

**East Bellevue Community Council**  
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

November 2, 2021  
6:30 p.m.

Virtual Meeting  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Hummer, Vice Chair Epstein, Alternate Vice Chair Dhananjaya,  
Councilmember Gooding and Councilmember Kasner

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: Chad Barnes, Assistant City Attorney  
Ryan Walker, Senior Planner, Parks and Community Services Department  
Liz Stead, Land Use Director, Development Services Department  
Carol Orr, Senior Planner, Development Services Department  
Nick Whipple, Planning Manager, Development Services Department  
Kristina Gallant, Senior Planner, Development Services Department

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m.

2. **ROLL CALL/FLAG SALUTE**

Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts called the roll. All Councilmembers were present and participating remotely. Councilmember Gooding led the flag salute.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve the agenda. Vice Chair Epstein seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL**

Chair Hummer indicated that the EBCC cannot hear public comment regarding rezones or conditional use permit (CUP) applications that come before the body as quasi-judicial matters. The EBCC cannot hear public comment regarding Puget Sound Energy's Energize Eastside project or about the Glendale and NE 8<sup>th</sup> rezones, except during the courtesy/public hearings. Chair Hummer said members of the public may submit written comments on those subjects to [ebcc@bellevuewa.gov](mailto:ebcc@bellevuewa.gov) and they will be included in the official record.

Chuck Thulin, a resident of the College Hill neighborhood, said the Save Our Scale group is not opposed to development. However, the group is concerned about the demolition of homes to replace them with much larger homes that are out of scale with existing Bellevue neighborhoods. He suggested that developers are persuading homeowners to sell their houses to them instead of

selling to the general market under a competitive bidding process. He said Save Our Scale is not advocating to force specific designs. However, the group is advocating for specific development parameters related to setbacks, roof heights, and floor-area ratio (FAR). Mr. Thulin referenced a comment posted on Nextdoor.com by Councilmember Kasner about looking to future housing needs. He asked the EBCC to support Save Our Scale's concerns.

Rick Chesmore, representing Save Our Scale, said the group's intent is to suggest Land Use Code changes that will preserve neighborhood character, improve the tree canopy, and ensure that redevelopment does not result in buildings that are out of scale with existing housing. He proposed applying different code requirements for the redevelopment of existing housing versus new housing developments. He suggested specific changes to the code related to FAR, building heights, number of stories (restrict to two), tree retention and setbacks. He asked the EBCC to help achieve Save Our Scale's objectives.

Joni Vanderburg-Paner said she has lived in the Robinswood neighborhood for five years. She described Save Our Scale's activities in the community to advocate for certain Land Use Code regulations applicable to the replacement of existing housing. She said support for Save Our Scale is growing in the community. She noted meetings with Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis and Councilmember Lee. She said Mr. Nieuwenhuis mentioned the Save Our Scale group during a campaign forum on October 7. She said the group will meet this week with Mayor Robinson, who has shown an interest in addressing Bellevue's tree codes.

Tim Hay said he is a retired general contractor and home builder. He said there are a number of misconceptions about the Save Our Scale group. He said they are not trying to undermine anyone's work ethic or to promote socialism. The group has established specific suggestions for revising the Land Use Code to protect the tree canopy and to ensure that the redevelopment of housing does not result in overly large homes that are out of scale with existing neighborhoods. He asked the EBCC to take a public stand in support of the group's proposals and to communicate its support to the City Council. He asked the EBCC to take a vote that evening regarding Save Our Scale's requests.

John Kappler, Vice Chair of the Houghton Community Council in Kirkland, said he was speaking as an individual and not for the community council. He noted efforts led by State Representative Amy Walen to sunset the Houghton Community Council. He said the City of Kirkland's equity consultant determined that Houghton Community Council represents an exclusionary role in the community. He said the Kirkland City Council would be addressing the issue soon, and he cautioned that a decision at the state level would threaten the EBCC as well.

