

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

Wednesday
March 19, 2025
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clima, Vice-Chair Chou; Chianglin, Clark, Kronoff¹, Trescases, Valverde

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Dave Hamilton

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Toni Esparza, Craig Fritz, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Tom Purcell, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Justin Wilkinson

OTHERS PRESENT: Alex Tsimmerman

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 Vice-Chair Chou and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Valverde and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the February 19, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

¹ Via Zoom; departed at 7:12 p.m.

Alex Tsimmerman

Tsimmerman described several suspensions from providing public comment at City Council meetings in Bellevue and other locations. He criticized and name called Councilmember Hamilton and the Mayor for the suspension. The probation period is for one year. Therefore, Tsimmerman reported filing a class action lawsuit for this case.

Chair Clima gave a warning to Alex Tsimmerman for refusal to follow Ordinance 6752.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Hamilton said that Claire Sumadiwirya was recently selected to fill the vacancy left by Councilmember Zahn. He also reviewed other Council related activities.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

A. **Parks CIP Project Status Report**

Michael Shiosaki, Parks & Community Services Director, provided a summary of the Parks CIP Project Status Report and highlighted some of the upcoming community events.

There is an online survey for park name recommendations for the parcel located at 112th and Main Street. This will be brought before the Parks & Community Services Board in June.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Clark witnessed dog off leash issues at various parks. He also attended an event on Main Street and walked the southeast stairwell near Downtown Park. He commended the Parks & Community Services Department for the thoughtful design of the stairwell.

Boardmember Trescases asked about the plans for Meydenbauer Bay Park Boathouse, since REI will no longer be providing canoe and kayak rentals. Mr. Parker said that a RFP will be issued to search for another provider.

Vice-Chair Chou thanked the Parks & Community Services Department for the play equipment at Hidden Valley Park.

Boardmember Valverde thanked staff for the Bellevue Botanical Garden membership.

Boardmember Chianglin's kids are looking for summer volunteer opportunities.

Boardmember Kronoff has been commuting over the bridge to the Microsoft campus and looks forward to completion of Bellevue's portion of this trail.

Chair Clima visited the Newport Hills Woodlawn Park. She is also looking forward to the Bellevue Botanical Gardens plant sale and the Eastgate Neighborhood Park planning meetings.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Bellevue Probation Division Overview**

Craig Fritz, Probation Manager, Probation Services Division, provided highlights about the city's Probation Division, which partners with King County Courts. Other items discussed included:

- What is Probation?
- What Benefits Does Probation Provide to Clients?
- Program Offerings

Chair Clima provided a second warning to Alex Tsimmerman for being disruptive during the meeting.

Discussion:

- Why is probation within the Parks Department? *Response: The division is a part of Parks & Community Services. Community Services is a continuum of serving everyone within the community. In addition, one aspect of Probation programming, the work crew program, tends to work directly in the park system.*
- Does the increase in cases correlate to the increase in offenses? *Response: We have found that the judges and court staff appreciate what Bellevue Probation offers to clients. We believe that the court sees the benefits and outcomes so our cases have increased due to the success of the program.*
- Who is eligible for the program? *Response: Individuals who are charged with a misdemeanor crime in Bellevue are eligible for the program. In addition, a Bellevue resident who may be charged with a misdemeanor crime in another court could access some of the programs provided by Bellevue Probation.*
- Is there a funding source for this program from the county? *Response: Bellevue Probation is funded via the City's general fund. There is no other reimbursement for this program.*
- Are there comparisons for recidivism from neighboring jurisdictions? *Response: Not at this time.*
- What is the case load per individual within the department? *Response: There are three probation officers, a probation supervisor, and two compliance monitoring specialists. The probation officers have approximately 300 people in their caseload. The total number served is approximately 1,500.*
- The ratio for caseloads seems quite high—is additional staffing being considered? *Response: It is always being considered—it is one of many priorities within the city.*

