

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on February 13, 2018.

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday
January 9, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Van Hollebeke, Vice-Chair Synn, Boardmembers Deng, Heath, Kumar, Trescases

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Councilmembers Nieuwenhuis and Robertson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Kevin Killeen

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash, *via recording*

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Hollebeke at 6:06 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Vice-Chair Synn to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Boardmember Kumar to approve the December 5, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Deng to approve the November 14, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Vice-Chair Synn to amend the main motion and correct page 3 of the meeting minutes, first paragraph, to read:

“Boardmember Heath reported that a written survey was distributed to City Councilmember candidates, and four noted on the survey that they would be in favor of special zoning to protect parks.”

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the main motion as amended.

Chair Van Hollebeke noted that discussions regarding the Downtown Park NE Corner have been postponed until the next meeting due to a delay in the design portion of the project.

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

5. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran discussed the following items:

- Councilmembers will be attending an upcoming Council retreat.
- Board interviews for the Parks Board vacancy will be conducted. *Kevin Killeen (attendee) was introduced as a potential candidate.*
- Follow-up on Oral Communications/Public Comments from prior meetings:
 - The Tree Master Plan petition that Pam Johnston and Betsi Hummer referenced at a previous Parks Board meeting was included in the Board Desk Packet.
 - There was a “high crime area” sign that was recently posted at Robinswood Park that Betsi Hummer referenced at a previous Parks Board meeting. Ms. Hummer specifically inquired why the EBCC was not notified of the recent signage. Staff has followed-up with police to identify protocol and deal with the issue.
 - There were questions raised by Betsi Hummer on whether or not the recent project in the Lake Hills Greenbelt was a Parks related project. A memo was included in the Board Packet to clarify the project that is being conducted by the Utilities Department to replace culverts in the Lake Hills Greenbelt.

Chair Van Hollebeke requested that the Tree Master Plan and safety in parks topics be added to a future Parks Board meeting agenda.

6. **COMMUNICATIONS FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:**

Councilmember Robertson reported on the following items:

- Approximately 25 applications have been received for the vacant Parks Board position; approximately 10 of the applicants have been selected for interviews.
- There are two new Councilmembers on the City Council. In addition, a new Mayor and Deputy Mayor were selected. Council is also in the process of board and commission liaison assignments.

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- Council will have a retreat next week to get to know the new Councilmembers and discuss future visions and priorities. One of Councilmember Robertson's priorities is an aquatic facility. Councilmember Robertson would like the Parks Boards support/assistance when the time is appropriate.
- The East Main and Wilburton Land Use issues will be presented to Council in the near future.
- There has been growing desire from the public to start the Bel-Red Subarea planning process.

Chair Van Hollebeke inquired if there will be a more detailed update regarding the aquatic facility. This information will be presented to Council in March. Councilmember Robertson requested that courtesy copies of any aquatic facility materials presented to Council be also sent to Parks Boardmembers.

Alteration in meeting agenda:

Item 10 Discussion/Action Items

A. Recognition of Outgoing Boardmember Jared Nieuwenhuis

Councilmember Robinson read a Commendation for Mr. Nieuwenhuis to thank him for serving on the Parks Board. On behalf of the Board, Mr. Foran presented Mr. Nieuwenhuis with a plaque and framed picture as a token of appreciation. In addition, Boardmembers expressed their appreciation to Mr. Nieuwenhuis.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Trescases provided the following report:

- Visited Garden d'Lights.
- Enjoyed the Downtown Park Ice Rink.
- Attended the Sound Cities Association Dinner where an inspirational speaker talked about the importance of sharing the great things about a city to constituents.

Boardmember Deng provided the following report:

- Visited Garden d'Lights.
- Enjoyed a trip to California during the holidays and saw a similar playground to Inspiration Playground.
- Attended the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club Main Club Open House Sampler for adult programs. The event was well attended.

Boardmember Kumar provided the following report:

- Attended the various holiday events in Bellevue.
- Expressed appreciation to City staff for plowing and cleaning the snow throughout the City, particularly on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

Vice-Chair Synn provided the following report:

- Attended the various holiday events in Bellevue.
- Visited Inspiration Playground.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Van Hollebeke provided the following report:

- Enjoyed seeing the many people at Inspiration Playground during the holidays.
- Presented the Board's memo and priorities to City Council. Councilmembers Stokes and Robinson encouraged Boardmembers to clearly articulate budget considerations, (alternative funding, priorities, etc.) in the form of a request.
- Enjoyed the Parks Board holiday party.
- Selected a great artist for the Downtown Park NE Corner. Further information will be provided at the next Board meeting.

