

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on May 14, 2019.

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

Tuesday
April 9, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kumar, Vice-Chair Trescases, Boardmembers Clark, Heath, Unger

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmember Hamilton, Synn

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Betsy Anderson, Shelley Brittingham, Nancy Harvey, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Christy Stangland

OTHERS PRESENT: Jim McEachran (Human Service Commission)

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kumar at 6:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Unger and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Trescases and second by Boardmember Unger to approve the March 12, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

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

None.

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

No report.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Ms. McVein congratulated Boardmember Synn for being reappointed to the Parks Board for his second term. She also highlighted some of the items listed on the Events List in the Board Packet.

Ms. McVein noted that April is National Volunteer Recognition Month and thanked Boardmembers for serving our community.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Unger enjoyed the Meydenbauer Bay Park Grand Opening. She also attended the soft-opening of Surrey Downs Park.

Boardmember Clark enjoyed the Meydenbauer Bay Park Grand Opening. He also visited Downtown and Ashwood Parks.

Vice-Chair Trescases discussed a recent Bellevue Downtown Association meeting she attended where Patrick Foran discussed the importance of Meydenbauer Bay Park. Glenn Kost and Vice-Chair Trescases also provided highlights about access the park provides, both to the water and as a connection to Old Bellevue.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Kumar enjoyed the Meydenbauer Bay Park Grand Opening. She also expressed her appreciation to parks staff for cleaning up the parks so quickly after the winter storms. Lastly, Chair Kumar discussed how much she has enjoyed the Master Naturalist program.

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

No reports.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Human Services Needs Update

Ms. Stangland provided a briefing on early efforts to collect community feedback for the 2019-2020 Human Services Needs Update. The biennial report looks at the needs of Bellevue residents and explores how to leverage the community's resources most effectively. The information will ultimately guide the Human Services Commission's funding recommendations. The report includes a compilation of quantitative and qualitative data from a wide variety of sources. The update is an analysis of health and human services trends and issues that affect the quality of life of Bellevue residents. It addresses how the City can best prepare for changes in human services in a quickly changing environment.

Ms. Stangland clarified that not only does the Needs Update help the Human Services Commission, it also provides information for other City departments, community groups, faith communities, agencies and regional planning efforts. Ms. Stangland summarized the various methods used to gather information for the Needs Update.

Some of the top themes from the 2017-2018 Human Services Needs Update include:

- Affordable Housing
- Increase in Homelessness
- Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder
- Racial and Ethnic Inclusion
- Transportation

Ms. Stangland provided an overview of the timeline for the 2019-2020 Human Services Needs Update.

Vice-Chair Trescases suggested that community centers and active community gathering places be included during the information gathering phase of the Needs Update (i.e., cultural conversations, Crossroads Shopping Center, Eastside Pathways, etc.).

Boardmember Heath expressed his appreciation to the City for undertaking the Needs Update. He asked if staff will incorporate other surveys (i.e., Vulcan Survey, Microsoft Survey, etc.) into the Needs Update information. This issue was also discussed at a recent City Council meeting. Mr. McEachran explained that he interpreted the City Council comments as a suggestion that groups come together and sift through the surveys and Eastside information collaboratively. Ms. Stangland added that the Human Services Needs Update focuses on Bellevue residents only. The other various surveys are utilized for information but include other communities.

Boardmember Clark recommended that business owners and operators be queried to determine their perception of affordability and mental health access. Ms. Stangland noted that staff has been working with the business survey, which is conducted by the City. However, most surveys are completed by a Human Resource Representative so they do not have the same impact as residents actually utilizing the services. Staff is exploring adding a question, "If your paycheck was delayed one week would you still be able to meet your basic needs?"

Boardmember Unger suggested that users of the community centers and/or Crossroads and unstructured events be surveyed to determine services they may need. There was a brief

discussion about the history of homelessness in the area. Mr. McEachran encouraged Boardmembers to read the Bellevue Affordable Housing Strategy for additional information.

Chair Kumar asked how the Needs Update is used. Ms. Stangland clarified that the Needs Update is utilized as a guideline for funding recommendations. Nonprofits use it as information; then groups are convened to address gaps in the community. It is also used to collaborate with other cities.

Chair Kumar called attention to the rising need of foster care and the rise of foster kids becoming homeless. She referenced Rising Strong in Spokane. Chair Kumar suggested that foster care agencies be included for information gathering. Mr. McEachran noted that the Human Services Commission will have a panel discussion regarding this issue at a future meeting

Chair Kumar inquired if staff is confident in the City's partners and if they are utilizing allocated funds in the best manner. Mr. McEachran clarified that there is a thorough vetting process for grant applications. He also encouraged Boardmembers to review grant requests. Ms. Stangland added that all of the grantee's outcomes and outputs are closely monitored.

Vice-Chair Trescases suggested Olive Crest and Jubilee Reach for provider surveys. She also suggested that people attending events (i.e., Chamber meetings, farmer's markets, etc.) be surveyed.

