

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

Tuesday
March 12, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

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

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Hamilton

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Zachariah Collom, Pam Fehrman, Camron Parker, Michael Shiosaki, Ryan Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Craig Spiezle, Alex Tsimerman

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

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 Chou 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 February 13, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Craig Spiezle

Craig Spiezle spoke in regards to the Ashwood Park Master Plan update. When evaluating the future needs of Ashwood Park, center the needs of a growing, multi-modal and diverse downtown community by 1) maximizing green space to encourage

community connection and outdoor recreation, and 2) addressing downtown's tree canopy as part of the core goal of the planning process, and 3) focusing on connectivity of the bike network and walkability to help make the park a destination for young and old alike.

Alex Tsimmerman

Alex Tsimmerman expressed dissatisfaction with city government.

Chair Clark reminded attendees that the Parks Board does not condone offensive or hateful speech. However, the Board does respect First Amendment rights.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Hamilton discussed some of the upcoming park-related events being held throughout the community.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Michael Shiosaki, Director, provided the following report:

- Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park is set to open May 11, 2024.
- Bellevue Youth Theatre is hosting play labs to showcase 5 plays March 15-17, 2024.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Cho provided an update on the goal set to visit all of Bellevue's parks. Currently 61 out of 87 parks have been visited.

Vice-Chair Clima provided highlights from a recent Bellevue Botanical Garden talk.

Boardmember Valverde recently attended the St. Patrick's Day celebration at Kelsey Creek Farm.

Boardmember Kronoff looks forward to garden demonstrations and the P-Patch opening.

Chair Clark visited a few downtown parks and looks forward to the Ashwood Park Master Plan discussion.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

None.

9. **BOARDMEMBER/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

No report.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Ashwood Park Master Plan Kick-off**

Pam Fehrman, Project Manager, and Zachariah Collom, Project Coordinator, provided an overview of the Ashwood Park Master Plan.

In December 1990, Council adopted the current Ashwood Park Master Plan. A two-year public outreach process involving boards, commissions, and public input informed the Master Plan that reflected deliberate thought about how Bellevue and the downtown neighborhood was likely to evolve and how to best address parks and community service needs into the future. The 1990 Council adopted conceptual site plan consists of: approximately one acre of green space, the plaza in front of the library, a plaza in the southwest corner, and a community center.

Over the past 30 years, the city and downtown area have experienced significant growth. The number of residents living in downtown has multiplied by 13.

The master planning process for Ashwood Park is expected to take approximately two to two-and-a-half years to complete. This planning process will be led by Parks & Community Services staff, supported by a consulting architectural, urban design and engineering team.

A timeline for the master plan process was reviewed, along with the public engagement process. The public outreach communication goals and objectives will provide a range of opportunities for the community to be included and inform the park planning process, generate broad-reaching, cross-cultural, and multi-generational public input and keep the public, Board and Council informed.

Boardmember Trescases works for KidsQuest Museum and opted for recusal from all Ashwood Park Master Plan discussions, although KidsQuest is located adjacent to Ashwood Park and there does not appear to be any legal conflicts regarding Boardmember Trescases' participation in discussions.

Discussion:

- What stopped the first master plan process? *Response: It is unusual that it didn't proceed. There were some potential larger structures with complexity and cost, which may have been a contributing factor.*
- Will community meetings be in person or hybrid? *Response: Meetings are currently scheduled to be in person but hybrid will be considered. There will be meeting minutes from the meetings, along with online surveys that are offered.*

- Need to reach as many community members as possible. Should offer in person meetings, hybrid, and a full array of options.
- Will mock-up options be available at the meetings? *Response: The meetings are purely to gather community input. There will be information about the park as it is now. Community members will be asked to determine elements that they currently like and then what they want to see in a future park. There are no preconceived notions.*
- Could the community center be reconsidered for the park? *Response: Will have to determine if Ashwood Park is an appropriate site for a community center.*
- Has affordable housing been considered within a park? *Response: The master plan will not study the feasibility of affordable housing.*
- Will the community meeting be open to any feedback? *Response: All feedback is welcome. However, there is an adopted conceptual site plan that cannot be ignored. Need to determine if the plan is still valid and/or any other considerations.*
- The community meeting should be offered in other languages. *Response: This is being evaluated. If needed, translators can be provided.*
- Will community meetings be guided or will there be a blank slate? *Response: There aren't any specific lists being provided. Need to determine what people want to see in the park.*
- Need to keep accessibility in mind, particularly with the number of retirement communities in the surrounding area of the park.

B. Comprehensive Plan BelRed Recommendation

Ryan Walker, Senior Planner, reviewed the proposed park and open space policy amendments to the BelRed Subarea Plan as part of the BelRed Look Forward project. At the February Board meeting, Boardmembers recommended additional changes. Staff presented proposed revisions based on the Board recommended changes, as summarized below. Renumbering of the policies will follow in the complete draft for the Planning Commission.

- Add language to stress connectivity.

Goal	Recommendation: To provide for a diverse, functional, and connected collection of parks and open spaces that weave through BelRed offering residents, workers, and visitors convenient access to nature and a wide variety of recreational opportunities.
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- Emphasize streams as an organizing principle for parks, trails, and open space. Remove specific stream references.

S-BR-53	Recommendation: Use BelRed's extensive network of stream corridors to inform the location and design of new neighborhood and community parks and
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	to develop connectivity in the neighborhood through a series of adjacent, publicly accessible trails and natural corridors.
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- Reference wildlife as a driver of parks and open space management.

S-BR-60	Recommendation: Rehabilitate and manage riparian and upland park areas to protect wildlife habitat corridors and to restore natural functions.
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The next steps for the BelRed Subarea Plan were discussed.

Motion by Boardmember Kronoff and second by Vice-Chair Clima to recommend to the Planning Commission the proposed amendments to Parks and Open Space policies in the BelRed Subarea Plan, as presented in Attachments A and B of the BelRed Look Forward Comprehensive Plan Amendment – Parks and Open Space memo. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

C. Bylaw Amendment Approval

Camron Parker, Assistant Director, summarized the Bylaw amendments that were included in the Board packet.

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Kronoff to approve the Parks & Community Services Board Bylaws as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

12. **PROPOSED AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

Camron Parker said that the April Board meeting agenda will include:

- Human Services Needs Update.
- Highland Community Center Staff Presentation.
- Bylaw Amendment/Approval 1Q24 Memo to Council.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. Parks CIP Project Status Report

14. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

At 7:34 p.m., Chair Clark declared the meeting adjourned.