



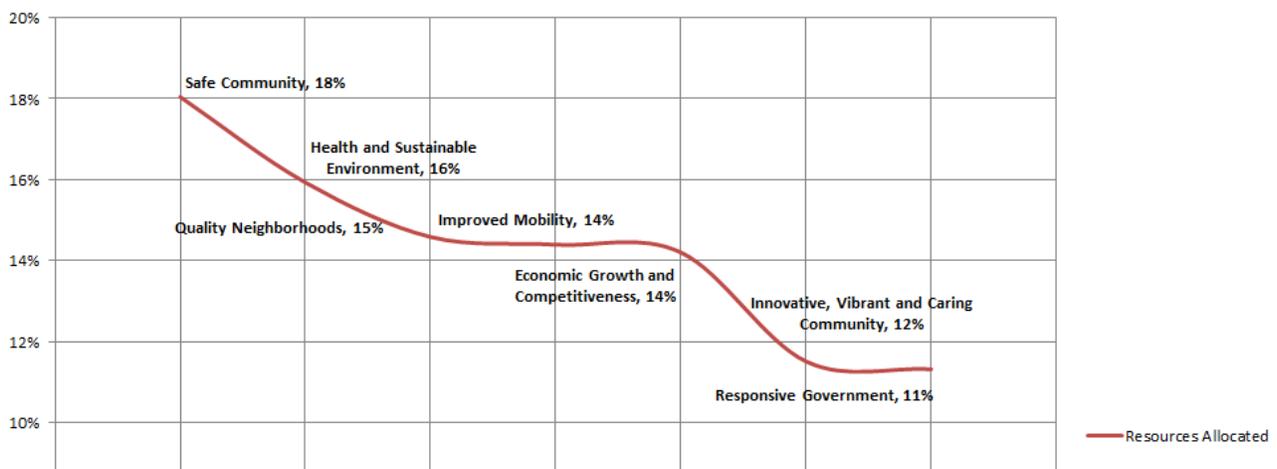
Neighborhood Leadership Gathering Meeting Summary March 3, 2014

On February 27, the Neighborhood Outreach team hosted a Neighborhood Leadership Gathering which assembled over 60 neighborhood leaders, invited to share their priorities for the City budget and their neighborhoods for the coming year. There was great representation from neighborhoods across Bellevue, the East Bellevue Community Council, established neighborhood associations and newly formed neighborhood associations. Finance Director Jan Hawn and Assistant Finance Director Toni Rezab presented an overview of Bellevue's Budget One process. The Neighborhood Leadership Gathering had a three-fold purpose: to introduce our neighborhood leaders to the Budget One process and solicit their input on budget priorities, to obtain a better assessment of where our neighborhood leaders will invest their time in the coming year, and to provide information on upcoming Outreach programs, classes and events.

Bellevue's Budget One process obtains results in seven different outcome areas. Neighborhood leaders were provided ten dots (each one representing 10 percent of their total budget) and asked to distribute them to the outcome areas where they wish to allocate the resources. The outcome areas included Safe Community, Improved Mobility, Healthy and Sustainable Environment, Innovative and Caring Community, Quality Neighborhoods, Responsive Government and Economic Growth and Competitiveness. The distribution of dots indicated that neighborhood leaders allocated their resources in the following areas:

- 18% 94 dots, Safe Community
- 16% 83 dots, Healthy and Sustainable Environment
- 15% 76 dots, Quality Neighborhoods
- 14% 75 dots, Improved Mobility
- 14% 74 dots, Economic Growth and Competitiveness
- 12% 60 dots, Innovative, Vibrant and Caring Community
- 11% 59 dots, Responsive Government

Allocation of Resource Exercise Neighborhood Leadership Gathering



During this gathering, neighborhood leaders also shared their priorities and concerns. There was a general discussion about the importance of “Responsive Government” – and although it ranked lower in the budget exercise, it was underscored that it does not reflect its relative importance to neighborhood leaders. Neighborhood leaders both stressed being appreciative of the high level of city responsiveness to their concerns and the need for improvement by city staff to respond to neighborhood concerns.

