

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
YOUTH LINK BOARD
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

April 24, 2019
6:00-8:00 p.m.

South Bellevue Community Center
Community Room
Bellevue, WA

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Co-Chair Joydeep Hazra, Boardmembers Ananaya Jain (Acting Chair), Ton Bodin, Michelle Bomberger, Amanda Li, Yan Li, Jessie Liu, Emily Mather, Darrell Tsukiji

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Co-Chair Phillip Wang, Boardmember Katherine Jordan

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Zahn

STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Alina, Toni Esparza, Cecilia Martinez-Vasquez

OTHERS PRESENT: Mehr Grewal, Francine Wiest (Bellevue School Board)

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash, *via recording*

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Acting Chair Jain at 6:14 p.m. A quorum was present.

Timekeeper: Ton Bodin

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA:

Motion by Boardmember Amanda Li and second by Boardmember Tsukiji to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (9-0).

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES:

Motion by Boardmember Amanda Li and second by Boardmember Bodin to approve the March 13, 2019 Youth Link Board meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (9-0)

4. ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:

None.

5. REPORTS:

A. Council Liaison Update

Councilmember Zahn provided the following update on Council activities:

- Approved the Comprehensive Plan Amendment for East Main CAC area.
- Parks & Community Services Director Patrick Foran's last day will be the end of this month.
- There was a recent 2020 Census Awareness Month Proclamation along with Arbor Day/Earth Day celebration. (Councilmember Zahn suggested that this be a discussion topic for the Youth Link Board.)
- There was a recent discussion with city leaders about tree canopy.

Councilmember Zahn asked that the relationship between the Human Services Commission and the Youth Link Board be kept on the Youth Link Board agenda. She recalled that the Human Service Commission asked the Youth Link Board to evaluate or provide examples of ways that the Youth Link Board might be able to help or collaborate with the Human Services Commission. Ms. Esparza clarified that the Human Service Commission asked the Youth Link Board to make a proposal of what involvement between the Youth Link Board and Human Services Commission might look like. Youth Link Boardmembers are researching other Youth Link models to see how they are involved with other Boards/Commissions. Once the research has been gathered, Youth Link Boardmembers will meet with the Human Services Commission to determine next steps.

Boardmembers would like to add a future agenda item to determine helpful information from the Council Liaison.

B. Bellevue School Board Liaison Update

Francine Wiest, Bellevue School Board Representative, introduced herself as the new Bellevue School Board Liaison. She provided an overview of recent Bellevue School Board activities, including a community forum.

Boardmembers discussed the equity issues that have been at the forefront of the Bellevue School Board discussions. Ms. Wiest clarified that the Bellevue School Board is working to define what "equity" means to them.

C. Youth Council Report

On behalf of the Bellevue Youth Council, Mr. Alina provided the following report:

- The 2018-2019 BYC Executive Committee members include:
 - Phillip Wang and Christina Joo (Co-Presidents)
 - Bitaniya Giday and Daniel Kim (Co-Vice Presidents)
 - Evy Wohlman and Amy Leers (Co-Secretaries)
 - Cameron White and Ethan Lee (Co-Event Coordinators)
- A BYC meeting was held on April 3, 2019 to discuss the upcoming 29th Community Leadership Awards event, which will be held on May 29, 2019. There was also a special presentation at this meeting regarding VISION 2050 regional plan. Mayor Chelminiak and Councilmember Zahn were in attendance and participated in the group discussion.
- Youth Link University is in their eighth week with seven more to go.
- The Youth Link Diversity Action Team will be hosting the 2019 “Unity Through Diversity” event on June 6, 2019.
- The Bellevue Youth Link Program will receive the Washington Recreation Program Association (WRPA) Spotlight Program Excellence Award for the Arts & Culture category for Youth Link’s “Unity Through Diversity” event. This is the third WRPA award that Youth Link has received since 2016.
- The Sustainability Ambassadors in partnership with the Youth Link Climate Action Team are planning to host the 1st Youth Sustainability Summit for Bellevue students on June 7, 2019.
- A special thank you was extended to Bellevue Youth Council and Youth Link Boardmembers for attending the 2019 Gumbo Night event on April 17, 2019 at the Grindelands house.

Lastly, Mr. Alina introduced Mehr Grewal who is 6th grader at Odle Middle School and a member of the Bellevue Youth Council. She has been working on various health campaigns.

Miss Grewal started Health Campaign #1, “Clean Hands Save Lives,” which was triggered by the influenza epidemic. She discussed her research for the campaign and information about the importance of hand washing. Her research was presented at different schools, community centers in Washington, Michigan and India.

