

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

Tuesday
October 10, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Van Hollebeke, Vice-Chair Synn, Boardmembers Deng, Heath, Kumar¹, Trescases

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Nieuwenhuis

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Camron Parker, Doug Sanner, Terry Smith

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Synn and second by Boardmember Heath to approve the September 12, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

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

None.

¹ Arrived at 6:29 p.m.

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on November 14, 2017.

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

None.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran encouraged Boardmembers to view the construction progress being made at Meydenbauer Bay Phase 1 Park Development. He also called attention to the 2017 Summer Ranger Program Report included in the Board Packet.

- Follow-up on Oral Communications/Public Comments from prior meetings

None.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Deng recently attended the Boys & Girls Club Open House where she demonstrated her Stroller Strides program. Chair Van Hollebeke requested that a partnership update be provided to include the Boys & Girls Club partnership.

Chair Van Hollebeke recently traveled to Hong Kong. Although the city has waterfront access and beautiful natural landscapes, there is limited opportunity to enjoy the waterfront and wayfinding is also a challenge. This was a reminder that the Board should continue to advocate for wayfinding and access to natural open spaces throughout Bellevue.

Vice-Chair Synn recently enjoyed a visit to the Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

No report.

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

A. **Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee**

Boardmember Kumar distributed a report from her recent Wilburton CAC meetings.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Grand Connection Framework Plan Comments**

Mr. Parker discussed the next steps for the Grand Connection Framework Plan Memo. These steps include:

- Approve the Grand Connection Framework Plan Memo.
- Provide a copy of the Draft Grand Connection Framework Plan Memo to the Parks Board City Council Liaison.
- Submit the memo and comments on the Draft Grand Connection Framework Plan to City Council.

The key themes in the memo include:

- Connectivity.
- Inclusion (including access and recreational experiences along the Grand Connection).
- Greening the Grand Connection Corridor.
- Need for a public park of significance on the east side of the Grand Connection.

Vice-Chair Synn noted that he, Chair Van Hollebeke and Boardmember Trescases worked together to review the Draft Grand Connection Framework Plan Memo and support the memo as presented.

Boardmember Heath inquired if the memo should include specific information about community services (i.e., the men's homeless shelter). Boardmember Trescases called attention to areas in the memo that address community services. She added that the homeless shelter is a Council decision and at this point is not a Parks Board project. Chair Van Hollebeke concurred with Boardmember Trescases. Chair Van Hollebeke added that the Grand Connection Framework Plan encourages Council to think broadly about the overall vision.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Vice-Chair Synn to approve the Grand Connection Framework Plan Memo with the following edits:

- **Page 2 of the memo, 2nd paragraph under "Providing abundant access," second sentence should read: *How can the Grand Connection improve access through Downtown for an aging population and people with mobility impairments challenges?***
- **Page 2 of the memo, 3rd paragraph under "Supporting recreation and cultural facilities," last sentence should be separated into bullet points and "community services" should be added to the list.**

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Boardmember Heath inquired about the next steps for the memo. Chair Van Hollebeke noted that there is an opportunity to couple the timing of presenting the memo with the Grand Connection presentation to Council. Chair Van Hollebeke volunteered to attend the Council

meeting to present the Board's memo, where this information will be discussed, and also to provide an update of other Board activities. Boardmembers concurred with this process.

B. Overview of Parks Capital Funding

Mr. Sanner provided an overview of the Capital Investment Program (CIP) Budget. The CIP Budget is a seven year budget tool that is updated every two years and will be updated next year. Mr. Sanner further explained that the capital projects are organized by Community Outcome, and include Transportation, Parks, Fire, Police, Neighborhoods, Downtown Livability, Grand Connection, Affordable Housing, Citywide Buildings/Security/Systems, and Debt Service (74 projects totaling \$485M). The Parks Capital Projects include Property Acquisition, Park Development and Renovation/Redevelopment, plus associated Planning, Design, Project Management (10 projects totaling \$73M).

Mr. Sanner noted that one of the major revenue sources for the Parks CIP is the 2008 Parks Levy.

Chair Van Hollebeke inquired if there was community feedback gathered, prior to issuing previous bonds/levies to see if there would be community support. During the 2008 levy process, Boardmembers assisted with community outreach to see if there was community support for the initiative. In addition, Mr. Sanner noted that a citywide survey was conducted to gather community input.

Mr. Sanner also explained that funds are collected via the Real Estate Excise Tax (REET), of which the city gets 0.5% for capital purposes (\$14M). Half of this fund is dedicated to Parks, per Council ordinance (\$7M). Any additional funding is evaluated/allocated by the city's Budget Office.

Boardmember Heath reminded Boardmembers that the Parks Board recommended that two parks be developed last fall and the requested was denied. If there is additional funding (above the allocated \$7M), Boardmember Heath suggested that the Parks Board request that the City reallocate additional funds to parks and open spaces. Mr. Sanner cited a few examples where additional allocations have occurred.

Mr. Sanner discussed other project specific revenues that are available for Parks. Other revenues available, but not implemented, include: park impact fees and park districts. There was a general discussion about incentives and tying incentives to specific projects to encourage the desired outcome. If desired, Mr. Foran offered to provide further information for discussion regarding incentives.

Vice-Chair Synn encouraged Boardmembers to consider impact fees as a means for funding additional parks and open spaces.

Boardmember Trescases requested additional information about incentive fees and the history of the incentive fee allocation. Boardmember Kumar noted that the Bel-Red Corridor developers have opted to pay fees in lieu of adding a park incentive. She would like to see an incentive

system that encourages the incentives to be implemented, rather than encouraging a developer to pay a fee and not provide the incentive.

