

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

Wednesday
January 15, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clima, Vice-Chair Chou; Boardmembers Chianglin, Clark, Kronoff, Trescases, Valverde

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Hamilton

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Jesse Canedo, Pam Fehrman, Anthony Gill, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Scott VanderHyden,

OTHERS PRESENT: Patrick Bannon, Rod Bindon, David Bonathan, Steve Fantle, David Schooler, Alex Tsimmerman

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

Chair Clima called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Chou and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Chou and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the November 20, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Clima reviewed the guidelines for Oral Communications (Ordinance 6752).

David Schooler

Served on the Meydenbauer Bay Planning Committee

The original intention of the organizing principles for Meydenbauer Bay Park was to open up the water, creek, storm water, lake, etc. At that time, it was suggested to enhance the water (i.e., pump water to Downtown Park). In addition, opening the street

was a contentious topic at that time. The corner of Main and 100th was supposed to be an open area, inspired by Park Guell in Barcelona, Spain.

Patrick Bannon

Bellevue Downtown Association

Co-Chair of Friends of the Grand Connection

Friends of the Grand Connection have strong support for the Grand Connection project. It will connect some of Bellevue's most cherished parks and open spaces. The designs for creativity and practicality need to be balanced. The Friends of the Grand Connection are committed advocates, partners, fundraisers, and stakeholders to bring the vision to life.

Alex Tsimmerman expressed opinions about a Police commission and general dissatisfaction with the government.

Steve Fantle

Request for facilities to install Disc Golf (aka Frisbee Golf) courses in Bellevue, due to the sport's growing popularity, affordability, and accessibility.

Rod Bindon

President of Meydenbauer Bay Neighbors Association

Regarding Phase two of Meydenbauer Bay Plan – concerned about closure of 100th Ave. SE and would like to see as much moorage retained as possible

David Bonathan

Concerned about the parking lot being built in the "kite site" area as part of the Phase 2 of Meydenbauer Bay Plan, due to the increase in traffic congestion it would cause.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Hamilton requested that Mr. Zimmerman's offensive comments expressed during Oral Communications be evaluated to determine if they conform with city policy.

City Council's current projects were discussed, including the upcoming Council Retreat.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. **Parks CIP Project Status Report**

Michael Shiosaki, Director, highlighted some of the upcoming community events. Also discussed was City Council's recent approval to purchase two properties off Lakemont Boulevard Southeast for \$19.1 million. These properties, which were originally slated for new houses, will be preserved as open space adjacent to the Coal Creek Natural Area in southeast Bellevue.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Clark thanked staff for their work in making the Coal Creek property purchase happen. Kudos was also expressed for the other projects and excellent work. Other Board members expressed their enthusiasm for this property acquisition as well.

As requested at the previous Board meeting, Camron Parker shared statistics about off leash dog issues, and noted enforcement is resource constrained.

Vice-Chair Chou asked why the Hidden Valley children's playground was out of order. Pam Fehrman said that the playground is part of a renovation project. New equipment is scheduled to be installed at the park.

Boardmember Kronoff expressed appreciation to parks staff for their hard work during the recent windstorm.

Staff responded to various questions from Boardmember Valverde regarding the Kelsey Creek restrooms, Winters House, and Lake Sammamish Neighborhood Park.

Boardmember Chianglin gave kudos to the City of Bellevue and Staff for running smooth and successful events, attended a Bridle Trails Community Club event and met some of the BTCC members after the meeting. Boardmember Chianglin mentioned the privilege of serving on the Board and the importance of making balanced decisions that benefit the entire community.

Chair Clima highlighted various events around the community and encouraged Boardmembers to attend.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Grand Connection Crossing**

Jesse Canedo, Assistant Director, and Anthony Gill, Grand Connection Manager, Community Development, provided an overview of the Grand Connection and an update on the 30% design for the Grand Connection Crossing. The Grand Connection is a set of interconnected pedestrian experiences from Meydenbauer Bay Park through downtown, across I-405 to the Eastrail corridor in Wilburton.

The increased density in the downtown corridor is increasing demand for public space, and for different types of public space. There is significant demand for community connections, and a desire for improved active transportation options within and across downtown.

The key issues and design tradeoffs were discussed, along with a map that showed city-owned properties throughout the Grand Connection.