Councilmember Kasner said he hopes the EBCC does not take action tonight regarding Save Our Scale because it is not prepared to do so. He said he wants to support the goals of the Save Our Scale group. However, he is opposed to applying bonus housing on faith-owned properties in certain neighborhoods only. Mr. Kasner said his vision is for taller structures on 148<sup>th</sup> and 140<sup>th</sup> Avenues to create residential density without negative impacts within neighborhoods, including the addition of accessory dwelling units (ADUs). He said this is a complicated issue and he is willing to work on a committee for further study. He is not prepared to make decisions now

because there is more information to be reviewed. He suggested further discussion during the EBCC's meeting in December.

Mr. Kasner said it is important to address the issues raised by Mr. Kappler regarding efforts to end community councils (municipal corporations under state law). He said the EBCC has a number of topics to address, and Save Our Scale is only one of them.

Councilmember Gooding said the word equity has been stretched and contorted to mean all sorts of things and is very much an abused word. He questioned the application of the principle to a community council. Chair Hummer suggested that Mr. Gooding connect with Mr. Kappler following the meeting.

5. **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS, and COMMISSIONS:** None.

6. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Hummer noted that the EBCC is constituted differently and has a slightly different mission than City advisory boards and commissions. The EBCC's five members are elected every four years and the members live within East Bellevue/Lake Hills, which was annexed by the City in 1969. The EBCC exercises both advisory and approval authority over most matters related to zoning regulations and land use within the EBCC jurisdiction. No other board or commission in the city exercises jurisdictional authority, and the EBCC is one of two community councils in the state.

Ms. Hummer said the EBCC is here to represent the people of East Bellevue. Some of the people the EBCC recently represented are residents near the new location for Puesta del Sol school. She said construction is moving forward as expected and neighbors appreciate efforts to address parking and other impacts. She said a resident wants to be assured that the new utility conduits under the relocated concrete sidewalks will have provisions for fiber optic cable. Chair Hummer said she will talk to Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis to determine how the EBCC might be able to help achieve that goal.

7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

(a) 2022 Parks and Open Space System Plan Update

Ryan Walker, Senior Planner, Parks and Community Services Department, presented the 2022 Parks and Open Space System Plan Update. The 20-year plan is updated every six years to provide long-range guidance for acquisitions, development and enhancements to the parks and open space system. The plan is required for accreditation and to be eligible for certain grants. The focus areas of the plan are: 1) open space, greenways, wildlife corridors and trails, 2) park facilities, 3) active recreation facilities, 4) urban park systems, 5) waterfront access, 6) partnerships, and 7) historic, cultural and art resources.

Mr. Walker presented a map depicting the park properties located within the EBCC jurisdiction, including Robinswood Park, Lake Hills Greenbelt, and a portion of Kelsey Creek Park. The park

land in the EBCC area totals approximately 240 acres and is a mix of developed and undeveloped open space. Key elements considered in developing the Parks and Open Space Plan include: 1) community profile, 2) system inventory, 3) policy framework, 4) level of service analysis, 5) capital project objectives, 6) funding and maintenance strategy, and 7) public involvement. The Lake Hills neighborhood includes the highest rate of residents with disabilities in Bellevue, which is an important consideration when designing parks and trails. The area also has a significant amount of multifamily housing. The level of service analysis considers three factors: active participation, public satisfaction and walkable access within the service area.

Mr. Walker encouraged everyone to complete the parks survey on EngagingBellevue.com. The web site provides information about parks and a forum for residents and park users to share ideas and suggestions. Mr. Walker said staff is sharing information regarding the Parks and Open Space Plan update through the City's boards and commissions and other groups, social media, and Neighborhood News and other City publications.

Core questions for public input are: 1) What do you like about the park system and what might you like to see added or improved?, 2) How can access to parks and open space be expanded and made safer?, and 3) How could we make parks more welcoming for people of all ages, abilities and backgrounds? The project to update the Parks and Open Space Plan was initiated this spring and initial meetings and a park inventory were conducted this summer. Staff is currently in the public outreach phase and anticipates releasing a draft plan for review this winter. The plan is scheduled to be adopted next spring.

