

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

Tuesday
February 13, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Van Hollebeke¹, Vice-Chair Synn², Boardmembers Deng³, Hamilton, Heath⁴, Kumar, Trescases

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmembers Robertson

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Rick Bailey, Geoff Bradley, Patrick Foran, Nancy Harvey, Jammie Kingham, Glenn Kost, Ken Kroeger, Tom Kuykendall, Shelley McVein, Terry Smith, Chris Vandall

OTHERS PRESENT: Pamela Johnston

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Vice-Chair Synn at 6:04 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Trescases to approve the January 9, 2018 Parks & Community Services Board Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

¹ Arrived at 6:06 p.m.

² Departed at 7:23 p.m.

³ Arrived at 6:35 p.m.

⁴ Departed at 8:31 p.m.

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

Pamela Johnston

3741 122nd Ave. NE, Bellevue, WA

Ms. Johnson called attention to the many ongoing discussions regarding affordable housing, zoning, and the homeless shelter. She encouraged Boardmembers to pay close attention to these issues.

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

Councilmember Robertson welcomed newest Boardmember Dave Hamilton to the Parks Board. She also reported on the following items:

- Paul Clark has been appointed to the Parks Board, beginning June 1, 2018, to fill Chair Van Hollebeke's vacant position after his term ends.
- Council recently had a retreat. The priorities identified at the retreat will be released in the near future.
- Preliminary planning has begun for the 2018 budget process.
- SPLASH Forward has been working on bringing an aquatic center to the area. Additional information will be provided as it becomes available.
- Council is reevaluating the Bel-Red Subarea.
- The Bellevue Wintergrass Festival will be held at the Hyatt Hotel next weekend.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Foran encouraged Boardmembers to listen to the Council meeting recording from last night's meeting. Some of the issues that Ms. Johnston raised during her Oral Communication were discussed at last night's meeting.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATION:**

Vice-Chair Synn noted that there is significant progress with the Spring District development project, and the Board still has an opportunity to make an impact in this area.

Boardmember Kumar recently visited Crossroads Park.

Boardmember Trescases expressed her appreciation for the play structure at Saddleback Mini Park.

Boardmember Hamilton expressed his appreciation for the programs offered at Highland Community Center.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Van Hollebeke provided the following report:

- Looking forward to the Board retreat.
- Microsoft is interested in exploring opportunities with Bellevue for the Global Innovation Exchange (GIX) partnership. GIX develops leaders, stimulates innovation in the workforce, and helps solve technological and design challenges.
- The NE Corner Entry of Downtown Park is on the development horizon.

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

A. Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee

Boardmember Kumar called attention to the *Grand Connection & Wilburton Planning Next Steps* memo that was included in the Board Packet (page 19). The CAC will meet through the end of May and hopes to finalize their recommendations by April. Boardmember Trescases suggested that the EIS be reviewed, prior to proposing a recommendation.

Boardmember Heath noted that the Design Principles have not been adopted for Parks. He suggested that a subcommittee be formed to ensure that Parks & Community Services are treated as a priority. Boardmember Kumar expressed hesitation with this suggestion noting that it might be a little late in the planning process to form another subcommittee. She reminded the Board that they have seen the design principles, which include Parks principles. Chair Van Hollebeke sees Boardmember Kumar as filling the role of a “subcommittee,” transmitting the Board’s comments to the CAC. This discussion item will be added to the Board Retreat Agenda so next steps can be identified.

B. Bylaws Subcommittee

No report.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Natural Resource Division Overview

Mr. Bradley provided an overview of the Open Space System Plan. The mission is to promote stewardship of Bellevue’s natural and cultural resources and provide maintenance and management for Natural Resource Division managed lands. Some of the Natural Resource program areas include:

- Forest Management
- Street Tree and Arterial Landscapes
- Greenways and Trails
- Nature Parks and Visitor Centers
- Volunteer Program
- Water Conservation and Irrigation

Mr. Bailey provided an overview of the Forest Management Program. This encompasses 1,951 acres of forested open space, riparian corridors, wetlands and NGPAs. Some of the service delivery and stewardship for the Forest Management Program include:

- Customer Service
- Boundary Inspections
- Tree Risk Management and Inventory
- Forest Enhancement
- Maintenance
- Outreach

Mr. Kuykendall discussed the Street Tree and Arterial Landscape Program. Mr. Kuykendall noted that the Streetscape and Arterial Landscapes takes design from the Comprehensive Plan, Bellevue Parks & Open System Plan, and the Enhanced ROW and Urban Boulevards Plan. Program activities for the Street Tree and Arterial Landscape Program include the Transportation CIP Project Coordination and the Utility Coordination.