Discussion:

- What is the focus of Phase 1? *Response: The scope will be determined later this year. The Grand Connection is dozens of projects. The bridge is Phase 2.*
- What are the other projects and timelines? *Response: This project will focus on the portion over I-405. There is also a lot of work to be done with the other city-owned and privately owned parcels. The city's job is to develop a cohesive flow but there's a lot of private development involved.*
- Is the design lid compatible with the I-405 crossing? *Response: Yes.*
- Want to be sure that there are elements in the I-405 crossing to give a glimpse into the other phases.
- What is the timeline for the Phase 2 crossing? *Response: The intent is to have the crossing done by the end of the decade. A key piece of the project will be to determine a proper funding strategy and constructability.*
- How wide will the I-405 crossing be? *Response: The ultimate vision is to allow for programming. The current spec is 30-45 feet, with potential for small community events/food trucks, etc.*
- Is there a chance that the project will stop because funding has not materialized? *Response: The city's partners, congressional delegations, etc. indicate that there will be funding to support the project.*
- Where are the exit and access points? *Response: There are nodes to provide for people to move up/down. The Lincoln Center can also provide parking.*
- Have there been studies on how much foot and bike traffic will be encouraged from the corridor? *Response: Transportation modeling is complex, interested parties can go online to access the Transportation Technical Report.*
- What has been done for public safety? *Response: Public Safety is a cornerstone.*
- Are there opportunities for programming? Want places to sit and take breaks, covered spaces, etc.

B. Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2 Update

Pam Fehrman, Planning & Development Manager, and Scott VanderHyden, Project Manager said that in 2010, the Bellevue City Council adopted the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Land Use Plan. This planning process was a city-wide initiative over a three-year period with extensive community outreach, a citizen advisory committee, consultation with boards and commissions, an Environmental Impact Statement and ultimately City Council review and adoption. The first phase of development implementing the adopted plan was constructed and opened to the public on March 16, 2019.

In 2023, planning and design for the implementation of the next phase of master plan implementation began. The goal of this design work is to identify Phase 2 elements and options along with approximate costs to help inform a strong roadmap for the further implementation of the Meydenbauer Park Master Plan. The Council-adopted Meydenbauer Bay Park Master Plan provides the framework vision as well as planning and implementation principles to inform potential next step development

Illustrations were shown that highlighted the focus or potential Phase 2 design opportunities. Staff will continue to work with the community and neighbors and provide a project update to City Council. Next steps will involve development of construction documentation and securing City, State and Federal permits. The construction documentation and permitting will take approximately 3 years before construction begins.

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Kronoff to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Discussion:

- It is disappointing to see that the funding for Phase 2 only gets a parking lot and walkway.
- The parking area is a significant distance from the park. The design is not very user friendly.
- Maybe there can be parking off of 99th? *Response: there are options for parking off of 99th however those are not proposed for this next phase..*
- Parking needs to be more usable.
- Thanks for the data.
- It is great that 100th is preserved.
- Has the Fire Department weighed in on the navigability? *Response: Yes, and we will continue working with the department to discuss options.*
- There is a significant drop in the number of moorage slips, which will impact revenue.
- What kind of parking/wayfinding can be made to help people locate all of the parking options?
- May want to insert parking into Apple and Google Maps.
- Kudos for offering the survey in other languages.
- Look forward to the improvements and shade on 99th. *Response: Trying to do something elegant, while including several elements.*
- Can drop-off sites be considered? *Response: Yes, drop-off sites are included at 99th and 100th*

C. Fourth Quarter 2024 Report and Communication to Council

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Clark to extend the meeting until 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

Boardmember Clark suggested that the Fourth Quarter 2024 Report and Communication to Council be reordered to the following:

- Ashwood Design Refined
- Environmental Stewardship Plan
- Building an Inclusive and Healthy Community

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Vice-Chair Chou to authorize the Board Chair to finalize the Fourth Quarter 2024 Report and Communication to Council, substantially in the form presented with the adjustment noted above. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

The February Board meeting agenda will include an update on Ashwood Park. Boardmembers Chianglin and Trescases are unavailable to attend the meeting. Boardmembers Clark and Kronoff will attend the meeting remotely.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held February 19, 2025.

At 8:47 p.m. Chair Clima declared the meeting adjourned.