The general discussion covered a range of topics, including improving neighborhood walkability, concern about water pollution and run-off, and a need for a Bellevue Fire Station for Downtown. There was concern that the data collected through the All City Survey (used to inform the budgeting process) better reflect the socio-economic diversity of Bellevue and neighborhood representation in the sample size. And neighborhood leaders appreciated the budget presentation by Finance Director Jan Hawn and Assistant Finance Director, Toni Rezab and the ability to contribute their input. Submitted written comments (see Attachment #1) highlight budget priorities from neighborhood leaders.

The remainder of the Leadership Gathering focused on identifying the top priorities and issues that neighborhood leaders will be working on in the coming year. Submitted written priorities are attached (see Attachment #2). Neighborhood leaders were asked to submit an annual Neighborhood Association registration form to assist the City in knowing their boundaries and current contact information. Announcements highlighted opportunities for neighborhood groups to participate in upcoming classes, connecting to the Planning Commission’s work on the Comprehensive Plan, and Neighborhood Outreach programs like Neighborhood Match and Neighbor Link.

- 8** Requests for information on Neighbor Link activities
- 12** Requests for information on Neighborhood Match projects
- 14** Requests for information on Neighborhood Association Organizing
- 10** Requests for information on Bellevue Essentials

**Attachment #1
Budget Priorities: Submitted Comments
Neighborhood Leadership Gathering
February 27, 2014**

“What are your priorities that the City should consider when preparing the budget?”

Safe Community

- Downtown Fire Station
- Coordinate “Noisy Service’s Day to 2-3-Day per week (i.e. Blowers, mowers, edger, cleaners, saws, road work, etc.)
- Please stop eliminating jobs. You can’t say Public Safety is important while cutting police and fire positions.
- Crime prevention/safety/united neighborhoods
- Neighborhood – training for homeowners, for security
- Security in neighborhoods (burglaries, speeding cars...)
- Increase police-citizen effort /cooperation to improve neighborhood safety and security.
- Efficiency. When someone calls 9-1-1 with medical emergency, up to 3 fire trucks and ambulance show up. Why?? Our neighbors were burglarized and they waited for over 1 hour for a single police car to show up. Seems disproportionate.
- Security
- Safety; police, fire
- Downtown fire station
- More police car/bike patrols during the day in neighborhoods
- Always police and fire
- Public Safety
- Greater police presence in neighborhoods – too many speeders!
- Security patrols
- Neighborhood safety
- Neighborhood safety
 - Improve police response time
- Fire and police – we need a downtown fire station including a 3rd ladder truck. We need more manpower on the BPD to deal with crime – solving crime.

Healthy and Sustainable Environment

- “Keep Ashwood Park Green”
- Cost of water and King County Waste
- Clean water
- That all city purchases be for sustainable goods and services. Have products ranked by level of sustainability For Bellevue government to buy unsustainable products is like the bank guard robbing the bank.
- Maintain the quality of water and water infrastructure system
- Dredge Meydenbauer Bay
- Clean out ravines of invasive growth (security)
- Continue water and lines upgrades to Lake Heights
- Maintain green spaces to be accessible to all.
- Keep grass/weeds growing in public areas of Lake Heights – I’m lucky to get one cutting per year.
- Limit house footprints to sustain tree canopy
- Water run-off is polluting our waterways – need to develop rain garden expertise
- Stop wasting water on lawns - Except for sports areas

