

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday  
October 3, 2019  
6:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113  
Bellevue City Hall  
Bellevue, Washington

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Vanja Knezevic (Chair), Ling Zhuang (Vice Chair), Diann Strom, Negin Khanloo, Neal Hines, and Anne Howe

**COUNCIL LIAISON:** Jared Nieuwenhuis (absent)

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Lisa Schreiner

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lucy Liu, Assistant Director; Stephanie Schwenger, Solid Waste Program Administrator; Doug Lane, Senior Engineer; Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Knezevic at 6:30 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

The agenda was approved unanimously (6-0).

**3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Keith Swenson, 10312 NE 12<sup>th</sup> Street, Apt B305, Bellevue, former ESC Chair, expressed concern about climate warming. He also discussed concerns related to recycling.

**4. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

None

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

Assistant Director Lucy Liu explained there was an unexpected disruption to waste management services today due to a labor dispute. She explained how Republic Services is planning on handling the disruption to services.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

9/5/19 Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Zhuang had the following revisions:

- Page 5 of 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 1<sup>st</sup> sentence: “Commissioner Zhuang expressed her concerns about using a ~~long-term~~ **75-year** planning horizon as City Council’s policy indicates the planning horizon is 20 years (or longer).”
- Page 5 of 7, 2<sup>nd</sup> paragraph, 3<sup>rd</sup> sentence: “She suggested it might be more valuable to have a different method **to plan for costs that are expected to occur within 20 years, and every budget cycle moves forward a couple of years so that costs expected to occur within 20 years will be consistently checked.**”
- Page 5 of 7, last paragraph: “Commissioner Zhuang expressed concern about the cost-estimation based on 75 years’ projection. **She indicated that according to R&R from the chart, a large amount of money we reserve now would be spent 45 years later.**”
- Page 6 of 7, 1<sup>st</sup> paragraph, 2<sup>nd</sup> sentence: “She ~~believes~~ **suggests** 20 years would be more prudent . . .”
- Page 6 of 7, 5<sup>th</sup> paragraph, last sentence. “~~Councilmember Nieuwenhuis~~ **Chair Strom** suggested that Commissioner Zhuang get together . . .”

**Motion made by Commissioner Khanloo, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to amend the minutes as proposed by Vice Chair Zhuang. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

**Motion made by Commissioner Khanloo, seconded by Commissioner Hines, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

- **Solid Waste and Recycling Program Overview**  
*Stephanie Schwenger, Solid Waste Program Administrator*

Ms. Schwenger provided an overview of the solid waste program and some highlights from the past year. The main city functions are managing the collection contract with Republic and managing outreach, education and technical assistance on waste reduction, waste prevention, recycling and related topics. Ms. Schwenger reviewed services provided by Republic, improvements to Republic’s drop off recycling center, and expansion of multifamily organics recycling.

Highlights from the City’s outreach in education include reducing waste in Bellevue schools, a Greener Living class series, and the Recycle Right

campaign. Results of Bellevue's approach have yielded a very steady overall recycling rate of about 40%. This has been relatively unchanged since 2014. Overall the single-family recycling rate is much higher (about 67%) than the multifamily/commercial rate (about 22%). This is the area where the City sees the most opportunity in the future.

Next steps:

- The City has redesigned the recycling guides. The new guides will be included in the upcoming edition of It's Your City.
- Regionally the City is launching an awareness campaign to keep plastic bags and films out of the recycling cart.
- Multifamily/commercial waste characterization study to identify and target materials and generators for waste reduction
- Community input from Environmental Stewardship Initiative Plan Update
- Consider new strategies to advance sustainable waste management.

Commissioner Khanloo expressed concern about oversight of what is happening with mixed paper recycling. Assistant Director Liu explained that these items are being sent to secondary markets including Vietnam, India, Thailand, and Eastern Washington. Republic is continuing to explore options because the China market is still closed.

Commissioner Hines asked about recycling batteries from home. Ms. Schwenger recommended putting them on top of the recycling container, but calling customer service first so the driver can expect it.

Vice Chair Zhuang asked about reducing the source of plastic bags. Assistant Director Liu explained that the City will be considering different strategies to improve recycling and reduce waste and bringing any policy considerations to the Commission for review.

