

East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 3, 2015
6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Boys & Girls Club
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Capron, Councilmember Gooding, Councilmember Hummer,
Councilmember Kasner, Councilmember Hughes

ABSENT: None

STAFF: None.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Chair Capron presiding.

2. **ROLL CALL**

The Deputy City Clerk called the roll. All Councilmembers were present.

3. **FLAG SALUTE**

Chair Capron led the flag salute.

(a) 2015 Election of Officers

Councilmember Kasner nominated Chair Capron for the Chair position. A vote was taken and Chair Capron was unanimously chosen to continue in the Chair position for 2015.

Chair Capron nominated Councilmember Kasner for Vice Chair. A vote was taken and Councilmember Kasner was unanimously chosen as Vice Chair for 2015.

Councilmember Gooding nominated Councilmember Hummer for the Alternate Vice-Chair position. A vote was taken and Councilmember Hummer was unanimously chosen as the Alternate Vice-Chair for 2015.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL**

Steve Fricke spoke and commented on the delay in getting permanent regulations set regarding the room rental situation. He urged the EBCC to push City Council forward on the room rental ordinance and noted that he is disappointed that the issue has not come in front of City Council.

Don Boettiger spoke and questioned whether there was any update regarding the old Maple Leaf restaurant. The Deputy City Clerk noted that there are no open permits regarding the restaurant and it is unknown why the restaurant is not in operation.

5. **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

(a) Community Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Hummer presented a slide show of various things she has been out and about observing in the neighborhood. She spoke about the Bellevue College housing. The college is also upgrading the softball and soccer fields. There will be a 14,000 square foot field house. She also noted that the Montessori school is now at 50% capacity. They are a bi-lingual, English and Chinese school. She noted that Chinese is the second most spoken language in Bellevue homes. Councilmember Hummer went on to note that she saw some graffiti in the area and she went to Publicstuff.com and made a request to remove the graffiti. It was very quickly cleaned up. She encouraged everyone to go to Publicstuff.com and report any issues that they see in their neighborhood.

Councilmember Hummer noted that they are improving the crosswalk in front of Sammamish High School. Darek Jarzynski from the City of Bellevue has made this a priority project. He goes out on his own and monitors what is going on. He has made the crosswalk extremely safe. Anyone who has ideas to improve the 140th corridor, please let Darek know. Continuing on, Councilmember Hummer noted that the old Odle Middle School is now gone. She mentioned the demographics report that was presented by the City at the Parks Board meeting. Councilmember Hummer also mentioned the Eastside Rail Corridor, which is not in the EBCC jurisdiction, however is something she feels the residents need to be aware of. The City of Bellevue does not currently own any part of it. The corridor runs from Snohomish all the way down to Renton. There are various easements along the way.

Councilmember Kasner reported about the budget approvals at City Council in December. He also noted that he drove by the monster house to see if it could be determined if anyone was living there. On the way he observed that a house on SE 17th has been demolished near the monster house. Councilmember Kasner also spent time with Neighborhood Outreach folks from the City. The City is adding a neighborhood element to the Comprehensive Plan. The Plan will speak to the individual neighborhood character. He noted that Lake Hills has a character that he wants to see preserved. Councilmember Kasner also spent time writing the article for It's Your City. He is interested in having a retreat in the future so that the EBCC can delve into some of the burning issues.

Chair Capron noted that the fence around the Key Bank property at Kelsey Creek Center has been replaced. The old Maple Leaf restaurant still appears to be closed. Chair Capron noted that he drove past Odle Middle School and picked up some information about the construction. He hopes to be able to do a site visit in the future and have a tour of the construction and progress.

6. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve the agenda. The motion was seconded by Chair Capron and passed unanimously.

7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

None.

8. **PUBLIC HEARINGS**

None.

9. **RESOLUTIONS**

- (a) Resolution No. 546 Electing 2015 Community Council Officers

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve Resolution No. 546. Chair Capron seconded the motion and it passed unanimously.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

None.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

- (a) Energize Eastside informational presentation

Chair Capron noted for the audience that there is a quasi-judicial proceeding regarding a transmission line that cannot be discussed tonight. The project PSE is here to speak about is the Energize Eastside project.

Keri Pravitz, Community Projects Manager for PSE, and Jens Nedrud, Senior Project Manager for PSE, presented the information regarding Energize Eastside.

Mr. Nedrud began discussing the new project which will start in 2017 and 2018. This is a project to keep the lights on. The growth is straining the region's existing transmission system. A lot of different ideas have been looked at to solve the problem. While energy efficiency and conservation help, they are not enough to keep pace with the growth in this area.

Councilmember Kasner questioned what time frame PSE is looking at protecting. New technologies are not yet matured. He noted his concern that there are new technologies coming and how have those been accounted for.

In response, Mr. Nedrud noted that technology has come a long way. When it comes to power, we still use wires to bring that power to a person's home. There have been a lot of advancements in battery technology, but the biggest challenge is the limited range. Right now it is not cost effective from a battery technology standpoint. PSE still generates the power and at the speed of light get it to every home and business.

