

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

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

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Clima, Boardmembers Chianglin, Chou, Clark, Drever, Kronoff

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Vice-Chair Valverde

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Betsy Anderson, Hugo Cuellar, Jen Newton, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Wyatt Thompson, Ryan Walker

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 Kronoff and second by Boardmember Chou to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Chou and second by Boardmember Kronoff to approve the October 15, 2025 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS:**

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

Jadon Jung, a Star-ranked Scout from Troop 600, described a summer internship with Bellevue's Well-K.E.P.T. Program, where work included removing invasive plants and helping build trails in several local parks. Noting the widespread presence of invasive species such as English ivy, the presentation proposed increasing community involvement through expanded education, social media content for youth, and easier volunteer sign-ups. Additional recommendations included improving monitoring and reporting with online tools and plant identification resources. The conclusion emphasized

that meaningful progress requires greater community participation—especially from young people—to protect and maintain Bellevue’s parks.

Alex Tsimmerman expressed disagreement with Council’s decision of a two-year trespass order. Additional concerns were raised about the removal of 200 words from an election statement, which Tsimmerman asserted was improper despite the election having concluded.

During the communication period, Tsimmerman received two warnings for failure to comply with the rules established under Council Ordinance 6752.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

None.

6. **DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

- A. Parks CIP Project Status Report
- B. 2025 Summer Ranger Program
- C. 2025 Well K.E.P.T. Program

Michael Shiosaki, Director, opened with holiday greetings and gifted Bellevue-themed Monopoly sets to Boardmembers. Wyatt Thompson was introduced as the new Planning and Development Manager. The Eastgate Neighborhood Park team was congratulated on Council approval of the new name, Eastgate Commons, and a nod to the overall plan. Michael Shiosaki announced retirement planned for February after a 36-year parks career involving more than 400 projects, including new parks, trails, natural area restorations, and a Japanese garden in Bellevue.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Drever described engaging with the park ranger program and participating in Arbor Day tree planting, noting strong appreciation for ranger expertise. Other highlights included: Gumbo Night, neighborhood concerns about early-morning activity at Highland Park, and a progress update on visiting the full Bellevue park system.

Boardmember Chianglin recapped attending Gumbo Night and expressed admiration for the involvement, awareness, and resilience of Bellevue youth.

Boardmember Chou shared observations from Gumbo Night, noting high school students' focus on community issues such as diversity, affordability, and intergenerational connection.

Boardmember Kronoff highlighted the creativity and environmental focus demonstrated by Youth Link students during Gumbo Night. Also discussed was student interest in park maintenance transparency and frustration with limited public recycling and composting participation. Boardmember Kronoff noted increased litter involving items perceived as "compostable" and suggested improved park signage to clarify proper composting practices.

Boardmember Clark expressed appreciation for the Bellevue-themed Monopoly board game and observed improved leash compliance at Ashwood Park. A reflection on Gumbo Night was also discussed, which emphasized mental-health challenges facing youth due to competitiveness, COVID-era disruptions, and technological pressures. Boardmember Clark acknowledged the value of Youth Link and volunteer programs in supporting youth and community engagement. Also discussed was repeated resident requests for additional trails throughout Bellevue.

Chair Clima reported attending the City Council meeting to present the Eastgate Park design recommendation and name "Eastgate Commons," both receiving strong support. Council's appreciation for public engagement and staff responsiveness was discussed. Chair Clima described participating in Arbor Day with 71 volunteers under challenging soil conditions, and praised local youth insight at Gumbo Night. Chair Clima concluded by highlighting the Well-K.E.P.T. program and promoting the Bellevue Naturalist program for adults interested in conservation and environmental education.

8. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Crossroads Community Center**

Hugo Cuellar presented an overview of Crossroads Park and the Crossroads Community Center. Crossroads Park includes a spray park, ADA-accessible playgrounds, a dog off-leash area, event space, Youth Theater, golf course, skate park, and a busy games room. Events such as Movies in the Park and Fiesta del Maiz draw large crowds.

The center team includes coordinators, an administrative assistant, and Supervisor Hugo Cuellar. Programming supports the diverse Crossroads neighborhood through fitness, self-defense, gymnastics, indoor kite flying, book clubs, Dungeons & Dragons, Medicare workshops, story times, arts activities, and cultural dance groups.

