

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on January 8, 2019.

**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.

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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.

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- 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:

Timeframe	Decision Point
January, 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Board process recommendation to City Council • City Council direction
TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Board: Is there need and benefit? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ If yes, proceed to site analysis ○ If no, report back to City Council
TBD	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Park Board recommendation to City Council on need, public benefit and preferred site • City Council review and direction

Mr. Foran noted that if the fieldhouse project moves forward, the following steps remain:

- Project agreement (Council approval required)
- Land use process
- Project design
- Building permits

Board Discussion:

- Boardmember Unger:
 - Does it make sense to have site identification as the third step since everyone is discussing the fieldhouse at the Wilburton location?
Mr. Foran responded that the Board first needs to determine if there is a community need and public benefit.
 - In addition to neighborhood outreach, Boardmember Unger suggested that there also be broader community outreach.
 - Does the impact analysis and the site identification cover if we have facilities within our system that can accommodate a use or environmental feature that might be impacted or relocated to make space for the proposed facility?
Mr. Foran responded that generally speaking yes, trade-offs are covered.
- Boardmember Hamilton:
 - Is this process unique?
Mr. Foran responded that the process is fairly typical. The Board needs to determine if there is a need/a public benefit.
 - Are there any other process maps that have been used?
Mr. Foran noted that a master plan process is similar, although this process is more specific.
 - Believes the process, as proposed, is headed in the right direction and looks forward to continuing the conversation

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- Boardmember Heath:
 - How long is the proposed process map expected to take?
Mr. Foran anticipates that community need/public benefit could be discussed in February; site identification (if the project is worthy of continuation) in conjunction with site visits, community meetings, etc. April/May/June; and then a report to Council in June/July timeframe. That timeframe is flexible and can be adjusted to suit the needs of the process
 - It is difficult to react to the decision process with the descriptions being at such a high level—is there a better way to conduct the process?
 - Would like to consider other sites as options. Are private sites being considered? How does this fit within the recently-studied Wilburton land-use study? Should we look at locations earlier in the process?
 - Want to understand the analysis for community need.
 - Has the 4-acre parcel in the Grand Connection been considered (the lid park)?
Mr. Foran explained that the community need relates to supply/demand for indoor recreational facilities, rather than addressing whether or not kids should be served.

- Vice-Chair Trescases:
 - Proposed process makes sense
 - What is Council's expectation?
Mr. Foran responded that Council would like an actual process identified.
 - After being presented with the process, how long will it take Council to approve the process before it is sent back to the Parks Board?
Mr. Foran responded that Council requested a process map. They will evaluate whether or not the process map includes the right scope of work, decision points, and does the process map provide enough information to make a decision. If the Parks Board finalizes the process map at the January Board meeting (if this is the desired option) then it can most likely be presented to Council in January as well.
 - Within the site identification details, are there some initial criteria?
Mr. Foran responded that this should be addressed in the process map.

- Chair Kumar:
 - Recommend using Parks & Open Space System Plan to identify criteria to use for site identification
 - Generally feels good about the proposed process
 - Has this process been used before?
 - Once the process is approved, would like additional statistics from BGBC regarding the population, demographics, neighborhoods served, etc. for the project.
 - What other sites have been evaluated by the BGCB?
 - What is the proposed timeline?

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Mr. Foran clarified that Council will mostly likely want a proposed timeline. Staff will prepare a range of recommended timelines for the Board to consider at the January Board meeting.

- Are there examples of how community need and public benefit has been evaluated?

Mr. Foran responded that there are examples of both community need and public benefit that can be provided.

Mr. Parker noted that Boardmember Clark submitted a list of comments/questions for clarification. The questions were similar to other comments/questions raised above and will be incorporated into the overall Board feedback.

Boardmember Heath expressed his skepticism that the first two columns identified in the process map can be addressed in one or two meetings. He views these as substantial questions/discussions for the community. Boardmember Heath rejected the idea that other sites throughout Bellevue not be considered. He added that there shouldn't be an assumption that Wilburton is the target.

Boardmember Hamilton explained that his understanding for the January Board meeting is to confirm the process that will be forwarded to the City Council. Mr. Foran confirmed that this is the current expectation.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

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

Chair Kumar requested that an update regarding the Environmental Stewardship Plan be provided at a future Board meeting. She would like the Parks Board to be supportive in the Environmental Stewardship Plan endeavors.

Vice-Chair Trescases suggested that the Board send an official message (via Oral Communications) to thank City Council for their work with the budget process.

Boardmember Unger looks forward to the Ashwood Park update and discussed the general process for the park, which Mr. Foran confirmed.

Boardmember Heath called attention to an email that Chair Kumar wrote to Mr. Schrag on October 22, 2018 regarding Ashwood Park. He noted that the email promised that Chair Kumar would follow-up with Mr. Schrag on a particular issue. Boardmember Heath inquired if Chair Kumar indeed followed-up with Mr. Schrag. Chair Kumar responded that Mr. Schrag attended the last Board meeting, and Mr. Parker added that staff has been in ongoing dialogue with Mr. Schrag. Boardmember Hamilton requested a brief synopsis of the communications with Mr.

Schrag. Mr. Foran clarified that there is a significant amount of back and forth communication that has transpired between the City and Mr. Schrag. In addition, Council is aware of the situation.