Mr. Walker highlighted key projects since the plan was last updated in 2016. Improvements at the Downtown Park include the northeast gateway, completion of the circle walking path, and the expansion of the Inspiration Playground. The construction of Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 1 has been completed. Surrey Downs park has been developed as a neighborhood park, and a neighborhood park planning process is underway for the Bridle Trails 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue park. Mr. Walker noted the acquisition of approximately 15 acres near Lake Sammamish for the development of a neighborhood park. Recent projects include planning for the Newport Hills neighborhood park on SE 60<sup>th</sup> Street, aquatic center, and the Mercer Slough addition. Additional programs include streetscape management and facilities enhancements and renovations.

Councilmember Dhananjaya thanked Mr. Walker for the information regarding the plan update process. Mr. Dhananjaya commented that with the growth and urbanization in Bellevue, open space is constrained. He asked whether there have been discussions about making parks safer for youth and teenagers to get together, including after sunset. He asked about plans for parks near light rail stations. Mr. Walker noted the Eastrail project along the former railroad corridor and through the Wilburton neighborhood near the light rail station.

Vice Chair Epstein thanked Mr. Walker for the presentation. Mr. Epstein asked about the density in East Bellevue and how it is used in assessing park needs. Mr. Walker said the City's assessment of parks is based in part on the acres of parks and open space per capita. Bellevue has approximately 19 acres of park land per 1,000 residents. Redmond has approximately 20 acres of park land per 1,000 residents and other communities have less. Mr. Walker said some areas of Bellevue are lacking in neighborhood parks including the Eastgate, Crossroads and BelRed

areas. He said the EBCC jurisdiction is relatively stable. However, as growth continues, additional neighborhood parks may be warranted. Vice Chair Epstein said the City does a good job of maintaining its parks. He noted that he likes the workout stations at Robinswood Park.

Noting the higher percentage of disabled individuals in East Bellevue, Mr. Epstein asked whether that is reflected in the design of parks for East Bellevue. Mr. Walker said that type of design is considered through the master planning process for parks, and ADA (Americans with Disabilities Act) regulations are followed. He said some parks are more accommodating than others at this time.

Councilmember Kasner thanked Mr. Walker for the presentation. Mr. Kasner encouraged the City to focus on preserving and expanding the tree canopy. He said it is important to remove residential land use code designations from open space and to ensure that the areas are not considered buildable land. Referring to the removal of ivy in East Bellevue, Mr. Kasner said it is confusing to understand whether certain property belongs to the parks, utilities or transportation departments. He asked about the ownership of open space on the west side of 148<sup>th</sup> Avenue.

Mr. Kasner encouraged the development of public waterfront access in Bellevue. He said historic preservation is important and he would like to see that as a bigger component of the plan. He recalled that there was an ice rink at Crossroads Park in the past. He encouraged signage to mark historic locations and/or individuals who were instrumental in the development of the community. Councilmember Kasner thanked staff for their public outreach and said he looks forward to reviewing the draft plan.

Mr. Walker said the Natural Resources Division is conducting an urban forest assessment, including a review of the tree canopy.

Chair Hummer thanked Mr. Walker for the information. Responding to Ms. Hummer, Mr. Walker confirmed that the Parks and Open Space Plan is not a part of the Comprehensive Plan, and the EBCC does not have approval/disapproval authority over the plan.

Ms. Hummer noted two parcels on NE 6<sup>th</sup> Place totaling 4.86 acres that were originally owned by the founder and first Chair of the EBCC, Dr. Howard Wilson. She said the site has 300 trees, and 200 trees will be removed to build nine new homes. She said that would have been a perfect location to develop a pocket park, especially with the number of multifamily units adjacent to the site. Chair Hummer asked whether there has been an effort to identify similar historic properties citywide, including the Sisters of St. Joseph property, for acquisition. She said it would be nice to retain the buildings on that site for use as a conference center and to develop the beach for public access, perhaps with some low-income housing as well. Ms. Hummer encouraged the development of park property near multifamily housing.

