

East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

August 7, 2012
6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Library Meeting Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Kasner, Vice Chair Seal, and Councilmembers Capron and Hughes

ABSENT: Councilmember Gooding

STAFF: Paul Inghram, Comprehensive Planning Manager

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m. with Chair Kasner presiding.

2. **ROLL CALL**

The Clerk called the roll. Councilmember Gooding was absent.

Chair Kasner led the flag salute.

3. **COMMUNICATIONS - WRITTEN AND ORAL:**

Mr. Boettiger spoke regarding the construction debris on 148th and Main. Chair Kasner reported that the City has been called and is working on the problem. In response to Mr. Boettiger's expressed interest in Puget Sound Energy's proposed installation of a transmission line connecting Phantom Lake and the Lake Hills Substations, Chair Kasner stated a second courtesy hearing on the subject is scheduled for the September meeting at which time the Community Council will take testimony.

Donna Lafleur stated she is an owner at College Park Condominiums and is interested in the PSE proposal as well. She will return next month to participate in the Community Council's courtesy hearing.

Erin and Andy Castle also attended tonight's meeting to discuss PSE's proposed transmission line but will also return next month for the scheduled courtesy hearing.

4. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Seal moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Kasner seconded the motion. The motion carried by a vote of 4-0.

5. **PUBLIC HEARING:** - None.6. **RESOLUTIONS:** - None.7. **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS, AND COMMISSIONS:** None.8. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

(a) Introduction to Comprehensive Planning

Paul Inghram, Comprehensive Planning Manager, provided a synopsis of the state's Growth Management Act and purpose of comprehensive planning. In compliance with GMA, the City is required to update its Comprehensive Plan every seven years. This most current update must be completed no later than June 2015. The purpose of this review is to introduce the update process and provide an overview of the current Comprehensive Plan.

More than meeting a state requirement, Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan has been a fundamental part of the community's vision. It sets the vision for how the community seeks to grow and accommodate change over time. Bellevue plans for people, their safety, places to live and recreate, for jobs and a strong local economy, schools and colleges, and a healthy environment. The Comprehensive Plan is a tool that allows the city to forecast future growth and the demand for services, and plan for how to meet those demands. It is the city's foundational policy document that provides direction for city regulations and investments. The current plan last underwent a major review in 2004.

Chair Kasner questioned tree canopy loss since the last urban study of tree canopy in 1996. Mr. Inghram stated that study was updated in 2009, reporting a significant loss of canopy, much of which in areas of new subdivisions south of I-90. In the remainder of the city, Mr. Inghram stated the city has retained a fairly healthy amount of that canopy north of I-90. Recognizing that there will continue to be development in undeveloped areas over time, the question will be how we replace the lost canopy. He will provide the clerk with copies of the 2009 Study for distribution to the Community Council.

Bellevue's Comprehensive Plan's major components include vision and policies that help accomplish those visions. The Plan incorporates the concepts of a "City in a Park"; environmental quality; superior urban design and "people places"; diverse and vibrant neighborhoods; housing that addresses the needs of all citizens; a regional economic center; a strong and diverse economy; a great downtown; an eastside transportation hub; an eastside center for the arts/culture; a safe and secure community; outstanding facilities and services; a leader in meeting regional challenges and an active and engaged community.

Responding to Chair Kasner, Mr. Inghram stated the Neighborhood Enhancement boundaries do not coincide with Subarea boundaries. In general, subareas are larger and include multiple neighborhoods. In response to questions regarding newly annexed areas, he explained that the Comprehensive Plan had already contemplated and defined boundaries for the Eastgate area.

Chair Kasner shared his concern related to the housing vacancy rates in East Bellevue.

Mr. Hughes asked what solutions are in place to address increased homelessness and pan handling in Bellevue. He noted the increased use of Bellevue School District's free lunch program, specifically in East Bellevue. He also questioned the differing area boundaries.

In response to Mr. Hughes, Mr. Inghram explained the subarea boundaries from a planning perspective.

Mr. Inghram continued the presentation, engaging the Community Council and audience in discussion.

At the conclusion of the presentation, Council thanked Mr. Inghram for sharing with them the comprehensive planning requirements and process.

9. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

Mr. Capron provided a status update on the Kelsey Creek Center development. Previous concerns related to parking availability is a non-issue due to staggered demand.

Mr. Hughes read into the record a correspondence regarding the condition of the Key Bank property at 148th and Main Street. The letter, written by Sandra Hughes, requests city action related to the unsightly and dangerous condition of this property. She wrote that the fence is in disrepair and would do little to ensure safety for anyone who wanted to wander in. He noted that the City, along with City Councilmember Balducci, immediately responded and that staff is reviewing the issues.

In response to Mr. Richard Erwin, Mr. Hughes stated the City has required Key Bank to repair/replace the fence within two weeks of the compliance letter dated August 3rd.

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

(a) Robinswood Off Leash Plan

Chair Kasner opened the discussion related to Airfield Park development plan and the off leash area planned for Robinswood Park.

