

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Special Meeting

September 30, 2014  
6:30 p.m. Dinner/7:30 p.m. Meeting

Redmond City Hall  
Redmond, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Balducci, Deputy Mayor Wallace, and Councilmembers Chelminiak, Lee, Robertson and Stokes

ABSENT: Councilmember Robinson

Redmond City Council: Mayor Marchione, Council President Hank Margeson, and Councilmembers Kim Allen, David Carson, Tom Flynn, Hank Myers, Byron Shutz, and John Stilin

1. Executive Session : None.
2. Study Session
  - (a) Council Pre-Meeting Dinner

The group convened at approximately 6:30 p.m. in the Bytes Café at Redmond City Hall for dinner.

- (b) Welcome and Purpose

At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Marchione called the meeting to order. He commented on a construction accident that cut copper wire to Frontier Communications.

Public Works Director Linda De Boldt explained that the accident took down voice, broadband and TV services in the Downtown area. Approximately 6,000 business and residential customers were out of service. The City is coordinating with the contractor, Frontier, and the insurance company to assess damages. There have been discussions about who is responsible and the process for the recovery of lost business due to the lapse in services. Frontier Communications is working to develop a claims process. Ms. De Boldt said services have been restored and are working well.

Mr. Stilin spoke to the disaster preparedness aspects of this accident. Mayor Marchione said the City is reviewing the communications involved with this event, as well.

Mayor Marchione moved forward with the meeting agenda, and Councilmembers introduced themselves. Mayor Marchione noted that it had been seven years since the two Councils last met together, and commented that there are many issues of common interest.

Mayor Balducci thanked the Redmond City Council for their hospitality and dinner. She noted that the cities are intertwined and citizens do not necessarily know which city they are in where the cities intersect. She believes the Eastside cities can be an effective regional influence by working together on common goals.

(c) Overview – Seven Years of Change

Mayor Marchione introduced the presentation by Redmond and Bellevue staff.

Redmond Planning and Community Development Director Rob Odle and Bellevue Planning Director Dan Stroh presented information about the growth in population, diversity, and languages spoken. They noted the diverse, well-educated workforce attracted to both cities and the common challenges (e.g., housing values are far above median income affordability in King County). While there is dynamic job growth in both cities, one challenge is the pockets of poverty.

Mr. Odle described several projects currently underway including Downtown Redmond; investments in the transportation grid; the Cleveland Streetscape anchoring a unified downtown; regional stormwater plan and investment in facilities; and the downtown park.

Mr. Odle described Redmond's second urban center, Overlake, and major investments in that area. These include the NE 36<sup>th</sup> Street bridge, major new stormwater facilities, ped-bike overcrossings at the East Link stations, and more than \$150 million in investments with partners. He described the Pioneer Development Esterra Park project on the old Group Health site and its components: 1,400 homes, commercial development, hotel and conference center, 2.67-acre park, and public infrastructure.

Mr. Odle described the OneRedmond initiative focused on economic vitality and community building. Founding members include the Redmond Economic Development Alliance, Greater Redmond Chamber of Commerce, City of Redmond, Microsoft, and others.

Mr. Stroh described the evolution of Downtown Bellevue as the city's fastest growing residential neighborhood. The technology sector has now embraced the downtown high-rise environment. He described the Downtown Livability Initiative and the vision for a Grand Connection to the Wilburton area.

Mr. Stroh described the new vision adopted for the Bel-Red Corridor focused around three light rail transit nodes. Redevelopment is expected to transform the area from light industrial into residential and mixed uses. Mr. Stroh highlighted phased capital project investments in the Bel-Red and Wilburton areas. He said the most recent challenge with light rail coming to the Eastside is the proposed siting of Sound Transit's Operations and Maintenance Satellite Facility in Bellevue's Bel-Red corridor.

Mr. Stroh showed photos of new parks and cultural facilities including the new Bellevue Youth Theatre at Crossroads Park and Community Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden Visitor Center, Meydenbauer Bay Waterfront Master Plan, and the Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.

Mr. Stroh said the City recently adopted a new Economic Development Strategy to align the efforts of the City Council, staff, and partners. It clearly states the City's economic goals and priorities and focuses the City's efforts.

Mr. Odle and Mr. Stroh highlighted ongoing cooperative regional efforts including ARCH (A Regional Coalition for Housing); Cascade Water Alliance; Human Services pooled funding strategy, online joint application process, and short-term and long-term winter shelters; public safety mutual aid, and other utilities infrastructure (e.g., stormwater outreach, joint use sewer, WRIA 8).

Cooperative efforts in the area of transportation include the Growing Transit Communities study, East Link light rail, joint projects in Bel-Red/Overlake (23 completed and 11 planned projects), SCATS intelligent traffic signal system, Bellevue-Kirkland-Redmond (BKR) traffic model, and the RapidRide B line traffic operations coordination. While the Councils have not met in some time, city staff work together on an ongoing basis to achieve many common goals.