Responding to Chair Hummer, Mr. Walker confirmed that while open space is required in the redevelopment of the BelRed area, much of the development has not included open space because a developer has chosen to pay a fee in lieu. Ms. Hummer said it would be nice to have areas for residents, especially in more densely developed areas with multifamily housing, to walk their dogs and take a walk. She noted a portable dog park in Bothell. She expressed support for

Councilmember Dhananjaya's suggestion to design park areas for people to gather during and after the sunset.

Chair Hummer said she would like the City to require the development of parks and open space with multifamily housing. She concurred with Councilmember Kasner's suggestion for more waterfront access and noted an area near Phantom Lake with benches, a lawn and a pond. She suggested access points on the east side of the lake. She encouraged robust community engagement starting now for the development of Airfield Park.

Mr. Walker noted that schools can provide parks and recreation facilities as well.

Chair Hummer suggested allowing the public to view comments and suggestions from others on the EngagingBellevue.com site. She noted that the City's former Parks Director Lee Springgate wrote a book on the Downtown Park that provides a comprehensive perspective on Bellevue parks.

## 8. **PUBLIC/COURTESY HEARINGS**

### (a) Public Hearing: NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Partners Rezone

Chair Hummer said the purpose of the public hearing is to consider the NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Partners rezone.

Liz Stead, Land Use Director, said the NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Partners rezone property is located on NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street near 140<sup>th</sup> Avenue. She recalled that the information was previously presented to the EBCC during the summer. She said the subject of the public hearing is the rezone and not a specific plan or project for the site.

Carol Orr, Land Use Planner, said the rezone is a Process III decision, which is a quasi-judicial land use decision made by the City Council and the EBCC. The process involves a recommendation from the Development Services Director to the Hearing Examiner, who holds a public hearing and makes a recommendation to the City Council. The City Council makes a decision based on the record established by the Hearing Examiner, which is then forwarded to the EBCC for additional discussion and action.

Ms. Orr said the applicant proposes a rezone of two parcels located at 13635 and 13655 NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street. The properties are currently zoned as Office (O), and the proposal would rezone the parcels to Multifamily Residential (R-30, or 30 units per acre). The rezone is required to provide consistency with the Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) that updated the map designation from O to the MF-H designation. Ms. Orr presented a map of the site and surrounding development, which includes office buildings, apartments, and condominiums.

Ms. Orr highlighted the land use public notice and meeting process. The notice of application was published in the City's Weekly Permit Bulletin on May 20, 2021 and signage was installed on each site. Notice of the application was also mailed to property owners within 500 feet of the properties. A public meeting was held by the EBCC on June 1, 2021 and no comments were

received from the public during the meeting. Ms. Orr said that no member of the public provided comment during the review of the proposal and there are no parties of record. The notice of recommendation and public hearing was published on August 5, 2021.

Staff presented the Director's decision to the Hearing Examiner on August 26, 2021, and the Hearing Examiner provided a recommendation of approval for the City Council on September 9, 2021. The City Council discussed the proposal on September 27 and voted to approve the proposal on October 11 with the adoption of Ordinance No. 6608. Under the EBCC's rules of procedure, notice of tonight's meeting was mailed to all property owners within 500 feet of the subject properties on October 21, 2021. Ms. Orr said that tonight's public hearing is held to consider Ordinance No. 6608 and to take action on EBCC Resolution No. 596 regarding the approval of the ordinance.

Ms. Orr presented the rezone decision criteria found in Land Use Code 20.30A.140. The City may approve, or approve with modifications, a rezone if it: 1) is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan, 2) bears a substantial relation to the public health, safety or welfare, 3) is warranted in order to achieve consistency with the Comprehensive Plan or because there is a need for additional property in the proposed land use district classification, 4) will not be materially detrimental to uses or property in the immediate vicinity, and 5) has merit and value for the community as a whole. It was determined that the rezone will facilitate the redevelopment of both parcels to provide housing opportunities to meet the forecasted demand for housing in Bellevue in an area that already has convenient public transit.

