

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

Wednesday
September 17, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

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

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmembers Clark and Chianglin

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Dave Hamilton

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Zarrian Smith

OTHERS PRESENT: Max Navas, Paree Raval, Alex Tsimmerman

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 Drever and second by Boardmember Valverde to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Valverde and second by Boardmember Kronoff to approve the July 16, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Paree Raval and Max Navas, Youth Link Boardmembers, extended an invitation to the annual Youth Link Gumbo Night, scheduled for Wednesday, October 22, from 6:00 to 8:00 p.m. at the Crossroads Community Center. For the past 26 years, this social event

¹ Arrived at 6:13 p.m.

has provided an opportunity for Youth Link members to engage in important dialogue with elected officials and community leaders about issues that personally affect youth.

Alex Tsimmerman expressed disagreement with Council's recent updated rule to increase the duration of time one can be excluded from attending council meetings from 60 to 180 days. Tsimmerman believes the rules are targeted specifically to a single individual and is concerned that the board will have the same ability to exclude speakers.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Hamilton reported that the City Council reconvened after a five-week summer recess and provided an overview of related Council initiatives.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. **Parks CIP Project Status Report**

Camron Parker, Assistant Parks Director, provided a summary of the Parks CIP Project Status Report and highlighted some of the upcoming community events.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Drever said that a meeting had taken place with Chair Clima at the Bellevue Botanical Garden to discuss the board's history and current state. Attendance at a community meeting at the South Bellevue Community Center regarding Eastgate Park was also noted, where resident concerns included noise, potential homelessness, and the possibility of a fence between the park and adjacent homes. Residents also expressed anticipation for the park's naming and requested an arborist evaluation of existing trees.

Vice-Chair Valverde reported a very busy summer, highlighting attendance at the Crossroads Multicultural International Festival. Gratitude was expressed to community members and vendors, with the atmosphere described as wonderful and enjoyable. The remainder of the summer was spent on routine activities, such as dog walking, with attention drawn to concerns regarding off-leash dogs.

Boardmember Chou said that while visiting Bellevue parks, the idea of creating opportunities for spontaneous showcases where local artists could perform music was raised, with a suggestion of reserving a time slot for sign-ups. Stand-up paddle boarding was also mentioned, though Meydenbauer Bay was avoided due to parking limitations for managing equipment. Additional parking in Phase 2 was suggested as a future improvement.

Chair Clima attended the Eastgate new park meeting at the South Bellevue Community Center with Boardmembers Clark, Drever, and Vice-Chair Valverde. In August, a meeting with

Boardmember Drever took place at the "Arts in the Garden" event at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. Assistance was also provided at a "Creature Craft" program on banana slugs at the Lewis Creek Visitor Center, part of the Bellevue Naturalist Program. Ranger Caileigh was praised for expertise and passion, and the free family nature programs were recommended for those with young children.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Neighborhood Park in Eastgate Design and Name Recommendation**

Zarrian Smith, Capital Projects Coordinator, presented design and naming details for the neighborhood park in Eastgate. A map analysis demonstrated a clear lack of park services in the Eastgate area south of I-90, underscoring significant need for the project.

The community engagement process was described as comprehensive, involving collaboration with the neighborhood association for Eastgate, social media outreach, a dedicated project webpage with over 900 subscribers, and articles in the Neighborhood News. Three community meetings and two Parks Board meetings had been held to date. Based on initial feedback desiring a large lawn, play structures, and seating, three initial concept plans were developed. These were then condensed into two refined concepts, 1A and 2A, for the most recent community meeting.

- Concept 1A featured a large rectangular lawn and a fully covered shelter on the south end.
- Concept 2A introduced a split-lawn design with the shelter moved to the eastern edge, creating a more open central pavilion and a larger shelter. This option also provides more diverse play attractions and includes a seat wall along the oval edges to create a buffer between play areas and the street, a featured request by the Parks Board.

A survey conducted after the presentation of these two options showed that nearly 80% of participants favored Option 2A. Respondents liked the split-lawn design, which allows for both a dedicated play area and a flexible open space. Respondents also appreciated the larger, more diverse play area and the additional seating options, including the seat wall.

Discussion:

- The designs are noticeably safer.
- Several Boardmembers expressed support for Option 2A.
- Staff was thanked for responsiveness to community concerns and praising the design for aesthetic appeal and functional efficiency.
- The seat wall is an amazing design for safety that creates a physical barrier to prevent children from running into the street.
- Staff confirmed that neighbors immediately adjacent to the park had attended the last public meeting and that primary concerns about fencing, child safety, and noise were addressed in the proposed design.

- In response to a question about the arrangement of play structures, staff explained the layout was a conceptual plan focused on maximizing diverse play opportunities within required safety zones for different equipment types.
- Significant concern was expressed regarding traffic safety, with a past tragic accident at Redmond Town Center cited as a cautionary tale. The design was urged to incorporate robust safety measures, such as fencing, to absolutely prevent a child from running into active traffic on the corner lot.
- Notes from absent Boardmember Clark were shared, which also highlighted traffic risk to young children as a primary issue to address. Observation was made that a main path and a seating ledge could serve as barriers, but the sentiment was strongly restated that the design must guarantee a zero-percent chance of such an accident.
- Two final safety suggestions were proposed: installing a post-and-rail style fence around the park's perimeter and coordinating with the Transportation Department to install permanent "Kids at Play" signs on approaching streets.
- An anecdotal survey of children at a block party revealed a strong desire for a swing, a feature included in Option 2A.

Motion by Boardmember Kronoff and second by Boardmember Chou to recommend to the City Council that Alternative 2A be adopted as the preferred design for the new park in the Eastgate neighborhood. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

Zarrian Smith explained that an initial survey collected 73 park name suggestions, which were narrowed down to five finalists based on city policy:

- Lan Ting Park
- Tyee Park
- Conifer Green Park
- Peter Wright Park
- Eastgate Commons

A subsequent survey asked the community to rank these five names. The results showed that Eastgate Commons and Peter Wright Park received the most first-preference votes.

The board discussed the name "Peter Wright," noting that due diligence is required when naming a park after an individual. Staff explained the name was submitted to recognize Peter Wright's historical contributions to the neighborhood association. Informal preliminary background research on Wright revealed no red flags, but efforts to locate surviving children for a more in-depth search were challenging. The conversation then shifted to the origins of "Eastgate," and "Commons."

Boardmembers shared preferences, with a consensus forming around "Eastgate Commons."

Motion by Vice-Chair Valverde and second by Boardmember Chou to recommend "Eastgate Commons" to the City Council as the preferred name for the new park in the Eastgate neighborhood. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

B. Third Quarter 2025 Report and Communication to Council

Camron Parker reviewed the Third Quarter Report and Communication to Council. There was a request to enhance the report with specific examples of recent renovation projects and more data to highlight the department's work. Staff will work with Chair Clima and Vice-Chair Valverde to incorporate these details.

Motion by Boardmember Kronoff and second by Vice-Chair Valverde to authorize the Board Chair and Vice-Chair to work with staff to make the agreed upon additions and transmit the report to the City Council. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

9. NEW BUSINESS:

Camron Parker said that the October Board meeting agenda will include a presentation on the department's marketing and social media plan, and an update on the departmental reaccreditation process with the National Recreation and Parks Association.

10. ADJOURNMENT:

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on October 15, 2025.

At 7:38 p.m. Chair Clima declared the meeting adjourned.