

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

Tuesday
March 14, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Heath, Vice-Chair Kumar, Boardmembers Deng, Grindeland, Nieuwenhuis, Synn

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Van Hollebeke

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Nancy Harvey, Emil King (PCD), Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Terry Smith, Helena Stephens

OTHERS PRESENT: Brooke Chang, Darrell Tsukiji

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Heath at 6:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Kumar and second by Boardmember Synn to approve the February 11, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Special Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Motion by Vice-Chair Kumar and second by Boardmember Grindeland to approve the February 14, 2017 Parks & Community Services Board Regular Meeting Minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

Brooke Chang, Bellevue Youth Link Boardmember

Darrell Tsukiji, Bellevue Youth Link Boardmember

On behalf of the Bellevue Youth Link Board, Mr. Tsukiji invited Boardmembers to the 18th Annual Gumbo Night, which will be held on March 30, 2017. He also expressed his appreciation to Boardmember Grindeland who has hosted the event each year.

Mr. Tsukiji reported that during the months of November and December, Bellevue Youth Link collected nearly 3,500 coats for children and youth. Through two special events and working with agencies, the Bellevue Youth Council distributed approximately 2,500 coats, hats, gloves, and scarves. The remaining coats are being distributed through human service agencies at schools and to local community groups.

Miss Chang reported that the Youth Link Board has agreed to focus on homeless youth in Bellevue and the eastside as the Board priority. For 2017, the Youth Link objectives include:

- Homelessness—Youth Link will promote, educate, and support youth agencies focusing on homelessness throughout the Eastside community. Youth Link will create new alliances and utilize existing partnerships to achieve greater understanding for the root cause of youth homelessness and work with impacted youth to advance change.
- Career Development/Mentorship—Youth Link will work with a variety of local businesses to develop career and mentorship opportunities. The goal is to assist youth in career planning and address youth employment through programs such as Youth Link University and other business mentor programs for middle and high school students.
- Equity—Youth Link will engage in partnership opportunities with a variety of diverse youth organizations to create a higher understanding of equity issues that impact children and youth in the Bellevue area.

In addition to the Board goals, Miss Chang discussed the priorities that were listed from 450 students at the 2016 Youth Involvement Conference, which is hosted by Youth Link every other year. These priorities include:

- Employment:
 - Expand access to community internship programs
 - Organize job/career fairs
 - Create a website that allows collaboration within vocational organizations
 - Educational barriers—tutoring program
- Safety:
 - Work with the Bellevue School District regarding awareness of bullying prevention programs
- Transportation:
 - Work with the Transportation Department to increase awareness about the lack of sidewalks in and around South Bellevue
 - Increase access to counselors for student mental health issues

- Education:
 - More classes for students to learn adult knowledge (i.e., how to do taxes, banking, life skills)
- Health:
 - More access and information regarding mental health services
 - Drug awareness—linkage to information regarding substance use
 - Increase access to assessment tools and counselors for mental health issues

Lastly, Mr. Tsukiji and Miss Chang thanked Boardmembers for their continued support of Youth Link.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

No report.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Ms. McVein reported on the following items:

- Council recently awarded a bid for the Meydenbauer Park Phase 1 project construction. The project is on track for completion in 2018.
- June will mark the 25th anniversary for Bellevue Botanical Gardens.
- Plans are being finalized for the grand opening of Downtown Park.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmembers Deng and Synn expressed their appreciation to staff for all of their hard work with the parks.

Boardmember Grindeland recently met with the City Clerk to review the Parks Board's proposed Bylaws. A draft of the Bylaws should be ready for Boardmembers to review at the next Board meeting.

Vice-Chair Kumar expressed her appreciation to staff's responsiveness through the MyBellevue app.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

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

Chair Heath reminded Boardmembers that he would like to remain on the Board as a Boardmember but is not seeking reelection as the Board Chair. Therefore, he encouraged Boardmembers to proactively think about the leadership qualities necessary for the Board Chair when selecting officers at the June Board meeting.

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

None.

9. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Grand Connection/Wilburton Initiative CAC Report

Vice-Chair Kumar reported that the Citizen Advisory Committee recently participated in a walking tour of the Grand Connection. In addition, she discussed the Wilburton Commercial Area Study that was recently conducted. The key comment themes from the survey included:

- Respondents tilted towards long-time Bellevue residents
- Desire for cultural space (art, music, theater)
- Outdoor recreation/walkability is highly valued

B. Downtown Livability Land Use Code Update

During the Downtown Livability Land Use Code Update presentation, Chair Heath asked Boardmembers to ponder whether or not the update meets the needs of parks and open space and if there are mechanisms in place to execute the plan.

Mr. King clarified that the Downtown Livability Land Use Code Update is specifically for the Downtown Subarea. It is also for a broader livability effort to make the urban center of Bellevue a livable place.

Mr. King reviewed Council principles for the Downtown Livability Initiative and the Council guidance for updating Downtown incentive zoning. Mr. Parker noted that the Downtown Livability Initiative began with the Comprehensive Plan and Parks & Open Space System Plan.

