

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

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

Via Hybrid

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

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Chianglin

COUNCILMEMBERS PRESENT: Naren Briar, Dave Hamilton

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

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Valverde and second by Boardmember Drever to approve the January 21, 2026 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Neal Hines provided public comment and expressed appreciation for Board adjustments to guidelines regarding speaker remarks during meetings. Two parks-related comments were shared. First, improved connections between the Eastrail and existing Bellevue parks were encouraged to support pedestrian and bicycle access. Noted particularly was Newcastle Beach Park, which is a steep connection, and Wilburton given anticipated heavy use. Second, expansion of volunteer opportunities in Bellevue parks was encouraged. There are opportunities noted on

the Parks website, but few are conducive for groups. There are groups that may provide manpower for trails maintenance.

No additional speakers came forward either in person or online.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Chair Clima welcomed the new City Council liaison, Councilmember Naren Briar, and recognized the outgoing liaison, Deputy Mayor Dave Hamilton, thanking him for his service and support to the Board. Deputy Mayor Hamilton offered brief remarks expressing appreciation for the opportunity to work with the Board, noted that Council liaison assignments periodically rotate.

Councilmember Briar provided an introduction and expressed interest in parks and public spaces, along with eagerness to learn from the Board. Recent Council focus includes affordable housing strategy and the economic development plan.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. **Parks CIP Project Status Report**

Assistant Director, Camron Parker, provided a Director's Report with several updates. Staff shared copies of the 2022 Parks and Open Space Levy report with the Board and noted it would be available on the City webpage, with additional outreach anticipated through the "It's Your City" publication. Staff also highlighted that active Parks CIP projects have been mapped and are available through an online map feature, supporting public understanding of projects across the city. Staff previewed an upcoming community event—Sheep Shearing at Kelsey Creek Farm—and encouraged Boardmembers to mark calendars. Staff also recognized recent retirements, including Director Michael Shiosaki and long-time Recreation Division employee Ted Mittelstaedt, noting Ted's role in bicycling initiatives such as the Lake-to-Lake Bike Ride and youth recreation programs.

Boardmembers asked clarifying questions, including whether the Lake-to-Lake event is still planned and whether a tennis court renovation at Enatai Neighborhood Park would include pickleball considerations. Staff indicated the Lake-to-Lake Bike Ride is cancelled this year and noted that Enatai's court work includes design considerations and that court sport options—including pickleball—would be evaluated as part of planning.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Drever shared personal connections to Robinswood Park through youth sports memories and commented positively on Bellevue's maintenance approach and ongoing improvements at Robinswood.

Vice-Chair Valverde shared frequent visits to parks and emphasized the need for improved lighting and better rainy-season accessibility to play areas. Strong community demand for recreation programming and camps was also noted.

Boardmember Chou described visiting Bellevue parks systematically and suggested adding interpretive signage at parks named after individuals (e.g., more context about the names). Boardmember Chou also reported damage observed at Hidden Valley Park's tennis/pickleball court area and suggested exploring ways for community members to report concerns more easily (e.g., a reporting or tip line approach).

Boardmember Kronoff welcomed Councilmember Briar and highlighted Weowna Park as a favorite, emphasizing the value of signage and messaging to support responsible park use (including leash compliance and safe shared use with bikes). Boardmember Kronoff also noted concerns about low stream levels during an unusually dry February and expressed interest in learning more about water conservation and future landscaping approaches. Boardmember Clark echoed concerns regarding off-leash dog noncompliance and fast-moving devices (e-bikes/mountain bikes) in certain parks, and shared support for stronger enforcement capacity. Appreciation was also expressed for Ashwood Park and upcoming improvements.

Chair Clima shared Woodlawn Park as a favorite and expressed support for continuing the City's pop-up off-leash dog program. Chair Clima also noted the importance of discouraging invasive plantings such as ivy. Boardmember Kronoff additionally thanked staff for providing a volunteer resource guide and noted it included helpful contact information for opportunities.

During communications, Vice-Chair Valverde raised a question about whether school facilities are included in the City's walkable access level-of-service measures, and noted recent discussions in the community about schools restricting after-hours access due to security incidents. Staff clarified that school district facilities are not included in the City's walkable access calculations because access is not guaranteed, while noting the value of partnership with the school district where possible. Chair Clima also followed up on a prior public comment request regarding an asphalt bike park; staff reported they contacted the speakers and directed them to share the idea during the upcoming Parks System Plan update process.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **BelRed West Tributary Master Plan Kick-Off**

Wyatt Thompson, Parks Planning & Development Manager, introduced a new BelRed neighborhood park master planning process and noted the Board will later provide recommendations on the master plan and park naming for Council consideration. Zarrian Smith, Capital Projects Coordinator, presented the site context, early feasibility work (including stream daylighting, trail connections, existing building reuse, and sustainability goals), and key constraints such as coordination with a transportation right-of-way project, utility infrastructure access, and evolving adjacent development. Staff outlined outreach plans (community meetings,

pop-ups/tabling, online updates) and an estimated timeline aiming for a preferred plan in late 2026 and Council action in early 2027.

Board discussion included: integrating/beautifying infrastructure and potential for public art partnerships; stream and buffer considerations and the broader goal of improving fish-bearing potential over time; expected users and walkability as residential growth continues; interest in a walk-shed analysis; overall park size (approximately eight acres total, reduced by the planned right-of-way); and desire for strong trail connections and a cohesive identity across future BelRed parks. Chair Clima encouraged creative outreach (including hybrid meeting options) and asked staff to consider whether a site tour could be feasible. No action was taken.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Staff previewed the March meeting that may include presentations on department programs, facilities, and citywide planning projects. Boardmembers were asked to notify staff if they anticipate remote participation for the March 18, 2026 meeting.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Chair Clima adjourned the meeting at 7:13 p.m.

The next regularly scheduled Parks & Community Services Board meeting will be held on March 18, 2026.