

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on September 12, 2017.

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

Tuesday
July 11, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

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

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Nieuwenhuis, Trescases

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Bradley Calvert (PCD), Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Camron Parker, Terry Smith

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Van Hollebeke at 6:10 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Vice-Chair Synn to approve the June 13, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Meeting Minutes as presented.

Motion by Vice-Chair Synn and second by Boardmember Kumar to amend page 6 of the meeting minutes, first paragraph, to read:

After Chair Heath became the Parks Board Chair, he ~~attended a~~ reviewed the Planning Commission meeting minutes and noted that the. ~~At that meeting, the~~ Planning Commission Chair asked at one of the Planning Commission meetings ~~Chair Heath~~ why the Parks Board was not involved with the Comprehensive Plan amendments.

Motion carried unanimously (5-0) to approve the amendment to the main motion.

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on September 12, 2017.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (5-0) to approve the meeting minutes as amended.

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

None.

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

None.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

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

Mr. Foran expressed his appreciation to staff, in particular Glenn Kost, Ken Kroeger and Pam Fehrman, for a job well done with the Downtown Park project and Grand Opening. The Grand Opening was well attended, and the park was enjoyed by approximately 70,000 people during the Bellevue Family 4th of July Celebration. Special recognition was also extended to the Bellevue Downtown Association, as well as Bellevue Police and Fire for their assistance.

7. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

A. **Next Quarter's Agenda Items**

Chair Van Hollebeke requested that Boardmembers discuss the current status of the Bylaws as well as the Parks Board Liaison relationships with other Boards/Commissions later in the meeting agenda.

Chair Van Hollebeke attended the Downtown Park Grand Opening and commended staff for completing the long-held vision for the park. He also commended the Bellevue Rotary for their fundraising efforts. Chair Van Hollebeke has heard concerns from the Old Bellevue Merchants Association that parking around Downtown Park continues to be a challenge.

8. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Deng enjoyed the Downtown Park Grand Opening and commended staff for their hard work with this project. She also appreciates the improved lighting at Downtown Park.

Boardmember Kumar and Vice-Chair Synn both attended the Downtown Park Grand Opening as well as the Strawberry Festival.

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

A. Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee

Boardmember Kumar reported that the Wilburton CAC is currently working on ideas for a tactical urbanism for the Wilburton area. Chair Van Hollebeke suggested that food trucks, similar to the ones at the Ashwood Park food truck event, be considered.

Boardmember Kumar also reported that the Wilburton CAC evaluated some bicycle/pedestrian mock-ups of lanes and potential permeable surfaces. The goal is to make the area pedestrian friendly, while accommodating traffic.

Next steps for the Wilburton CAC include working on the Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Chair Van Hollebeke questioned if there is an opportunity for the Parks Board to contribute comments to the Wilburton CAC. Boardmember Kumar encouraged Boardmembers to review the Wilburton CAC meeting minutes and provide comments at any time. She clarified that the Committee is currently in the learning/visualizing stage of the process. Chair Van Hollebeke requested that Boardmember Kumar speak with the Wilburton CAC to determine if there is an opportunity for the Parks Board to provide direct feedback. Boardmember Kumar will speak with the Wilburton CAC regarding Chair Van Hollebeke's request. In addition, he noted that there is currently an opportunity to comment on the Grand Connection Sequence One Plan.

B. Planning Commission Follow-Up

No report.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS**

A. Thank You for Outgoing Chair Stuart Heath

On behalf of the Board, Chair Van Hollebeke thanked former Chair Heath for his Board leadership. Boardmember Heath was also presented with a token of appreciation.

B. Grand Connection Briefing

Mr. Calvert provided an overview of the Wilburton-Grand Connection. Mr. Smith clarified that there is currently an opportunity to provide the Wilburton CAC feedback.

Mr. Calvert noted that the Grand Connection has been broken into two visioning phases: Sequence One and Sequence Two. He summarized the events that have occurred thus far. When discussing the art and culture of the Grand Connection area, Vice-Chair Synn would like the term “cultural inclusion” utilized rather than “cultural diversity.” Mr. Foran added that the term “diversity” should be utilized to open more creativity and inclusion. Other Boardmembers agreed with this suggestion.