- What is the age of offenders and the type of misdemeanors? *Response: Additional calculations are needed to determine the age of our clients. Probation clients have been charged with a variety of misdemeanors.*
- What is the \$1M savings related to? *Response: If the clients were sent to jail, it would cost significantly more.*
- Would like to fix the problem at the root cause so people make healthy contributions to society.
- If recidivism rates are 15% of probated in Bellevue, are there statistics for non-probate or re-offense rates? *Response: This information is not accessible. The recidivism rate calculated for Bellevue Probation clients is based on the person reoffending within 3 years. One calculated rate examines reoffenses within Bellevue and a second calculated rate examines reoffenses anywhere.*
- If someone is interested in exploring this area for a potential career, are there volunteer opportunities? *Response: Yes, there is a volunteer program.*

Chair Clima provided Alex Tsimmerman a third warning for being disruptive, after which Tsimmerman left the meeting.

B. Parks Resource Management Division Overview

Tom Purcell, Structural Operations Manager, and Justin Wilkinson, Grounds Operations Manager provided an overview of the maintenance and operations of city parks and facilities. The responsibilities are divided into two main areas: Grounds Maintenance and Structural Operations. The Grounds Maintenance team is responsible for the maintenance and renovation of developed parks and athletic fields. These efforts ensure that Bellevue's parks remain clean, safe and inviting for all users. The Structural Operations team manages the operations, maintenance, and renovation of all park structures. This includes a variety of facilities such as playgrounds, community centers, the aquatic center, restrooms, and other park amenities.

Discussion:

- Thanks for the thoughtful designs of the ADA features.
- The difference between natural resources parks versus managed resources parks was discussed.
- Is there a volunteer program for "Keep Bellevue Green"? *Response: There are risks involved so Bellevue does not have an organized volunteer program for this program. In addition, the Natural Resources Division takes advantage of the volunteers throughout the parks.*
- What is the budget split between house and contracted resources? *Response: Staff will follow-up.*
- Resources are amazing. In addition, the department's efforts with historic structures is phenomenal (i.e., Burrows Cabin)!
- There are some grant ideas to renovate the upstairs bathroom at the Winters House.
- Does streetscapes fall under this division? *Response: No. It falls under natural resources.*

- Does the Crossroads Water Park take a significant amount of refurbishment? *Response: It is properly maintained. The surface gets replaced every 8-10 years.*
- Does staff go to the parks to determine if something needs upkeep or does the public notify the department? *Response: Everything is scheduled for grounds maintenance. However, the public does bring issues to staff's attention.*
- What is the cost of repairing Downtown Park after an event? *Response: Uncertain of the exact cost. However, there are some rest periods strategically scheduled to help the park recover.*
- CIP mentions the new parks operations facility. *Response: Co-locating the facility will streamline the process.*
- Besides Downtown Park, are there persistent troubled spots for maintenance. *Response: Goddard Park, Highland Park, Crossroads Park, and Lakemont Park all have higher vandalism and graffiti than other parks. Staff works on sightlines to aid in safety.*
- Regarding playground replacements, is there a schedule for when equipment gets replaced? *Response: They are all on a seven year plan. The plan is evaluated annually to see if any adjustments need to be made. In addition, all playgrounds are inspected monthly.*
- How is Chandler Park turf being inspected? Is feedback being gathered from the community? *Response: The inspection is being done from a maintenance perspective. Chandler Park was selected as a test site because it is a small park and well loved. There is a significant difference in cost between play chips and other products.*
- Are there particular items that wear out faster than expected because of popularity? *Response: The we-saw at Inspiration Park needs the bearings replaced more frequently.*

9. **NEW BUSINESS:**

Camron Parker said that the April Parks & Community Services Board meeting will be held on April 21 as a joint meeting with the Human Services Commission.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on April 21, 2025.

At 8:11 p.m. Chair Clima declared the meeting adjourned.