Ms. Orr said a recommended condition of approval is to indicate that approval of the rezone does not constitute an approval of any Land Use Entitlement review, or any other ancillary permits that may be required for the design and construction of any proposed development or improvements on the rezone parcels.

Ms. Orr stated her understanding that the only other person present for the EBCC's June 1 meeting was the applicant's attorney, Jessica Roe.

Ms. Roe thanked everyone for their careful review and work on the rezone application. She recalled that a voluntary community outreach meeting was held approximately two years ago. She said the rezone provides a great opportunity to add multifamily options near transit. She expressed support for the recommendation of staff and the Hearing Examiner.

At 7:51 p.m., Councilmember Kasner moved to open the public testimony portion of the public hearing. Councilmember Dhananjaya seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

Deputy City Clerk Roberts indicated that no one signed up to speak during the public hearing and no one attending the meeting wished to comment.

At 7:52 p.m., Councilmember Kasner moved to close the public testimony portion of the public hearing. Councilmember Dhananjaya seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

Councilmember Dhananjaya thanked staff for the presentation. He expressed support for the opportunity to increase density and provide needed housing in Bellevue.

Vice Chair Epstein expressed support for the rezone application given the density of surrounding development and nearby transit service.

Councilmember Kasner said he has supported this proposal from the beginning. He expressed an interest in better understanding, in the future, the City's map designations and the situations in which different land uses are adjacent to each other.

Councilmember Gooding thanked staff for the thorough presentation. He expressed support for the rezone proposal, noting that it provides an opportunity to maximize the use of the properties to help meet the community's housing goals.

Chair Hummer thanked staff for the presentation and for providing the Hearing Examiner's report to the EBCC on October 15, which allowed time to review the information before tonight. She thanked staff for the public outreach process. She concurred with Councilmember Kasner's interest in better understanding the interplay of land uses and map designations.

Ms. Hummer said she was glad to read that due to the existence of a vacant single-family zoned parcel to the south, which includes the site of the Neighborhood Church, the rezone site is subject to the City's transition area design standards. She observed that the chances are good that the adjacent vacant property will be redeveloped into something more than playfields, a few houses and parking lots. Chair Hummer said it would be helpful to have a future presentation regarding the requirements in transition zones.

(b) Courtesy Hearing: Clean-up Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA)

Chair Hummer introduced the courtesy hearing regarding routine amendments to the Land Use Code.

Nick Whipple, Planning Manager for the Code Policy Division, said the revisions reflected in the LUCA are intended to improve clarity and internal consistency and to correct certain citations. The LUCA is limited to items that are not substantive in nature and do not address policy issues or warrant independent LUCAs.

Kristina Gallant, Senior Planner, said the revisions fall into two categories: 1) references and numbering, and 2) internal consistency and clarity.

The amendments: 1) remove an outdated reference to the Sammamish Community Council (LUC 20.10.200), 2) update an incorrect reference to a figure in the Comprehensive Plan (LUC 20.20.255.C), 3) correct a reference to the Bellevue City Code (LUC 20.20.900.E.1), 4) remove an outdated definition regarding the Director of Planning and Community Development (LUC 20.50.016), 5) remove an outdated definition for Mid-Block Retail Connection, 6) update an outdated reference from the Uniform Building Code (UBC) to the International Existing Building Code (IEBC) (LUC 20.50.036), 7) address conflicting code regarding the applicability



of LUC 20.20.520 (Landscape Development) in the Downtown (LUC 20.25A.010.A.3), 8) add a footnote to the parking requirements table referencing the amenity incentive system (LUC 20.25A.080.B), 9) update a figure depicting standards for Downtown parking garages for consistency with code text (LUC 20.25A.170.A.8.b) and 10) remove unintentional restriction for uses of the entire ground floor instead of just along the building frontage (LUC 20.25P.085.A.3.d).