Mr. Calvert noted that the Draft Framework Plan for the Grand Connection Sequence One of the visioning process has been released. This phase of work addresses the segment between Meydenbauer Bay and the Civic Center District. The Draft Framework Plan includes the following chapters:

- Executive Summary
- Chapter 1 - Introduction
- Chapter 2 - Public Engagement
- Chapter 3 - The Route
- Chapter 4 - Creating a Distinct Identity
- Chapter 5 - Cohesive Design Strategies
- Chapter 6 - Art and Culture
- Chapter 7 - Connectivity and Mobility
- Chapter 8 - Re-Imagining Public Spaces
- Chapter 9 - Interstate 405 Crossing
- Chapter 10 - Opportunities for Programming
- Chapter 11 - Implementation and Next Steps

Vice-Chair Synn requested that the term “accessibility” be included in some of the documents, not only for mobility but also for services offered by Bellevue. He added that this may fall under Chapter 7 – Connectivity and Mobility.

Boardmember Heath suggested that the term “public space” be changed to “parks and open space” within the Draft Framework Plan. Mr. Calvert explained that the term “public space” is used because it encompasses many different spaces (e.g., plazas, open space, parks, green space, etc.).

Chair Van Hollebeke requested clarification regarding the relationship between the Grand Connection and Parks Department. In particular, he wondered if the project is a Parks project or a multi-departmental project. In addition, Chair Van Hollebeke asked if the Grand Connection is tied to the Parks vision (i.e., pearls on a string connecting all of the parks). Mr. Calvert noted that the Draft Framework Plan is currently in the preliminary visioning stage and is multi-departmental. He added that the “pearls on a string” reference is utilized quite a bit in planning to improve connectivity. Mr. Calvert clarified that the Draft Framework Plan provides

background information, recommendations, art and culture elements, and next steps. He also noted that the Wilburton CAC does not work on the Grand Connection.

Mr. Calvert summarized the timeline for the Draft Framework Plan. If the Parks Board would like to provide feedback/comments, he suggested that this be done before October, when it will be presented to City Council.

Boardmember Heath asked how community services fits into the Grand Connection or Wilburton CAC. Mr. Calvert clarified that community services are more aligned with the Wilburton area. Mr. Smith added that accessibility is part of community services (i.e., interactive play, experiential learning, recreation, culture, educational, etc.).

Chair Van Hollebeke noted that there could be an opportunity for wayfinding throughout Wilburton-Grand Connection. He also suggested that there is room for improvement to the wayfinding near and around Compass Plaza.

Mr. Calvert discussed Sequence Two of the Draft Framework Plan for the Grand Connection, which includes the Interstate 405 Crossing. Visioning goals for this crossing have been established along with various crossing alternatives. An online open house will be conducted to gather community feedback about the various crossing alternatives.

Mr. Calvert showed a map of the Wilburton Commercial Area. The Wilburton CAC is evaluating the land use, transportation, urban design, character, implementation strategies, and other elements for this area. Mr. Calvert summarized some of the messages received from the Wilburton CAC's research and showed ways that open/green/public space could be deployed (i.e., Grand Connection, civic center, neighborhood green space, ERC linear park, natural network). Mr. Calvert also summarized some of the density and height elements that are being considered. There is also a community inspired Simon project that is being researched as an interactive game.

Boardmember Heath likes the forward thinking, outreach and community involvement for the Draft Framework Plan. He would like to have a chapter included for "parks and open space" and "community services." Boardmember Heath stressed the importance of the Parks Board proactively evaluating the Draft Framework Plan. Chair Van Hollebeke concurred with Boardmember Heath. He would also like the Parks Board to have an opportunity to provide feedback, particularly during some of the design process. Mr. Calvert clarified that it is difficult for the Parks Board to be involved in renderings at such an early stage in the process. It will be most valuable for the Parks Board to provide input during the comment period.

Chair Van Hollebeke suggested that a parks motif be included throughout the Draft Framework Plan. He also suggested that Boardmembers review the plans in detail, particularly areas pertaining to community services, so feedback can be provided. Boardmember Kumar added that it would be valuable for Boardmembers to provide feedback on the different alternatives and whether or not they are achieving the Parks & Community Services goals.

Vice-Chair Synn expressed concern that the art in the Grand Connection will be seen as a physical asset versus artistic element. He also suggested that the term “community” be included throughout Mr. Calvert’s presentation. Lastly, Vice-Chair Synn offered suggestions on how to structure the Simon game.

