

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

Wednesday
May 21, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

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

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chair Chou; Boardmember Trescases

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Teun Deuling, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Zarrian Smith, Ryan Walker

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 Clark and second by Boardmember Kronoff to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0; Boardmember Chianglin was not present for the vote).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Valverde and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the March 19, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0; Boardmember Chianglin was not present for the vote).

Motion by Boardmember Kronoff and second by Boardmember Valverde to approve the April 21, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0; Boardmember Chianglin was not present for the vote).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Clima reviewed the guidelines for Oral Communications (Ordinance 6752). There were no oral communications. However, a written communication was submitted by Micki Larimer, VP, Eastgate Community Association. Ryan Walker read the letter, which thanked Parks & Community Services staff for all the efforts and attention that has gone into bringing Eastgate's new neighborhood park to this stage of development.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. **Parks CIP Project Status Report**

Michael Shiosaki, Parks & Community Services Director, provided a summary of the Parks CIP Project Status Report and highlighted some of the upcoming community events.

Boardmember Trescases was unable to attend this meeting. Her departure from the Board will be honored at the June meeting.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Kronoff shared a story about bobcats in the neighborhood and suggested that people be made aware of their activities.

Chair Clima provided a warning to Alex Tsimmerman for being disruptive during the meeting.

Boardmember Valverde expressed appreciation to staff for organizing the joint meeting with the Human Services Commission.

Chair Clima provided a second warning to Alex Tsimmerman for being disruptive during the meeting.

Boardmember Clark discussed continued off-leash dog issues at Ashwood Park. He also spoke about conversations with community members about Meydenbauer Bay Park, repairs needed at Chism Beach Park and Clyde Beach Park, and disappointment about the reduction in moorage at the marina.

Chair Clima recently traveled to Southeast Asia and enjoyed some of the parks in Singapore and Malaysia.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Eastgate Neighborhood Park Update**

Camron Parker, Assistant Director, and Zarrian Smith, Capital Projects Coordinator, provided a status update of park planning and naming processes for Bellevue's newest neighborhood park.

The Eastgate Neighborhood Area, south of I-90, is one of the City's most recently annexed areas. This area is underserved by both park and trail access, creating a need for additional neighborhood park facilities. To address the need for park facilities the City has acquired two properties totaling about a half-acre for the purpose of developing a new neighborhood park.

Three park concepts were shared via various community engagement opportunities. The following was concluded from the feedback:

- Option 1: Rectangular Formal Structure (28%)
- Option 2: Oval Curvilinear Structure (48%)
- Option 3: Polygon with More Hardscape (24%)

The timeline for the park project was shared, which includes naming the park.

Discussion:

- Prefer Option 2 because of the climbing equipment. How is the equipment determined? *Response: A final decision about the equipment will not be made until the design phase. The community has expressed interest in equipment for younger children.*
- Is there an option to place an adult structure in the park? *Response: The park is a small space. The community centers offer tennis and other activities for adults, that are not available for small children.*
- Have the age demographics in the surrounding community been evaluated to determine the target audience for play equipment?
- What are the differences between the structures? *Response: The survey asked about shelters and coverings. The pavilion is the largest with 4-5 tables, a picnic area has 2-3 tables.*
- There was a discussion about the differences between a sun shelter and rain shelter. Rental shelters would not be included at this park. *Response: Community members have expressed interest in a full coverage shelter.*
- Concerns were expressed about the adult seating areas for watching children at the play structure and keeping kids separated from traffic.
- Boardmembers requested the list of name options prior to the meeting where approval is requested.
- There were concerns expressed about the privacy of immediate neighbors around the park.
- It would be nice to hear from some of the kids in the neighborhood to see what kind of play structure they prefer.
- There were concerns expressed about road safety and the lack of sidewalks in the area.
- How many people responded to the second survey? *Response: 106.*

B. Great Neighborhoods: Crossroads and Newport Neighborhood Area Plan Updates

Teun Deuling, Community Development, reviewed the draft policies for Crossroads and Newport, especially as they relate to parks, recreation and open space elements. The program objectives are to: 1) Localize citywide policies that reflect neighborhood priorities through

extensive community engagement; and 2) Develop local policies to address issues and opportunities to help the community grow in a unique way.

Teun Deuling provided some background on the neighborhood plans. The community input was also summarized with final key elements for both Crossroads and Newport Neighborhoods.

Discussion:

- What determines the size and borders of the 16 neighborhoods areas?
Response: There was an update to the Comprehensive Plan in 2015, moving from subareas to neighborhood areas, to better align with other district boundaries.
- What was the process to determine which neighborhoods are involved in the plan and the priority order? *Response: The current neighborhood areas were determined by Council. Eastgate and Factoria will commence this fall. Lake Hills and West Lake Sammamish will begin in 2026.*
- Does every neighborhood have a plan? *Response: Yes. Each neighborhood area has a neighborhood area or subarea plan.*
- How often do the plans get revised and/or amended? *Response: The plans get updated approximately every 10 years moving forward. The existing subarea plans are often older than that.*
- Who initiates the plan updates? *Response: City Council initiates the updates.*

Next, Teun Deuling asked Boardmembers the following: *Do draft policies provide adequate direction for Crossroads and Newport, especially as they relate to parks, recreation and open space elements?*

Discussion:

- Wayfinding is important.
- May want to replace “visibility” with “connectedness” or “accessible.”
- Crossroads Mall is a bit older. The design does not connect well with other areas because of the parking lot. The mall and surrounding area should be more walkable and accessible.
- Are there opportunities for partnerships with the Bellevue School District?
Response: The policy is broad. The partnership is mostly tied to recreation and the school district is an important partner for Bellevue’s recreational program.
- Enhancing visibility and access to streams in Crossroads would be nice, with trails along the stream.
- Page 9 of the Great Neighborhoods Draft should be integrated into the Community Gathering Places section.
- Why don’t the policies call out the names of trails? *Response: They are all important assets and there is concern about leaving trails out.*
- Section S-NP-29 needs a comma “that support their ecological functions, and...”
- The word “riparian” may need to be defined—not everyone knows what this word means (S-NP-30).

- Additional history should be added to S-NP-33.
- Should consider scheduling conversations with the Newcastle Parks Department.

C. First Quarter 2025 Report and Communication to Council

Ryan Walker reviewed the January-April 2025 Report and Communication to Council.

Motion by Boardmember Kronoff and second by Boardmember Valverde to approve the January-April 2025 Report and Communication to Council substantially in the form presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ryan Walker said that the June Board meeting agenda will include an update on the Environmental Stewardship Plan and Board elections.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on June 18, 2025.

At 8:10 p.m. Chair Clima declared the meeting adjourned.