9. **BOARDMEMBER/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

A. Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee

Discussed later in meeting agenda.

B. Bylaws Subcommittee

Discussed later in meeting agenda.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Recognition of Outgoing Boardmember Jared Nieuwenhuis

Discussed above.

B. CIP Funding

Mr. Sanner reminded Boardmembers that previous CIP presentations have focused on the revenue side of the CIP. Staff then reviewed the long-term funding needs to identify the “most likely” projects over the next 20 years. Staff discussed some of the methods that went into calculating the project estimates. Mr. Parker reviewed projects for the following categories:

- Open space, greenways, wildlife corridors and trails (approx. \$30M)
- Parks Facilities (approx. \$43M)
- Active Recreation Facilities (approx. \$30-\$55M)
- Urban Parks Systems (approx. \$33-\$75M)
- Waterfront Access (approx. \$75-\$110M)
- Partnership Opportunities (approx. \$70-\$150M)

Boardmember Kumar questioned how much has been spent to date on Airfield Park. Mr. Kost clarified that approximately \$1.5M has been spent in design and permitting. The project is funded, in part, through the levy (approx. \$10M). Mr. Sanner clarified that the levy will be collected through 2028 and within that time horizon the funds will be available for the Airfield Park project.

Vice-Chair Synn inquired if the “Parks Facilities” noted in the project list includes acquisition costs. Mr. Parker explained that Parks Facilities is a very general category. He then discussed the list of “Recommended Capital Project List and Map” that was included on pages 15-17 in the Board packet.

Boardmember Kumar asked who owns Vasa Park. Mr. Parker clarified that Vasa Park is run as a business and that there is a Vasa Park Association. There has long been interest in expanding public access to Lake Sammamish, and that includes a priority for maintaining the public access that exists today at Vasa Park. Mr. Parker added that staff keeps in contact with the Vasa Park Association to see if there’s ever any interest in selling the property.

Mr. Sanner reviewed the list of unfunded Parks Capital Projects. The project total is approximately \$282-\$463M over a 20 year time horizon. The primary funding source for these projects is the Real Estate Excise Taxes (REET). Parks receives approximately \$7M per year with approximately \$2M per year available for new projects. This funding source can be supplemented with voter initiatives and other funding sources (i.e., grants, incentive zoning, leveraging, impact fees, etc.). Mr. Sanner discussed the challenges of identifying available funding sources. Overall, the existing funding for Parks may not be adequate.

Mr. Sanner outlined some actions the Board may take in the future:

- Develop Board communication to the Council about Parks capital funding.
- Review prior discussions, including the funding overview, the Parks Board roles in the 2008 Levy, and incentive zoning.
- Endorse the list of Parks capital projects to request as part of the 2019-2025 CIP (March/April).
 - Remaining levy projects (Airfield Park, Lake Sammamish neighborhood park).
 - Requests from last budget – Newport Hills (Tyler property), Bridle Trails (140th Avenue).
 - Other projects identified by the Board.

Mr. Foran clarified that a portion of REET is allocated to Parks. However, other City funding may be available. The Parks budget allocations compete with other City needs (i.e., roads, fire stations, etc.).

Boardmember Heath suggested that the Board consider requesting Council approval for a percentage of the overall City budget (i.e., 2%), rather than asking Bellevue citizens for additional funding.

Chair Van Hollebeke reminded Boardmembers that the Board sent a memo to Council approximately two years ago to call attention to the deficit in funding for parks. Since at that time additional funding was not allocated and two years have passed, Chair Van Hollebeke suggested the following actions be taken:

- Explain the Board's "ask" to Council—Bellevue is committed to being a City in a Park. The City is becoming denser. In keeping with the goal of a City in a Park, the Board and Parks Department are facing challenges with the budget gap continuing to grow.
- Request that not only standard funding options be considered (i.e., REET, grants, levies) but also additional funding sources (partnerships, land use incentives, impact fees, etc.).
- Explain that the current funding allocations are not enough. Need to consider private/public partnerships as well as a Parks Foundation.

