

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

Wednesday
November 20, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clima, Boardmembers Chianglin, Clark, Kronoff, Valverde

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Vice-Chair Chou, Boardmember Trescases

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Hamilton

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Sofia Fall, James Gagliardi, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Ryan Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Saghar Amini, Alex Tsimmerman

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

Chair Clima called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Valverde to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Kronoff to approve the October 16, 2024, meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Saghar Amini, Habitat for Humanity

On behalf of the Eastside Affordable Housing Coalition, Saghar Amini asked Boardmembers to consider the diverse needs of the growing city. The current Meydenbauer Bay Park Master Plan identifies zoning on the eastside of 100th Avenue.

Sahar Amini emphasized the importance of preserving this area for mixed residential and commercial retail use, as imagined in the original plan.

Alex Tsimmerman

Complained about being prohibited from providing public comment at City Council meetings along with other complaints about the government.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Hamilton discussed some of City Council's current projects, including the recent approval of the 2025-2026 Operating Budget and 2025-2030 Capital Improvement Program Plan.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. Parks CIP Project Status Report

Michael Shiosaki, Director, highlighted some of the recovery efforts for the recent storm activity.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Clark discussed a recent trip to Toronto and some of the parks visited.

Boardmember Valverde enjoyed the recent Arbor Day activities.

Boardmember Kronoff expressed appreciation to the community members that provide comments to the Parks Board and will work to visit the sites referenced through public comment.

Boardmember Chianglin attended the online Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2 Design Update. The event was well done and informative. The public comments called attention to the mixed residential and retail portion of the project. Boardmember Chianglin requested additional information regarding these comments.

Chair Clima also attended the Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2 Design Update and called attention to the concerns expressed about the lighting, noise, and reflection with the project. Chair Clima also enjoyed the Arbor Day celebration, and Lost Bird Project event. Applications are due by November 30, 2024, for those interested in the upcoming Bellevue Naturalists session.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Environmental Stewardship Plan Update**

Sofia Fall, Sustainability Program Coordinator, Community Development, reminded Boardmembers that City Council adopted the 2021-2025 Sustainable Bellevue Environmental Stewardship Plan in December 2020. The plan is a strategic roadmap to achieving Bellevue's 2030 and 2050 climate and sustainability goals and was set to be updated every five years. The plan contains climate action and sustainability strategies for the community and municipal operations in five focus areas: climate change, energy, materials and waste management, mobility and land use, and natural systems. Strategies in each focus area are designed to take the city closer to the 2030 and 2050 sustainability goals in each area. These goals were developed originally with input from residents, city staff, community leaders, and stakeholders, and fall under the overarching greenhouse gas reduction target of 95% reduction by 2050, which was adopted this October in the new Comprehensive Plan.

Discussion:

- Would like additional information about the considerations for random stream sampling. Also, would like to learn if there are clean air measurements.
- How are emissions measured in the stream? *Response: Stream health and water shed management are measured by the Utilities Department. An air quality assessment report was completed in the summer of 2023. The report found that air quality is worse around freeways in Bellevue. Air quality strategies are also being evaluated to determine proper metrics.*
- What are the strategies for tree canopy preservation? *Response: There was a recent Tree Code Update completed to help address tree preservation. There aren't metrics about tree preservation. However, there is a tree preservation goal.*
- With so much storm debris, what are the yard waste partnerships for the debris, so it doesn't end up in the land fill? *Response: Need to look at waste management as climate resilience. A climate vulnerability assessment was conducted. It found a few areas of impacts that include extreme heat, smoke, drought, stream changes, ecosystem impacts, and wildlife impacts. This report is published and on the Environmental Stewardship home page.*
- Are methane leaks tracked? *Response: T&D losses and other are tracked.*
- Is measuring permeable surfaces more indirect than other measurements? *Response: Because so much of the impact of water quality is from run off, it would provide a lot of information about the ecological state of the stream.*
- What kinds of mitigation are possible for brake dust? *Response: Some things that can help are air filtration improvements at nearby buildings, including wide tree barriers, high barriers, etc.*
- What is meant by a climate resilience hub? *Response: It is a space that is aligned with a mission of community centers but has an expressed mission of climate resilience. These can be utilized during climate emergencies.*

- Will the DOCA identify the neighborhoods most in need of tree canopy? *Response: The assessment is on the website and lists the highest and lowest neighborhoods for tree canopy.*
- Is light pollution included in the report? *Response. No. It is difficult to mitigate light pollution in an urban area. One thing that is evaluated is noise pollution.*
- It would be helpful to have a multi-dimensional goal for natural systems.
- Would like to see what the expected near-term and long-term goals are of the Climate Resilience Hubs.
- The Sustainability Priorities should be evaluated to determine if they are relevant.

B. Bellevue Botanical Garden

James Gagliardi, Director, Bellevue Botanical Garden, presented information about the Bellevue Botanical Garden, a brief overview of the Garden's creation and mission, partnership model, staffing and volunteerism, visitation accessibility, programing, and impact.

Bellevue Botanical Garden is a beloved 53-acre site in the heart of Bellevue, visited by over 400,000 people each year to connect with nature and learn. The mission of the Garden is to display the best plants and gardening practices for healthy, beautiful Northwest gardens. The Garden curates a collection of 3,000 unique varieties of plants spread across 12 thematic garden spaces. Throughout the year, the Garden hosts educational programs for children and adults, and community events that benefit Bellevue and the public at large. Opened in 1992, Bellevue Botanical Garden is the successful outcome of a passionate and diverse community, a collaboration between the City of Bellevue, the Bellevue Botanical Garden Society, and nine other Garden Partner organizations.

Discussion:

- As West Wilburton gets built out, has the BBG thought about how this will impact the mission of the Garden? *Response: A Landscape Architect is reviewing the Garden plans and evaluating it to make sure that it maintains a quiet environment. Pedestrian access points are also being evaluated.*
- Thank you for the LED light presentation. This is a great addition.
- Would like to know where someone can buy the plants at the Garden.
- What do the full-time curators have in mind for the future? *Response: This person will be hired in January 2025.*

9. NEW BUSINESS:

Ryan Walker said that the January Board meeting agenda will include an update on the Meydenbauer Bay Phase 2, Grand Connection, and review of the quarterly memo to Council.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held January 15, 2025. The December Board meeting has been canceled.

At 8:02 p.m. Chair Clima declared the meeting adjourned.