Vice-Chair Trescases clarified that the email from Chair Kumar to Mr. Schrag stated that she would follow-up with City staff and Council regarding Mr. Schrag's concerns, which is exactly what has been done. Therefore, Vice-Chair Trescases views Chair Kumar's follow-up as complete.

Boardmember Heath requested an update regarding the potential aquatic center facility. Mr. Foran clarified that Council approved the consultant contract, which includes a specific set of Council-directed tasks. Boardmember Heath thought that there were questions raised during the aquatic center presentation that weren't addressed. He expressed his frustration that questions are raised but not always answered or followed-up upon. He would like any questions raised about the aquatic center properly addressed.

Chair Kumar summarized that the next meeting agenda will include finalizing/approving the process for the potential Boys & Girls Clubs of Bellevue Fieldhouse partnership so that the process can be forwarded to City Council.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Memo and Proclamation for "Lights on Afterschool Day"
- C. Communications from and to Pam Johnston re Environmental Policies
- D. Communications from and to Dwight Schrag re Ashwood Park, King County Animal Control, and City's budget and planning processes
- E. Email from Pat M re Bellevue Skatepark
- F. Email from Nicole C re Bellevue Skatepark
- G. Email from Trina B re park maintenance
- H. Note and photos appreciating Bellevue's parks
- I. Email from Martha C re fieldhouse at Wilburton Hill Community Park
- J. Email from Chris C re Bannerwood Park and *It's Your City* article
- K. List of upcoming Parks special events

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

Mr. Foran gave kudos to the Resource Management maintenance crew for their work on the Lewis Creek Park trail. Boardmember Unger requested that the proper staff be notified about the positive feedback.

Ginger Switzer

12649 NE 2nd Street, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Switzer explained that the Wilburton District roadways are already overcrowded and many current projects will only make this work (Spring District, City Walk, Light Rail, new school, etc.). She suggested that the current projects be finished to see the impacts of the projects before adding any additional projects to the Wilburton area.

Ms. Switzer encouraged Boardmembers to evaluate other sites for the BGBC Fieldhouse other than Wilburton. If this is done, then more neutral information should be sent out to the appropriate communities versus what was presented at the Wilburton picnic.

Lastly, Ms. Switzer called attention to the older trees in the Wilburton area and the importance that these represent within the community.

Chris Lona

12424 NE 2nd Street, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Lona noted that the *Bellevue Reporter* recently published the following information:

- City Council heard the results of the latest citywide Tree Canopy Assessment.
- The 2018 Tree Canopy Assessment found the total tree canopy at 37%.
- After the Tree Canopy Assessment in 2000, City Council adopted a goal of 40% tree canopy for the City into the Comprehensive Plan.
- In order to reach the 40% citywide goal, the City would need an additional 670 acres of tree canopy.

Mr. Lona asked, ‘how does removing or subtracting significant existing canopy from Wilburton Hill Park for a fieldhouse align with the facts above?’

Mr. Lona also called attention to a 2015 Land Use Vision Statement, which states, “Bellevue grows in a manner that enhances the livability of the community, while maintaining the elements that residents cherish. Growth in Bellevue is focused in denser, mixed-use centers, like Downtown, Bel-Red, and Eastgate, while maintaining the City’s outstanding natural environment and the health and vitality of established residential neighborhoods.” Taking this statement into consideration, Mr. Lona asked the following questions:

- Is Wilburton considered a mixed-use center?
- Is Wilburton considered an established residential neighborhood with outstanding natural environments?
- Does tearing down the Wilburton Hill Park forest and replacing it with a fieldhouse enhance the livability of the community or maintain the elements

that residents cherish? If so, how does the fieldhouse project in Wilburton Hill Park align with the established Land Use mission?

Carolyn Maxim
12405 NE 2nd St., Bellevue, WA

Ms. Maxim clarified that the BGCB is paid to do their work. The community is giving up their time to support Wilburton Hill Park in a way that is thoughtful, factual, and organized.

Ms. Maxim is concerned about the proposed process map because there are no costs to the public identified (i.e., public trust). She asked, 'Who will represent the long-term interests of the forest at Wilburton Hill Park' and 'Who will represent the average citizen that enjoys the park passively.'

The community has provided feedback in an online survey and Ms. Maxim feels the feedback has been ignored. She urged Boardmembers to look long-term to the things that are not quantified.

Daniel Renn
603 129th Pl. NE, Bellevue, WA

Mr. Renn agreed with Boardmember Heath and asked why the Crossroads area is not being evaluated for the BGCB Fieldhouse project. He also noted that he was on the Citizen's Advisory Committee for the Wilburton Commercial Area. The final plan identified for the Wilburton Commercial Area includes dense apartments. The people that will use the proposed BGCB Fieldhouse are in the Wilburton commercial area or near 156th. He suggested that Boardmembers consider these sites as alternatives.

Boardmember Unger thinks that getting rid of the tree canopy is a terrible idea and/or causing additional traffic congestion is a huge issue. She would like the Parks Board to be mindful of these issues when developing the overall process map.

Chair Kumar asked about the master plan for Wilburton Community Park and the existence of a third ballfield that is not currently constructed near the existing two.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Unger and second by Vice-Chair Trescases to adjourn the meeting at 8:09 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).