Additional offerings include camps for ages 4-13 and an affordable preschool with a waitlist. New programs include older-adult park walks, a teen girls' writing workshop, an LGBTQ+ older-adult social group, a Spanish story time, a pool workshop, and the Winterfest event.

Partnerships with community organizations support cultural programming, Medicare assistance, older-adult services, and free performances. The presentation emphasized inclusive, multicultural, community-centered programming.

Boardmembers expressed appreciation for the breadth and uniqueness of Crossroads Community Center programming, with particular curiosity about the indoor kite-flying class. Positive feedback highlighted the wide range of activities offered at Crossroads, and several comments noted that the presentation revealed far more programming than previously recognized. Questions focused on outreach partnerships with Crossroads Mall, program demand for pickleball, and clarification regarding spray-park terminology. Additional questions addressed the pickleball punch-card system, the self-defense class taught by Officer Craig, the process used to select new programs, and the methods used to evaluate community needs and space limitations. Discussion emphasized the importance of determining community benefit when considering new partnerships, especially given limited facility space and existing high-demand programs.

Comments also recognized increasing interest in renewed community engagement, the need to reintroduce former users to expanded offerings, and the value of community feedback in shaping future programming. The Board discussed the rental process for indoor facilities and ongoing efforts to modernize the reservation system. Overall, strong appreciation was expressed for the presentation, the extensive range of programs, and the dedication demonstrated by the small Crossroads Community Center team.

B. 2022 Parks and Open Space Levy Update

Camron Parker, Assistant Director, and Betsy Anderson, Parks Senior Planner, outlined a strategy for reporting progress on the 2022 Parks and Open Space Levy. The presentation introduced a plan for more frequent public updates, including a description of levy focus areas, as well as projects and maintenance activities completed to date. Community priorities such as trails, open space, waterfront access, emerging sports, and recreation facilities are highlighted in the levy funding categories.

The presentation summarized 2008 levy accomplishments and provided a status update on 2022 levy projects, including open-space acquisitions, trail upgrades, master-planning work, waterfront restoration, emerging sports facilities, and expanded maintenance services. Key communication tools will include a levy logo, an illustrated progress report, webpage updates,

interactive mapping, enhanced CIP project lists, social-media use, and a planned levy-impact video.

Discussion focused on clarity around levy projects, criteria for project selection, and ways to strengthen public understanding of levy priorities. Questions addressed the Vasa upland property described in the list of acquisitions, differences from the privately operated Vasa Park, and planned use of the new forested site for open-space preservation and trail access.

Further discussion emphasized the purpose of levy reporting—transparency, accountability, and long-term public trust. Comments supported construction signage, online project maps, social-media updates, visible levy branding, and both temporary and permanent signage. Additional questions covered levy funding mechanics, differences between past and current levy terms, and the timeframes for the 2008 and 2022 levies. Final comments stressed the value of multiple communication channels to reach residents effectively.

C. Parks & Community Services Board Bylaw Amendment

Camron Parker provided an overview of proposed Parks and Community Services Board bylaw amendments. The update outlined a two-step approval process, with proposed revisions introduced during the meeting and formal action scheduled for January. Proposed changes included clarifying four-year terms, confirming a two-term limit, and adding a required two-year break before serving additional terms on any board or commission. Additional revisions aligned Board procedures with updated City Council rules, including extending meeting-exclusion periods from 60 to a maximum of 180 days and adjusting the appeal process so that appeals are heard by the City Council.

Questions focused on how partial or unexpired terms apply toward the term limit, differences among boards with varying term structures, and clarification of eligibility for serving on multiple boards. The discussion closed after addressing technical points and confirming that final action will occur at the January Board meeting.

9. NEW BUSINESS:

The January Board meeting will include expected bylaw amendment actions and a quarterly memo covering meetings from September through November. Key future meeting dates were identified: January 21 and February 18, with the February meeting coinciding with local midwinter school breaks, prompting future checks for quorum availability. Reminders were given to report any planned absences or remote participation. Additional logistical notes included acknowledgment of gift bags prepared for Boardmembers and confirmation that a Garden d’Lights pass was included. A request was made to add time to the January agenda to recognize Michael Shiosaki’s service.

10. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The December 17, 2025 Board meeting is cancelled. The next regularly scheduled Board meeting will be held on January 21, 2026.

At 8:00 p.m. Chair Clima declared the meeting adjourned.