(d) Council Discussion – Topics of Mutual Interest and Cooperation

Mayor Marchione introduced discussion of topics of mutual interest for both cities.

Human Services

Mayor Balducci said emerging common issues on the Eastside include homelessness, panhandling, and public drug use. Mayor Marchione noted discussions between cities about shelters. Councilmember Chelminiak spoke to the work of Congregations for the Homeless and their outreach program. Work to find a permanent shelter location is underway for both men and women. Councilmember Myers spoke to the Eastside Interfaith Social Concerns Council, which is looking at homelessness issues including encampments.

Councilmember Shutz spoke to regional solutions for long-term shelters, including permanent winter shelters.

Councilmember Allen would like to see a cooperative effort to overcome the perception that the problem does not exist. She suggested putting together a set of talking points with supportive data for elected officials to use in advocating for services.

Councilmember Margeson spoke about The Landing, an emergency young adult (ages 18-24) shelter in Redmond operated by the Friends of Youth. Last winter, the facility was over capacity which highlighted the critical need. He noted there are also individuals who choose not to live in shelters. Mr. Margeson said Redmond is considering an ordinance to prevent camping in city

facilities when persons are not cooperative. He noted that panhandling seems to be occurring on the edges of the city, and he encourages citizens to donate to Hopelink and other agencies rather than facilitating panhandling.

Councilmember Lee said the community depends a great deal on nonprofit organizations. He noted that Bellevue provides shelter during certain emergencies in its community centers. He encouraged local governments to work together on a regional level to address the overall issues and to seek funding from other levels of government.

Councilmember Stokes commented on the efforts of Eastside Pathways to address all aspects of a healthy environment and lifestyle for youth and their families.

Councilmember Myers followed up on Ms. Allen's comments regarding raising awareness about the growth in poverty. He suggested an article on this topic and encouraged looking into the demographics of poverty and working to address issues, including in the Crossroads area.

Mayor Balducci said Bellevue's Police Chief has been asked to conduct research on these issues. She questioned whether the Redmond City Council would want its staff to collaborate through joint research and assessment.

Councilmember Carson invited Councilmembers to participate in the One Night Count of the homeless. He noted that Councilmember Robinson participated in last year's count.

### Economic Development

Mayor Balducci described her recent trip to Austin, Texas, and tour of the Seaholm Power Plant redevelopment project which includes the renovation of a creek around which redevelopment will occur. She noted discussions about the need for more parking in Old Bellevue and the surrounding area. Some in the community have suggested the creation of a local improvement district (LID) to fund a parking structure for Bellevue's Downtown Park and the neighborhood.

Ms. Balducci said the City of Austin has used a series of public improvement districts and nature conservancies (i.e., private fundraising agencies) to complete projects and create effective partnerships.

Councilmember Stokes commented on Austin's Seaholm project and its applicability to the Bel-Red corridor.

Deputy Mayor Wallace observed that economic development is an area in which Bellevue and Redmond could work together to accomplish a great deal and make both cities stronger.

Councilmember Myers spoke to the value of cultural events, street fairs, and other community events.

Mayor Marchione spoke to the OneRedmond collaboration. Redmond has been following the Global Cities Initiative. He observed that Bellevue, Redmond, and Seattle can create a powerful tech corridor but it requires planning and collaboration.

Councilmember Allen suggested that the Councils meet annually to advance a joint agenda.

Councilmember Lee spoke to competition with other cities. He said many cities are making greater efforts in economic development and making active choices. He complimented Mayor Lewis of Auburn who makes sure that Washington has a presence. Mr. Lee encouraged a broader unified, collective voice in encouraging technology businesses. He would like to see a greater participation of northwest cities in the Conference of Mayors, where cities showcase their programs.

Councilmember Flynn spoke to the important link between educational opportunities and a well-educated technology sector. He suggested a strategy to partner with other agencies, including the State, to direct funds to high tech education and local hiring.

Councilmember Robertson would like to see the cities get together more often. She said regional collaboration is a key point of the Bellevue Council's new Vision Statement. She said Bellevue recently added two economic development staff, and she would like to see the two cities' staff work more closely together. She believes Bellevue and Redmond can compete favorably with San Francisco and Austin.

Councilmember Stilin spoke to the desire of some that Redmond be "hip" like Capitol Hill. What is important is to find out what our communities value and to provide leadership to implement those values and goals. He noted that Austin is known as a music capital. He suggested that when cities make plans to shape their communities, those plans should resonate with the cities' natural attributes and unique characteristics.

