

**CITY OF BELLEVUE
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday
January 16, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue City Hall
Bellevue, Washington

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vanja Knezevic (Chair), Ling Zhuang (Vice Chair), Diann Strom, Negin Khanloo

COUNCIL LIAISON: Jared Nieuwenhuis

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Neal Hines, Anne Howe, Lisa Schreiner

OTHERS PRESENT: Brian Bartle, Deputy Director; Linda DeBoldt, Utility Engineering Assistant Director; Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager; Lucy Liu, Assistant Director, Michal Pan, Water Quality Technician; Brian Landau, Utility Systems Planning Manager, Engineering; and Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

1. CALL TO ORDER:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Knezevic at 6:30 p.m.

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Motion made by Commissioner Strom, seconded by Commissioner Zhuang to approve the agenda as presented. The agenda was approved unanimously (4-0).

3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Steve Fantle, 4722 130th Ave SE, Bellevue, noted he started Bellevue Green and Clean last year as an environmental stewardship and community-building group. He discussed many of the efforts his group is involved with and expressed an interest in being involved in the City's revised Environmental Stewardship Plan. He recommended the City look into an Adopt-a-Street program for litter control and adopt regulations to eliminate single-use plastics.

4. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMMISSIONS

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked the Commission and staff for the pleasure of working together. He announced there will be a new liaison as he will be moving into his new duties in the role of Deputy Mayor.

5. STAFF REPORTS

None.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

10/3/19 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Khanloo, seconded by Commissioner Strom, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

11/7/19 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Zhuang, seconded by Commissioner Khanloo, to approve the minutes. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

12/5/19 Regular Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Commissioner Khanloo, seconded by Commissioner Zhuang, to approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously (4-0).

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **Environmental Stewardship Plan Update**

Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, made a presentation (handed out at meeting) introducing the Environmental Stewardship Plan. She discussed the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) which was started in 2007; the Mayor's Climate Protection Agreement; King County in Cities Climate Collaboration (K4C); and the 2013-2018 ESI Strategic Plan progress. Other topics covered included Environmental Stewardship Plan Update Process, community targets, overall recycling rate, sources of waste, public engagement efforts, strategy development and next steps.

Commissioner Khanloo pointed out that the citizens have expressed they want the city to be ambitious and on the leading edge of environmental stewardship, but the goals in the Plan don't seem to be aligned with that. Ms. Ewing explained that the goals aren't set in stone, but will continue to be reviewed. She asked if there are strategies or considerations the ESC would like to see addressed.

Commissioner Zhuang commented that the majority of respondents in the City identified water quality in streams and lakes as a top priority, but the progress update doesn't seem to reflect this. She suggested making this more of a priority in the Plan. She would like to see a target prior to the open house.

Commissioner Zhuang asked Brian to comment on the progress of the Watershed Management Plan. Staff replied that it has kicked off and is fully in progress. A briefing is scheduled for later this year. Commissioner Zhuang asked for staff to report on how the Watershed Management Plan would integrate with the ESI.

Commissioner Zhuang also asked why the recycling rate for multi-family and commercial is so low. Ms. Ewing explained this is a common trend around the country. Lucy Liu commented that they are planning a waste characterization study to get at the issues.

Commissioner Khanloo suggested having 5-year milestones to show progress. She also suggested having a comparative study with best practices.

Commissioner Zhuang also urged staff to look at more aggressive goals as indicated by the citizen responses. She suggested looking into no-waste goals.

Commissioner Strom expressed appreciation for the approach that staff is taking. She also suggested looking at a ban on single-use plastics. She noted that the State may also be proposing something related to this. She agreed that the goals for recycling could be more aggressive. She commented on the potential for conflict between development and water quality policies. She also asked if the public will have the opportunity to review the draft plan. Ms. Ewing indicated that they would.

Commissioner Khanloo asked about studying the secondary effects of paper straws instead of plastic straws.

- **APWA Accreditation Update**

Linda DeBoldt, Utility Engineering Assistant Director announced that Bellevue Utilities and Transportation have received accreditation for APWA (American Public Works Association). She discussed the significance of this accreditation. The City was 100% compliant with practices. Additionally, four practices were recommended as model practices for other APWA members.

- **US EPA Lead and Copper Rule Long-Term Revision**

Michal Pan, Water Quality Technician, Utilities, made a presentation regarding the lead and copper rule. He discussed the health effects, the history of the rule, the current rule, proposed revisions, and the impact to Bellevue. Overall, Bellevue's water has been and continues to be very safe. The proposed revisions have very little impact on Bellevue.

Chair Knezevic asked if staff has considered how to get buy-in from schools. Mr. Pan replied that the City is working on building a relationship with the schools and letting them know the City is available to assist.

- **Utilities 2021-2017 CIP Budget**

Linda DeBoldt, Assistant Director, Engineering and Brian Landau, Utility Systems Planning Manager, Engineering, made a presentation regarding the process the City will be going through developing the CIP. Project sources for the CIP come from system plans, Operations and Maintenance, agency coordination, engineering studies, asset management, and customer service. Projects are prioritized by balancing system importance and external drivers.

Commissioner Zhuang asked how the different fund budgets are allocated. Mr. Landau explained that the three funds are separate, and each fund has its own budget. Lucy Liu explained that state law requires that the funds remain separate because the service areas are different; however, departments can collaborate on projects.

9. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

10. REVIEW OF ESC CALENDAR/COUNCIL CALENDAR

Deputy Director Bartle reviewed the ESC Calendar. There may be a need for an extra meeting in May.

Commissioner Zhuang requested adding a report regarding the Watershed Master Plan including the Kelsey Creek survey and also a smart meters update to the calendar sometime this year.

Commissioner Strom also suggested adding an update on the resiliency study to the calendar this year. She also asked staff for an update on the sinkhole issue. Deputy Director Bartle reviewed this.

Chair Knezevic requested that the public comments by Steve Fantle be provided verbatim.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:05 p.m.