Mr. Vandall discussed the Greenways and Trails Program. The goals of the program are to:

- Provide recreational opportunities for walkers, bicyclists, joggers, and birdwatchers.
- Provide system connectivity and accessibility to parks, open spaces and surrounding neighborhoods through a network of 90 miles of trails.

Some of the Greenways and Trails Programs include:

- Customer Service
- Trail Maintenance
- Trail Design and Construction
- Trail Inventory, Wayfinding and Mapping
- Working with Volunteers through Outreach (Arbor Day, Stewardship Saturdays and Eco-Fridays)

Ms. Kingham discussed the Nature Parks and Visitor Centers. Some of the Nature Parks and Visitor Centers programs include:

- Environmental Education and Interpretation Program
- Volunteer Program
- Community Farms and Garden Program
- Summer Ranger Program
- Well-KEPT Program

Ms. Kingham distributed a Natural Trail Guide, and two Natural Resource Program brochures (Summer and Winter/Spring).

Mr. Bradley discussed some of the water conservation and irrigation efforts that are underway in Bellevue.

Boardmember Kumar inquired if impervious surface technology is changing to allow for better drainage. Mr. Bradley highlighted some of the mitigation that is used in conjunction with other departments to use low impact options.

Boardmember Deng discussed mitigation efforts where dogs were utilized to chase away geese in the park during the Newcastle Beach Park Backyard Campout.

Boardmember Hamilton asked how the Board can help and support the Natural Resource Division's efforts. Mr. Bradley encouraged Boardmembers to participate in Arbor Day and continue to advocate for parks and open space.

B. Downtown Park's NE Corner Entry

Mr. Kost provided an overview of the NE Corner Entry project. This project encompasses approximately two acres. The scope of work includes:

- New entry plaza at Bellevue Way and NE 4th Street
- Possible new water feature
- Integration of public art
- Pedestrian connection to the Downtown Park Circle
- Connection to the Formal Garden
- Integration of the Union High Arch
- Connection to the Downtown Park Belvedere

Mr. Kost noted that the Grand Connection is an identified hub and major art opportunity. Mark Fornes is the selected artist to create a large-scale, site-specific structure and public art piece.

Mr. Kroeger highlighted some of the design concepts that have been prepared for the NE Corner Entry project.

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Deng to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Mr. Kost reviewed some of the project challenges, which include:

- Existing right of way/alley
- Topographical/ADA concerns
- Treatment of boundary with coin store
- Public art coordination
- Long-term vs. short-term view of neighboring properties
- Integration of Formal Garden and Union High Arch
- Water
- SEPA (Land Use Process) for 'new' uses
- Schedule

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Kumar to extend the meeting until 8:50 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Boardmembers Trescases and Kumar ~~encouraged inclusion of concessions around Downtown Park, since the park is a hub to many retail establishments~~ commented that the Downtown Park is a hub to many retail establishments. This should be considered when exploring the idea of concessions in the park.

There was a general discussion about the goal of the NE Corner Entry, which is to alert people to Downtown Park with a welcome view that draws the user into the park. Once in the park, the purpose is to have many gathering areas for park users to enjoy.

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Deng to extend the meeting until 8:55 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Boardmembers expressed their support of a water feature at the entrance of the park.

C. Board Retreat Planning

Boardmembers requested that the March Board meeting be extended so that the retreat can be held during the regular Board meeting.

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Kumar to extend the meeting until 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

11. NEW BUSINESS:

None.

12. ESTABLISHING AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:

The Board Retreat will be held during the next regularly scheduled Board meeting. The agenda will include discussions about the next steps/recommendations for the Wilburton Citizen Advisory Committee.

13. OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:

A. CIP Project Status Report

B. Memo re Grand Connection and Wilburton Planning Next Steps

14. INFORMATION:

A. List of upcoming Parks special events

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on March 13, 2018.

B. Next regular Parks Board meeting—March 13, 2018

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

None.

16. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Kumar to adjourn the meeting at 9:01 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).