

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

Tuesday  
July 10, 2018  
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
Room 1E-113  
Bellevue, Washington

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Kumar, Vice-Chair Trescases, Boardmembers Clark, Hamilton, Heath, Synn<sup>1</sup>

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Betsy Anderson, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Emil King (Community Development), Glenn Kost, Ken Kroeger, Kevin McDonald (Transportation), Camron Parker

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Kumar at 6:01 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Vice-Chair Trescases and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Boardmember Synn and second by Boardmember Hamilton to approve the June 12, 2018 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

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

None.

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

No report.

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<sup>1</sup> Departed at 7:15 p.m.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran provided the following report:

- Twelve applications were received for the vacant Parks Board position. Interviews will be conducted later this month.
- The 27<sup>th</sup> Annual Bellevue Family 4<sup>th</sup> of July celebration was well attended without any significant incidences. Special recognition was extended to the Bellevue Downtown Association, Parks staff, and Bellevue Police and Bellevue Fire for their assistance.
- Council recently approved the acquisition of property located on West Lake Sammamish Parkway consisting of approximately 1.5 acres as an addition to Weowna Park. Mr. Foran commended Camron Parker and former City of Bellevue employee Lorrie Peterson for their efforts in the property acquisition.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Boardmember Clark recently visited Downtown Park and checked out the progress at Meydenbauer Bay Park.

Boardmember Hamilton stayed connected with parks through the City's social media applications.

Boardmember Heath discussed the recent bear sightings in his neighborhood.

Vice-Chair Trescases enjoyed the Strawberry Festival and thanked Parks staff for their role with this event.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Kumar provided the following report:

- Visited Downtown Park and is looking forward to seeing the connection from the NE Corner Entry into the rest of the Downtown Park.
- Attended a recent City Council meeting to present the Board's memos to City Council regarding comments on the Draft Grand Connection Framework Plan, Sequence Two, and the Parks Budget/CIP.

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

None.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Wilburton Commercial Area CAC Vision**

Mr. King provided an overview of the Wilburton Commercial Area Citizen Advisory Committee process and recommendations. The overall process consists of the following:

- Citizen Advisory Committee (January 2017-April 2018)
- Transmit CAC Vision to Council (July 2018)
- Council direction to initiate policy and code work (Fall 2018)
- Commission/Board work on Comprehensive Plan Policies, Land Use Code, Design Guidelines (Late 2018 thru 1Q20)

Mr. King showed pictures of the Wilburton Commercial Area Study boundary, including the Grand Connection and East Link Light Rail. He also noted that three Wilburton Commercial Area alternatives were reviewed by the CAC:

- No Action – retain current zoning
- Alternative 1 – allow for a moderate increase in density
- Alternative 2 – allow for a greater increase in density

After evaluating the characteristics of each alternative, the CAC preferred a blend of the characteristics from Alternatives 1 and 2, so a hybrid alternative was prepared (CAC Preferred Alternative).

Vice-Chair Trescases suggested that the McDowell House be highlighted on the alternative options as a park property so that it remains intact in the selected alternative. Mr. King confirmed that there is a commitment to keep the McDowell House in all of the alternatives.

Mr. King summarized the proposed building height ranges for each of the preferred alternatives. The impacts of each of the options, including height ranges, are being evaluated and discussed with Council. Chair Kumar added that the CAC would like the block sizes decreased so people can easily navigate the Wilburton Commercial Area.

Mr. McDonald reviewed the vision for the parks and open spaces in the Wilburton Commercial Area. Pictures of potential visions for parks and open spaces were shown (i.e., activated Eastside Rail Corridor trail-oriented development; large central civic space; activated pocket parks and plazas; enhanced natural areas—Sturtevant Creek and wetland).

Mr. McDonald noted that the Eastside Rail Corridor Trail is a major component for mobility in the Wilburton Commercial Area. He added that it is a catalyst to create development potential for the area. The other mobility feature is 116<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE, converting this roadway toward an “urban boulevard” with better facilities for pedestrians and bicyclists.

Boardmember Heath inquired if any of the alternatives will decrease traffic. Mr. McDonald explained that the intent is to maintain or enhance mobility choices with more connectivity and range of facilities, so there is less pressure on already-crowded streets and intersections.

Boardmember Hamilton asked if the bicycle traffic in the Wilburton Commercial Area will be predominately commuter or leisure bicyclists. Mr. McDonald noted that the hope is to draw both commuter and leisure bicyclists. He added that King County has developed a Master Plan for the rail corridor trail that includes functioning similarly to the Burke Gilman Trail. There is a large amount of commuters on the Burke Gilman Trail, but there is also enough space and delineation provided for leisure bicyclists.

