

CITY OF BELLEVUE
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION
MEETING MINUTES

June 15, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall
Room 1E-121

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chair Phan, Vice Chair Hays, Commissioners Besana, Gonzalez, Singh, Perelman, Rashid

COMMISSIONERS REMOTE: None

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: None

STAFF PRESENT: Christy Stangland, Meredith Petit, Donna Adair, Ruth Blaw, Saada Hiltz, Stephanie Keblish, Gysel Galaviz, Meredith Petit, Department of Parks & Community Services

COUNCIL LIAISON: Councilmember Robinson

POLICE LIAISON: Not Present

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gysel Galaviz

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m. by Chair Phan who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

At the roll of the call, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioners Gonzalez and Rashid, who arrived at 6:04.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. June 15, 2026

A motion to approve the minutes was made by Vice Chair Hays. The motion was seconded by Commissioner Singh and the motion carried unanimously.

4. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Chair Phan took a moment to note there will be no oral comments taken at this meeting, however, the public is able to provide written comment to humanservicescommission@bellevuewa.gov.

5. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS –

Chair Phan noted that the new PCS Director is in attendance and requested introductions from all the commissioners prior to further communication.

PCS Director, Meredith Petit, introduced themselves and noted it is their third week on the job and discussed their 25 years of experience in Municipal Parks and Community Services work. They also noted that Bellevue is unique in the makeup of the department housing both Parks/Recreation work and Community Services work. Finally, Meredith Petit thanked the commissioners for their work and noted they would stay for a portion of the meeting to observe.

CM Robinson provided opening remarks and noted there is about one million additional council dollars available and they will be fighting to get some of those extra dollars for human services funding. Furthermore, they noted Council has a lot of confidence in the commission and thank them for their service in funding deliberations. They touched on the importance of children/youth and community when thinking about the funding. They also noted council had approved a new Utility Rebate program that would go into effect soon. The new program will serve a larger margin of low-moderate income Bellevue residents.

6. STAFF AND COMMISSIONER REPORTS –

Ruth Blaw referenced the commission bylaws and asked if there are any conflicts of interests for commissioners. Commissioner Perelman noted they sit on the board of Sound Generations, but there are no applications from Sound Generations in the “Areas of Needs” being reviewed by their group today.

Note: Commissioner Gonzalez is employed by Latino Community Fund and recused themselves from discussion on application #176 later in the meeting.

Ruth Blaw noted that the next meeting is following a busy holiday weekend and would like to confirm which commissioners are able to attend and/or will be absent. Commissioner Perelman noted they will be absent from the Monday, July 6th meeting.

7. INFORMATION FOR THE COMMISSION – None

8. OLD BUSINESS – None

9. NEW BUSINESS

A. First and only business item, was the Human Services Fund deliberations:

For group 1, Donna Adair facilitated and Stephanie Keblish served as note taker. The commission members deliberating were Vice Chair Hays and Commissioners Perelman and

Gonzalez. They focused on the following “Areas of Need”: Shelter and Fostering Well-being. During deliberations, Commissioner Gonzalez noted they have a conflict of interest because they work for the Latino Community Fund and did not realize they were in groups 1’s deliberations. They recused themselves from the discussion on funding for application #176.

For group 2, Saada Hilts facilitated and Christy Stangland served as note taker. The commission members deliberating were Chair Phan and Commissioners Singh, Rashid, and Besana. They focused on the following “Areas of Need”: Food and Financial Assistance.

Following deliberations of the aforementioned “Areas of Need”, Ruth Blaw congratulated the commissioners on their work and asked for feedback and comments on the first night of deliberations.

Commissioner Besana noted they were nervous leading up to the meeting but they felt their group was very welcoming and respectful during deliberation.

Saada Hilts noted their appreciation of the commissioner’s preparation and the respect with which they approached discussions with one another.

Donna Adair thanked the commissioners for their work and appreciated the time and patience spent on deliberating each application.

Gysel Galaviz noted the focus and attention witnessed in each group and they also appreciated the mix of seriousness and lightness seen throughout deliberations.

Chair Phan thanked all the commissioners for the way in which they showed up and noted a larger room would be nice for future deliberations.

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Phan adjourned the meeting at 9:00 p.m.