

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on October 9, 2018.

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

Tuesday
September 11, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kumar, Vice-Chair Trescases, Boardmembers Clark, Hamilton, Heath¹, Synn², Unger

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Deborah Munkberg (Community Development Department)

OTHERS PRESENT: Susan Pappalardo

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kumar at 6:01 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Trescases and second by Boardmember Synn to approve the July 10, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

None.

¹ Arrived at 6:05 p.m.

² Departed at 7:59 p.m.

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

Chair Kumar welcomed newest Boardmember, Pamela Unger.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran called attention to information included in the Board Packet regarding a recent proposal from the Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue to develop, in partnership with the City, an indoor youth sports program facility at Wilburton Hill Park, similar to the Hidden Valley Park partnership developed several years ago.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Vice-Chair Trescases received feedback from a citizen who is disappointed in Bellevue's wayfinding signs and suggested that they be linked to an online map.

Boardmember Synn visited several parks throughout Bellevue during the summer months and was impressed with how well the parks were utilized.

Boardmember Hamilton enjoyed the Parks Board tour of Meydenbauer Bay Park and Surrey Downs Park.

Boardmember Clark also enjoyed the Parks Board tour of Meydenbauer Bay Park and Surrey Downs Park. In addition, he enjoyed spending time at Lewis Creek Park and Downtown Park during the summer months.

Boardmember Unger visited many parks throughout the summer months, including: Downtown Park, Hidden Valley Park, Killarney Glen Park, and Wilburton Hill Park. She also enjoyed the Parks Board tour of Meydenbauer Bay Park and Surrey Downs Park, and attended the recent Grand Connection meeting.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Kumar attended the Grand Connection meeting. She also is looking forward to the NE Corner project at Downtown Park.

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

No reports.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Neighborhood Area Planning Program**

Ms. Munkberg explained that the Neighborhood Area Planning Program is a seven-year program to update neighborhood planning efforts. She noted that the Neighborhood Area Planning Program kicked off in August and has three pillars:

- Based on Comprehensive Plan
- Strategic, action-focused
- Ground-up community process

Ms. Munkberg discussed the relationship between the Neighborhood Area Planning Program and the Comprehensive Plan. The Comprehensive Plan includes the Neighborhood Area Planning Program and the Land Use Regulations. She added that within the Comprehensive Plan there is a neighborhood element that identifies the 16 neighborhoods throughout Bellevue. The overall goal is to determine how to help neighborhoods adapt to change, while preserving what is valued.

Ms. Munkberg explained that the neighborhood plans will be strategic and future focused. More specifically, the plan will include:

- Community profile
- Opportunities map
- Relationship to Comprehensive Plan
- Vision and strategies

Ms. Munkberg explained that the neighborhood plans will be completed in about a year. She reviewed the work program for the neighborhood plans and noted that they depend on a collaborative relationship between the city and residents. The first two neighborhood area plans to be updated are Northeast Bellevue and Northwest Bellevue.

Boardmember Unger inquired if there is a budget associated with the neighborhood plans. Ms. Munkberg discussed the process for getting neighborhood plan projects funded.

Boardmembers asked how they can be involved in the neighborhood planning efforts. Ms. Munkberg suggested that Boardmembers share in the outreach efforts and also act as sounding boards for community members.

Vice-Chair Trescases called attention to a letter included in the Board Desk Packet from Vernon Schrag regarding “Keep Ashwood Park Green.” Ms. Munkberg clarified that Ashwood Park is in the Downtown planning area and not part of the initial focus.

Boardmember Heath inquired if outreach efforts will be used to inform residents if their particular neighborhood falls short of national standards for how close they should live to a park. He suggested that this information be utilized to advocate for levies, etc. As neighborhoods are discussed, Boardmember Heath suggested that the Parks Board provide comments and make recommendations as necessary.

B. Aquatics Center Study

Mr. Foran recalled that the City conducted an Aquatic Center Feasibility Study in 2009 to assist the Council in determining whether it supports an aquatic facility. The study explored a range of options and operating models. He also described the renewed community interest in aquatics facilities, partnerships, and regional solutions. The 2009 Aquatic Center Feasibility Study explored the different types of facilities that could meet the demand, conducted a preliminary site analysis, completed a market analysis, conducted public outreach, and explored a range of financing options. The study was presented to the Council in 2009, and the Council expressed interest in Option D, a regional aquatic center, and directed staff to work with adjacent cities, school districts, and other potential partners. The effort was temporarily put aside, in part due to the recession.

Mr. Foran further added that the City of Kirkland placed a community and aquatic center proposal on the ballot in 2015, which the voters did not approve. The City of Redmond initiated public outreach in 2016 to study a range of facilities for community centers and aquatic centers. In 2017, the King County Parks Department convened a process to reexamine the viability of a regional approach for an Eastside facility. King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci secured approximately \$2 million to work toward a regional solution, and that process is ongoing. Mr. Foran noted direction from the City Council in May 2017 to continue to pursue local partnerships and opportunities.

