

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday  
September 17, 2015  
6:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-112  
Bellevue City Hall  
Bellevue, Washington

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Chair Swenson, Commissioners Howe, Wang, Morin, Shin and Mach

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Diann Strom

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Councilmember Jennifer Robertson; Paul Bucich, Assistant Director Engineering; Brian Ward, Senior Engineer; Pam Maloney, Water Resources Manager; Cameron Parker, Sr. Planner – Parks Department

**MINUTES TAKER:** Laurie Hugdahl

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Swenson at 6:30 p.m.

**2. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion made by Commissioner Wang, seconded by Commissioner Morin, to approve the agenda. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

**4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- July 16, 2015

Commissioner Mach wondered why there were no follow up answers to some of the questions asked at the last meeting such as the one he asked on page 9 about Bellevue's water usage. Asst. Director Bucich indicated he would follow up on that with Deputy Director Lee.

Commissioner Wang also recalled that he had a question on page 4 about the authority of the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) in regard to the PSE project. He asked who has jurisdiction for the final outcome. Councilmember Robertson explained there are two community councils in

the state of Washington. When East Bellevue annexed into Bellevue they continued to have their community council, but their authority is only in regard to land use within their borders in City of Bellevue. She explained that PSE had appealed the community council's decision.

Commissioner Morin referred to the top of page 3 and pointed out that it looks like a word is missing. Asst. Director Bucich thought it should be *recess*.

**Motion made by Commissioner Morin, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

## 5. REPORTS & SUMMARIES

- ESC Calendar/Council Calendar

Paul Bucich explained Andrew Lee was at a Smart Cities Conference. He noted that tonight the ESC would hear about the Storm System Plan, and staff would be looking for a recommendation to forward it to the City Council. In October the ESC will be looking at the Solid Waste Options and the Water System Plan. The goal is to bring that to the ESC for a recommendation to forward to the City Council in November. December will be the retreat only.

On the Council calendar there are a lot of standard resolutions for awarding work to different consultants. There also is an amendment to an existing Interlocal agreement with the Water District No. 1. In October the Issaquah Assumption of Water and Sewer Utilities in South Cove/Greenwood Point will be on the agenda.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS

- **Parks & Open Space Plan Update**  
*Presenter: Cameron Parker, Sr. Planner – Parks Department*

Mr. Parker explained that Parks is working on its Parks and Open Space System Plan Update. The heart of the plan is a set of long-term capital project recommendations in about a 20-year timeframe for the parks, trail, and open space system in Bellevue. The first part of the process is gathering information from the ESC as Bellevue residents about how Bellevue parks are used today and what people would like to see more of in the future. The second part is discussing how the ESC and Parks can work together.

The mission of Parks is to build a healthy community with an integrated system of exceptional parks, open space, recreation, cultural, and human services. The Parks and Open Space System Plan is a functional plan of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan.

Mr. Parker asked the Commission to comment on the core public questions with the following focus areas: open space; greenways; wildlife; corridors and trails; park facilities; active recreation facilities; urban parks systems; waterfront access; partnership opportunities; and historic, cultural, and art resources.

*How do you use the parks and open space system today?* Responses included the following:

- Dog walking - off-leash facilities would be great.
- Open space trail systems – jogging, running, walking
- Sports fields
- Tennis courts, track
- Playgrounds for children

*What would you like to see more of in the future?* Responses included:

- Clarification about who is responsible for maintaining the tennis courts.
- More opportunity for community members to use school-maintained facilities such as tracks and tennis courts. Tracks are often locked and not available for public use.
- More interconnectedness of some of the green areas.
- Community centers.
- More trees in parks, especially the downtown park
- More detail about the Parks Plan or Executive Summary in order to make educated comments. Mr. Parker explained that the Plan is not site-specific; it is very general. Asst. Director Bucich commented that one area the ESC and Parks are related is the restoration of streams. Commissioner Wang concurred and remarked Coal Creek Culvert is an excellent example of this. It was noted that the 2010 version of the Parks Plan is available online.
- Utility Department should be responsible for maintaining streams that run through parks.
- Consideration of the pros and cons of having schools take care of tennis courts and track.
- Better ability to report maintenance issues. – Mr. Parker noted that there is a way to do that now with My Bellevue app.

- Better connectivity of the park system. 108th from 12th to 24th is a traffic calmed street that also is part of the bike system. It is great for walkers, but is not suitable for bikers. There is an opportunity for interaction between Parks, Transportation, ESC, and Human Services.