Ms. Gallant said the Planning Commission discussed the LUCA during its October 27 study session, and the EBCC held a courtesy hearing on November 2. The Planning Commission anticipates holding a public hearing and developing a recommendation on December 8. The LUCA will then be considered by the City Council for a decision, followed by an EBCC public hearing and action.

At 8:08 p.m., Councilmember Kasner moved to open the public testimony portion of the public hearing. Councilmember Gooding seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

Deputy City Clerk Roberts said that no one had signed up to speak and it appeared that no one present wished to speak.

At 8:09 p.m., Councilmember Gooding moved to close the public testimony portion of the public hearing. Councilmember Dhananjaya seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

Councilmember Dhananjaya thanked staff for the presentation. Responding to Mr. Dhananjaya, Ms. Gallant said the International Existing Building Code has already been incorporated into the City's Building Code. The subject amendment is to correct a reference to the code but does not change the use of the code. In further response to Mr. Dhananjaya, Ms. Gallant said slide 9 of the presentation reflects the current practice in the Downtown for parking and building frontage. However, the LUCA does not change any of those requirements.

Councilmember Kasner objected to the statement that the Sammamish Community Council was dismantled in 2001. He said it was not dismantled but its continuation was not supported by the voters. Ms. Gallant clarified that the Land Use Code does not use any language about the community council but simply removes the outdated reference to it. Mr. Kasner said he understood that, but he was objecting to the word "dismantled" in the meeting materials. He thanked Ms. Gallant for the information.

Chair Hummer said she recently noticed a couple of references in the Land Use Code to the Sammamish Community Council and she agreed with updating the information.

## 9. **RESOLUTIONS**

- (a) Resolution No. 596 approving City Council Ordinance No. 6608

Councilmember Kasner moved to adopt Resolution No. 596 approving City Council Ordinance No. 6608 regarding the NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street Partners rezone proposal. The motion was seconded by Councilmember Gooding and carried by a vote of 5-0.

10. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

Chair Hummer recalled that, during its September meeting, the EBCC heard from Rick Chesmore of Save Our Scale regarding suggestions to revise the Land Use Code to address residential redevelopment and preserving the tree canopy. She said the EBCC's input was generally in favor of the proposed changes but recognized that the EBCC has no direct impact on City Council agendas and motions. Under state law, the EBCC can make recommendations, provide a public forum, and advise and cooperate with the City Council on issues affecting its jurisdiction. She opined that the tree canopy and neighborhood character are important elements of the Comprehensive Plan and subarea/neighborhood plans.

Ms. Hummer said that recent comments on Nextdoor.com and before the Planning Commission, City Council and EBCC reinforce Save Our Scale's concerns. She said support of the group would be a fulfillment of the EBCC's powers and duties. She suggested a discussion of Save Our Scale's proposal with the objective of reaching a consensus.

Councilmember Dhananjaya said he appreciated the involvement of residents and the information provided by Save Our Scale. He said he would like to hear from others, including prominent builders and possibly sellers, regarding the proposed code amendments before the EBCC considers taking an official position.

Vice Chair Epstein said he shares the concerns regarding the size of houses that replace older homes, setbacks and tree retention. However, he noted that East Bellevue has a number of homes built in the 1950s and 1960s that are in need of repair and enhanced maintenance. He suggested that those are potentially a bigger blight for the area than the large homes. He also expressed an interest in hearing from builders and developers regarding the issue.

Councilmember Kasner concurred with Councilmember Dhananjaya and Vice Chair Epstein that it is premature for the EBCC to make a decision at this time. Mr. Kasner suggested a discussion in December to present the EBCC's comments to all of the interested parties.

Councilmember Gooding said there are good ideas in the Save Our Scale proposal. However, he said it is important to balance the views of all parties.

