

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

Wednesday
October 16, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

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

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Chianglin

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Hamilton

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Jenn Brown, Zachariah Collom, Pam Fehrman, Kim Indurkar, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki

OTHERS PRESENT: Alex Tsimmerman

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

Chair Clima called the meeting to order at 6:01 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 (6-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Chou and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the September 18, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Alex Tsimmerman expressed disgust with the government.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

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

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. **Parks CIP Project Status Report**

Michael Shiosaki, Director, highlighted some of the upcoming community events.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Clark asked when the play area upgrades at Georgia Zumdieck Park will be complete. Staff clarified that this project is part of the overall renovation program and should be complete by the end of the year. Boardmember Clark also called attention to the Spring District and hopes that thematically there is a tie between the Spring District and Bel-Red area. There was also mention of the off-leash dog email that was sent out—clarification is still needed regarding enforcement.

Boardmember Trescases attended the Bellevue Downtown Association Study Tour to New York City. Some of the parks visited included: High Line, Bryant Park, and Little Island. It was interesting to see the vast difference between the parks and how they are managed.

Vice-Chair Chou recently tried to book an indoor space at one of Bellevue's community centers and suggested that the process be streamlined online, rather than having to seek information from each individual community center.

Chair Clima encouraged those interested to apply for the upcoming Bellevue Naturalists session. Applications are due by November 30, 2024. Boardmembers are also encouraged to attend the Arbor Day event at Lewis Creek Park on October 26, 2024.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Ashwood Park Master Plan Update**

Boardmember Trescases reminded Boardmembers that she recused herself from previous Ashwood Park discussions, since KidsQuest is her employer. KidsQuest's priorities have changed and they are no longer an active participant in the Ashwood Park Master Plan process. Therefore, there does not appear to be a conflict of interest for Boardmember Trescases and she will participate in future discussions.

Pam Fehrman, Planning & Development Manager, and Zachariah Collom, Capital Project Coordinator, provided an update on the Ashwood Park Master Plan. They shared information about community feedback, conceptual plan alternatives that have evolved, and next steps.

The following park concepts were highlighted:

- Concept A: Grand Pavilion South
- Concept B: Grand Pavilion North
- Concept C: Active Theatre
- Concept D: Playful Promenade
- Concept E: Art in the Park
- Concept F: 1990 Master Plan

Discussion:

- Was the community feedback process similar to the process utilized for the Meydenbauer Bay Park Master Plan, particularly with all of the available languages? *Response: The survey was available in more than eight languages.*
- The Meydenbauer Bay Park Master Plan public outreach process should be modeled for all outreach efforts.
- Is this a neighborhood or regional park? *Response: It is performing as a neighborhood park. However, a designation has yet to be determined.*
- If the design is proceeding as a neighborhood park, is there information about where park users reside? *Response: The demographics from the second survey indicated that approximately 60% of respondents were from neighborhoods outside the downtown corridor.*
- Great job of collecting feedback.
- How much parking is available at the library for evening events? Hope that King County Library System will be a good partner to Parks. *Response: Permitted development of the park will require sufficient parking to meet the demand of typical park use.*
- How many people responded to the survey? *Response: Approximately 203 people responded to the second survey.*
- The park should be a neighborhood and destination park.
- Why can't the 1990 plan be eliminated? *Response: The plan was adopted by Council. It will remain the adopted plan until Council takes action to change the plan.*
- A disclaimer should be included about the 1990 plan.
- Will there still be a minimum requirement for parking? *Response: Yes. Traffic and parking studies are required to inform park parking requirements and secure permits. Parking requirements change depending upon park amenities. A preferred conceptual plan needs to be determined before parking is evaluated.*
- Since Downtown Park is made up of circles, may want to continue this concept at Ashwood Park.
- The data for the off-leash dog area is subject to multiple interpretations.

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these minutes on November 20, 2024.

- Has there been consideration to move the parking underground? *Response: Underground parking will likely not be included in any of the new concepts. However, it was considered in the 1990 plan. The cost is not justifiable based upon the proposed park uses and updated concepts.*
- An off-leash dog area is a necessity for the park.
- An additional venue is needed in the downtown corridor for public events and gathering opportunities.
- Prefer Concept C with the amphitheater and lawn.

Boardmembers requested additional information about parking - staff will forward the SEPA Report to Boardmembers. Michael Shiosaki clarified that the idea is to build a parks system, rather than parking system.

Councilmember Hamilton informed Boardmembers that the city is in the process of reevaluating how to interact with the library. Boardmembers are encouraged to keep an eye on the Council agenda and share feedback when the discussion is scheduled.

B. Highland Community Center

Highland Community Center staff, Kim Indurkar, Community Services Supervisor, and Jenn Brown, Administrative Assistant, presented information about the adaptive recreation programs, events, and history of the Highland Community Center.

Discussion:

- Highland Community Center is a great resource for the community.
- Impressed by the creativity of programs during the pandemic.
- How is staff notified if accommodations are needed? *Response: There are many avenues for notifying staff. It can be indicated during registration, a participant or participant's representative can call/email the community center, or the accommodation can be determined at the session.*
- When does Hopefest take place? *Response: End of April/early May.*
- The benefits offered at the Highland Community Center reach beyond what participants receive.

C. Third Quarter 2024 Report and Communication to Council

Camron Parker, Assistant Director, reviewed the Third Quarter 2024 Report and Communication to Council.

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Kronoff to approve the Third Quarter 2024 Report and Communication to Council substantially in the form presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

9. NEW BUSINESS:

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these minutes on November 20, 2024.

Camron Parker said that the November meeting agenda will include an update on the Environmental Stewardship Initiative and Bellevue Botanical Garden.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held November 20, 2024. The December Board meeting has been canceled.

At 8:10 p.m. Chair Clima declared the meeting adjourned.