

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

Tuesday
July 17, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

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

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmembers Chianglin, Kronoff, Trescases

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Hamilton

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Pam Fehrman, Ted Mittelstaedt, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Zarrian Smith, Colin Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Saghar Amini, Kimaya Mahajan, Alex Tsimerman

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

Chair Clima called the meeting to order at 6:14 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Vice-Chair Chou to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Chou and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the June 20, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Kimaya Mahajan commented regarding the noise deterrent device known as the mosquito at Crossroads Park. The device emits a high-pitched frequency targeting younger individuals. The device was installed to deter people from the park after it closes. Kimaya Mahajan does not

¹ Arrived at 6:14 p.m.

think that this is the right choice for the city to make to deter vandalism, graffiti and other issues in the park. The device has been banned in cities around the world, and the United Nations Committee on the Rights of the Child has declared the mosquito device to be a possible violation of children's rights. The National Youth Rights Association has argued that the device is a form of age discrimination. Youth need safe and accessible spaces in the community now more than ever. The device is in one of the most diverse, densely populated and lowest income areas of Bellevue, and the city is urged to remove it.

Alex Tsimmerman expressed dissatisfaction with city government.

Saghar Amini thanked Boardmembers and staff for explaining the staffing costs for people that cancel or leave early when renting Bellevue's park facilities. Additional follow-up was requested to inform Saghar Amini about how the funds are utilized, if an event is canceled and staff is not paid.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Hamilton discussed some of City Council's current projects.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Camron Parker, Parks & Community Services Assistant Director, provided some attendance statistics from the recent annual Bellevue Family 4th of July celebration.

The community survey for the Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2 project was recently closed. Staff is working to summarize the feedback.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Clark congratulated Chair Clima and Vice-Chair Chou for their recent Board officer appointments, and reported on the past month's activities, which included a visit to Downtown Park. Attention was called to the bike lane along NE 12th Street. Boardmembers are encouraged to visit this area and see the transition between urban and residential areas.

Vice-Chair Chou expressed appreciation for Boardmember Clark's warm welcome. Appreciation was also expressed for the new nametags provided to Boardmembers. Past month activities included pickleball at numerous courts throughout the city, walking along the Eastrail connection, and a family visit to the Pokémon Fest at Downtown Park.

Boardmember Valverde's past month activities included a visit to Spiritridge Park, and Downtown Park for the 4th of July celebration.

Chair Clima enjoyed the recent 4th of July celebration at Downtown Park. Boardmembers were encouraged to take advantage of the upcoming free tree giveaway. Lastly, Chair Clima congratulated the staff that was recognized at the Washington Recreation and Parks Association Annual Conference.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Eastgate Neighborhood Park Design

Pam Fehrman, Parks & Community Services Planning & Development Manager, and Zarrian Smith, Parks & Community Services Project Manager, kicked off planning and naming of Bellevue's newest park, located in Eastgate neighborhood. Boardmembers are invited to attend community outreach events, while staff is obtaining community input. Other items discussed included:

- Park Development Process
- Park Access
- Public Engagement
- Estimated Timeline
- Next Steps

Discussion:

- Has the Eastgate community expressed feedback about the park? *Response: They are excited about having a park.*
- What type of input is most useful? *Response: The most useful information is to provide any issues or concerns with public outreach.*
- What is the process for park naming? *Response: Will ask for suggestions of the community, name options will be reviewed to the Park Naming Policy, then narrowed down, the Board will be asked to recommend a name to Council and City Council will ultimately adopt a name for the new park.*
- This property is not far from Eastgate Park, is there any type of plan to connect the two parks? *Response: There is not a plan, connection requires walking through a residential neighborhood.*
- Is it possible to allow the park to expand if more real estate is acquired? *Response: Yes.*
- Has staff talked with the neighborhood association to obtain feedback? *Response: The neighborhood association is aware of the property acquisitions. A design process and discussion with the association has not occurred yet.*
- Have there been discussions with adjacent neighbors? *Response: With one neighbor, but not the other. The goal will be to provide adequate buffers.*

Boardmember Clark requested that the Board receive all of the webpage alerts that are sent out for ongoing parks projects. Staff committed to research the scope and scale of the request and report back with options for interested Boardmembers to consider.

B. Inclusive Interactions Guide

Colin Walker, Parks & Community Services Marketing Administrator, shared information about the city's Inclusive Interactions Guide. The city has three officially recognized Employee Resource Groups, open to staff to advance the city's efforts toward inclusion. This guide was produced by one of those groups, the Disabilities Allyship Resource Team.

The presentation introduced the Board to the guide, and outlined how staff use the guide to shape relationships within the community. The booklet helps ensure the city is demonstrating principles of anti-ableism, allyship, and the Diversity Advantage Initiative.

Key highlights from the booklet include:

- Understanding disability
- Thought processes and assumptions
- Effective interactions
- Dispelling myths and misconceptions

Discussion:

- How is the staff being trained? *Response: Staff received a similar presentation. The booklet was distributed widely to staff. Other ways the information is being utilized were shared.*
- Council and the Board should be trained on the information. Can the information be made available? *Response: The booklet's primary target audience is staff, but other options will be evaluated.*
- Other cities may want the information—maybe the booklet should be shared with them. *The primary target audience is staff, but other options will be evaluated.*
- Is there a digital copy that can be accessed? *Response: It's currently only available to non-staff audiences as a paper copy because the primary target audience is staff.*

C. Youth Health and Fitness Program Overview

Ted Mittelstaedt, Parks & Community Services Supervisor, discussed the Youth Health and Fitness Program, which was introduced in 1965. The program prepares children to be active adults, provides an arena for all children to play, and develops skills for life-long recreation.

Information was provided about the Youth Health and Fitness Program staff, along with the programs offered, which includes traditional and alternative sports. There are 25 locations for the programs.

Discussion

- Need pickleball drop-in evening time slots. *Response: Many community centers have drop-in times—this message will be passed on to the appropriate centers.*

These minutes are in DRAFT form until approved by the Parks & Community Services Board.

- Regarding some of the challenges with staffing, what is the right solution to fill the gaps? *Response: Bellevue Skate Park has been a great way to get kids an opportunity to give back to the program and volunteer, and then ultimately get hired. Attracting and retaining staff is a regional challenge.*
- Do the youth of today want a new emerging sport? *Response: Bicycling, rock climbing, anything with a challenge; but the traditional programs are also still very popular.*

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Camron Parker said that the September meeting agenda may include a Meydenbauer Bay Park planning update

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The August Board meeting has been canceled. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held September 18, 2024.

At 8:07 p.m., Chair Clima declared the meeting adjourned.