Chair Hummer said she would like the EBCC to take a formal position. She wishes the EBCC would have been at the forefront of the effort to revise regulations applicable to single-family room rentals. She does not feel that the EBCC needs to hear from developers. However, Ms. Hummer said she respects the views of her colleagues.

Ms. Hummer said she supports Save Our Scale's proposal. She noted that the City of Mercer Island has already implemented similar regulations and she does not believe the changes would negatively affect development in Bellevue. She said she looks forward to further discussion in December.

Moving on, Chair Hummer noted that the City Council is currently addressing a Comprehensive Plan transportation policy amendment. She said there has been discussion about whether to retain the phrase “reduce congestion” or to change it to “manage congestion.” She suggested that the EBCC advocate for “...strive to reduce congestion and improve mobility with a proportional distribution of resources to motor vehicle, pedestrian, transit, and bicycle facilities.”

At 8:25 p.m., Vice Chair Epstein moved to extend the meeting an additional 15 minutes. Councilmember Kasner seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

Vice Chair Epstein said he supported the Planning Commission’s recommendation to retain the language regarding congestion.

Councilmember Kasner said he is leaning toward supporting the current language. He said that, whether Comprehensive Policy TR-2 is retained or not, individual Community Councilmembers’ input made a difference, even without an official position by the EBCC. He suggested continuing that practice going forward on behalf of the EBCC’s constituents.

Responding to Chair Hummer, Mr. Kasner proposed retaining the current language of policy TR-2 that has been in place for 10 years.

Councilmember Kasner moved to retain TR-2 as written in the Comprehensive Plan. There was no second.

Councilmember Gooding observed that Bellevue will experience more congestion with continued growth, regardless of the written policy.

Chair Hummer said the recommendation of the Eastside Transportation Association (ETA) was to the point and covered all of the travel modes and the concept of reducing congestion. She read the following language proposed by the ETA: “...strive to reduce congestion and improve mobility with a proportional distribution of resources to motor vehicle, pedestrian, transit and bicycle facilities.”

Councilmember Kasner said he is not willing to go as far as the ETA. However, he would be open to discussing the Save Our Scale proposal and the transportation policy issue.

Vice Chair Epstein said he would be open to addressing the transportation policy language. He said he is a little confused about the discussion regarding “reduce” congestion versus “manage” congestion. However, he acknowledged that “reduce” makes a somewhat stronger statement.

Mr. Kasner said the issue is over resource allocation and not the semantics.

Responding to Chair Hummer, Deputy City Clerk Roberts said she would send a memo summarizing tonight’s discussion to the City Council.

Chair Hummer asked EBCC members to think about Puget Sound Energy’s Energize Eastside project. She said the EBCC held one courtesy hearing. She had six pages of questions that she

reduced to six questions, and she does not feel that any of them were answered. Ms. Hummer said she would like to have another courtesy hearing and to obtain answers to her questions.

11. **NEW BUSINESS**

Chair Hummer recalled that the EBCC has expressed a strong interest in hearing reports from Code Compliance staff. The EBCC would also like a presentation from Neighborhood Outreach staff regarding the state of East Bellevue based on the State of the City report. She would also like an update from the King County Housing Authority, which recently acquired two apartment complexes within the EBCC jurisdiction. That action adds 218 subsidized low-income housing units to East Bellevue.

Vice Chair Epstein said he would like to hear from the King County Regional Homelessness Authority (KCRHA). He noted that they recently provided a presentation to the City Council.

Councilmember Kasner said that issue is not as time sensitive as some of the EBCC's other issues.

At 8:40 p.m., Councilmember Dhananjaya moved to extend the meeting an additional 10 minutes. Councilmember Kasner seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

12. **CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

13. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- (a) Summary Regular Meeting Minutes of October 5, 2021

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve the minutes of the October 5, 2021 Regular Meeting. Vice Chair Epstein seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

14. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:41 p.m., Chair Hummer declared the meeting adjourned.

Karin Roberts, CMC  
Deputy City Clerk

/kaw