

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: July 13, 2021

To: Janice Zahn, City Councilmember, Parks & Community Services Board Liaison
and Bellevue City Council members

From: David Hamilton, Chair
Parks & Community Services Board

RE: Second Quarter 2021 Report and Communication

The Parks & Community Services Board is pleased to report on its work during the second quarter of 2021. To start, the board unanimously elected new board leadership with David Hamilton selected to serve as Chair and Pamela Unger to serve as Vice-Chair for the next twelve months. As leadership roles were transferred, the board expressed its appreciation to Heather Trescases for her two years of service as the Chair of the Parks & Community Services Board. This quarter, recognition was also given to Stuart Heath, who concluded two terms of service. The Board is looking forward to welcoming new member Cassidy Giampetro, recently appointed by the City Council.

The content of the meetings this quarter were emblematic of the broad range and scope of the Parks & Community Services Board. A presentation was received from the Transportation Department on East Link light rail construction and the various park mitigation elements included in that project. Feedback was provided on the scope of the Human Services Needs Update as well as the Bellevue Utilities' Watershed Management Plan. Parks & Community Services staff presented preliminary findings of its Forest Landscape Assessment Tool and a new approach to improving the ecological health of Bellevue's forested natural areas. While individually quite different, each project has interconnections with the others, and each has a role to play in supporting the overall strength of Bellevue's transportation infrastructure, natural infrastructure, and human infrastructure.

As the Council is aware, the Board has been working on the naming of the new neighborhood park soon to be developed in Newport Hills. Per the Council's recent direction on names for the new park, we are moving ahead with additional public outreach in the coming months to refine name options that meet the Council's direction. While implementing the direction given for this specific park, the Board discussed the naming policy as a whole and identified questions that could be considered prior to starting future naming processes.

On a final note, the Board is appreciative of the Council's newly released Vision and Priorities for 2021-2023. The Council's continued support for a major aquatic center is notable. We also support the priority to advance a park funding strategy, including new funding sources for operations, maintenance, and construction. This has been a long-term interest of the Board and we expect to develop this idea further through the update of the Bellevue Parks & Open Space System Plan, which will kick off this July.

If you have any questions about the Board's work, please contact me anytime at dhamilton@bellevuewa.gov.