Mr. Foran described the popularity of swimming and aquatic activities in Bellevue and on the Eastside. He reported that approximately 4,200 families are members of private outdoor pools in Bellevue, and 3,600 swimmers participate in more than 26 Eastside swim clubs. Mr. Foran said there are a number of private neighborhood pools and membership facilities in Bellevue. However, the Bellevue School District does not have water sports facilities. He noted that Kirkland and Redmond are served by older pools as well. Regional aquatic facilities that have been developed since 2011 include: 1) Snohomish Aquatic Center, 2) Lynnwood Recreation Center and Pool, 3) Sammamish Community and Aquatic Center, and 4) Rainier Beach Community Center and Pool. Those facilities serve a wide range of ages and types of activities.

Mr. Foran discussed a conceptual layout previously discussed with the Council that includes a leisure and recreation pool, competition pool, instruction and fitness pool, and a wellness/fitness/rehabilitation pool. He described how a movable bulkhead feature allows the facility to modify the configuration as needed.

Mr. Foran described the current King County regional process involving Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond to explore the range of funding and governing options (e.g., voted levies, voted/Councilmanic bonds, grants, private funding, and partnerships) and the potential for multiple facilities. There has been some discussion about developing a Metropolitan Parks District in which voters in each city would be asked to approve a taxing district. Mr. Foran said the Cities and King County executed a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) which outlines the tasks to finish this work. In general, the work merges the independent efforts of the parties into a collaborative facility and program plan with recommendations for specific facility types

and sites, funding and governance. Mr. Foran clarified that exploring a regional approach through the MOU is not the only alternative. All alternatives to meet the aquatic needs for Bellevue and the region are being explored.

The sites previously reviewed in the City's feasibility study were Hidden Valley, Airfield Park, Marymoor Park, Bellevue Utility Site at Marymoor, SE Eastgate Way, Highland Park, Bellevue College and the Bel-Red corridor. Mr. Foran said an aquatic facility could be coordinated with the Grand Connection project, which would provide a tourism and family activity center. He said the Bellevue School District submitted a letter to the City indicating an interest in providing financial support to develop a facility that would accommodate the District's competitive swim programs. Bellevue College revised its campus master plan since 2009, and one component of their plan is a community partnership of some kind.

Mr. Foran discussed the following next steps:

- Finalize the scale and scope of the program elements and prepare a schematic drawing and architectural rendering.
- Update the estimated capital costs by program element.
- Update the estimated operating cost performance by program element.
- Conduct a site feasibility analysis for several sites (including Marymoor and Bellevue College).
- Propose a financing and operational plan that could include public/private/nonprofit partnerships.
- Prepare communication tools and conduct a public outreach process to include public meetings and presentations.

Vice-Chair Trescases requested that synchronized swimmers be considered when evaluating aquatic options. She clarified that there are specific depth requirements for synchronized swimming.

Mr. Foran explained that Council approved up to \$250,000 to develop more precise information to determine whether to proceed with an aquatic center. In addition, 10 firms submitted proposals in response to the City's RFQ. Four finalists have been selected for further evaluation. Mr. Foran noted that regional work is ongoing, as well as continued discussions with the Bellevue School District and Bellevue College. Strategies are also being developed to identify additional partners and sponsors.

There was a general discussion about aquatic revenue streams and whether or not most aquatic centers are able to cover their operating costs. Mr. Foran noted that the goal of the aquatic center is to operate at little or no deficit.

Boardmember Synn called attention to the Pacific Northwest's climate and the benefits of having an indoor aquatic center, particularly during the winter months.

Boardmembers discussed the various locations being considered for an aquatic center. Mr. Foran also noted that the advocacy group SPLASH Forward is assisting with helping the process.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

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

Boardmember Unger requested an update be provided about Ashwood Park at a future Board meeting. Mr. Foran discussed the previous presentations that have been made to Boardmembers about Ashwood Park and suggested a written update might be more appropriate than a formal presentation, since there are no new updates. Boardmembers favored this option.

Boardmember Heath requested an update on Bellevue's efforts to address homelessness and how homelessness is impacting Bellevue parks.

Mr. Parker reported that the Pacific Science Center will provide a brief presentation at the next Board meeting to mark their 25 year anniversary at Mercer Slough. He also noted that King County will be conducting an open house for the Eastside Rail Corridor on the same night as the next Board meeting.

Staff is working on scheduling a joint meeting with the Arts Commission.

Boardmember Heath would like the Parks Board included in any neighborhood outreach sessions regarding the Neighborhood Area Planning Program.

Boardmember Clark noted that the Grand Connection has a high focus on young children and professionals but not on young teens (i.e., middle/high school aged). He requested that this age group be kept in mind during the planning efforts. Other Boardmembers agreed with this recommendation. Boardmember Hamilton added the Crossroads Community Center is a great facility for youth and could provide insight for the Grand Connection framework.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Vice-Chair Trescases to extend the meeting until 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Memo and attachments from Patrick Foran re Wilburton Hill Park proposal from Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue
- C. Email re Bannerwood Park from Bellevue Chamber of Commerce
- D. Email re Bellevue Aquatic Center swim lessons from Wei Lu
- E. List of upcoming Parks special events

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

Susan Pappalardo, SPLASH Forward

On behalf of SPLASH Forward, Ms. Pappalardo expressed her support of an aquatic center for all ages and abilities. She added that SPLASH Forward is an advocacy group that is trying to provide value within their knowledge base, as well as an understanding of the depth of programming. This includes funding, community connections, aquatic and design consultants, etc.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Unger to adjourn the meeting at 8:33 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).