

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

Wednesday
April 15, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clima, Vice-Chair Valverde; Boardmembers Chianglin, Chou¹, Clark, Drever, Kronoff

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Wyatt Thompson, Ryan Walker, Jenny Zheng

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 Boardmember Kronoff and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Valverde and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the March 18, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Alex Tsimmerman, provided public comment expressing concerns regarding public meeting procedures, lack of visible participation by attendees, and time limits on public speaking. Statements included criticism of current policies governing public comment and references to constitutional rights.

¹ Arrived at 6:09 p.m.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Assistant Director Camron Parker provided updates regarding Parks & Community Services operations and planning. An upcoming Board vacancy was discussed, with recruitment recently closed and a total of 18 applications received. Staff indicated that review and selection processes would proceed with coordination from the City Clerk's Office. Upcoming community events were highlighted, including EarthFest at the Bellevue Botanical Garden and the Annual Sheep Shearing Event at Kelsey Creek Farm. Recognition was given to three Parks & Community Services staff members for milestone service anniversaries totaling nearly one hundred years of combined service.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Drever reported enjoyment of recent snowfall and increased park activity, including children playing in park spaces.

Boardmember Clark reported recent visits to Downtown Park, noting low attendance prior to a hailstorm and weather-related impacts on park usage.

Boardmember Chou reported participation in recreational activities, including pickleball and cycling on city trails, and expressed interest in improved trail connectivity. Observations were shared regarding improvements at Robinswood Park, and questions were raised about the Capital Project Dashboard.

Vice-Chair Valverde reported community engagement updates, including improved access to the Parks activity guide through online search, upcoming cleanup events, and engagement opportunities related to the BelRed planning process.

Boardmember Kronoff reported observations regarding increased visibility of individuals experiencing homelessness and expressed interest in future discussion of community and human services coordination.

Boardmember Chianglin reported recent travel to Taipei and noted differences in park design, including availability of adult exercise equipment, with interest in similar amenities in Bellevue.

Chair Clima reported visits to local parks. Additional updates included a meeting with a City Councilmember regarding budget priorities and outreach highlighting new park improvements.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. 2027-28 City Budget Process and Parks CIP Overview

The 2027–28 City Budget Process and Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) Overview was presented by Fiscal Manager Jenny Zheng and Parks Planning and Development Manager Wyatt Thompson. The budget process follows a biennial cycle aligned with City Council priorities and six Strategic Target Areas, with the High-Quality Built and Natural Environment and Thriving Communities target areas being most relevant to parks. Department proposals are to be submitted by May 1, followed by internal review during the summer, presentation of a preliminary budget by the City Manager in September, public hearings and Council deliberations in September and October, and final adoption in November. Due to current economic uncertainty, the upcoming budget is expected to remain largely status quo, with limited new investments and a focus on continuing existing programs and previously approved levy-funded projects. The Parks & Community Services Board serves an advisory role by reviewing capital priorities and submitting recommendations to City Council.

The Parks Capital Improvement Program (CIP) is a six-year plan covering 2027–2032 and identifies major projects related to park acquisition, development, and facility improvements. The CIP is organized into four program areas:

- Park Development and Expansion
- Trails and Natural Systems
- Waterfront and Destination Parks
- Renovation and Renewal

Projects are guided by the Parks and Open Space System Plan and funding through voter-approved levies, with additional financial support through a combination of taxes, grants, and partnerships. The CIP emphasizes expanding access in underserved areas, improving trail connectivity, and maintaining existing infrastructure, with limited new funding anticipated. Staff provided a status report on existing CIP projects.

Board discussion included questions regarding the timing of the Board’s recommendation letter to City Council, with clarification that input will be developed during summer meetings and transmitted in alignment with the budget timeline. Questions also addressed CIP structure, including project categorization and how program areas relate to funding and prioritization.

Discussion addressed land acquisition strategies, including identification of potential sites through walkability gap analysis and reliance on willing sellers. Challenges associated with acquiring land in dense commercial areas, such as Factoria, were noted, along with potential partnerships and integration of public space within redevelopment projects.

Boardmembers also asked about the Capital Project Dashboard, including project inclusion, update frequency, and intended use. Staff confirmed that the dashboard includes major capital projects, is updated quarterly, and serves as a public-facing tool. Suggestions were made to improve usability, including enhanced tracking features.

Additional questions addressed project budgeting and phasing, including how initial cost estimates relate to long-term development. Staff explained that early funding supports initial phases, with additional improvements requiring future budget approval. Discussion also included interest in flexible park design approaches in urban areas. Overall, discussion emphasized transparency, long-term planning, and equitable access to parks and recreation resources.

B. First Quarter 2026 Report and Communication to Council

Ryan Walker, Senior Planner, provided a brief overview of the Board's First Quarter 2026 Report and Communication to Council. Highlights included initiation of the BelRed Neighborhood Park master planning process, continued Board engagement with equity and community services topics, and alignment with the City's Diversity Advantage Plan 2035. The report also noted ongoing efforts to improve community outreach, accessibility to programs, and engagement with diverse populations. The communication serves to inform City Council of Board priorities and ongoing work.

Motion by Boardmember Chou and second by Vice-Chair Valverde to transmit the First Quarter 2026 Report and Communication to Council. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

9. NEW BUSINESS:

Ryan Walker provided a brief update focused on upcoming agenda items and future Board discussions. The May meeting will include an item related to a park project at the corner of 112th Avenue and Main Street, including information on the park naming process. Ryan Walker also stated that staff from the Community Development Department would present on neighborhood subarea planning updates, specifically for the Eastgate and Factoria areas.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

Chair Clima adjourned the meeting at 8:01 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Parks & Community Services Board meeting will be held on May 20, 2026.