

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

Tuesday  
September 12, 2023  
6:00 p.m.

*Via Hybrid*

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Clark, Vice-Chair Clima; Boardmembers Chou, Hamilton, Kronoff, Trescases, Valverde<sup>1</sup>

**COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT:** Councilmember Stokes

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Shelley Brittingham, Pam Fehrman, Daniel Lassiter, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Scott VanderHyden

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Rodney Bindon, Bill Herman, Scott Lampe, Susie Naficy, Nathan Rimmer, Rocky Sher, Alex Tsimerman

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

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

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 6:02 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Boardmember Hamilton and second by Boardmember Kronoff to approve the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes as presented.**

Chair Clark requested that the following amendment be made to the meeting minutes:

Page 2, first public comment:

*Alex Tsimerman expressed dissatisfaction with the government, in particular Iran's government, **and what he termed** the "local democratic mafia," Russia, and several others.*

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<sup>1</sup> Arrived at 6:29 p.m.

**At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the July 11, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.**

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Clark reviewed new rules adopted by City Council in Ordinance 6752. The new rules limit the Oral Communication topics about which the public may speak during meetings. The public may now only speak during public comment about subject matters that are related to City of Bellevue government and are within the power and duties of the Parks & Community Services Board.

Bill Herman

Bill Herman thanked Boardmembers for their efforts with the Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2. He is excited to see the sidewalks and cycling lanes included in the Master Plan. Bill Herman prefers to keep the trees along Lake Washington Boulevard, rather than remove the trees for street parking. Phase 2 should address the health of the trees and removal of the English Ivy encompassing the trees. Phase 2 should also preserve access for two Whalers Cove staircases.

Nathan Rimmer

Nathan Rimmer looks forward to the Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2. The implementation principles were put in place during Phase 1 to address immediate property owners' and neighbors' concerns. The current design team and Council need to follow these implementation principles in their entirety (i.e., 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast should remain open to automobile traffic, as well as pedestrians). Keeping 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast open is a critical element to the Meydenbauer Bay Neighbor Association (MBNA).

Rodney Bindon

Rodney Bindon is the current President of the MBNA. The MBNA was formed in 2007 to represent the neighbors surrounding Meydenbauer Bay in working with the city and the designer in planning Meydenbauer Bay Park. When the park was in the initial concept state, the city appointed a Steering Committee of approximately 15 local individuals, none of whom had anything to do with Meydenbauer Bay. Curiously, no residents or property owners were invited. The Yacht Club, the largest property owner on the bay after the city, was not invited, and these omissions led to the formation of the MBNA.

The MBNA represents all the condos fronting the bay and, in the uplands, surrounding it, all the single-family homeowners fronting the bay, the Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club, and other nearby businesses and residences who share the MBNA's mission.

Rodney Bindon believes that Principle #1 on page 80 of the Master Plan, is the most important principle and provides that unless seven special conditions are all met, 100<sup>th</sup>

Avenue Southeast will remain open to automobile traffic, as well as pedestrian use. Currently, none of these conditions have been met. The MBNA and its members look forward to working closely with the city design team, Pistol Creek Properties, and the Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club to ensure that 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast remains open and that all the affected parties' needs are met.

**Susie Naficy**

Susie Naficy is a member of the MBNA and said that there are two items that are critical to keep in mind during the planning and expansion of Meydenbauer Bay Park: safety and congestion.

**Scott Lampe**

Scott Lampe is a member of the MBNA and reiterated Susie Naficy's concerns about safety and congestion around Meydenbauer Bay Park. Mr. Lampe said that traffic frequently backs up at the intersection of 100<sup>th</sup> Avenue Southeast and Main Street during peak travel. When considering future park expansion, planners should look comprehensively at parking and be mindful of the implementation principles that were included during the initial phase of planning.

**Alex Tsimerman**

Alex Tsimerman expressed disgust with the revised rules regarding Oral Communication.