Commissioner Khanloo asked if there were adult educational efforts in addition to the school efforts. Ms. Schwenger noted there are educational programs in all sectors. One of the areas they are looking to improve outreach is with the diverse communities. The City is also looking at how they can build a more community approach to improve recycling. Commissioner Khanloo also commented that the citizens she has spoken to are very supportive of raising the bar with regards to recycling with a goal of zero waste.

Commissioner Strom thanked staff for the information. She also recommended raising the goals for recycling numbers. She recommended having a bin at Republic's drop off center for plastic bags and plastic film.

She also recommended extending service hours past 5 p.m. at the drop off center.

Chair Knezevic agreed that it is a struggle to get multifamily residents to recycle. She wondered about engaging property managers throughout the city. Ms. Schwenger explained there are a lot of resources for in-state property owners and managers, but many owners are out of state. She commented that most of the outreach efforts have been with the property owners and managers and not with the residents or tenants. Chair Knezevic stated she has been hearing concerns about pickup times. Ms. Schwenger explained the contract limits pickups to between 5 a.m. and midnight for commercial and mixed-use zones.

- **Water Distribution System Seismic Vulnerability Assessment - Existing Vulnerabilities and Post Event Immediate Impacts**

*Doug Lane, Senior Engineer*

Mr. Lane gave an overview of the project and the status of the assessment. The City has completed the vulnerabilities evaluation and is working on estimating economic impacts. Following this they will recommend mitigation actions. This should be completed by the end of the year. Development of Post-Earthquake Level of Service goals is in process and will be discussed again next year for ESC feedback after the costs vs. benefits of the potential goals is better understood.

Mr. Lane briefly reviewed the restoration sequence following a seismic event. The first three days would primarily involve triage and attempts for employees to even get to Bellevue (due to transportation network failures). He explained that Bellevue won't be able to start repairs until the water supply is available from Seattle Public Utilities (SPU), which could be three weeks as indicated by SPU.

Two modes of pipe failure were estimated – wave propagation (ground velocity) and ground deformation (liquefaction). Vertical facility fragility estimates were also considered. Monte Carlo Simulations is a model which ran thousands of random events to get an idea of most likely outcomes of Seattle Fault Event and Cascadia Subduction Zone events.

Commissioner Howe asked if there is a way to mitigate pipe breakages. Mr. Lane stated that earthquake resistant pipes were not available in the U.S. as recently as 5 years ago, but there are now 3 suppliers. Commissioner Howe suggested targeting some locations that appear to be especially vulnerable to breakages with some of these earthquake resistant pipes. Mr. Lane concurred.

Most critical customers are impacted in the model results for likely outcomes. Overlake Hospital retains service initially due to very high pressure but will lose service as water drains from the system. Most facilities that are relied upon as shelters would lose service immediately after an event, including high schools and community centers. An estimate of restoration time and economic impacts are currently underway.

Revising engineering standards is something that can be done now, especially requiring earthquake-resistant pipes in areas that have liquefiable soils. Over time this will build resiliency. Staff will continue to consider logical “low hanging fruit” in the upcoming budget, develop an Emergency Water Supply Master Plan, and evaluate opportunities for Hazard Mitigation grants.

Vice Chair Zhuang asked how the triage would be conducted, and how residents might be able to help by reporting problems to the City. The My Bellevue app might not be useful if cell phone networks are down. She wondered if there would be a better way than HAM radio to communicate with the community about the situation. Mr. Lane agreed this is a concern and discussed options that are being considered. Commissioner Howe commented that the Fire Department and a lot of city staff are part of a first responder network. They will be collecting information and communicating with the Emergency Operations Center so that appropriate dispatch will happen.

Commissioner Khanloo commented that a lot of people don't know what to do in the event of an emergency and better communications needs to occur.

Commissioner Strom asked if other departments are also having this same discussion regarding resiliency. Mr. Lane wasn't sure, but indicated he would follow up with that. Most of the conversations he has had have been with WSDOT and other regional organizations, as they most impact the delivery of materials and ability of staff to report to work. Fire and the Emergency Operations Center are definitely evaluating emergency response and community resiliency.

Commissioner Strom commented that some of the schools that are indicated as shelters seem to be on the list of highly impacted facilities.

Commissioner Howe asked if the prioritization of capital projects might be impacted by the results of this resiliency study. Mr. Lane explained that these criteria has already been incorporated into the prioritization for future capital projects.

**9. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**10. REVIEW OF ESC CALENDAR/COUNCIL CALENDAR**

Assistant Director Liu reviewed the ESC and Council calendars.

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.

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