CITY OF BELLEVUE
SPECIAL EVENTS COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES

March 12, 2026 Bellevue City Hall
8:30 a.m. Virtual Meeting

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

OTHERS PRESENT: Emily Martella, Parks; Anna Mickols, Fire; Tyler Pedersen, King County Metro; Christopher Rivera, Transportation; Nathan Hasselblad, Transportation; Mia Davison, Development Services; Lizzette Flores, Community Development; Claude Iosso, City Manager's Office; Hazel Phillips, Emergency Management; Camilo Penuela, King County Metro

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 8:31 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 February 12, 2026, meeting minutes as submitted was made by Robert Spingler The motion was seconded by Laurie Scott and the motion carried unanimously.

5. COMMITTEE REPORTS

- ❖ Routing and Location Subcommittee Report

Casiano Atienza reported that the subcommittee has been working on the Ascend Eucharistic

Revival Procession event scheduled for May 16. The event was described as a Catholic procession expected to last approximately 45 minutes. It will follow a route around City Hall and the Bravern area using the sidewalks and one curb lane. The planning efforts are focused on traffic control measures and coordinating with the police department, transportation staff, and event organizers.

6. OLD BUSINESS

- ❖ Tabled 2026 Application of Intent: Washington Martial Arts Festival

Chair Freeburg reminded the Committee that the event had originally been scheduled for the same date as the Ukrainian Festival, which prompted the action to table the discussion to the next meeting. The organizers have since adjusted their plans and now propose holding the event on September 26, 2026, at Crossroads Park from 10:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. The event is expected to attract approximately 2000 attendees. The event was held successfully in 2025.

Rick Bailey remarked that the Bellevue School Foundation is slated to hold its block party event the same day in Downtown Park with an anticipated attendance of about 500 people. Parks believes both events can be supported on the same day.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the Washington State Martial Arts Festival was made by Casiano Atienza. The motion was seconded by Neal Christiansen and the motion carried unanimously.

6. NEW BUSINESS

- ❖ 2026 Applications of Intent

A. Bubbles, Fairways & Futbol!

Chair Freeburg said the proposed event in Downtown Park is asking for June 13 from 1:00 p.m. to 3:00 p.m., and is anticipated to draw approximately 1000 people. The event will be open to the public and will take place during the broader FIFA-related events, potentially drawing on the increased excitement in the area.

Claude Iosso asked if the organizers had reached out to the city's Economic Development team seeking support. Emily Martella confirmed that the applicants are participating in the Community Programming Fund process administered by Economic Development.

Neal Christiansen observed that the schools will still be in session at the time of the event and asked if the event is intended for children or adults.The event will occur on a Saturday, which should address the concern about school being in session.

Chair Freeburg noted from the application that the event will include several tents, vendors, commercial vehicles, sound equipment, and recreational activities but will not include a stage. The planned activities include a bubble machine, soccer-themed games, dancing, and an eighteen-hole miniature golf setup.

A motion to approve the date, time and location for the Bubbles, Fairways & Futbol! event on

June 13 in Downtown Park was made by Rick Bailey. The motion was seconded by Robert Spingler and the motion carried unanimously.

B. Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink

Chair Freeburg said an application had been received from the Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink requesting a modification to its approved dates and times of operation.

Mike Ogliore explained that the organization was seeking approval to begin operations one week earlier than previously scheduled while keeping the end date unchanged on Martin Luther King Jr. Day. The proposed adjustment will move the public opening to November 13, which will be the second Friday before Thanksgiving, and will result in approximately sixty-seven total days of operation. The set up will require beginning site preparation several weeks beforehand, including draining the pond and coordinating with parks staff to complete the necessary build-out prior to Halloween. The exit plan for dismantling the rink will remain unchanged, with the expectation that the site will be fully cleared by February 1.

Anna Mickols highlighted upcoming changes to the building code requirements that will affect temporary structures such as event tents. The 2024 International Building Code includes significant updates to seismic and wind-loading standards for temporary structures. The design values traditionally used for the rink's tent structure might not comply with the updated standards if the provisions are adopted by the State of Washington before the next event season. Mike Ogliore was urged to consult with their engineer to obtain updated calculations to confirm compliance. Mike Ogliore acknowledged the information and agreed to notify the tent provider and to monitor the regulatory changes.

Anna Mickols clarified that the adoption timeline for the 2024 codes were recently adjusted, with Washington State currently planning to adopt the updated codes in May 2027. The timeline could still change and the state building code council could modify certain provisions. Mike Ogliore was asked to remain attentive to the developments and to reach out with any questions.

A motion to approve the amendment to the start date for the Bellevue Downtown Ice Rink as requested was made by Rick Bailey. The motion was seconded by Meredith Langridge and the motion carried unanimously.

❖ 2026 Post-Event Evaluation

A. Alexander's Hope Valentine's Day Dash

Robert Spingler reported that the event generally went well. The only feedback received involved the suggestion to locate portable toilets along the route. That is not something that traditionally has been provided for 5K events. There were no operational concerns reported.

Anna Mickols said the report from Maggie Whittemore was that no feedback either good or bad had been received about the event, which suggests that it proceeded without incident.

Casiano Atienza said coordination with the event organizer was effective, though there was some back-and-forth discussions regarding the traffic control plan. The race was not timed in 2025 but was for the most recent event, which required additional traffic planning adjustments. Despite the changes, the event was manageable and successful.

Robert Spingler added that some residents along Lake Washington Boulevard had expressed frustration due to temporary delays caused by the race route. Although advance signage and reader boards had been placed as requested, it appears that some neighbors may not have noticed the notices or were unaware of the event. All required notifications were completed and the public concerns likely stemmed from individuals missing the posted information rather than any procedural oversight by event organizers or city staff.

Chair Freeburg said the post-event evaluation indicated that the event proceeded smoothly, with favorable weather conditions and an effective site plan. Setup and load-in occurred efficiently and ahead of schedule, and the layout of the venue functioned well throughout the event. The organizers reported no unforeseen operational problems and no safety concerns. The only logistical request involved obtaining a contact number for towing services in the future, as a vehicle had been left in the parking lot during the event. Overall, the organizers expressed satisfaction with the event and indicated their intention to hold the race again the following year on February 13.

7. NEXT MEETING

- April 9, 2026

8. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Freeburg adjourned the meeting at 8:53 a.m.