**Rocky Sher**

Rocky Sher is an Event Supervisor for the City of Bellevue. He asked that employees be paid until the end of an event, rather than merely 15 minutes upon the end of the rental time. When city venues are rented, employees have 15 minutes to clean up, close the venue, lock the building, etc. Rocky Sher asked that employees be paid until the job is complete, rather than a set time of 15 minutes.

Boardmember Hamilton asked if the comments provided during Oral Communications fit within the guidelines of Ordinance 6752. Councilmember Stokes confirmed that the rules were vetted with the City's Attorney Office and the comments comply with the ordinance.

**5. CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Stokes said that the city's events continue to have great turnout.

**6. DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Michael Shiosaki, Parks & Community Services Director, provided the following report:

- The city had a successful summer of day camps with approximately 1,800 unduplicated participants. There were 4,500 seats available in the programs and approximately 3,700 seats were filled.

- Bellevue's beach parks had another successful summer of lifeguarding.
- The city is celebrating Eastside Welcoming Week 2023 with several events during and around the week of September 8-17. Welcoming Week is a national celebration bringing together neighbors of all backgrounds to build strong connections and affirm the importance of inclusive places in achieving collective prosperity.
- The Kelsey Creek Farm Fair will be held on October 7. All Boardmembers are encouraged to attend.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Trescases said that she spent a great deal of the summer out of town. When she was home, her kids participated in a week long camp at Kelsey Creek Farm. Boardmember Trescases commended staff for the fantastic summer camps at Kelsey Creek Farm.

Boardmember Hamilton recently enjoyed the Northwest Ukrainian International Festival at Downtown Park. He commented about the great activation at the park.

Vice-Chair Clima enjoyed Newport Hills Woodlawn Park and the neighborhood ice cream social that was held at the park. She called attention to a person experiencing homelessness that has been camping at the park and the tension that this is causing the local community. Reports were made and resources offered to the camper in hopes of providing alternate housing. Vice-Chair Clima also attended the Newport Hills Neighborhood Walk, and reviewed the Wilburton Vision Plan.

Boardmember Kronoff enjoyed the Bellevue Paws & Pride event for Pride Month. She also enjoyed many of Bellevue's waterways, noting that parking at Meydenbauer Bay Park and Phantom Lake is a challenge.

Boardmember Cho recently participated in a neighborhood walk. She commended staff for being intentional during this walk. Boardmember Cho also expressed appreciation for the pickleball lines that were added to Hidden Valley Park. There is a social media group that encourages community members to play pickleball.

Boardmembers discussed the BellHop program, Bellevue's first 100% electric, on-demand, and free shuttle service in Bellevue. The shuttle transports users to downtown attractions, Old Main restaurants, Spring District market pop-ups, and many other destinations.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Clark enjoyed the Northwest Ukrainian International Festival at Downtown Park. He also visited Skyridge Park, and Goddard Park, to name a few. He called attention to the many park and community events that add immense value to the community.

9. **BOARDMEMBER/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

No report.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **North Bellevue Community Center**

Daniel Lassiter, Community Services Supervisor North Bellevue Community Center, discussed North Bellevue Community Center's programs, events, history, and facility features. The North Bellevue Community Center (NBCC) was opened to the public in 1987 as a senior center and in 2004 evolved into a general service community center. NBCC serves all ages with a focus on older adult activities. The mission of the NBCC is to encourage ideas and activities that support life-long learning, independence, health, intercultural/intergenerational connections, and a sense of purpose.

The NBCC is a 17,000 square foot facility with 7 rental rooms that hold up to 250 people. The facility also has a commercial kitchen and many other features.

Daniel Lassiter highlighted the many partners, contractors, sponsors, supporters, and grants for NBCC.

