

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

Wednesday
September 18, 2024
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clima; Boardmembers Chianglin¹, Clark, Kronoff, Trescases

BOARDMEMBERS ABSENT: Vice-Chair Chou, Boardmember Valverde

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Hamilton

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Pam Fehrman, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Scott Vander Hyden

OTHERS PRESENT: Max Navas, Susan Pappalardo

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

Chair Clima called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Kronoff to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (4-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Trescases to approve the July 17, 2024 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Youth Link Board

On behalf of the Youth Link Board, Max Navas extended an invitation to Parks Boardmembers to the Annual Youth Link Gumbo Night, which will be held on October 23, 2024 at the Crossroads Community Center.

¹ Arrived at 6:01 p.m.

Susan Pappalardo

Susan Pappalardo is the Co-founder and President of SPLASHForward. Last night, City Council adopted the Master Plan for Bellevue Airfield Park, which includes the new aquatic center. Survey data collecting usage of the new and existing Bellevue Aquatic Center will be shared at a future time. In addition, meetings are held weekly to share updates and partnership opportunities, strategies, and next steps. SPLASHForward also acted as a facilitator/liaison with the Bellevue School District to represent their aquatic needs/interests as partnership options are developed and ultimately inform a joint use agreement. Next steps are being discussed. Similarly, conversations are occurring with the Bellevue Boys & Girls Club.

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 highlighted some of the upcoming community events.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Kronoff discussed the desire for some people to feed birds. It would be good to find alternate options for this behavior, so the birds are not directed to the ponds, resulting in beach closures during the summer months.

Boardmember Clark attended the Ukrainian Festival. Additionally, there is still an apparent off-leash issue. There is an equity concern with allowing key areas with scarce open space in downtown to be used by a subset of the community that does not adhere to park rules. Boardmember Clark asked what residents should be told when they are frustrated with the issue. Michael Shiosaki said that there have been several off-leash areas added throughout the community so there are places for dogs to legitimately be off leash. The Parks Department has little authority over enforcement. King County Animal Control will be asked to conduct additional enforcement. Boardmember Trescases said that there are certain roles and responsibilities that fall into the parks system, and they are not the enforcement authority. Community members can always call the police and/or animal control. Parks staff should not put resources into parks police equivalent. Boardmember Clark said that it is ultimately the park experience that is diminished.

Boardmember Chianglin visited a few beach parks during the summer. At Clyde Hill Beach Park, there were boys jumping off structures into the water. This was quite risky behavior. Michael Shiosaki said that the area in reference is fenced off and posted to keep out.

Chair Clima attended last night's City Council meeting. It was great to see so many people at the meeting. Chair Clima also participated in the Bellevue Naturalist Volunteer Program. Applications are due in November for the upcoming Bellevue Naturalist session. Lastly, Chair Clima expressed enthusiasm for having park names included in the Bellevue Monopoly game that is being developed and asked how to see Belle the Bobcat, a new mascot for the city developed by the Visit Bellevue Washington group.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Meydenbauer Bay Park – Phase 2**

Pam Fehrman, Planning & Development Manager, and Scott Vander Hyden, Project Manager provided an update on the Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 2 outreach and engagement efforts, park expansion design options, and community feedback.

The goal of this Phase 2 design process is to identify what areas and park elements phase 2 construction should include. Design area options along with their approximate cost will help inform a strong roadmap for phase 2 as well as future design and construction phases needed to implement the Meydenbauer Bay Park Master Plan. The Council-adopted Meydenbauer Bay Park Master Plan provides the framework vision as well as planning and implementation principles to inform potential next step development. The design team has been developing and analyzing multiple Phase 2 opportunities informed by the adopted master plan and by community feedback. The following information was shared for the Phase 2 project:

- Community Engagement 2023-2024
- Design Priorities / Community Priorities
- Community Feedback
- Potential Next Phase Areas and Concepts
- Park Expansion Milestone Timeline

Discussion/Feedback:

- Great sketches in the presentation. Also appreciate the bike lanes included in the plan.
- Why was it not mentioned earlier that 100th needs to be kept open? *Response: During the initial master planning process, it was assumed that partnerships and re-development in the park vicinity would have occurred. This has not occurred so design must reflect the reality of today.*
- How many parking stalls are represented in the Kite Area? *Response: Approximately 60-70 at the Kite site.*
- This is a destination park. Parking is a necessity. *Response: There is a team conducting parking and traffic studies.*

- Need to consider that park users cannot park in the parking garage with paddleboards or boats on top of their car. *Response: There will most likely be a drop off location for watercraft.*
- Like the designs to conceal the parking garage. However, there are concerns about security.
- Now that Bellevue has access to water, more people may have personal watercraft. *Response: It is difficult to launch a boat at Meydenbauer. Various options are being evaluated.*
- Great public outreach meeting.
- Don't want to see the car—want to see nature, but also concerned about security.
- May want to consider an air pump station for personal watercrafts.
- Has REI provided feedback? *Response: Yes. Communication with REI is ongoing.*
- What will the hours in the park be? *Response: Currently, Meydenbauer is open until 11:00 p.m. The hours aren't being evaluated at this time. However, security is being closely evaluated.*
- What rules apply to the water? *Response: Permitting involves a long multi-agency review process for state owned waters.*
- How many parking spots are currently available? *Response: The Phase 1 study showed that there is ample parking.*
- Need to provide wayfinding for parking locations.
- What will be at the activity building? *Response: The original concept was an 8,000 sf building with programing that would support park outdoor activities.*
- Is the parking lot inspired by other parks around the world? *Response: It is similar to the Olympic Sculpture Park in Seattle, where the park is a zig-zag concept.*
- Are all boat slips occupied? If so, what will people do? *Response: The amount of slips being used changes regularly, there is a waiting list. If moorage slips are reduced some people will need to find alternate marinas for boat moorage.*
- Are there other marinas with vacancies? *Response: Boat moorage is in high demand.*
- Does the city track how many of the marina slips are being utilized by Bellevue residents? When eliminating slips, should evaluate this data so Bellevue residents are impacted the least.
- Does the depth of Lake Washington shift and how will this impact park planning? *Response: Yes. It is fairly significant (approximately 22 inches).*
- Would like the Kite Site a top priority so it is visible from Downtown Park.

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Camron Parker said that the October meeting agenda will include an update on Ashwood Park, and a presentation from Highland Community Center staff.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held October 16, 2024.

At 7:51 p.m. Chair Clima declared the meeting adjourned.