



**Neighborhood Leadership Gathering  
September 26, 2013  
Meeting Summary**

On September 26, Neighborhood Outreach hosted a gathering of 34 neighborhood leaders to provide an opportunity to receive updates on previous concerns and share with one another around table discussions on popular topics. Brad Miyake, Acting City Manager, introduced himself and shared a few words on the CMO search and the importance of the role of neighborhood leaders to provide input for the future of city planning. Deputy Chief Jim Joliffe and staff from Bellevue Police reported on residential burglary and crime prevention, which was very well received. Table discussions were formed around Crime and Safety, Building Bridges Across Cultures, Emergency Preparedness, Improving Communication with the City, and Revitalizing Your Neighborhood Association.

Deputy Chief Jim Joliffe shared about the four legs of crime prevention; police response, crime data analysis, investigation and neighborhood crime prevention. Shawna Gibson, Police Crime Analyst, went over the Crime Map for Bellevue – and ways to identify reports and trends in neighborhoods. The Crime Map can be found at <http://www.crimemapping.com/map/wa/bellevue> and provides data by date range, crime type, and by a radius around a specific address. Residents can also sign up for alerts from the Crime Map for regular updates. Lt Lisa Patricelli and Detective Richard Chinn shared Crime Prevention Tips, The Be Safe, Do-It Yourself Home Safety Booklet (it can be found at [http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Police/Be\\_safe\\_2013\\_-\\_Web-ready\\_PDF.pdf](http://www.bellevuewa.gov/pdf/Police/Be_safe_2013_-_Web-ready_PDF.pdf)) and discussed crime and safety efforts around a table discussion group.

The 2013 Neighborhood Area map, used by Neighborhood Outreach to assign Neighborhood Liaisons was also shared (see page 4). The new boundaries were identified to recognize Downtown, Bel-Red and Eastgate as new neighborhoods, formerly not included in the old Neighborhood Enhancement Project area map. As part of the Comprehensive Plan process, the Planning Commission will be reviewing their Sub Area Planning Map over the next year – and will consider updating the Sub Area boundaries to better align to today's neighborhood area boundaries. Input from neighborhood leaders about the boundaries used in the Neighborhood Area map is being sought – and can be sent to Nicholas Matz, Senior Planner, [NMatz@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:NMatz@bellevuewa.gov).

Neighborhood Workshops were also presented as new offerings to help enhance neighborhood meetings. These can be found at <http://www.bellevuewa.gov/neighborhood-events.htm>

Neighborhood leaders had table discussions around shared areas of concern. Some of the themes heard from the night included:

- Acknowledging that Bellevue is growing into a bigger city
- The need to provide more social services for the homeless and mentally ill
- Better noise ordinances for downtown
- Desire for affordable housing
- Clarity on video surveillance policies for neighborhoods
- Planning for impacts of growth/density for surrounding neighborhoods of Bel-Red and
- Building bridges across cultures to broaden community participation in neighborhoods.



Neighborhood leaders shared about the importance of good communication. Use of the social media tool, NextDoor, has been very effective in communicating with neighbors on many issues. Leaders are exploring the possibility of 'virtual meetings' for people to attend via computers. And there is an expressed desire to make the City of Bellevue's website more user-friendly.

Additionally, representatives from Surrey Downs, Vuecrest, Phantom Lake, Crossroads, Lake Hills, Newport Hills had a discussion about the desire to be more welcoming and inclusive of neighbors where there is a language or cultural barrier. They are looking for tips and help from the City to reach out to their diverse neighbors.

Downtown residents discussed their desire to have a greater voice in the future of downtown. There is concern about improving noise ordinances, event planning & communication with residents around Downtown park, maintaining green spaces, adding more benches and places to sit down, and planning for more public spaces downtown for residential use. Downtown residents want assistance to better organize and help their voice be heard in downtown planning.

Neighborhood leaders provided written feedback on the following questions:

**What do you want us to know?**

- Bellevue is a great place to live and I want to keep it that way
- We appreciate the workshops and support!
- We want to work together, love these meetings, love neighborhood liaisons and these forums!

*Specific Requests*

- Event promotion to greater neighborhood is tough - how can the city help?
- The number one priority for our neighborhood is getting a sidewalk on 130th Ave SE south at SE 46th Street. Besides being the main road for our neighborhood, 130th Ave SE gets a lot of pedestrian traffic, but without the benefit of a sidewalk. We feel this is a safety hazard.