Chair Van Hollebeke suggested that Boardmembers send a memo to Council to inspire them about park-related issues. He suggested that the memo include both short-term and long-term projects as well as the budget short-fall. Some of the items that could be referenced in the memo include: aquatic center, major park in Bel-Red Area, neighborhood parks in the areas that are lacking, etc. In addition, Chair Van Hollebeke suggested that the memo note that the current funding methods are inadequate and other funding options need to be considered. Vice-Chair Synn added that the Board may want to offer good-better-best scenarios to be presented in the memo.

Boardmember Trescases favored the general concept of Chair Van Hollebeke's suggestion and would like some context provided for the additional funding. She added that it's important to explain the long-term vision and thoughtful process that the Board has conducted. In addition, Boardmember Trescases wants to ensure that acquisition funding be available in case an opportunity arises.

Boardmembers stressed the importance of a public engagement process to determine the community's priorities.

Chair Van Hollebeke noted that the memo to Council should be presented in a helpful and collaborative manner. He suggested that Lee Springate's *A Miracle in Downtown Bellevue* book be referenced in the memo. Bellevue Parks has had extraordinary planners and visionaries. However, Chair Van Hollebeke noted that it is evident that changes must be made to continue the vision. He suggested that the Parks Board Retreat include additional discussions about a Council memo and defining the following:

- Historical perspective of the Ask
- Ask
- Justification for the Ask
- Suggested ways to tackle the Ask

Mr. Foran noted that the Parks system needs to be viewed as an investment and there is significant return on the investment. With the growth throughout the City, particularly in the Bel-Red Area, there is potential for corporate investment. Mr. Foran cited Millennium Park in

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Chicago that prominently recognizes the corporations who helped fund the park. Chair Van Hollebeke added that companies want park amenities to attract employees.

Boardmember Heath noted that few people attend Council meetings to advocate for parks. They advocate for homeless shelters and bicycles. Boardmember Heath supports a memo to Council that requests that Council prioritize adequate investment, rather than adequate funding, in parks as their 2018 priority.

Boardmember Trescases inquired if Boardmembers should start CIP discussions a few months prior to the next Council retreat, so that we do not miss the opportunity for parks to be part of Council retreat discussions concerning capital projects and city priorities in the future.

Motion by Vice-Chair Synn and second by Boardmember Heath to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

There was general consensus to have Chair Van Hollebeke have conversations with Councilmembers before their upcoming retreat to encourage them to make adequate investments in parks a priority.

C. Board Retreat Planning

Boardmembers would like a half-day retreat on a Saturday. Staff will survey Boardmembers to determine an agreeable date/time.

Alteration in meeting agenda:

Item 9 Boardmember/Committee/Liaison Reports

A. Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee

A *Wilburton Commercial Area Citizen Advisory Committee Design Statements* handout was included in the Board Desk Packet. Boardmember Kumar noted that her presentation to the Wilburton CAC was well received. She added that the work of the CAC is winding down. Boardmember Kumar reviewed the design guideline statements. She will request that any information forwarded to Council be also forwarded to the Parks Board. The final CAC report is expected to be complete in March, 2018.

Boardmembers are to review the *Wilburton Commercial Area Citizen Advisory Committee Design Statements* and provide feedback to Boardmember Kumar.

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Vice-Chair Synn to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

B. Bylaws Subcommittee

Vice-Chair Synn reported that the Bylaws Subcommittee met and is planning on meeting with staff from the City Attorney's and City Clerk's Offices in the near future.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

12. **ESTABLISHING AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Boardmembers suggested that the following topics be included in the next meeting agenda:

- Tree cover and Tree Master Plan
- Public Safety in Parks
- Park Zoning

Boardmember Trescases suggested that “mission moments” be added to future meeting agendas where Parks staff can share stories of their experiences. This could help with future advocacy. Chair Van Hollebeke also suggested that it might be helpful to have a presentation on social media related to Parks.

Mr. Smith reminded the Board that additional Board discussion about the Wilburton CAC should be included on a future meeting agenda, as well as the Downtown Park NE Entry Project. These would potentially be on the February agenda.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Memo from Utilities and Parks Staff re Culvert/Replacement Projects in Lake Hills Greenbelt
- C. Facebook compliments re park maintenance
- D. Email re Phantom/Larsen Lake Channel Improvements
- E. Email re Robinswood sign

14. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Next regular Parks Board meeting—February 13, 2018

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15. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS/PUBLIC COMMENTS:**

None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Vice-Chair Synn to adjourn the meeting at 8:48 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).