Mr. Sanner discussed additional non-city funding that has helped fund some of the park-related projects (i.e., Mercer Slough Environmental Education Center, Bellevue Botanical Garden, Bellevue Youth Theater, Downtown Park/Inspiration Playground). Mr. Foran added that the Master Plan helps identify projects so partners can support a project if desired.

Chair Van Hollebeke asked if private contributions have been accepted in lieu of naming rights. Mr. Foran cited the Aaron Education Center at Bellevue Botanical Gardens as an example of a contribution for naming rights. Mr. Sanner clarified that the city is a non-profit and able to accept donations.

At a future meeting, Boardmembers would like to know the basics of other foundations for their fundraising efforts. They also discussed the city's marketing efforts, or lack thereof, to obtain general donations. Boardmember Trescases commented that the amount of effort that goes into fundraising is enormous. She added that Bellevue has been very successful in public/private partnerships. Boardmember Trescases does not see future success for the city to play a role in fundraising. However, she thinks the city should continue to leverage partnerships. She added that foundations also exist for advocacy, education, public awareness, etc.

Boardmember Heath reminded Boardmembers that at the 2014 Board Retreat he asked that Boardmembers consider a Bellevue Parks Foundation. Although there may be a lot of effort spent with fundraising, Boardmember Heath thinks that it might be worth the effort. Boardmember Heath used the example of the Bellevue Schools Foundation competing with the Bellevue PTAs as a successful partnership. Chair Van Hollebeke suggested that estate planning options be considered as well.

Chair Van Hollebeke and Vice-Chair Synn discussed Microsoft's Give Big Campaign and the ability to get matching dollars for volunteer hours. The funds can then be earmarked for Bellevue parks.

Boardmember Heath noted that there is an opportunity to grow and streamline a donation process for individuals to give to parks. He suggested that renters in the Spring District be asked to donate \$5 toward Bellevue parks. Boardmember Heath discussed San Juan County's conservation tax, which is imposed when a property is sold. This might be an option for Bellevue to consider.

Boardmember Deng would like to make it easy for people to donate to Bellevue parks.

Vice-Chair Synn asked Boardmembers to be mindful about the legislative options to get funding (i.e., park impact fees). He added that there is a social responsibility for developers and impact fees should be strongly considered.

Boardmembers requested additional information about the history of what went into garnering community support for the levy. They also asked the following questions regarding the levy:

- How long did the Board work on the plan?
- What was successful about the levy?
- Who was involved?
- How was the research conducted?

Boardmember Heath would like to remove the term “alternative funding” from the list of available funding options. It should merely be “funding options.” He would also like the following questions addressed:

- How much funding is needed—how much is the Board short to put their plans in place?
- What is next up on the project list?
- What is the Parks Board’s role in getting people to donate land in their trust to the city/parks?
- What are advocacy pressure points?
- What are the advocacy opportunities?

Chair Van Hollebeke noted that park funding is a multi-stage project. First, there must be general education on the Board’s role, the limitations, and the political pressure points. Then, the Board must decide what to do with this information. He would like to see a plan of action established by May, 2018.

Boardmember Heath suggested that a representative from the Parks Board meet with members from the Planning Commission to discuss the Parks Board priorities related to incentive zoning.

Boardmember Kumar requested additional clarification on where incentive money goes if a developer opts to pay a fee in lieu of the incentive.

C. Board Work

- Bylaws

The Bylaws Subcommittee (Vice-Chair Synn and Boardmember Heath) reviewed the first draft of the Bylaws and are currently in the process of making additional edits. The Subcommittee indicated that the editing process could take some time due to busy schedules. Boardmember Trescases asked if other Boards/Commissions have finalized their Bylaws and requested clarification regarding the City Clerk’s expectations for the Bylaws. Staff will clarify these questions and report back to Boardmembers. Chair Van Hollebeke also suggested that the Subcommittee meet with the Parks Board Council Liaison to discuss the Council’s expectations for the Bylaws.

- Meeting Agenda

Next month’s meeting agenda should include the following items:

- Ongoing education regarding funding.
- Incentive zoning:
 - How much money is needed?

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- Where does additional money go? Who makes this decision?
- History of the previous levy/bond and the Board's role.
- What is the delta between what is currently in place and the Parks Board's vision for parks and open spaces?

Boardmembers would like to talk with the Bellevue Youth Theatre Foundation and/or other foundations to see how they started their foundations and where they see their future. Boardmember Trescases suggested that discussions occur with other park related foundations, since the information might be more relevant (i.e., Seattle Parks Foundation).

Vice-Chair Synn also suggested that the Board consider implementing impact fees for the Spring District. He also suggested that Boardmembers research the existing and political economic landscape of the Spring District, since large international companies are moving into the area.

Mr. Smith noted that approximately 30 minutes has been requested on the next meeting agenda for a presentation to discuss the northeast corner entry of the Downtown Park.

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

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

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

See above.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Memo from staff re 2017 Summer Ranger Program
- C. Memo to Council from staff re Zakes Foundation and Bellevue Skate Park Recognition
- D. Email re volleyball team
- E. Email re tree in greenbelt
- F. Email re Bellevue 2017 National Drive Electric Week Celebration

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14. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Next regular Parks Board meeting—November 14, 2017

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

None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Boardmember Deng requested that the meeting minutes from the September 12, 2017 regular meeting be opened for reconsideration so a correction can be made.

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Heath to reconsider approval of the September 12, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Meeting Minutes. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Motion by Boardmember Deng and second by Boardmember Heath to amend the September 12, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Meeting Minutes and correct page 7, Board Bylaws, second paragraph to read:

Motion by Vice-Chair Synn and second by Boardmember Deng to appoint Boardmembers Heath ~~and Deng~~ to the Bylaws Subcommittee. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the meeting minutes as amended.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Vice-Chair Synn to adjourn the meeting at 8:37 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).