Discussion:

- What are some of the intergenerational opportunities? *Response: There are programs to connect kindergartner students with older adults; there is also a reading program and play time with youth and older adults.*
- Has the city explored daytime care for seniors, similar to the Northshore Senior Center in Bothell? *Response: There are some private organizations that offer this type of care. Respite care or daytime care is not currently something the city is exploring.*
- The city should be proud of the NBCC. It is a great facility. The Volunteer Luncheon is always a highlight. Kudos to the amazing team at the center.
- Will the new light rail station nearby impact the community center? *Response: The impacts are uncertain. The parking lot will be monitored because it may see an increase in use by rail users trying to find parking.*
- The progression at the center has been positive. The Parks Department has done a great job making everything accessible.
- Does the "Free-to-Be" spaces lean toward the older adult population? *Response: NBCC primary age demographic is 30-80 year olds. The facility is welcoming for all ages, but it doesn't get a lot of use from the youth community.*
- Chair Clark discussed feedback received from a Centering Communities of Color member, who mentioned the Bellevue Boys and Girls Club drop-in programs, its appeal to youth, and the possibility of replicating the program

across community centers in Bellevue. May want to partner with Youth Link for feedback, as well as inform youth of such existing programs.

B. Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2

Pam Fehrman and Scott VanderHyden, Parks Project Managers, provided an overview of Meydenbauer Bay Park.

An aerial picture of Meydenbauer Bay Park was shown from the early 2000's. The picture showed the old Meydenbauer Beach Park and homes that once existed on the hillside of what is now Meydenbauer Bay Park. The map illustrates the general area of the Meydenbauer Bay Park Master Plan. When Bellevue incorporated in 1953, King County transferred several small parks to the new city, including a street-end that made up the earliest version of Meydenbauer Bay Park.

Bellevue has a long tradition of using the bay for a variety of activities including recreation, tourism, and commercial business. In 1910, there was a Seattle Leschi Ferry docked at Meydenbauer Bay to bring Seattleites to neighboring Wildwood Park for large social and recreational activities. The Leschi auto ferry started service from Meydenbauer Bay to Seattle in 1913. Meydenbauer Beach Park has had a swimming beach and park since the 1930s. The existing Whaling building and Ice House supported the wintering location for the American Pacific Whaling Fleet (1930-31).

Since 1987, the Comprehensive Plan Policies and Parks & Open Space System Policies have expressed the community's desire to increase public access to the waterfront. Park surveys consistently show that increasing public access to the waterfront is consistently rated in the top three priorities for Bellevue residents.

The Meydenbauer Bay Park Master Plan Report was adopted by City Council in 2010 following an extensive three-year community engagement and planning process. A Master Plan provides the opportunity to develop a shared long-range vision over potentially many years and many phases.

The community outreach that occurred to inform the Council adopted Master Plan was highlighted. In 2015, Council adopted and prioritized The Grand Connection, a signature downtown place-making initiative, intended to function as a series of cohesive, connected and memorable spaces and pedestrian-focused experiences through the heart of downtown Bellevue. Meydenbauer Bay Park is a hugely significant anchor at the west end of the Grand Connection. Progress towards implementing those Grand Connections can be seen in bike racks and furnishing to completion of the Downtown Park NE Gateway and entry plaza in 2021, and installation of the newest public art piece Piloti just this past month.

Scott VanderHyden said that implementation of the first phase of the Meydenbauer Bay Park Master Plan established Lake Washington (westerly) as the anchor of the Grand Connection. A picture of the water view of Meydenbauer Bay Park was shown from 2009 and 2019. The Master Plan was adopted in 2010 and development funding was provided in 2013. The Master

Plan will be implemented over time in phases. This project work will help inform Phase 2. Council funding is in place to proceed; an architectural and engineering team has been contracted to help with community engagement, technical studies, design, and engineering options with associated costs to help determine the next phase. The Phase 2 design work will further the goals and vision of the adopted Master Plan, connecting the community to downtown and the waterfront. It will look at current conditions involving technical studies and associated costs. It will also involve listening to the community to help inform the next steps as directed by the plan's implementation principles.

