

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

Tuesday
November 27, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kumar, Vice-Chair Trescases¹, Boardmembers Hamilton, Heath, Unger

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmembers Synn, Clark

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Robertson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Toni Esparza, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Glenn Kost, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker

OTHERS PRESENT: Marcia Edwards, Jessy Franklin, Ashley Kaiser, Carolyn Lawrence, Chris Lona, Peter & Carolyn Maxim, Pearl Nardella, Daniel Renn, Pat Sheffels, Ginger Switzer, Sue Thomas, Alex Valdez, Dave & Kirsten Wlaschin

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash, *via recording*

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kumar at 6:02 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Unger and second by Boardmember Hamilton to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Unger and second by Boardmember Hamilton to approve the October 9, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:10 p.m.

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

Daniel Renn

603 129th Pl. NE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Renn made the following points in regards to the proposed Boys & Girls Club of Bellevue (BGCB) facility at Wilburton Hill Park:

- Do not destroy existing ball fields and/or soccer fields.
- Traffic/parking/road construction/road conditions in the Wilburton area are already used at capacity and should not be more overloaded.
- The City has a goal to increase the tree canopy—the addition of the BGCB facility will greatly decrease the existing tree canopy.

Mr. Renn suggested that a better location for the BGCB facility be determined. He also encouraged Wilburton community audience members opposed to the BGCB facility to stand in support of their opposition.

Carolyn Maxim

12405 NE 2nd St., Bellevue, WA

The City has described Wilburton Hill Park as a passively utilized park. Although the park is well utilized by the community, adopting a fieldhouse in this location would decrease the current functions. It implies that the park is not doing its job.

The current impact of traffic on Wilburton is horrible, particularly because of the new 650 person school.

To Ms. Maxim's knowledge, no one has objected to having a view of the fieldhouse. The issue at hand is that Wilburton Hill Park is a park in current good use with bad traffic. Ms. Maxim asked, 'Where is the data showing a fieldhouse is needed in this area?' She added that it is not the role of a private entity to suggest where a facility should be located in public lands. Ms. Maxim asked, 'Why does the BGCB have this right?' She views this activity as a breach of public trust.

Peter Maxim

12405 NE 2nd St., Bellevue, WA

Mr. Maxim expressed his appreciation to Nancy Harvey for her support with the Parks Department and Parks Board.

Mr. Maxim noted that the City Council and their appointed staff members are expected to be stewards of the lands purchased with tax revenues. Mr. Maxim was on the Parks Board for 8 years. He noted that part of Wilburton Hill Park was originally purchased with forward-thrust money, in conjunction with local levy and local tax money. There was also property donated by Harriet and Cal Shorts.

Mr. Maxim explained that there is a rule that parks land cannot be sold to private entities, like the BGCB. According to Mr. Maxim, Senior Staff state that the Parks Department gets around this rule by leasing park land to entities like the BGCB for 50 year terms.

Mr. Maxim explained that Bellevue parks are a gift from past tax payers. Mr. Maxim asked, 'Why should any group get to use any public land simply for their own benefit?' He added that the Parks Board represents the people, not the Parks Department or City Council. Mr. Maxim encouraged Boardmembers to oppose the proposed BGCB fieldhouse project and land lease.

Pat Sheffels

12280 NE 3rd Pl., Bellevue, WA

Ms. Sheffels expressed her opposition to the BGCB project in Wilburton Hill Park. She called attention to the BGCB/Hidden Valley partnership and noted that this has not been a positive partnership, from her point of view. The adults wanting to use the facility are always placed second.

Ms. Sheffels encouraged Boardmembers to oppose the BGCB fieldhouse project. However, if the project is approved, Ms. Sheffels encouraged the City to be much more vigilant about the use of the facility for approximately 85% of the population that are not youth.

Alex Valdez

16604 SE 7th St., Bellevue, WA

Mr. Valdez expressed his support of the BGCB and the proposed Wilburton Hill Park fieldhouse project. He discussed the positive impacts of BGCB throughout the community at South Bellevue Community Center and Hidden Valley and thinks the fieldhouse would be a great addition.