He stated that Airfield Park would cover approximately 27 acres and cost about \$10 - \$12 million to develop.

Mr. Capron clarified that although Airfield Park is outside the East Bellevue Community Council's area, the houses surrounding the park are within its boundaries.

Chair Kasner spoke to the off leash plan, stating the Community Council at their May meeting expressed that we did not want all of the off leash facility to come to Robinswood Park, as it has its own issues. That position was never presented to the City Council. He reviewed his letter regarding the off leash impacts to Robinswood Park and, although the quickest solution, will not adequately serve the needs of all citizens of Bellevue. He continued, summarizing Mr. Kost response that the off leash area at Robinswood are not intended to serve the entire community long term. While it represents the City's only current facility, the City's long range plan recommends three to five off leash facilities citywide. Chair Kasner shared his concern related to the existing off leash areas at Robinswood and that other facilities be added throughout the City before off leash is expanded at Robinswood.

Mr. Seal stated the City's intention to create six off leash areas throughout the City but the planning of when that would begin is dependent on funding.

Chair Kasner asked if one of the members of the Community Council would like to draft a letter to the City on this topic? There was Council discussion related to the timing of the expansion.

Mr. Hughes moved that Council write a letter requesting clarification of the off leash plans at Robinswood. Mr. Capron seconded the motion which carried 4-0. Mr. Hughes volunteered to take the lead on drafting this letter.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

(a) Jr. Taxing Districts, Municipal Corporations & Local Govt. Finance Committee

Chair Kasner welcomed John Kappler, Houghton Community Vice Chair, to the meeting. He will be attending the Joint Jr. Taxing Districts, Municipal Corporations & Local Govt. Finance Committee meeting in Olympia on August 13th.

Chair Kasner provided a brief history of the attempted legislative actions that would have eliminate community councils. At issue is that there are currently over 2,000 junior taxing districts. The Committee is exploring any efficiency gained by eliminating a majority of those taxing districts, rolling up their authority to local, county or state government.

Mr. Hughes question how the above relates to community councils. Mr. Kasner responded that the community councils are municipal corporations but without taxing authority. He stated that he believes that the highest priority for the Committee will be the allocation of liquor taxes. He noted that Representative Springer, if he fails in his attempt to eliminate community councils in this session, has indicated he will continue to pursue that end in future sessions.

Mr. Kappler stated that Howard Rupe has assembled three citizens to go to the Committee meeting on Monday in support of the community councils along with Houghton Community

Councilmember Weber and himself. He suggested that the Community Councils join together to develop a strategy that meets the criteria for a prayer for relief from this Legislative Committee.

Chair Kasner provided a brief history of the creation of both the Houghton and East Bellevue Community Councils. Although attendance by representatives of the Community Councils at Monday's meeting is advisable, he does not believe that the Committee's discussions will include all matters before them. Mr. Kasner stated his goal to make sure the 2012 Committee has the most up-to-date data before they decide the community councils' fate.

Mr. Hughes reported meeting with Mr. Springer at his place of business. He stated that Mr. Springer indicated that he felt that neighborhood organizations would do an adequate job representing their areas and that there was no need for community municipal corporations. Mr. Hughes noted that Mr. Kasner had pointed out to Mr. Springer that of the 114 or so neighborhood associations in Bellevue, only about 8 are active.

Mr. Kasner stated the proactive involvement of the community councils result in better outcomes every time. He likened the commitment made to the community council areas at the time of their annexation to a treaty. Mr. Kasner noted the 2009 82% electorate approval for East Bellevue Community Council. He continued, stating the wonderful ways the Houghton Community Council interact with their constituency. He reported that volunteers went to Olympia to testify in both previous Legislative Sessions in support of community councils and his belief that the need to make the salient points regarding the value of community councils continues.

Mr. Seal commented on the current effort to eliminate small/local self-governance and noted the value they provide to their small constituency.

Mr. Capron stated he believed the community councils provide a valuable service to its citizens and supports their continued existence.

12. CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS

- (a) Maus Conservation Short Plat @ 13819 SE 10th Place

The Clerk stated she will confirm that David Pyle, Sr. Land Use/Environmental Planner, has responded to Mr. John Barker related to his concerns for preserving green spaces.

- (b) Kelsey Creek Center Developer Agreement: Deferred to a future meeting.
- (c) Cascade Middle School Tennis League: No discussion.

Mr. Hughes provided a brief status report on the upcoming Greenscape presentation.

Mr. Capron reported on a recent burglary at his home and efforts to establish a neighborhood watch.

13. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

14. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Councilmember Seal moved to approve the summary minutes of June 5, 2012. Councilmember Hughes seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

Councilmember Hughes moved to approve the summary minutes of July 3, 2012. Councilmember Seal seconded the motion which carried unanimously.

15. **ADJOURNMENT**

Councilmember Seal moved to adjourn. Councilmember Capron seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4-0.

At 8:52 p.m., Chair Kasner declared the meeting adjourned.

Michelle Murphy, CMC
Deputy City Clerk