Mr. Nedrud continued and spoke about the power system being first installed in the 1930's. The 1960's was the last time Puget Power upgraded the electrical system in this area. They changed to a 115kv line at that time. That is the power that still operates today, however the population has increased 8 times since then.

Chair Capron questioned whether there are any power poles in the downtown area.

In response, Mr. Nedrud stated that there are power poles that move all the power behind Bellevue Square mall and up through the Clyde Hill area with multiple substations that move all the way around downtown to bring the power to those areas.

Mr. Nedrud went on to say that the Puget Sound Regional Council are the experts on forecasting. They are predicting staggering amounts of growth in the next 30 years. King County is the fastest growing county in the country and 80% of the construction cranes in the country are in Bellevue or Seattle.

Chair Capron asked if forecasting has been the way the projections have been looked at since the 1960's. Chair Capron also questioned how those projections from the 60's matched what actually occurred in the 90's.

In response, Mr. Nedrud noted that the use of forecasting has been in place for a very long time. However, they are just predictions, which is why forecasting is completed every two years now to update those predictions.

Councilmember Kasner questioned the weather changes and if PSE is taking into account the savings with the shift in weather patterns.

Mr. Nedrud responded by saying that PSE has to plan to keep the power on at the most extreme of temperatures. The power has to stay on for the hottest day in the summer and the coldest day in the winter. There have been some long term shifts in weather patterns, but PSE plans to the peak events in both summer and winter.

Councilmember Kasner questioned what growth rate PSE is relying on.

In response, Mr. Nedrud noted that PSRC is predicting almost 3% growth for the eastside, whereas the rest of King County is less than 1%.

Councilmember Hughes noted that he did forecasting at Weyerhaeuser for 15 years. He feels that there is nothing on the chart that could potentially occur. He feels price elasticity will come into effect. When the price goes up, people use less.

In response, Mr. Nedrud stated that the project has nothing to do with the price of power or generating power. There is enough generation and that power can be brought to the edges of the Eastside, however there is an issue bringing the power, reliably, from those two points to each and every home and business on the Eastside.

Sue Fitch spoke and asked where the LED lightbulbs go when they burn out since you cannot just throw them away.

Mr. Nedrud responded that the lights can be recycled. There are special recycling sites at hardware stores. PSE also has recycling sites at their buildings.

Mr. Nedrud went on to state that the current schedule, as it sits, would be to announce the routing in 2015/2016. At that point the design process and Environmental Review process begins. Those will take about 2 years to complete. Construction would not begin until the end of 2017 and would complete by end of 2018.

Keri Pravitz continued the presentation and spoke about the Community Advisory Group process and discussed the considerable amount of time that the members volunteered to this issue.

Ms. Pravitz went on to speak about how this is a transmission issue versus a distribution issue. She discussed the evaluation factors that were looked at. Those factors included avoiding impacts to aesthetics; avoiding residential areas; avoiding sensitive community land uses; avoiding sensitive environmental areas, and more. The Advisory Group then rated the routes based on the criteria and narrowed down the routes to only four. In December the Advisory Group got together and came up with two final routes to present PSE as options.

Currently there is not a permit. The work being conducted has been all out ahead of the process and has been about getting the community engaged. Right now there is the recommendation from the Advisory Group and an announcement will be made soon regarding routing. There is also work to be done with individual property owners. In addition, an independent review by a 3rd party is being conducted right now. Utilities Systems Efficiency has been selected to conduct the review and is currently conducting a technical analysis. A review for the creation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) is also in process. After conclusion of the EIS, the permitting process begins.

Councilmember Kasner noted that he did not like the ad campaign that went out. He felt that it was a scare tactic to use hospitals going dark as an example to the community.

Councilmember Hughes noted that PSE is a foreign-owned, private company. He feels that has created questions in the community regarding the motivation behind projects like these.

Mr. Nedrud responded that PSE is held to the Washington State Utility and Transportation Commission standards, regardless of where the profit check goes. Every project that goes through must be reviewed to ensure that the project was necessary.

For more information on the Energize Eastside project, you can visit

www.pse.com/energizeeastside, or email your questions to energizeeastside@pse.com

Don Boettiger spoke and noted that he has not seen anything but negative comments, regarding the Energize Eastside project, from residents.

(b) Potential Future Agenda Items

Chair Capron noted that the EBCC is expecting to renew the emergency ordinance regarding room rentals at the March meeting.

Council discussion regarding potential agenda items for March.

Councilmember Gooding left the meeting at 8:20 pm.

Councilmember Kasner brought up the idea of a retreat in April for the EBCC. The retreat would focus on upcoming issues and items the EBCC would like to review.

13. **CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS**

None.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION**

None.

15. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(a) Summary Regular Meeting Minutes - December 2, 2014

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve the minutes. Councilmember Hummer seconded the motion and it was approved unanimously.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

Chair Capron adjourned the meeting at 8:50 p.m.

Charmaine Arredondo
Deputy City Clerk