Break—7:45-7:50 p.m.

C. Board Visioning and Planning

Looking back, Chair Van Hollebeke explained that the visioning and planning process was created to ensure that every Boardmember is heard and engaged in board work; to increase meaningfulness and transparency of the Board process; and to ensure progress on the shared priorities. For future planning, Chair Van Hollebeke suggested that the Board begin formulating a vision to serve as the “north star” and determine priorities to guide the next one-two years of Board work.

The following is a list of questions and responses for a survey that Chair Van Hollebeke conducted with Boardmembers:

Fifty years from now, you are touring the Bellevue Parks & Community Services system—what would you want to see? What are the three most important aspects of Bellevue Parks & Community Services?

Chair Van Hollebeke:

- Want/vision a park system to inspire people without overwhelming them. Something that is new and exciting and connected to nature.
- The vision should be centered around community involvement.
- The vision should bring Bellevue to a whole that is greater than the sum of its parts.

Boardmember Deng:

- Signs with other languages (diversity).
- Community involvement—ask everyone to have an ownership in building and maintaining the parks system.
- Recognize everyone and have a shared goal to make Bellevue a better place.

Boardmember Kumar:

- Wayfinding signs and kiosks that talk in multiple languages in and around Bellevue.
- A park on Lake Sammamish that connects to the ERC and then Meydenbauer.
- A string of pearls (i.e., trails) that circles the city that is multimodal.
- Conditions: community and money

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Boardmember Heath:

- Bel-Red Commons.
- Citizen engagement and active lobbying presence for parks.
- Would like the city's highest priority to be funding for parks.
- Would like community services performed in partnership with non-profits (i.e., citizen engagement/involvement).
- How: 1) need leaders to rally the community for parks (citizens); 2) need political will; 3) need funding.

Vice-Chair Synn:

- Vision Parks & Community Services integrated with the city's identity (like Central Park is New York's identity).
- Community interaction.
- Can always utilize/access parks—always on.
- How: funding, education, advocacy, partnerships.

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

What about Parks & Community Services do you care the most? Why did you join the Parks Board? If there is one thing you'd like to see accomplished during your Parks Board tenure, what would it be?

Boardmember Heath:

- A mechanism for community involvement, including liaisons to other Boards/Commissions, as well as education.
- Be educated on parks standards, funding needs, and funding alternatives.
- Help Council integrate with the Parks Board, as well as other Boards and Commissions—need to work together.

Boardmember Kumar:

- Understand how Parks & Community Services is managed by hearing from staff and participating in community events (i.e., education).
- Secure funding to complete parks (e.g., Airfield Park, park on Lake Sammamish, Newport Hills Park).
- Begin planning for interactive kiosks and wayfinding.

Vice-Chair Synn:

- Define and agree to Parks & Community Services Board strategy—work with the community, Council, and other Boards/Commissions.
- Clear sources of funding.
- Advocacy program (i.e., Boards, community, etc.).

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on September 12, 2017.

Boardmember Deng:

- Alternative funding.
- Integrate diversity.
- Parks & Community Services education/neighborhood identified partnerships.

Chair Van Hollebeke:

- Alternative funding.
- Education/advocacy.
- Leverage existing and/or creating new partnerships.

Chair Van Hollebeke identified the following themes from the discussions above:

- Alternative funding.
- Education/partnerships.
- Advocacy.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

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

Boardmembers requested that the following topics be included in the next meeting agenda:

- Board action/next steps on the Grand Connection.
- Solidify discussion/plans from the visioning/planning exercise.
- Alternative funding options.
- Discuss how the overall agenda priorities should be identified, include ongoing topics that staff has identified (i.e., master plans, budget discussions, etc.).
- Next steps for the Bylaws.
- Next steps for Liaison assignments.

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

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Memo and Proclamation for Parks & Recreation Month
- C. Email re Lewis Creek Park

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14. **INFORMATION:**

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

B. Next regular Parks Board meeting—September 12, 2017

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

None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Mr. Smith noted that Boardmembers had requested more offsite meetings. Staff suggested that the September Board meeting be held at the Bellevue Botanical Gardens. Boardmembers favored this venue change/suggestion.

Motion by Boardmember Heath and second by Vice-Chair Synn to adjourn the meeting at 8:51 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).