A graphic from the adopted Master Plan was shown dividing the park into five potential development phases:

- The ravine, central waterfront and majority of the hillside areas were developed in Phase 1 construction.
- Areas of the Master Plan that have not been developed
- A portion of the hillside area (southwest corner of 99<sup>th</sup> and Lake Washington Blvd)
- The Marina
- The Gateway to Downtown

Another view of the adopted Master Plan showed the completed portions of the Master Plan – Phase 1 and future phase area. Each of the five potential development areas were reviewed and the potential improvements were discussed.

An important portion of this design process will involve listening to the community. The public engagement goals are to:

- Generate enthusiasm and support for the park design
- Encourage participation and constructive feedback
- Provide information in an accessible and understandable way
- Raise and respond to stakeholder issues and concerns
- Establish and/or deepen understanding of the current historical resources at and around the park
- Educate residents and park visitors about the existing Park and Land Use Plan and related Grand Connection vision linking Meydenbauer Bay Park to Downtown Park and beyond
- Engage new audiences, especially historically underserved communities in seeing this community park as part of their Bellevue experience and sharing their ideas for the parks' future.

Outreach to community stakeholders will include:

- Current Park Users and Non-Users
- Neighborhoods and Associations (city-wide)
- MBNA
- Meydenbauer Bay Yacht Club
- Bellevue Downtown Association
- Bellevue Chamber of Commerce

- Eastside Heritage
- Old Bellevue Merchants Association

The various ways that the public and community stakeholders will be engaged were highlighted. The first six months of the public engagement schedule was reviewed.

The design process with community outreach is anticipated to take 18 months. Then, a final park design will be determined, with permit and construction part of the Phase 2 Meydenbauer Master Plan.

The Board is invited to participate throughout the Phase 2 design process by attending meetings, participating in surveys, and encouraging community participation.

Discussion:

- Amazing work thus far. Getting new feedback is important. Will the implementation principles be impacted by the new public input? *Response: There are planning principles and implementation principles. One principle is that the city will engage with the community. There is a certain list of criteria that are integrated within the Master Plan. The Master Plan is not being updated. This process is to help define the next phase of the current Master Plan.*
- Need to keep the visual connection to the lake.
- Traffic impacts should be a priority and large consideration.
- What features and amenities will go into Phase 2? *Response: The Master Plan will provide the framework for Phase 2.*
- Has the budget already been determined for Phase 2? *Response: There is currently a design budget. Cost has not been determined for construction, design, and permitting.*
- Is a tax increase anticipated for the project? *Response: There was money set aside in the recent levy for the project, along with state grants.*
- Where is the signage for Phase 2? *Response: There are approximately 10 signs along the fence line of the park.*
- Appreciate the work thus far in involving the community. One group that may need to be consulted is the youth. *Response: Will work with the Youth Link Board to get feedback.*
- Should obtain feedback from REI, the aquatic community, and other sports communities.
- How will the new feedback be incorporated? The people that provided the original feedback may no longer live in the community. *Response: The Master Plan speaks to the allowable uses. The actual usage might change but the infrastructure identified in the Master Plan will not. The goal is to create an open space with access to the water.*
- It is important to let people know that there are guiding principles but also need to listen to new feedback and interests.
- Don't want to get stuck with a 2020 project in 2030. Want to get to the end goal as soon as possible.



Boardmembers discussed the implementation principles and the city's commitment to these principles.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Remote Participation Approval**

Camron Parker reviewed the revised remote participation rules. Boardmembers are to email staff if they would like to participate in meetings remotely, and no more than three Boardmembers may attend remotely at any given time.

12. **PROPOSED AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Camron Parker said that the October meeting agenda will include a presentation to update the Recreation Plan.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. **Parks CIP Project Status Report**

14. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next Board meeting will be held October 10, 2023.

At 8:23 p.m., Chair Clark declared the meeting adjourned.