Miss Grewal started Health Campaign #2, “My Healthy Plate,” which highlights diet and lifestyle pillars. The project goals were to: (1) create awareness and focus on disease prevention, rather than cure; (2) Empower people to be in charge of their own health and make responsible decisions regarding their lifestyle; (3) encourage partnerships with healthcare providers, doctors and nurses, to improve quality of life.

D. Staff Report/BSK Update

Ms. Martinez-Vasquez distributed a list of revised contact information for the Youth Link Boardmembers.

E. Eastside Pathways Update

Acting Chair Jain and Boardmember Bodin will phase out of their appointment as the Eastside Pathways liaisons. Boardmembers Liu and Amanda Li are interested in the position. All four Boardmembers will attend the next Eastside Pathways meeting for the transition.

6. TEAM BUILDING

A team building activity was conducted. Boardmember Amanda Li will conduct a team building exercise at the next Board meeting.

7. UNFINISHED AND NEW BUSINESS

A. Proposed Program Changes

Ms. Esparza explained that City Manager, Brad Miyake, asked that the Youth Link Board ensure that there is adequate representation of all youth in Bellevue. She distributed a handout that provided the following changes proposed for Youth Link:

Description: promoting diversity, unity and equity for high school youth in Bellevue; will rotate meetings amongst local high schools (community centers) in an effort to hear directly from youth. Will educate youth on civic engagement and advocacy; will be a place that can offer youth guidance on resources, and/or can develop advocacy statements on behalf of youth which can be presented to local boards and commission; will interface with other boards and commissions in the City as a representative youth voice.

Composition: 4 adults, 1 Council Liaison, 1 School Board Liaison, a total of 12 youth with a goal of dispersed representation from all local high schools and diverse youth inclusion.

Ms. Esparza discussed the generalized changes and the goals of the program.

Discussion:

- Good idea to rotate the meetings through the schools. Accessibility to Boardmembers is important.
- Ensuring all schools are represented is valuable.
- Need to encourage involvement by a lot of different sectors of the community.
- Favor diversifying locations (6).
- Clarification—not everyone should have to speak but everyone must have the opportunity if they want.
- Board should review and reflect on the Mission and Vision of the Youth Link Board.

- Need to make Youth Link more well-known (i.e., need representation at high schools and middle schools for upcoming Youth Link events—maybe attend Back-to-School events).
- Would be beneficial for Youth Link Boardmembers (adults and youth) to attend BYC and City Council meetings so they can help bridge all of the councils—maybe a rotation schedule.
- Consider adding a permanent position where two Boardmembers are also on Bellevue Youth Council.
- The application process is complicated.
- City Hall is intimidating.
- In addition to rotating the meeting locations, it is important to increase the transparency of the Youth Link Board's discussions. Need to document discussions and decisions (i.e., social media).

Boardmembers discussed community centers versus schools for meeting location:

- Community centers or schools are favorable. This may be more inclusive for home-schooled students.
- Like the idea of different locations but concerned about people being late because locations are unpredictable.
- A preschedule would be helpful.
- Consider City Hall one time per year.
- Maybe consider an online committee to keep social media up-to-date.

Ms. Esparza distributed a rough draft of proposed changes to the bylaws, since this would be necessary with the changes to the program. Boardmembers reviewed the draft bylaws and made the following comments:

- Like the addition of subcommittees.
- Don't necessarily need to decrease the number of adults on the Board; just need to increase the number of youth—keep 6 adults; favor 12 youth.
- Consider encouraging potential Boardmembers to observe a meeting prior to joining the Board.
- Concerned about increasing the number of youth to 12—it may be difficult to get things accomplished.
- Increasing the number of youth to 12 would allow for subcommittee work.
- Maybe balance out the number of students at each school (i.e., Big Picture and International combined only have one-third of the students compared to Newport High School).
- Favor 12 youth to help with subcommittees.
- May want to evaluate term lengths so productivity is not compromised.
- Need to preserve a Boardmember's voice so no particular school has a louder voice than another.
- Recommend 8-10 youth, rather than 12.
- Evaluate the number on the Board each year to determine if adjustments need to be made.

Motion by Boardmember Bodin and second by Boardmember Liu to extend the meeting until 8:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (9-0).

Discussion continued:

- May want to consider At Large Members.
- Consider term reappointments (i.e., two terms).
- Consider overlapping terms and/or starting new members in the spring.
- Need clarity regarding roles for new members (or new Boardmember orientation).

Boardmember Liu will work with staff to revise the draft bylaws to incorporate the comments above.

8. ACTION ITEMS

A. One-page Update on Youth Link Board Accomplishments

No report.

9. STUDY SESSION ITEMS:

None.

4. ADJOURNMENT:

Motion by Boardmember Liu and second by Boardmember Tsukiji to adjourn the meeting at 8:04 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (9-0).