year's event. The organizers appear to have refined their operational processes.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the Seattle International Cultural and Arts

Festival on July 18 from 4:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. at Crossroads Park was made by Laurie Scott. The motion was seconded by Maggie Whittemore and the motion carried unanimously.

H. Pakistan Independence Day

Chair Freeburg said the Pakistan Independence Day celebration event is proposed for August 16 from noon to 6:00 p.m. at Downtown Park. The anticipated attendance is approximately 1,000 people. The event has been held in the city for several years and while generally successful one recurring challenge involves attempts by vendors or participants to drive private vehicles into the park. Additional concerns from prior years include expectations that staff should manage the closed parking stalls.

Rick Bailey said during the 2025 iteration of the event staff were assigned to monitor the access points and to prevent unauthorized vehicle entry, though enforcement authority was limited and assistance was required from fire department personnel when resistance occurred. Those issues will be addressed at the Routing and Location Subcommittee level.

Laurie Scott asked if the recurring issue of driving in the park will actually be addressed. Rick Bailey said steps have been taken to mitigate the issue, including reinforcing expectations during the Routing and Location Subcommittee meetings and emphasizing communication between organizers and vendors. Last year staff were assigned to work the event in order to stop people trying to drive in. There was a lot of pushback, but conditions have improved over time.

Robert Spingler added that last year requests were made to remove the bollards, but the police denied the request. Making sure those are kept in place will be helpful in preventing driving vehicles into the park.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the Pakistan Independence Day celebration on August 16 at Downtown Park was made by Rick Bailey. The motion was seconded by Robert Spingler and the motion carried unanimously.

I. The Legion 5K

Grant Harrington, owner of Snohomish Running Company, a production company with approximately fourteen years of experience organizing running events throughout Snohomish and King Counties, including events in downtown Seattle, Kirkland, Redmond, Everett, and Bellingham, described a prior collaboration on the Enforcer 5K with Cam Chancellor and explained that the proposed Legion 5K stems from a recent request by Cam Chancellor who would like to have group run every Saturday morning from The Legion restaurant between April and August, culminating in a 5K race on Saturday, August 29. The preferred start and finish location would be as close as possible to The Legion sports bar and grill in the Downtown. The route under consideration remains preliminary and open to modification. The All In for Autism 5K route would be suitable for the event if necessary.

Grant Harrington outlined the proposed 5K route with its start line behind the Westin near the Legion sports bar, with runners initially traveling under the adjacent structure and emerging onto Bellevue Way. From there, participants would turn left and proceed westbound, with only one westbound lane closure needed, specifically the lane closest to the mall. The runners would then continue westbound on Bellevue Way until SE 8th Street where they would turn right and proceed uphill. The southbound lane on SE 8th Street would need to be closed, with vehicles detoured to SE 6th Street. Police presence would be required at all major intersections along the

segment. From SE 8th Street, runners would turn right onto 100th Avenue SE and remain in the eastbound lane, with an officer stationed at the intersection of 100th Avenue SE and 101st Avenue SE. On 101st Avenue SE, where a parking lane exists, the proposal is to implement temporary no-parking restrictions so the runners can safely occupy the parking lane. The approach, which has been successfully used in other cities, would require no-parking enforcement from approximately 7:00 a.m. to 9:00 a.m. to allow time for compliance or towing if necessary. The route would then bring runners onto Main Street, where similar no-parking measures would allow the participants to run within the parking lane and adjacent buffer areas. The runners would then proceed northbound on 100th Avenue NE and transition onto the sidewalk, which is approximately twelve feet wide and comparable to a single traffic lane. The participants would remain on the sidewalk while looping through Downtown Park, then return to 100th Avenue NE and continue on the sidewalk to NE 4th Street. At that point, the runners would re-enter the westbound traffic lane on 100th Avenue NE, again with only one lane closed and with monitors or flaggers positioned near the mall parking entrances to allow vehicle access during gaps in the field. The race would conclude before the mall officially opens, though accommodations will still need to be made for employee access. From NE 4th Street, the runners would proceed to NE 8th Street where another police officer would be stationed. One northbound lane would be closed, allowing vehicles traveling westbound on 100th Avenue NE to continue turning right with a lane shift. The runners would then turn right onto Bellevue Way and proceed to the finish area near the start line. The location of the finish line remains a primary unresolved element. Access to the adjacent parking lot will depend on property control. An alternate finish option through the mall parking roadway might work; that could allow Bellevue Way to reopen sooner, though the option would require coordination with Bellevue Square property management. Assistance in identifying the appropriate contacts was requested.