Jessy Franklin, Rainier Athletes

17215 SE 29th Ct., Bellevue, WA

Mr. Franklin is the Executive Director and Founder of Rainier Athletes. Rainier Athletes sponsors sports participation for historically marginalized youth in Bellevue. Rainier Athletes partners with approximately 40 different leagues, including BGCB.

In addition to growing up in Bellevue, Mr. Franklin has a long history of playing sports and being involved in the Bellevue community. The cost of sports and field use costs are continuing to increase, not to mention the amount of people wanting to use the fields. Keeping access to low-cost recreation-level programs and leagues is important.

Mr. Franklin discussed the many benefits BGCB has had on the community and his organization.

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

Councilmember Robertson provided the following update on Council projects:

- All of the Parks Board budget requests are included in the budget that is expected to be approved next week.

These minutes are in DRAFT form until approved by the Parks & Community Services Board.

- The Parks Department will be updating Council on Enatai Beach Park.
- Council is scheduled to take action on some Comprehensive Plan policies, including the Grand Connection policy.
- Council selected the option for the Grand Connection (Option 3).
- The contract for the aquatic center feasibility study update was recently awarded. This update should be completed by 2Q19.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran reiterated the excitement of the budget approval and all of the Parks related items included in the budget.

There were over 600 people that attended the Thanksgiving Dinner at Crossroads Community Center. The annual Crossroads Holiday Event will be held on December 18, 2018.

Boardmembers are encouraged to attend and/or volunteer at this event.

The joint Human Services Commission/Parks Board holiday event will be held on December 4, 2018 at Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Unger recently attended the *Elf, Jr.* Bellevue Youth Theater production. She also attended the Parliamentary Procedures training and found the information very informative.

Boardmember Hamilton attended the Parliamentary Procedures training and also found the information very informative. He also enjoys interacting with the parks online, via social media.

Vice-Chair Trescases attended a field trip, with her daughter, to the Mercer Slough and enjoyed the experience.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Kumar attended the Parliamentary Procedures training and appreciated the wealth of information. She recommends this for all Boards and Commissions. Chair Kumar will also be attending the upcoming Cultural Conversations event.

Chair Kumar expressed her appreciation to City Council for all of their work on the budget and Grand Connection. She also expressed her appreciation to the Board for submitting thoughtful questions regarding Wilburton Hill Park.

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

No reports.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Potential Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue Fieldhouse Partnership**

Mr. Foran reminded Boardmembers that in October, 2018, Council directed the Parks Board to recommend a process to review the BGCB Fieldhouse proposal. Tonight the Board will discuss elements of a process for evaluating the need, public benefit, and site identification for the fieldhouse. Mr. Foran noted that the concept was introduced in May, 2017. He reviewed the timeline to date, including the initial high-level screening and due diligence, introduction of the concept to the neighborhood, and the concept described to the Parks Board and City Council.

Kathy Haggart, President/CEO of BGCB explained that the BGCB serves thousands of youth at 14 locations throughout Bellevue. However, the primary mission is to serve those who need it most. For 25+ years, the BGCB has been offering free year-round out-of-school programs for low-income, often at-risk youth throughout Bellevue. Many of these youth do not have access to recreational programs due to a variety of reasons (i.e., schools do not offer after school activities, financial hardships/circumstances, transportation issues, etc.).

Ms. Haggart explained that the BGCB evaluated the demands of customers and the potential ideal locations for the fieldhouse and it was determined that Wilburton Hill Park is the best location to serve the low-income, at-risk kids. The facility would offer a wide-range of indoor activities that would not be dedicated to any exclusive use by an outside user. In addition, the club would be run for kids. When there is time, the City would run a wide variety of activities as well. Some of the activities may include: indoor track, , indoor soccer, etc.

Ms. Haggart called attention to a letter that was included in the Board Desk Packet from Patrick Jones that asked Boardmembers to support the Wilburton Indoor Athletic Facility project.

Mr. Foran reviewed the proposed process map, which included:

- Orientation & Process Map
- Community Need
- Public Benefit
- Site Identification

The proposed process map includes various decision points. These include:

