

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

Wednesday
March 18, 2026
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clima; Boardmembers Chou, Clark, Drever, Kronoff

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chair Valverde, Boardmember Chianglin

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley McVein, Douglas Raiford, Mariam Sarwary, Ryan Walker

OTHER STAFF PRESENT: Sara Boyle

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 (5-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Chou and second by Boardmember Drever to approve the February 18, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Alex Tsimmerman made statements regarding Bellevue public meeting procedures, camera angles and speaking time limits, as well as statements regarding Bellevue Councilmembers. Two warnings were given to speak on matters encompassed within the power and duties of the Parks & Community Services Board.

Joe Kunzler expressed disapproval of Alex Tsimmerman's comments. Emphasis was placed on maintaining focus on community topics such as parks and public services, along with praise for

Bellevue's public infrastructure and leadership and defense of city officials against prior accusations. A recommendation was made for Board action to prevent similar disruptions in the future, along with reaffirmation of support for respectful civic engagement.

No additional speakers came forward either in person or online.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. **Parks CIP Project Status Report**

Acting Director Shelley McVein focused on upcoming programs, events, and efforts to improve accessibility to Parks & Community Services offerings.

The report highlighted the release of the summer activity and day camp guides. To support equitable access, the city will host a summer camp open house at Crossroads Community Center, where staff will provide one-on-one assistance with registration, financial aid information, and translation services to improve accessibility for diverse community members.

The report also previewed several upcoming community events, including the Bellevue Youth Link "Unity Through Diversity" event at City Hall featuring youth cultural performances, as well as seasonal activities at the Bellevue Botanical Garden such as the Dahlia Tuber Sale and March Mania plant sale. A reminder was included regarding the upcoming sheep shearing event in April.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Clark shared that visits to Downtown Park occurred regularly, including earlier that day, with observations of usage patterns at the Inspiration Playground. Appreciation for returning to meetings and confidence in department leadership were also expressed.

Boardmember Chou described attendance at an indoor kite flying program at Crossroads Community Center, noting the activity as unique and beneficial. The program requires physical coordination and supports motor skills and balance, including an example of a child improving through participation. A suggestion was made for the city to highlight similar programs due to recreational and health benefits and meaningful community impact.

Boardmember Drever spoke regarding approaches to managing homelessness and related services. Emphasis was placed on coordination between parks, police, and human services, particularly as warmer weather increases park usage. Interest was expressed in learning more

about how parks staff, including park rangers, prepare for and respond to these challenges while balancing community needs.

Boardmember Kronoff reflected on two topics: acknowledgment of discomfort with earlier public comments alongside support for protecting free speech as a core democratic value, and insights from a trip to Silicon Valley where integrated natural spaces and restored habitats within urban environments were observed. A suggestion was made for Bellevue to continue prioritizing ecological connectivity and preservation of natural elements during growth.

Chair Clima spoke about visits to Woodlawn Park and mentioned an upcoming Earth Day event at Wilburton Park. The Bellevue Essentials program was also highlighted as a valuable opportunity for civic engagement, with encouragement for community participation.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Report on City of Bellevue’s Diversity Advantage Plan 2035**

Sara Boyle, DEI Community Outreach and Engagement Administrator, and Douglas Raiford, DEI Program Administrator, presented an overview of the City of Bellevue’s Diversity Advantage Plan 2035 (DAP), a comprehensive citywide framework adopted in December 2025 to guide diversity, equity, and inclusion efforts over the next decade. The plan builds on the 2014 Diversity Advantage Plan and establishes 41 equity objectives aligned with city strategic priorities, addressing both external service delivery and internal operations. Bellevue’s demographic profile—including a majority non-white population, a high percentage of residents born outside the United States, widespread multilingual households, and a significant population of individuals with disabilities—was cited as a key factor supporting the need for a more tailored and equitable approach to public services. Implementation enhancements include standardized departmental Short-Term Equity Plans (STEPS), a centralized tracking and reporting system, and the development of more than 100 Key Equity Indicators (KEIs) to measure long-term outcomes. Upcoming milestones include the launch of internal dashboards by June and public dashboards by September to improve transparency and accountability.

Discussion emphasized the role of KEIs as tools for measuring impact rather than activity, with a focus on disaggregated data to identify disparities across neighborhoods and demographic groups. One example noted that while a majority of Bellevue residents live within walking distance of a park, only about 10% of Factoria residents have similar access, demonstrating how aggregate metrics can mask inequities. Parks & Community Services described efforts to align with the DAP through actions such as removing physical and programmatic barriers, enhancing inclusive park design, expanding recreation scholarship opportunities, and improving outreach through translation services and registration support. A cross-departmental “barriers team” and ongoing needs assessments were identified as key approaches to identifying and addressing inequities.

Board discussion included questions regarding data limitations, particularly gaps in demographic information such as LGBTQ+ representation, as well as challenges in addressing inequities

affecting smaller or specialized populations. Additional concerns focused on balancing high-level metrics with actionable outcomes, especially in rapidly urbanizing areas where traditional measures like park proximity may not fully reflect access or capacity constraints. Responses clarified that KEIs are intended to inform decision-making and guide further inquiry rather than provide immediate solutions, and that meaningful progress depends on integrating quantitative data with qualitative insights from community engagement. Overall, discussion underscored that advancing equity requires long-term cultural and structural change, sustained cross-department collaboration, and ongoing community feedback to ensure services effectively meet diverse needs.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Ryan Walker said that the April meeting will focus on reviewing the budget process and Capital Improvement Program, including updates on current projects and planning for future funding decisions.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Clima adjourned the meeting at 7:17 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Parks & Community Services Board meeting will be held on April 15, 2026.