

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

Tuesday
July 13, 2021
6:00 p.m.

Via Zoom

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Hamilton, Vice-Chair Unger, Boardmembers Clark, Giampetro, Kumar

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Boardmembers Synn, Trescases

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Zahn

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Camron Parker, Michael Shiosaki, Ryan Walker

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hamilton at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Hamilton announced that there are a few procedural items that need to be addressed. He explained that because in-person meetings are prohibited by the Governor's emergency order concerning the Open Public Meetings Act, the Board will be holding its meetings remotely for an unknown period of time. Chair Hamilton reminded Boardmembers that the Board's Bylaws regarding remote participation and the order of business have been suspended until such time as the Board is no longer holding its meetings remotely.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Vice-Chair Unger and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Vice-Chair Unger to approve the June 8, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

4. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

5. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Shiosaki discussed the following:

- Welcome to newly appointed Boardmember Cassidy Giampetro.
- City Hall reopened on July 6, 2021.
- Bellevue's 4th of July event was enjoyed by many.
- Bellevue Golf Course has been very popular.
- Day camps are at about 86% enrollment.
- Lifeguard recruitment is ongoing. There is a national lifeguard shortage.
- Bellevue received official notice that the City has received \$1.85M Washington Wildlife and Recreational Program Water Access RCO grant to acquire Lake Sammamish properties.

6. **COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL:**

Councilmember Zahn provided the following report:

- Welcome to Cassidy Giampetro as the newest Boardmember to the Parks Board.
- June 14 Council meeting included a State of Neighborhoods report. A link to this document will be sent to Boardmembers.
- Proclamation for Parks & Recreation Month in July.
- Bellevue Kiwanis had their first Hurricane Duck Race at Downtown Park.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmembers welcomed Boardmember Giampetro to the Board.

Vice-Chair Unger asked when the Parks Board meetings will go back to in person. Mr. Shiosaki explained that the Public Meetings Act is still in place so meetings will continue to be remote until the orders are rescinded. The goal post-Covid is to provide in-person or remote meeting options.

Chair Hamilton requested clarification on the water testing process for the local beaches. Mr. Shiosaki discussed some of the testing involved.

Vice-Chair Unger discussed the parks that her family has enjoyed, including the 4th of July celebration and summer camps. Vice-Chair Unger also enjoyed paddle boarding at Meydenbauer Bay Park.

Boardmember Kumar enjoyed the Bellevue Golf Course driving range. She also called attention to the email regarding pickleball—she would love to see pickleball courts in Bellevue.

Boardmember Kumar called attention to a recent Seattle Times article regarding Sooty Bark Disease in trees.

Boardmember Clark noted that the Farmers Market is expanding to Wednesday in the Spring District. He asked if the Parks Department had input in the design of the Spring District Park.

Boardmember Giampetro visited the Larsen Lake Blueberry Farm. She also enjoyed Weowna Park.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

No report.

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

No reports.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Parks & Open Space System Plan 2022 Update**

Mr. Walker said that the Parks & Open Space System Plan (POSSP) update will occur over the next 8-10 months with completion in spring of 2022. The Board has several opportunities for input in development of the POSSP starting with this meeting and continuing into the fall. Ultimately, the Board approves the POSSP and makes a recommendation to City Council for its adoption.

As background, Mr. Walker explained that the POSSP is one of the primary long-range policy planning documents for the Parks & Community Services Department. The POSSP guides staff and the Board when making recommendations to the City Council on the acquisition, development and management of parks and open space citywide. It is also a foundational tool in developing the department's Capital Investment Program. Mr. Walker noted that the current plan was last updated in 2016 and is on a six-year schedule for renewal and adoption by the City Council.