Mr. Parker discussed the Grand Connection vision, which would ultimately provide connectivity to a series of parks and open spaces. He also reviewed the capital project objectives and showed some examples of publicly-accessible open spaces. Mr. Parker stressed the importance of making the open space areas in the Downtown corridor accessible and easy to locate.

Mr. King reviewed the overall Downtown Livability process, noting that the Planning Commission is currently in the review and refinement stage of the process. He clarified that the public engagement process is an evolving process.

Mr. King provided an overview of a map of potential sites for redevelopment under the new Land Use Code. He also reviewed the Amenity Incentive System, in draft form. This works in combination with the development guidelines. The overall incentive is for a developer to be able to build a taller building if certain incentives are utilized.

Chair Heath requested an analysis of how Mr. Parker and Mr. King's presentation applies to the Parks & Community Services Board. He found the presentation materials very informative; however, there was a lack of analysis for park benefits/incentives. Chair Heath noted that the Land Use Code does not indicate that another park will be added.

Boardmember Nieuwenhuis requested additional information about how a developer can opt out of incentives in lieu of a fee. He views this as a negative consequence if a developer pays a fee to opt out of developing parks. Mr. King clarified that there is a cap on the "fee in lieu" portion of the Land Use Code. He added that the bonus rate is the same as a park improvement. Mr. Parker noted that the Land Use Code is developer driven. He discussed some of the incentives that might drive park related items within the code. If a developer opts for a "fee in lieu" incentive, he would like to see the fees that are paid be restricted (i.e., have the fee be pooled with other fees to develop parks).

Boardmember Grindeland recalled that the original Citizen Advisory Committee was frustrated because they felt that the developers had full control of the incentive system. The current update seems very similar to frustrations.

Boardmember Synn suggested that the criteria for bonusable items be finessed to make them deeper. From a Parks Board perspective, a model needs to be created to influence a developer to include important features (i.e., parks and open spaces). Boardmember Synn added that there needs to be customization around the incentive framework. He would like the Parks Board to be able to identify the parameters for two or three items/incentives that are important for a developer.

Motion by Boardmember Synn and second by Boardmember Deng to report to the Planning Commission that the draft Downtown Livability amenity incentive system does not meet the needs of the Parks & Community Services Board.

Motion by Boardmember Synn and second by Boardmember Deng to amend the main motion to read: "The Parks & Community Services Board does not feel that the draft Downtown Livability amenity incentive system meets the needs for parks and community services." Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

Boardmember Synn would like to see a plan that allows the Parks Board a way to define incentives and provide specific influences because historically, the bonusable items in the Land Use Code have not driven parks. Boardmember Synn questioned if there has been reconsideration regarding the bonusable items. Mr. King clarified that there has not been public input for changing the bonusable items criteria.

Boardmember Synn inquired if there are any incentives to address pet issues (e.g., dog relief areas). Mr. King clarified that there are already incentives for dog relief areas. However, these are not required. Boardmember Synn suggested that dog relief areas be a requirement, not an incentive.

Boardmember Nieuwenhuis asked if developers have provided feedback at the public meetings. Mr. King clarified that approximately 25% of the comments received were regarding the incentive system, 25% regarding tower spacing, 15% regarding site specific issues, and 35% regarding miscellaneous issues.

Boardmember Deng likes the Comprehensive Plan vision. She wants to achieve this vision. However, she does not think that the draft Downtown Livability Initiative achieves this vision. Mr. King clarified that the Land Use Code is one of many tools to achieve these goals.

Boardmember Synn suggested that there needs to be a purpose and function to open spaces. In addition, there needs to be strategic direction about the buffer between Downtown urban and residential areas.

Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Vice-Chair Kumar to send a representative from the Parks and Community Services Board to attend a Planning Commission meeting to share the Board's thoughts and concerns regarding the Downtown Livability Initiative. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Boardmember Synn volunteered to attend the next Planning Commission meeting.

Mr. King encouraged Boardmember Synn to review the draft Land Use Code and incentive system, prior to attending the next Planning Commission meeting. In addition, he noted that the Planning Commission may request ideas for improving the incentive system. Chair Heath would like the Planning Commission made aware that the Parks Board welcomes dialogue to create solutions to improve the incentive system.

Chair Heath noted that there is no analysis in the Downtown Livability Initiative to obtain another park property in the Downtown corridor. In 1981, there were developer incentives put in place that, to date, have resulted in no additional parks. It is clear to Chair Heath that the current process is not providing the proper incentives for parks.

C. Board Work Plan Items

Postponed until the next Board meeting.

Boardmembers would like the following items included in the April meeting agenda:

- Crossroads Community Center Programs and CAYA
- Board Work Plan
- Review of Draft Bylaws
- Report from Boardmember Synn re presentation to the Planning Commission

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

None.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

12. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. CIP Project Status Report
- B. Email re Coal Creek Trail
- C. Email re Lewis Creek Bench

13. **INFORMATION:**

- A. List of upcoming Parks special events
- B. Next regular Parks Board meeting—April 11, 2017

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

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Grindeland and second by Boardmember Synn to adjourn the meeting at 8:29 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).