Grant Harrington summarized the operational requirements, noting that the event will require approximately eleven off-duty police officers. Certified flaggers could potentially be self-sourced, subject to union requirements. A professional traffic control plan will be prepared by a certified traffic control engineer, and all traffic control will be administered by an on-site traffic control specialist. Barricades and cones will be rented through Abaco. The road closures will occur from 7:45 a.m. to 9:00 a.m., with all roads fully reopened by 9:00 a.m. Flexibility is needed in regard to the route. Securing a workable, safe course is a higher priority than adhering strictly to the proposed layout.

Robert Spingler asked how the road reopening would be managed with respect to slower participants. Grant Harrington explained that a rolling reopening will be employed, with runners directed onto sidewalks once the roads closures end. A traffic control vehicle and designated course monitors in high-visibility attire will follow the final participant to ensure the staff always know the location of the last runner.

Casiano Atienza said the proposed route appears to be feasible, provided that adequate traffic control and detour planning is implemented for both vehicles and pedestrians. Particular attention was drawn to the frontage areas along Bellevue Way and the proposed finish near Bellevue Square, areas that are associated with Kemper Development Company. It was suggested that coordination with them will be necessary.

Casiano Atienza also suggested reaching out to Kemper Development Company in regard to the use of their parking. Absent explicit permission from Kemper Development Company, the mall parking facilities will be off limits and an alternative parking plan would need to be identified. Grant Harrington acknowledged the requirement and noted that outreach to Kemper Development Company could be facilitated through existing relationships, particularly given the

involvement of Cam Chancellor. Interest in football-related events is expected to be strong in the coming year, particularly with the Seahawks returning from training camp near the proposed event date, and that could increase community enthusiasm for the run.

Eric Stewart raised concerns regarding potential impacts to bus operations, specifically in regard to whether bus stops along Bellevue Way and NE 8th Street will remain accessible or require rerouting. Grant Harrington said the event will involve only single-lane closures rather than full road closures, allowing buses to continue operating. Course monitors will be stationed near bus stops to allow buses to access them during gaps between runners. Minor adjustments to the race start time could be made if needed. Eric Stewart allowed that service levels are lighter on the weekends and that will reduce the likelihood of disruption. The Bellevue Transit Center and the nearby light rail station could serve as convenient access points for participants.

Answering a question asked by Robert Spingler, Grant Harrington said an estimated 1,200 runners are expected to participate, which is consistent with similar past events. Cam Chancellor, Richard Sherman and possibly other notable individuals intend to participate. Specific security arrangements have not yet been finalized, but given the event's high-profile participants it will be necessary to determine appropriate security needs. A police escort has been used successfully at previous events and may be a good option.

Rick Bailey asked about the route that passes through Downtown Park and asked if barricades will be placed or if volunteers will be present in the west parking lot. Grant Harrington confirmed that numerous course monitors will be stationed throughout the park and at parking lot access points to prevent vehicle conflicts and to guide the runners. Volunteers will be sourced through partnerships with local high school athletic teams in exchange for donations, and that will ensure sufficient staffing along the course. There will also be a strong commitment made in regard to public notification, including direct outreach to businesses and residences along the route, which is consistent with practices used for similar events in other cities.

Chair Freeburg thanked Grant Harrington for the thorough proposal and clarified that the specific route will be finalized through the Routing and Location Subcommittee.

Robert Spingler raised a concern about approving the Legion 5K, noting that it would be the third 5K event. Such events are resource-intensive and difficult to staff, particularly during the summer. Staffing pressures are expected to be compounded by the timing of the event relative to FIFA. Vacation restrictions during that period likely will shift leave usage into the surrounding weeks, making it harder to secure sufficient officers.

Chair Freeburg asked if the committee wanted to pause approving the event to allow for additional review of staffing capacity, or to explore supplemental staffing options, particularly given that other agencies might face similar constraints due to FIFA's broader impacts.