The elements that are required to be included in the POSSP include:

- Goals, objectives
- Inventory
- Public involvement
- Demand and needs analysis
- Capital Improvement Program

- Adoption

Mr. Walker said that the Parks & Open Space System Plan (POSSP) will build on the 2020 Strategic Plan vision and goals; the 2016 System Plan objectives, the additional existing policy, and public outreach. The POSSP focus areas include:

- Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors, & Trails
- Park Facilities
- Active Recreation Facilities
- Urban Park Systems
- Waterfront Access
- Partnership Opportunities
- Historical, Cultural, & Art Resources

In addition, the public participation process includes things like surveys, community events, presentations to boards, commissions, stakeholders, and advisory groups, as well as public hearings.

The goal for the POSSP is to have work sessions with the Board in September/October 2021, with Board approval in November 2021, and Council adoption in January/February 2022. Final submission to the state is anticipated in March 2022.

Boardmember Clark requested that Boardmembers be notified of any public meetings that will be held regarding the POSSP.

Mr. Walker provided an overview of the park system level-of-services, which assesses the geographic distribution of parks, open space, trails, and facilities throughout the City. Bellevue's level-of-service analysis evaluates:

- Individual active participation
- Public satisfaction
- Walkable access service area

Mr. Walker showed a draft of the POSSP Story Map. It highlighted gaps in walkable access to parks as well as gaps in environmental health (i.e., tree canopy, wetlands, open space, walkable access, trail connections, multi-modal access, etc.), along with demographic information.

Discussion/Comments:

- How does the document stay front-of-mind so it is considered when determining priorities? *Response: It may be necessary to keep the Plan up-to-date and keep it with the Parks Plan.*
- Although this is a Parks project, the Plan should also be kept at the forefront of Council.
- Data was great and helpful.
- The 0.3 mile walkable access measurement to parks has been discussed before—does this distance include private open spaces? *Response: 0.3 mile is a state definition. There are access points to most parks that the City owns.*

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A private park and schools are not included in the analysis. However, this might be considered in the Parks & Open Space System Plan.

- Do access points include trailheads? *Response: Yes.*
- The visual mapping is very useful.
- Council recently discussed right-of-way and whether some of these can be repurposed to mini-parks.
- Have public/private partnerships for leveraging parks and open spaces been considered? *Response: these might be good add-ons but will need formal agreements.*

Mr. Walker said that in 2020, with the Board's input, the department updated the mission statement and created a new vision statement and equity statement. The Board also crafted their own statement regarding the purpose and value of Parks & Community Services.

Looking at all four of these statements, Mr. Walker asked: *what elements stand out as particularly important to see reflected in the next Parks & Open Space System Plan update?*

Primary elements discussed included:

- Potential challenges of providing parks in densely populated areas—key challenge.
- The equity statement is a key element. There are gaps in equitable access to parks.

B. Second Quarter 2021 Report and Communication to Council

Overall, Boardmembers thought that the Second Quarter 2021 Report and Communication to Council was on point.

Motion by Vice-Chair Unger and second by Boardmember Kumar to submit the Second Quarter 2021 Report and Communication to Council as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Boardmember Kumar asked that a pilot project of dog waste composting be considered for Robinswood Park. Mr. Parker said that staff has conducted some research regarding this issue and it needs to be a partnership with waste management. He will forward the research to Mr. Shiosaki so the issue can be revisited.

Councilmember Zahn called attention to a request that asked for signs in multiple languages indicating when park swimming beaches are closed. She also noted that Council recently passed a contract for security guard services at ten parks, after hours. She suggested that park closure times be clearly listed for community members. Mr. Parker said that there is signage at the parks and pictures can be provided if necessary.

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Boardmember Kumar asked why parks don't all close at the same time. Mr. Parker clarified that most parks are open from dawn to dusk. However a few parks, like Downtown Park, are used after dusk so a designated park closing time is listed.

Boardmember Clark asked if there is an enforcement mechanism for park closures. Mr. Shiosaki clarified that the security services will assist with educating community members and monitoring activities after hours.

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

Mr. Parker said that the August Board meeting is canceled. The September Board meeting will include:

- Parks & Open Space Plan continuation
- Public Hearing

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Parks CIP Project Status Report

14. **ADJOURNMENT:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Vice Chair Unger to adjourn the meeting at 7:58 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).