B. 2020 Recreation Program Plan

Ms. Anderson provided an overview of the department's Recreation Program Plan. The current plan dates from 2015, and staff are preparing for a 2020 update. The purpose of the plan is to: 1) guide the department's investment in recreation programs, with a focus on programming and spending to meet the needs of those with limited opportunities for recreation; 2) establish a specific role for the City as a recreation service provider in relation to other providers; 3) advance the policy framework provided by the City of Bellevue Comprehensive Plan—Parks, Recreation, & Open Space element; 4) Meet accreditation requirements set by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA).

The goals of the current Plan include:

- To ensure that the City provides recreation opportunities that allow all residents to enjoy the positive benefits of recreation.
- To place special emphasis on the City's recreation programming and spending to meet the needs of teens, youth, older adults (seniors), persons with disabilities, and those with limited opportunities for recreation.
- To design and deliver programs collectively with other service providers in the City of Bellevue.
- To promote the full utilization of the City's current and future recreation facilities as appropriate.
- To build a healthy community through recreation programs, facilities, and special events.
- To understand and plan for future needs and trends in recreation.

Ms. Anderson summarized progress made to meet the existing plan's goals and reviewed the Plan update process, including scoping, outreach, and development of the draft plan update. She noted that over the past six months a core planning team of staff recreation experts has been reviewing the current plan to determine the scope of the plan update and develop a draft planning framework. Outreach will include engagement with boards, commissions, advisory groups, and various community groups and will take place during the summer months. The plan will be presented to the Parks Board two or three more times, with anticipated review and endorsement by early 2020.

Ms. Anderson summarized the core similarities and key differences with the existing plan. The most significant differences between the existing plan and the update are 1) that the plan structure will be streamlined so that it is more user-friendly, and 2) that the plan will more strongly emphasize the role of equity, diversity, accessibility, and cultural competence in program planning and delivery.

To focus the outreach effort for the plan update, the staff planning team has developed a draft planning framework to guide conversations with the community. The framework includes a draft vision, guiding principles, and goals and strategies. The draft vision for recreation states: "Bellevue is a healthy community where all people participate in a range of recreation activities of their choosing, offered by any service provider, allowing them to be physically and mentally healthier and better connected to their neighbors and to the community." The proposed guiding principles for recreation are organized around the following four themes:

- Health-Focused
- Building Community
- Culture of Excellence
- Dynamic and Resourceful

Ms. Anderson reviewed the following draft goals and strategies that support the Recreation Plan vision:

- Ensure that every Bellevue resident can access recreational opportunities and community services.
- Offer programs and services that are consistent with our guiding principles and reflect the community's interests and needs, specifically those of underserved groups.
- Promote community well-being through programs and services that instill a sense of belonging and inclusion.
- Foster individual health and wellness through opportunities for structured and unstructured play, exercise, and recreation.

Ms. Anderson discussed some of the outreach methods and next steps for the Recreation Program Plan.

Boardmember Unger inquired if a connection has been made with recreation essentials (i.e., swimming) and efforts to provide aquatic opportunities. She wants to be sure that PTSAs, schools, Youth Council, etc. are being included to obtain the voice of children and parents. Ms.

Anderson noted that the outreach strategy for the plan includes several different opportunities to connect with young people and parents.

Boardmember Clark suggested that the disabled population be evaluated to determine accessibility options (i.e., does Bellevue have more disabled elderly individuals or youth population). It might be helpful to know this information when planning parks. Ms. Anderson added that a Community Profile is part of the Recreation Program Plan and that staff may be able to work with the City's demographer to gather more information about specific populations.

Boardmember Heath inquired where the boundaries lie with medically fragile, disabled, and other groups. Ms. Brittingham clarified that Bellevue School District has a transitions program. Within this program there are students that are considered medically fragile. This is the population that Highland Community Center created a program for, at Bellevue School District's request.

Vice-Chair Trescases suggested that swimming lessons in the lake be considered, in addition to the lessons already offered in the pool.

Chair Kumar suggested that the MyBellevue App include a link for the Recreation Program Plan survey.

Boardmember Clark suggested that a computer program be created so users can utilize a filter to select specific age groups for program alerts. Ms. Anderson explained that staff are exploring the development of a customizable program search.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

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

Mr. Parker noted that there will be an update on capital projects at the next meeting. He also distributed a list of ongoing agenda items.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Email from Jo Scott thanking the Board for the process re proposed fieldhouse in Wilburton Hill Park
- C. Email from Lesley Stuart thanking the Board for the process re the proposed fieldhouse in Wilburton Hill Park

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- D. Email from Omid Fatemieh thanking the Board for the process re the proposed fieldhouse in Wilburton Hill Park
- E. Email from Daniel Renn thanking the Board for the process re the proposed fieldhouse in Wilburton Hill Park
- F. Email from Dwight and Mary Schrag re Ashwood Park Master Planning
- G. List of upcoming Parks special events

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Boardmember Unger to adjourn the meeting at 8:07 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).