Quality Neighborhoods

- Walkable neighborhoods
- Community gathering places
- Community center in downtown Bellevue, by library with pool
- If the City wants to build a community center Downtown, choose a location other than Ashwood Park. Open green space is very scarce Downtown, and we need to keep what we have in order to support a healthy lifestyle in our densely populated area.
- Open up SW corner of NE 4th St./Bellevue Way to create community gathering area, possibly permanent ice skating rink, so we don't lose pond 3 months per year – provides area close to shopping and Bellevue Collection; keep it close to Snowflake Lane, shopping, etc.
- Our city is growing in diversity and it is very important for our community to build trust and relations. In order for our community to build relations and bridge the linguistic and cultural gap, we need to increase funding for the outreach program that made it possible for Cultural Conversations to merge and transform our community! Lack of this funding will increase fear and isolation in our growing diverse community.
- Creation of community gathering spaces – indoor and outdoor, in each neighborhood (events, meetings, rental)
- Re-work the permitting process for neighborhoods when they hold events. Right now, the permitting process is costly, confusing (departments give citizens the runaround) and actually inhibit neighborhood gathering. Neighborhood gatherings are not Symetra Family 4th or the Strawberry Festival' don't make us go through that process.
- Improve enforcement of "monster house" regulations.
- City codes - Don't allow "monster houses" to destroy views, property values, quality of life.
- Community Centers or Teen Center - make one in Newport Hills old Red Apple
- Clean around neighborhoods and within, improve entrances and mobility (lighting in neighborhoods)
- Eliminate graffiti
- Support the neighborhoods around Bellevue College and the impacts in housing and character immediately adjacent to the college.
- Community gathering place and activities
- Preservation of safe, quality, single family neighborhoods are the highest priority
- Vision – for example we now have apartments and condos that have gone up, will be built and we have no community center for the central city
- Establishing more regulations on rental housing to make owners more accountable to laws, appearance, behaviors
- Enabling more proactive power to Code Compliance in dealing (or discovery of) unacceptable home appearances
- View enhancement to protect property values. Right of way of overgrown trees.
- Bellevue "third place" park development at Bellevue Way and 20th N.
- "Northtowne Signs" at Bellevue/Northtowne Entry points
- Neighborhood pride results in increased awareness and participation by residents in programs (and leadership). Let's focus on this fundamental goal. Improvements like sidewalks, underground power, safety, helping hand programs, signage, street sweeping, rain collection all increase pride.
- A community center next to the library, with a pool, make them one start and a connection to the library.
- Sell the N. Bellevue Community Center; it is a block from Redmond and attended by 30% of Redmond citizens

Improved Mobility

- Underground parking garage at NE corner of NE 1st St. and 102nd Ave. NE, under current parking lot – need more parking!!!
- Reduce speed to 15mph on NE 1st St., between 100th and 102nd Ave. NE and add speed bump at crosswalk to stop racing and speeding...it's bad
- We would like the city to solve the over flow parking issue at Robinswood Tennis Center that leads to a lot of parking on 153rd Ave. SE.
- The Robinswood Community wants speed bumps in our neighborhood!!!
- Smart Transit – Current transit is a disincentive. Takes about 45 minutes to an hour to get from 172nd Ave. and NE 8th St. to downtown. Frequency is poor. Have to pay 2 fares to get into Seattle because we have 2 systems (Bellevue Transit & Sound Transit). It's cheaper to drive to Seattle early, get early bird fare for parking
- Improve mobility, repair and install sidewalks and continue to install bicycle lanes. Please consider continuing the contiguous bicycle and pedestrian corridors. Fix integrity of arterial and neighborhood roads. The intersection at Eastgate Way and 156th, the potholes are atrocious. Really bad. I'd like a little more lighting along trails, too.
- The loss of bus services throughout residence areas causes more to take to the car which impacts mobility.
- Walkable neighborhoods
- Sidewalks
- Mass transit
- Sidewalk on North side of SE 24 between 145th and 148 (Hidden Village Apts)
- Improved paving, roads, sidewalks throughout the East Bellevue community
- Traffic flow – light sink
- Traffic flow – lessen the gridlocks that occur
- Flashing lights at the crosswalks in front of Sammamish High
- Traffic must be reduced. Study impact of city busses that stop cars and backup traffic
- Improve downtown city traffic flow
- Develop city's section of the rail line for biking/walking
- Preservation and expansion for auto-mobility would be next.
- Walkable neighborhoods
- 108th Ave. developed as a "skinny street" from 12th to 24th
- Re-engineering of street traffic situation at 112th, 24th and "New" Hidden Valley Park!
- Traffic improvement
- Safe and healthy pedestrian walkways
- 112th and 24th intersection
- Less traffic – more, easier public transportation
- Sidewalks, speed bumps, speed radars
- Traffic
- Transportation – help us get out of our cars – need bus/bike/ride share – congestion is unacceptable
- Pursue the West Lake Sammamish Parkway restoration project (next phases now that phase 1 is complete).
- Increased street side maintenance (brush cutting, tree trimming, etc.) currently several Woodridge/Norwood/ 123rd Ave. areas are only 1 x/year. Would like 3x per year.
- I would like to see consideration of the disproportion of city funds allocated to the downtown core versus the rest of the city. Example is the investment in the quality of downtown roads versus the shabby condition in the outer residential neighborhoods.
- Gondolas to get people moving around the city. Gondolas for center city, hospital, Sound Transit stations
- Covered waiting stations with seats for the busses