Councilmember Chelminiak observed that Eastside cities will do well through the Global Cities Initiative. Bellevue's economic development plan acknowledges that one of the primary reasons people want to invest in this region is the built environment and public safety. He noted the need to support and grow higher education over time, meet transportation and transit demands, and to address housing affordability. He would like to see the region come together in creating arts and cultural events and amenities.

Councilmember Myers spoke to job attraction, micro-housing, and lessening impacts on traffic.

Mayor Balducci would like an opportunity to talk about a variety of housing forms and affordable housing. She said Bellevue does not have any micro-apartments, and she does not believe the Code allows for that type of development.

Councilmember Allen said Redmond recently updated its Code and impact fees to address micro-housing. She urged the Bellevue Council to tour the two developments and noted that how they are implemented is critical. She said this is the leading edge for affordability.

### Transportation/Transit

Councilmember Margeson observed that the micro-housing concepts rely on transit, at the same time in which Metro bus services are being reduced. He spoke to the need for more bus service and questioned how cities might partner to improve transit services in their communities.

Councilmember Allen, Vice Chair of the King County Regional Transit Committee, suggested a review of strategic plans and guidelines to coordinate a united Eastside message.

Councilmember Margeson described a budget request from concerned senior citizens for a transportation circulator. He would like to expand this type of service beyond seniors.

Councilmember Lee concurred with the need for more transit service, noting that the population is increasingly using buses. Bellevue has talked about a Downtown Circulator. However, the costs are prohibitive. He said he would like to see a public-private partnership and noted that Microsoft operates their own shuttles.

Councilmember Stilin observed that Metro's product does not fit the community's needs. He said more attention should be given to park and ride lots and other facilities that better match Eastside riders' travel patterns.

Councilmember Stokes spoke to the need for better alternatives to driving. He said cities need to work together for a broad transportation package.

Councilmember Flynn spoke to the role of transit-oriented development (TOD) communities. He observed that the need for bus service will continue to grow until light rail is in place.

Councilmember Chelminiak noted that Bellevue recently updated and adopted its Transit Master Plan. He suggested that Redmond, Kirkland and Bellevue work together to develop and present a plan to Metro.

Councilmember Carson said he would like to get congestion points on the two cities' border to work better. He spoke to the shared intersections in the Overlake area and the need for additional investments.

Councilmember Stilin spoke about the potential benefits of a lid over I-405. He suggested dedicating air rights overhead to transit and using the land for other forms of transportation.

Deputy Mayor Wallace described the expansion of NE 6<sup>th</sup> Street over I-405 in conjunction with a walkway. He spoke to the need for a statewide solution to multi-modal transportation issues to include funding for Metro, local roads, SR 520, and I-405. He expressed concern about the negative impacts to the operation of I-405 and SR 520 if funding is not available to complete needed projects. Mr. Wallace said Seattle Mayor Murray is working on a multi-modal package for the state legislature. Deputy Mayor Wallace said he is concerned about the pressure on the transportation system with the planned development in Redmond and the Bel-Red corridor.

Responding to Mayor Balducci, staff said the BKR model is regularly updated to predict future development conditions. He said the last major joint transportation initiative was the BROTS (Bellevue Redmond Overlake Transportation Study) effort 15 years ago. The last projects in that plan were completed three years ago.

Mayor Balducci suggested that the two cities share information regarding traffic impacts and trip generation for neighboring projects. Mr. Odle said staff of both cities share information and engage in joint transportation modeling.

Councilmember Stokes said it is important to monitor the impacts to neighborhoods and to keep residents involved in conversations to address their concerns.

Mayor Marchione summarized Councilmembers' interest in modeling the Bel-Red corridor in five-year intervals and working together to identify the Eastside's transit needs. He suggested the Councils do their homework on transit principles and which services are most important for their communities. He suggested asking the City of Kirkland to join in identifying needs and developing a message for Metro. He suggested developing a multi-county request consistent with the Puget Sound Regional Council's criteria to seek regional funding.

#### Arts on the Eastside

Mayor Balducci noted several initiatives underway in Bellevue, with the largest being the Tateuchi Center under development by PACE (Performing Arts Center Eastside). She observed that the Eastside is losing arts customers and patrons to Seattle, and she suggested that Eastside cities work together to develop arts and cultural facilities.

Councilmember Lee returned to the topic of BROTS and the history of the two cities. He said it is important to meet regularly and to keep abreast of what each city is doing.

#### (e) Going Forward and Wrap-up

Mayor Balducci thanked everyone and suggested that the meeting be held in Bellevue next year.

Councilmember Allen suggested the consideration of joint Council committees to address shared issues.

Mayor Marchione thanked everyone for coming and suggested inviting the participation of other cities.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:36 p.m.

Myrna L. Basich, MMC  
City Clerk

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