Robert Spingler suggested review time is needed to evaluate the route plan more carefully and to reassess the number of officers needed. While there are potential mechanisms for supplementing officer staffing, the city could become oversaturated with the resource-heavy events. There is some uncertainty about how best to proceed without more information.

Casiano Atienza agreed that pausing the approval would be beneficial both to support the police staffing assessment and to examine whether route adjustments could be made that would reduce the overall impact and staffing burden.

Chair Freeburg asked if the committee felt comfortable approving the date and time, contingent on later route finalization, or whether the application should be tabled entirely until the next meeting.

Robert Spingler said it would take a few days to complete a deeper assessment before being ready to recommend approval.

Mike Ogliore expressed strong reservations about the event's preparedness, citing the presenter's apparent unfamiliarity with key stakeholders such as Kemper Development Company. A more fully developed plan is needed before proceeding.

With the concurrence of the Committee, Chair Freeburg tabled the Legion 5K application and said it will be revisited at the February meeting. The Chair asked to be kept informed of progress as the police and transportation representatives continue their review.

J. Arts in the Garden

Chair Freeburg said the Arts in the Garden event at the Bellevue Botanical Garden is slated for August 28 through 30. The longstanding event has an expected attendance of approximately 1,000 to 2,000 visitors. While earlier iterations of the event involved traffic and parking challenges, those issues have been addressed through the hiring of a parking management company.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for Arts in the Garden on August 28 through 30 was made by Maggie Whittemore. The motion was seconded by Meredith Langridge and the motion carried unanimously.

K. Jubilee REACH Celebration in the Park

Chair Freeburg said the Jubilee Reach Celebration in the Park is proposed for Sunday, August 30 from 6:00 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. at Downtown Park. The primary historical concern with the event has been early-morning sound impacts. The concert portion is relatively brief and prior sound issues were been addressed through reminders and coordination efforts.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the Jubilee REACH event on August 30 in Downtown Park was made by Maggie Whittemore. The motion was seconded by Laurie Scott and the motion carried unanimously.

L. Northwest Ukrainian International Festival

Chair Freeburg said the Northwest Ukrainian International Festival is proposed for September 12 at Downtown Park from 10:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m., and has an estimated attendance of approximately 20,000. The festival has had operational challenges in prior years both at Crossroads Park and Downtown Park, including issues related to food operations, staking, and activities near the pond. The most recent event, however, proceeded more smoothly than in the past.

Rick Bailey confirmed there were no notable issues the previous year and indicated that maintaining the same operational approach will be important.

Robert Spingler reminded the Committee about a minor but recurring concern regarding the

event closure time. The end time needs to be clearly enforced to facilitate dispersal promptly.

Rick Bailey said it still needs to be verified whether or not the event will include the fish pond element. The position of parks is that it should not be included.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the Northwest Ukrainian International Festival on September 12 at Downtown Park was made by Rick Bailey. The motion was seconded by Robert Spingler and the motion carried unanimously.

M. Bellevue Schools Foundation Block Party

Chair Freeburg said the Bellevue Schools Foundation block party is proposed for September 26 at Downtown Park from 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. The first year the event was held there was a sound-related miscommunication. It was corrected immediately and there has not been any reported issues since.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the Bellevue Schools Foundation Block Party on September 26 in Downtown Park was made by Robert Spingler. The motion was seconded by Maggie Whittemore and the motion carried unanimously.

N. Fiesta Del Maiz

Chair Freeburg said the Fiesta Del Maiz celebration is proposed for October 3 at Crossroads Park from noon to 5:00 p.m.. The estimated attendance is 600. The event is entering its third year and that while the inaugural year required significant coordination due to its grassroots nature, the most recent year was believed to have gone reasonably well.

A motion to approve the Fiesta Del Maiz event on October 3 at Crossroads Park was made by Meredith Langridge. The motion was seconded by Rick Bailey and the motion carried unanimously.

With applications concluded ahead of schedule, the chair noted that additional applications had recently been received and that the February meeting agenda was expected to grow, particularly as FIFA approached and more event requests were anticipated. After inviting any final comments and receiving none, the chair announced the next meeting date as Thursday, February 12, extended New Year wishes, thanked participants for their discussions and approvals, and formally adjourned the meeting. Participants exchanged brief thanks as the meeting ended.

7. NEXT MEETING

❖ February 12, 2025

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Freeburg adjourned the meeting at 9:40 a.m.