

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

Thursday
June 20, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clark, Vice-Chair Clima; Boardmembers Chianglin, Chou, Kronoff, Trescases, Valverde¹

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Hamilton

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Brad Bennett, Shelley Brittingham, Susan Freeburg, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki

OTHERS PRESENT: Saghar Amini, Alex Tsimerman

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

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Kronoff and second by Vice-Chair Clima to approve the May 15, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Vice-Chair Clima to amend the November 14, 2023 meeting minutes. The following correction is proposed to the meeting minutes to match the actual motion voted on and approved by the board:

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Kronoff to endorse the 2023 Parks & Community Services Recreation Program Plan, as presented.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the November 14, 2023 meeting minutes as amended.

¹ Joined the meeting at 6:18 p.m.

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Alex Tsimmerman

Alex Tsimmerman complained about receiving a no trespass order from the City of Bellevue and made additional comments expressing dissatisfaction with city government.

Saghar Amini

Saghar Amini requested the Board reconsider a rental policy regarding a four-hour rental minimum, paid by the customer to cover staff and cleaning services, and rental staff monitor pay, when the actual use time is less than the time the facility was reserved.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Hamilton discussed some of council's current projects.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Michael Shiosaki discussed some of the upcoming Parks & Community Service events. All Boardmembers are invited to attend the Annual Bellevue Family 4th of July celebration.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Kronoff enjoyed the recent Paws and Pride Dog Walk at Downtown Park.

Boardmember Chainglin enjoyed using some of Bellevue's parks for youth baseball games.

Boardmember Chou joined community member Court Wilson for a walk at Airfield Park to discuss alternate plans for the Park. Boardmember Chou also completed her mission to visit every park within the City of Bellevue.

Boardmember Trescases encouraged more storytelling within the parks (e.g., physical signs and on the website). Boardmember Trescases also invited Boardmembers to attend the opening celebration of the NE 8th bridge and unveiling of the community-led Japanese American heritage art installations.

Vice-Chair Clima attended the Paws and Pride Dog Walk at Downtown Park, and also joined Boardmember Chou during the tour with Court Wilson at Airfield Park. Other parks and events visited included: Bridle Trails Valley Creek Grand Opening, and the Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2 community meeting. Regarding Saghar Amini's public comments—would like staff to follow up on the comments.

Boardmember Valverde visited Airfield Park.

Chair Clark enjoyed the Bridle Trails Valley Creek Grand Opening and also visited Wilburton Hill Park. Appreciation was expressed for the public comments about employee wages.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Summer Recreation Programming**

Shelley Brittingham and Brad Bennett provided some highlights about the upcoming summer recreation, activities, and events available to the community. Highlights also included the swim areas and lifeguards throughout the community, summer day camps, and special events.

There was a general discussion about the continued lifeguard shortage. Boardmembers also discussed the process for testing water and beach closures due to poor water quality.

B. **Parks Scheduling Office**

Brad Bennett and Susan Freeburg provided an overview of the duties of the Parks Scheduling Office. This office manages the reservations of several park spaces, such as outdoor picnic sites, athletic fields, and select indoor facilities.

Discussion:

- Do all rentals have a fee? *Response: If a person or organization is trying to reserve a park space for exclusive use, then there is a fee associated.*
- What is the hardest activity to book in Bellevue? *Response: Everyone has their own interests. Different activities have different demands. Most fields are multi-use but cricket is a little more challenging to program. Youth sports are very competitive. There isn't necessarily one specific activity that is difficult.*
- Can programming challenges be addressed when developing parks? *Response: Yes. Sports also have trends so this is taken into consideration when developing parks. Most parks that are currently being developed are smaller parks because there isn't land available.*
- Can outdoor courts be reserved? *Response: No. Outdoor courts are utilized on a first come first served basis.*
- What are tips and suggestions to plan neighborhood events? *Response: Contact Parks Scheduling and Neighborhood Services.*
- Is the schedule available online? *Response: There is a new system that allows some online scheduling (i.e., picnic sites); however, events and field rentals are more complicated so these cannot be booked online.*
- Where does Ashwood Park fall for being able to reserve space? *Response: There is a variety of space available for reservations at Ashwood Park.*
- What is the current lead time for making special event reservations? *Response: A minimum of 90 days is preferred. Prime locations can be booked up to one year in advance. There are also historical events that have precedent at some of the park locations.*

- Is there data from past events? Who is making requests? What are the most requested venues? What venues are underutilized? Is this data available for picnic sites? *Response: The new system has about one year of historical data. Rental shelters are heavily utilized. Very few aren't popular. There is data available.*
- Are there any cost waivers for certain organizations? *Response: Non-profits receive a discount of 30% off the rental fee.*
- What is the rental fee? *Response: It depends on the rental and where it is located. The pricing information is available online.*
- What happens if you show up for your space and someone is still using the space? *Response: Renters should have their permit. There is also signage posted for reservations at the site.*
- Where is the cricket field located? *Response: North Robinswood Park.*
- How did the Tyee sharing arrangement come about? *Response: The agreement was entered in 1997. The city invested funding to build a second gymnasium. It is shared use. The school has priority during school hours.*
- Can additional partnerships be explored? *Response: If there were capital funding it may be considered. However, the city is busy with other levy projects at this time so it is not feasible.*

C. Budget Memo to Council

Camron Parker reviewed the Board's draft memo to city council regarding the 2025-2034 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan. Memo highlights included:

- Council Vision, Strategic Target Areas and Priorities
- Parks & Open Space System Plan Goals and Funding Strategy
- Our Focus: Increasing Access

Discussion:

- Would like to move *Access to Existing Parks for Users of All Abilities* to the top of the list.
- The levy focused initiatives and projects are throughout each paragraph. Want to make sure it's clear that everything that is highlighted is in the proposed capital budget.

After reviewing the memo, Boardmembers determined the following order for highlights in the memo:

- Council Vision, Strategic Target Areas and Priorities
- Parks & Open Space System Plan Goals and Funding Strategy
- Our Focus: Increasing Access:
 - Access to Parks and Trails for Underserved Areas
 - Access to Existing Parks for Users of All Abilities
 - Access to Greenspace and Recreation Opportunities for Urban Residents
 - Access to Water
 - Access to Emerging Sports and Recreation

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Kronoff to approve and transmit to the city council the 2025-2034 Capital Investment Program recommendations, substantially as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

D. Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

Chair Clark explained the process for Board elections. Nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position were opened.

Motion by Chair Clark to appoint Vice-Chair Clima for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position. Vice-Chair Clima accepted the nomination.

Chair Clark requested other nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0) to appoint Vice-Chair Clima as the Parks & Community Services Board Chair.

Chair Clark opened nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position.

Vice-Chair Clima nominated Boardmember Chou for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position. Boardmember Chou accepted the nomination.

Chair Clark requested other nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (7-0) to appoint Boardmember Chou as the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair.

Boardmembers expressed their appreciation to Chair Clark for his leadership as the Board Chair.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Camron Parker said that the July meeting agenda will include the following items:

- Beginning of planning process for the neighborhood park in Eastgate.
- Presentation on a citywide document—Inclusive Interactions Guide.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held July 17, 2024.

At 7:53 p.m., Chair Clark declared the meeting adjourned.