

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

Tuesday
June 11, 2019
5:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-112
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Kumar, Vice-Chair Trescases, Boardmembers Hamilton, Heath, Synn¹, Unger²

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Clark

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Betsy Anderson, Shelley Brittingham, Nancy Harvey, Joshua Heim (BAC), Glenn Kost, Ken Kraeger, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker

ARTS COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Ashmita Gulati, Maria Lau Hui, Becky Lewis, Philip Malkin, Paul Manfredi, Carl Wolfteich

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kumar at 5:34 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **DOWNTOWN PARK – NE GATEWAY:**

Mr. Kroeger provided an overview of the Downtown Park Master Plan that was adopted in 1984 and then updated in 1997. The 1997 Master Plan Update has remained the guiding document for all subsequent development. The most recent development phase, completed in 2017, completed the circular promenade and Inspiration Playground. Mr. Kroeger noted that the northeast corner of the park, located at one of the most prominent intersections in downtown Bellevue (Bellevue Way & NE 4th Street) remains unfinished, leaving little connection to the park from the downtown area. He added that the Council approved funds to develop the Northeast Gateway of Downtown Park and supplemented those funds in the 2019 budget.

¹ Arrived at 5:46 p.m.

² Departed at 7:37 p.m.

Mr. Kroeger reminded Boardmembers that the Board was debriefed on the site's opportunities and challenges at the July 10, 2018 meeting. At this meeting, there were four conceptual site plan options presented. These concepts were all consistent with the 1997 Master Plan but differed in the treatment of the promenade, water feature, art location, Union High Arch, pavilion and alleyway. Some comments received from Boardmembers at the July meeting included:

- Open up the park and make it more welcoming;
- Eliminate the alley;
- Should feel like a park, not a commercial plaza;
- The pavilion concept was not well supported;
- Greenery should soften, not hide the park;
- Use art and water feature to draw visitors in, but don't overwhelm them or overpower the entry;
- Most preferred the art piece at the "knuckle;"
- Keep the Union High Arch visible, not tucked away;
- Be mindful of how the park looks from the nearby high-rises.

Arts Manager, Josh Heim, shared early concepts from artist, Marc Fornes, for a pavilion. The intent is for the public art to be visible from all entrances of the park. Mr. Heim clarified that the art piece will be placed at the "knuckle" of the park.

Mr. Kroeger explained that the Union High Arch will also be integrated into the formal garden, which is closest to the promenade. Mr. Kroeger also reviewed the design elements of the water feature and discussed some of the continuity that will be incorporated into the park from the existing park elements.

Boardmember Synn suggested that particular attention be given to lighting throughout the park as well as deterring skateboarders.

Mr. Kroeger reviewed the following next steps for the project:

- Right of Way Vacation: Summer 2019
- Complete Design: thru Fall 2019
- Obtain Permits: Summer 2019 thru Spring 2020
- Public Bid: Summer 2020
- Construction: Spring 2020 thru Spring 2021

Boardmembers discussed the number of trees that will be removed from the park and replaced with new trees. Mr. Kroeger clarified that the tree removal and replacement will be in alignment with the land use codes. He added that there is a memorial tree within the park that will be transplanted.

Mr. Malkin requested clarification about the surface material that will be used on the promenade and water wall. Mr. Kroeger discussed the crushed rock that will be used for the promenade. This is similar to the

crushed rock that is utilized in the current park circle. The water wall will be made out of concrete.

Chair Kumar expressed her support for the proposed art piece and water wall. Vice-Chair Trescases added her support of the structures and cautioned planners that the supports for the art piece will get utilized heavily by kids wanting to use them as a climbing tool.

Boardmember Heath expressed his concern for the number of trees being cut down throughout the park. He requested a presentation with additional details and asked if the art piece can be incorporated, while preserving the trees. Boardmember Heath cautioned that cutting down the trees at Downtown Park sets a precedent so he wants to be sure that the process is carefully thought through and followed.

Boardmember Synn asked the following questions:

- Will Boardmembers have an opportunity to provide input on the art piece color?**
- Are there special considerations being given for fundraising (i.e., brick sponsorships or other revenue streams)?**
- How will parking restrictions be set for the local businesses so park-users don't park in the designated business parking spaces?**
- Will there be wayfinding signs?**

In addition, Boardmember Synn requested a rendering of the wayfinding, color and lighting plans.

Mr. Heim explained that the feedback provided during tonight's meeting will be forwarded to the artist for consideration. He also clarified that the Parks Board's role is to provide comments/feedback to the Arts Commission; the Arts Commission's role is to approve the designs, among other items.