*Crime & Safety*

- Our city needs good social workers to help with the increasing mentally ill people, many on our streets of hanging around the library. They need help. We need a shelter for the homeless/mentally ill.
- Homeless people around Crossroads, traffic on 148th Ave NE
- We have an increase in car break-ins. The Crab Pot also attracts car break-ins
- We love Detective Chinn - he educates us and partners with us.
- Drug dealing around schools is still a problem
- Burglaries

*Neighborhood Character*

- Multi-Room Rentals in residential Single Family neighborhood
- Business in Single Family neighborhoods
  - Daycare businesses in residential Single Family neighborhoods
  - Nail Salon permits in residential Single Family neighborhood
- Increase in rental houses with cars and trash on front lawns
- It seems like we are losing the character of single family-owned housing in Bellevue's neighborhoods to an increase of rental owners and large development interests.

*City Planning*

- It is important for living in the city to be reasonably affordable



- High density living - in the core that is. Commercial has no time limits for noise associated with cleaning - in the middle of the night. Construction has hours.
- How growth targets take into account of quality of life for existing residents such as living expenses, water, parks and schools
- Construction of 450 unit apartment buildings that will affect local traffic – ( i.e. GRE on 156th and 24th )
- We want to be sure how to effectively make our concern on keeping Ashwood Park green heard and acted upon. What are the steps to work through the city?
- We love our parks - and would like more flowers, more public spaces, more third places, gardens, pea patches

**What would you like to see addressed in future gatherings?**

Neighborhood/COB matching fund program for neighborhood projects

How to work with evolving demographics of Bellevue, especially encouraging community involvement

*Crime & Safety*

- Very interested in policies and assistance with video surveillance
- Police manpower. Bellevue is becoming a city. Add Sound Transit then more vagrants in the city - more police required.
- BlockWatch - how to information - forms. Info on signs, etc
- Increase in panhandling on street corners and tent cities without the approval from neighbors

*City Planning*

- Development by Wright Runstead & Pinecrest affecting neighborhoods
- Planning activities, development and capital construction; social trends and issues
- Safety; Preserving SF neighborhoods
- In 2 1/2 years Sound Transit construction – we fear massive traffic jams in South Bellevue
- Downtown noise. How can we change the ordinance? Where can we meet as a neighborhood? Can we ban leaf blowers- the gas type? Who is tracking decibels and total noise pollution?
- Noise control (time restrictions) Noise control during events or time and coordination of building maintenance) Communication of events, how do we communicate at night after 5 pm, after Friday or Sunday when we are home and no one is working in the City government? Parks begin working too early when we are enjoying, can they work when all of us are at work?
- Parks
- Water (will there be enough?) Schools (growth hurting school quality), Need for apartments/mixed use commercial where appropriate; Expensive to live in Bellevue; traffic growth target, light rail, bus transportation (to and from Seattle)
- Understanding sub area plans; arterial traffic issues
- The neighborhood areas are too large and they need to be reduced in size, and new boundaries established



## Neighborhood Liaisons

Sometimes it helps to have a connection with someone who knows the City, the neighborhoods and the community resources that are available.

Neighborhood liaisons are assigned to each of the 16 unique neighborhood areas and provide assistance for resident questions, connection to available resources and support to help strengthen neighborhood associations and improve City responsiveness to neighborhood concerns.

### **Bridle Trails, Bel-Red, Northwest Bellevue, Northeast Bellevue, West Bellevue:**

Mike McCormick Huentelman, 425-452-4089, mmhuent@bellevuewa.gov

### **Factoria, Eastgate, Cougar Mountain/Lakemont, West Lake Sammamish:**

Carol Ross, 425-452-7917, cross@bellevuewa.gov

### **Downtown Bellevue, Wilburton, Woodridge and Lake Hills:**

Julie Ellenhorn, 425-452-5372, jellenhorn@bellevuewa.gov

### **Somerset, Newport:**

Ying Carlson, 425-452-4342, ycarlson@bellevuewa.gov

### **Crossroads:**

Barb Tuininga, 425-452-2800, btuininga@bellevuewa.gov