Mr. McDonald noted that the transportation vision focuses on the following elements:

- Emphasis on the pedestrian realm
- Pedestrian and bicyclist infrastructure
- Sustainable and green

Boardmember Synn requested clarification for the width of the Eastside Rail Corridor. Mr. McDonald explained that the width of the corridor varies. However, in the evaluated area, the width is approximately 100 feet +/- . He added that East Link is using a portion of the Eastside Rail Corridor and that the ST3 Plan may use the Eastside Rail Corridor for alignment, but there is enough space adjacent to the Wilburton Commercial Area station to accommodate both a trail and a high-capacity transit alignment. Boardmember Synn also inquired if there are Land Use Code incentives in the Wilburton Commercial Area. Mr. King clarified that the Downtown Land Use Code that was recently adopted did not include the Wilburton Commercial Area. Incentives, urban design and code structure will be prepared for the Wilburton Commercial Area at a later time.

Vice-Chair Trescases would like the vision and policy set to benefit the community. In other words, if a park is intended to be an active park, what ensures it remains active? She would like the visions heard and the implementation conducted.

Boardmember Heath requested that buffers between residential and commercial areas be kept in mind during the planning efforts. These might be beneficial places for parks.

B. Downtown Park NE Corner Entry

Mr. Kost provided a historical overview of Downtown Park and the NE Corner Entry. Some of the elements to ponder for the project goals/Board feedback include:

- Size/scale of entry plaza
- Type and location of water feature
- Placement and scale of public art work
- Treatment of connection to the circle
- Location of the Union High School Arch
- Open air pavilion or no pavilion

Mr. Kroeger showed concept images for the following:

- New entry plaza at Bellevue Way and NE 4<sup>th</sup> Street
- New water feature
- Integration of public art

- Pedestrian connection to the Downtown Park Circle
- Integration of the Union High School Arch and connection to the Formal Garden
- Open air pavilion

Boardmembers discussed the significance of the Union High School Arch and the commitment to the community to integrate the arch into the park. Mr. Kost noted that if the arch is incorporated, a storyboard would most likely be included to tell the story of the arch. Vice-Chair Trescases informed Boardmembers that Eastside Catholic students used the Union High School building as well. She stressed the importance of preserving history and the duty of the Parks Board to help make this happen.

Mr. Kroeger reviewed four design options for the NE Corner Entry. He also discussed the current right-of-way on the property and the impacts of vacating the “park section” of the right-of-way or the “commercial section” of the right-of-way.

Some of the project challenges include:

- Existing right-of-way/alley
- Topographical/ADA concerns
- Treatment of boundary of neighboring properties
- Long-term vs. short-term view of neighboring properties
- SEPA (Land Use process) for “new” uses

Board comments about the proposed options include:

- Want a concept to welcome park-goers into the park—not a commercial plaza.
- Want the entry to be clear that people are entering into the park.
- Don’t want to hide the park too much with greenery.
- Option 1 doesn’t look like a commercial plaza, which is good.
- Want to make sure that the arch is visible from the park and not hidden in the formal garden.
- Options 1 and 3 are good for the arch.
- Like Option 3—like the art and water feature in this option to pull visitors into the park. It’s like the Bean in Chicago—it pulls people into the park.
- Like the pavilion included in Option 3.
- Don’t necessarily see the appeal of the arch. If needed, maybe include the arch in the pavilion.
- The arch doesn’t need to be the centerpiece.
- Need to vacate the northern portion of the right-of-way.
- If the view into the park is opened up (i.e., trees removed), don’t plant new trees or something artificial (i.e., pavilion) to then block the view into the park.
- Don’t want the art and/or water feature too overbearing so people don’t wander past it into the park.
- There are a lot of places in the city to place art; this park is nature. If art is included, keep it small in scale.

*The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on September 11, 2018.*

- May want to be mindful about how the NE Corner Entry looks from the high rise buildings.

**Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Heath to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

Comments continued:

- Want to be mindful of how to flow people from the park to the Grand Connection.
- All options are good to open the park up more than the current state.
- Prefer Options 1 and 3.
- Option 2 is not as attractive as other options.
- Want the art to be useful but don't want a large scale fixture.

Mr. Kost will incorporate the Board's comments into the design elements and then potentially plan for a joint meeting with the Parks Board and Arts Commission.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

*None.*

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

Mr. Parker noted that the August Parks Board meeting has been cancelled. The next meeting in September may be a joint meeting with the Arts Commission. In addition, Boardmembers would like to discuss funding alternatives at the next Board meeting.

**Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Boardmember Clark to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. City Council Agenda Memorandum and Attachments re property acquisition
- C. Park Board Memo to City Council re Draft Grand Connection Framework Plan, Sequence Two
- D. Memo from staff to City Council re Parks & Recreation Month Proclamation
- E. Email from Pamela Johnston re Bridle Trails Bear

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F. List of upcoming Parks special events

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

*None.*

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Vice-Chair Trescases and second by Boardmember Heath to adjourn the meeting at 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).**