Boardmember Hamilton expressed his support of the conceptual drawings of the NE Gateway. However, Boardmember Unger expressed her hesitation with the large amount of concrete depicted in the drawings. She suggested that pavers with grass in between be utilized or something that breaks up the concrete. She also likes the idea of pavers being utilized as a fundraising opportunity.

Ms. Hui inquired if a soft surrounding is necessary under the art piece. Mr. Heim clarified that the surface structures are yet to be determined. Ms.

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on July 9, 2019.

Hui also suggested that the pillars for the art piece be a different color than the roof.

4. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Trescases and second by Boardmember Unger to approve the May 14, 2019 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

None.

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

No report.

7. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

No report.

8. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Hamilton attended the Newport Hills Park community meeting, which he found very interesting. He also enjoyed the 29th Annual Community Leadership Awards Ceremony and the Surrey Downs Park Grand Opening.

Vice-Chair Trescases attended the Surrey Downs Park Grand Opening and gave accolades to the Parks Department for the work that has been done at the park.

Boardmember Unger attended the Surrey Downs Park Grand Opening and also commended staff. She also enjoyed a picnic at Downtown Park and visited Meydenbauer Bay Park.

9. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Kumar attended the Newport Hills Park community meeting. She also had fun renting a boat through REI's rental program. Lastly, Chair Kumar congratulated former Parks Director Patrick Foran for receiving the Caesar Chavez Award.

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

No reports.

11. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Board Elections**

Chair Kumar opened nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position.

Motion by Boardmember Hamilton to appoint Vice-Chair Trescases as the Parks & Community Services Board Chair. Vice-Chair Trescases accepted the nomination.

Chair Kumar requested other nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to appoint Vice-Chair Trescases as the Parks & Community Services Board Chair.

Chair Kumar opened nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position.

Motion by Vice-Chair Trescases to appoint Boardmember Hamilton as the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair. Boardmember Hamilton accepted the nomination.

Chair Kumar requested other nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position.

There was a brief conversation about Boardmember Clark's level of interest for the Vice-Chair position. However, it was determined that Boardmember Clark also supports the nomination of Boardmember Hamilton as the Vice-Chair. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried (6-0) to appoint Boardmember Hamilton as the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair.

Boardmembers thanked Chair Kumar for her leadership.

B. Parks 2020 Strategic Plan

Ms. Anderson explained that the Strategic Plan establishes a shared understanding of the department's vision, mission, and guiding principles. It also prioritizes the department's key areas of focus over the next 5 years; translates policy-level guidance from city-and department-level plans into actionable goals and strategies; and meets CAPRA accreditation requirements.

Ms. Anderson reviewed the plan components, which include: vision, mission, values, goals, strategies, tactics, and action plans. She also reviewed the current plan goals and strategies noting that the Strategic Plan Update is more of an internal facing document than other plans. Ms. Anderson highlighted the plan update process noting that additional presentations will be given to the Board before an endorsement of the completed plan is requested in early 2020.

Boardmember Synn views the vision as a bit limiting and not aspirational. Vice-Chair Trescases agreed and suggested that the vision statement be elevated.

Boardmember Heath suggested that a healthy community be the fourth string in the vision statement.

Boardmember Hamilton sees the Strategic Plan document fitting into the organization's health. The more staff at every level can spend with the document the better—it is a valuable document. He requested clarification about the term “entrepreneurial spirit” that is referenced in the plan. Staff clarified that this means nimble, looking for innovative ways, high performing, keeping business units on top of current trends, etc.

Motion by Vice-Chair Trescases and second by Boardmember Hamilton to extend the meeting until 8:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Chair Kumar does not like the term “intervention” referenced in the plan. She suggested that the continuum begin with prevention. In regards to equity, Chair Kumar suggested that additional information about access to the city and parks be included in the plan so that the city is held accountable.

12. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

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

Mr. Parker proposed the following agenda items for July:

- Aquatic Feasibility Study Update
- Environment Stewardship Initiative Update

In addition, Mr. Parker suggested that the October Board meeting be utilized as a special meeting for the retreat to focus on a Strategic Plan discussion as well as the Recreation Plan Update.

14. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Kids to Parks Memo and Proclamation (from City Council packet)
- C. Caesar Chavez Award to Patrick Alina (from City Council packet)
- D. Older Americans Month Memo, Proclamation, and Bellevue Network on Aging Report (from City Council packet)
- E. Bellevue Family 4th of July memo to Parks Board
- F. List of upcoming Parks special events

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on July 9, 2019.

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

None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Synn and second by Boardmember Hamilton to adjourn the meeting at 8:10 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).