Economic Growth and Competitiveness

- Support local business
- Entire streets get paved, then cut up and dug up to bury something just after it's done; how about some coordination??
- City wide broadband coverage to attract and maintain businesses to Bellevue
- Plan to put underground current above ground power lines – much of the city looks like “India” on eastside in particular
- More low income housing.
- Rainy day reserves
- Reliable power – city should increase oversight of PSE
- Get another cable provider- competition would be great!
- 10-20 year plan to bury all overhead wires.
- Density of housing and services
- City hall vending machines should accept credit cards
- Improve Newport Hills business district
- Business development in Newport Hills
- Affordable housing
- Affordable housing

Innovative and Caring Community

- Continue park development
- Downtown green spaces maintained and Ashwood Park specifically improved with benches, tables, adult and child oriented activities, trees, walking path around the perimeter
- Maintain the high quality of our parks
- The creation of a vibrant community is going to have to deal with the challenges of diversity from many Asian cultures.
- Quality and diversity of our Parks; adds to the environmental quality and to the neighborhood quality at the same time. Keep existing area parks – do not allow a concrete jungle.
- Parks – including fields
- Robinswood Park bathrooms at play area
- Aquatic Center improvement – 50 meter pool
- More \$ to animal control @ COB parks!!
- Preserve green space
- Help our children – hunger, housing, before/after school care
- Encourage food saving – sharing in neighborhoods and in public places

Responsive Government

- When people cannot speak English well, it is hard to hear voices of those who are isolated. Please remember to focus on newcomers. They are in Bellevue, too.
- Local neighborhood data gathering appears to be useless
- Review of budget for waste, projects that are not necessary
- Code compliance, plus setting codes to keep neighborhoods clean, safe, attractive
- Waste. If the city has a waste prevention office reviewing city contracting, a lot of money could be saved to spend on needed projects. I have seen hundreds of thousands of \$\$ spent on hiring out of town consultants to study issues, that could be better studied by Bellevue citizens committees for free.
- Clear directions on subdividing properties and what happens when zoning changes take effect.

- Code enforcement needs appropriate staffing and resources to stop the building/remodeling without permits and to enforce the emergency ordinance limiting # of unrelated renters.
- Looking into other states/countries to see what innovative things they might be doing successfully executing
- We need a proper sampling by neighborhood to determine priorities for that neighborhood.
 - Lower economic neighborhoods tend not to answer/have access
 - Younger people do not answer phones
 - Older people do not feel heard - so they blow it off
- Better sampling of the surveying when determining the budget.

Feb 27, 2014

To the City of Bellevue,

I am a member of the cultural conversations women's group sponsored by the City of Bellevue. This is a diverse group of women who are from all over the world making a connection in the group, discussing the various cultures represented and continuing to build on our friendships outside of our group meetings once a month. It is very important to all of us to be included in the city's budget so we can continue to meet and add new people. We meet a need for women to connect and make friends especially when new to Bellevue.

Thank you for all the good work you do for our community and beyond.

Sincerely,

Jane G York.

**Attachment #2
Neighborhood Priorities: Submitted Comments
Neighborhood Leadership Gathering
February 27, 2014**

“What are the top priorities/issues you want to see addressed in your neighborhood?”

Neighborhood Safety

- Safety/Crime Prevention
- Safety – I’m in NH Townhomes and we are receiving car prowls every month.
- Block watch organization, 100% participation, door to door
- Police and citizen joint efforts for neighborhood security
- Increased traffic law enforcement
- Clean out ravines – invasive growth allows robbers to hide and get away. (B of A robbed in Newport Hills 3X and closed)
- Safety from break-ins.
- Burglaries of homes
- Safety, crime, speeding cars
- Safe & Healthy pedestrian walkways

Building Community

- Programming/events at community third places (park, businesses, swim club, school, churches) that will bring neighbors together
- More connections in building cultural gaps in our growing diverse community!
- Next Door coordination
- Getting the Lake Hills Neighborhood Assoc. back into business!
- We are still trying to engage other cultures who appear introverted. Won’t answer the door, telephone, drive in and out of the garage.
- Diversity in our community – getting people involved!
- Bellevue should not organize neighborhoods – it’s the fox guarding the henhouse