Mr. Parker then reviewed results of a web-based survey of about 450 park users. Responses show that the top ranked part of parks is trails, wetlands, or other natural areas followed by open area for unstructured play or picnicking such as fields or plazas; community beach, waterfront park, or boat launch; and playgrounds. He noted that these results haven't changed much over the years. When asked to pick between acquiring new park land or developing and improving currently-owned parks, acquiring new parkland and natural areas received slightly more votes (56%). The highest priority for city development included trails (80% had this as their first, second or third choice) through forests, wetlands or other natural areas; community beach, waterfront, or boat launch, and open areas. When asked what community members would like to see more of words like dog areas, walking, trails, bike access, playground and pool came up frequently.

Mr. Parker solicited ESC insight on Utility System Plan alignment, aquatic habitat preservation/restoration, and green infrastructure or ecosystem services, but noted the ESC had already mentioned several ideas.

Commissioner Howe recommended openness for Parks and Utilities to work in concert to meet both groups' goals in a common way. Mr. Parker agreed that there are a lot of opportunities.

Commissioner Morin asked if Parks considers creative ways to meet goals. Mr. Parker thought that this already happens, but will likely happen more in the future because of the need to redevelop and repurpose land.

Asst. Director Bucich commented that the relationship between Parks and Utilities is very strong. Mr. Parker thanked the ESC for their time.

- **Storm System Plan – Request ESC Endorsement of Council Adoption**  
*Presenter: Brian Ward, Sr. Engineer*

Brian Ward explained he had received comments from some commissioners and Mr. Plummer as contained in the handout. Commissioner Wang commended Brian Ward for his work on this massive undertaking.

**Motion made by Commissioner Wang, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to recommend to the City Council the adoption of the 2015 Storm and Surface Water System Plan.**

Chair Swenson pointed out that the Strategic Initiatives are contained in Chapter 14. This is a huge undertaking and one he is delighted to see.

**Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

Brian Ward distributed a draft letter to be sent to the City Council from ESC. Chair Swenson indicated he would sign it after the meeting.

Asst. Director Bucich thanked Chair Swenson for his comments and noted that the Strategic Initiatives would take place over at least the next ten years.

- **Cultural Competence Training**  
*Presenter: Paul Bucich, Assistant Director - Engineering*

Assistant Director Paul Bucich reviewed a memo in the packet from the City Manager regarding a Cultural Competence Training on November 12 and December 17 from 5 to 9 p.m. A light dinner will be provided. He stated Katie would send out more information. Commissioners should let Katie know if they would like to attend. Seating is limited. The training is not required, but is highly recommended for commissioners. The goals are to build community and deepen understanding of cultural competence and equity; increase our self-awareness, exploration of cultural differences, and understanding of systemic inequities; practice applying cultural competence in our daily work; and commit to transferring learning beyond the session. Asst. Director Bucich said he has taken the training and found it to be very enjoyable and engaging. It also helped to highlight the lack of diversity within the city staff relative to the cultural diversity in the community. Staff is considering if the City is using the right mechanisms to reach out to the community.

Commissioner Wang commented on the fact that very few people attend most open houses or hearings. Commissioner Mach noted it's not usually in people's mind unless it's something that impacts them personally. Commissioner Wang suggested the events might need better publicity. Commissioner Mach thought that when things are functioning well no one is concerned. Asst. Director Bucich concurred. He noted there may also be an issue that the City isn't aware of regarding how the community members want to receive their information which is likely different from how the older generation received it. Commissioner Mach suggested that getting more involved with the schools will plant the seed for the future with more awareness of issues in the City. Chair Swenson thought that

once the Strategic Initiative dealing with stormwater runoff gets underway it will likely gain more public interest.

**7. COMMISSION REPORT**

None

**8. DIRECTOR'S OFFICE REPORT**

Asst. Director Bucich explained that the City is still requesting water conservation even though the rains are here. Commissioner Wang recalled at the last meeting he had asked about the yearly amount of water purchased from Cascade Water Alliance. Asst. Director Bucich explained in detail how the agreement with CWA works. Commissioner Wang expressed concern about the amount purchased in excess of what is needed. Asst. Director Bucich explained that it guarantees the City has water available for the community members. Commissioner Wang questioned whether or not this is a good way to do it. Asst. Director Bucich explained the City's reasons for purchasing the amount it does. He offered to have Lucy Liu and/or Allison Bennett come to discuss this in greater detail if so desired.

**9. CONTINUED ORAL COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**10. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.