Neighborhood Improvement

- Tyler Property Park! Basic upgrades to create community gathering space
- Ashwood Park developed with permanent activities, benches, tables, shade trees, walking path, etc.
- Bellevue Way @ 20th as “third place”
- Park development @ Bellevue Wy. & 20th St.
- Community gathering places and activities (Newport Hills)

Neighborhood Character & Identity

- Identification of our neighborhood with a community sign on the south access to the neighborhood
- Vibrancy – Our shopping center is limping along; more engagement, including a “City Center” with a information kiosk and a banner pole to install announcements would be wonderful.
- Separating West Bellevue Community Club into 3 separate neighborhoods

- Neighborhood visibility within the context of the city, adjacent neighborhoods, shopping/commercial areas.
- “Northtowne signs” at multiple Bellevue/Northtowne entry points

Neighborhood Transportation Concerns

- Less Traffic on 128th St. SE between 32nd St., to Woodridge Elementary School.
- Reduce speed on NE 1st St., between NE 100th and 102^{ne}, Ave. NE and add speed bump – racing occurs on this road weekly!
- Robinswood Tennis Center overflow problem on 153rd Ave. SE. There are 10-20 cars parked every day from 9 – 3.
- Speeding issues through Robinswood from cars by passing 5-way stop on 156th.
- Improved transit
- Traffic – we are now working with the transportation department
- NE 24th, 112th, Hidden Valley severe traffic engineering mash-up
- 108th Ave. developed as “skinny street” from 12th to 24th
- Lake Hills; sidewalks and walkability
- Paving
- Sidewalk on S. Side of Hidden Village Apartments SE 24th
- Complete sidewalks
- Gentle speed bump on SE 145 (people looking for Bellevue College realize they are lost and race to get back to the intersection)
- One of our top priorities for Somerset west 130th Ave. SE (from Newport Way South to about 50th Ave. SE) is the completion of the sidewalk along 130th. We also feel very strong that our neighborhood retain our R5 zoning south of Newport Way.
- 112th and 24th intersection reworked
- Traffic – the line up on Lakemont Blvd. after 4:30 p.m.; Sometimes a mile long line up at the stop sign at Lakemont & 164th.
- Sammamish Parkway restoration project.

Advocacy

- Changing permitting process to make neighborhood gatherings easier to organize
- “Keep Ashwood Park Green” Open green space is a vital part of healthy living in our downtown neighborhood.
- Coordinate noise to be 3 days or 2 days per week (i.e. leaf blowing, lawn mowing, leaf mulching, garbage, street cleaning, carpet cleaning trucks, road work, etc.)
- Budget transparency
- We need more benefits from city revenue dollars. By making sustainable purchases you greatly expand your dollar impact.
- Enforcing ordinances; like “Spiritwood” emergency ordinance
- Code Compliance; re: density and boarding houses – code compliance should not be only by complaint.
- Regulations and control of rental homes; single room rentals
- Increased powers in code compliance to act without waiting for complaints
- Regulate rental housing. Have a registration making renters part of public records, just as homeowners are.

- Keep single family neighborhoods intact. Eliminate single room rentals. Revert to boarding house rules; off street parking, etc
- Continue water and connectivity upgrades to Lake Heights
- Business development in Newport Hills
- Improve business district of Newport Hills
- Upkeep of City public areas – weeds
- Limit house footprints so tree canopy can be retained
- Our neighborhood is affected by all of these: Eastside Rail Corridor, PSE Transmission lines, I-405 expansion and Sound Transit high speed rail or Bus rapid transit and that is the Lake Lanes Neighborhood. We exist from the Seahawks facility in Renton, North through King County on Ripley and the Lake Lanes in Bellevue of Hazelwood, Pleasure Point, Lakehurst, Bagley Lanes and Lake Wa Blvd South. This is a LOT of public good to expect one neighborhood to take on.
- Stop wasting years of staff time on planning initiatives for our neighborhoods that staff has already predetermined the outcomes on. You not only waste our taxes, but waste our time and lives. Retrain staff!
- Eliminate staff pensions – they can do 401K's like normal people. That will reduce our taxes and put the \$ into real services.