

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

January 10, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, and Councilmembers Barksdale, Lee, Robertson, Stokes, and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:01 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers were present and participating remotely. Councilmember Lee led the flag salute.

(a) Martin Luther King Jr. Day Proclamation

The Councilmembers read the proclamation recognizing January 17, 2022 as Martin Luther King Jr. Day in Bellevue and encouraging all residents to learn more about service opportunities and to work together to build a more just society.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

4. Oral Communications

(a) Charles Watts urged the Council to provide more funding for implementing the environmental stewardship program and addressing greenhouse gas emissions.

- (b) Martine Smets expressed concern regarding the impacts of climate change. She encouraged a sense of urgency to address greenhouse gas emissions at the local level.
  - (c) Court Olson recalled past requests to the Council for increased funding for the environmental stewardship program. He encouraged the City to add more staff to urgently address climate change.
  - (d) Wendy Tyner, representing the Wintergrass Festival, thanked the City for its ongoing support, including through the pandemic. She invited everyone to participate in the performance and educational opportunities available during the next Wintergrass Festival on February 24-27.
  - (e) Brad Jones, representing VisitBellevueWA.com, thanked the City for its partnership with the 2022 Bellevue Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon. Additional organizations that have played an important role include the Seattle Sports Commission, Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) and the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce. He said the half marathon is one of a growing list of events in Bellevue to attract visitors and support economic vitality.
  - (f) Chris Randels thanked City staff for their hard work in response to the winter snow and ice event. He thanked Mayor Robinson for asking about the City's outreach to individuals experiencing homelessness during that time. He thanked the City for keeping the community updated.
5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
6. Report of the City Manager
- (a) 2022 Bellevue Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced discussion regarding the 2022 Bellevue Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon.

Mac Cummins, Director, Community Development Department, said Bellevue will host the Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon on September 3-4, 2022. He recalled previous conversations about placing an enhanced emphasis on visitor and convention business and the role of retail and place-making in the community.

Philippa Marsh, Economic Development Manager, said the half marathon event will assist in tourism recovery and generate needed business for retail businesses and restaurants. Approximately 4,500 overnight attendees are anticipated, representing a demand for 3,881 hotel rooms. Related business sales are estimated at nearly \$5 million and the local tax impact is estimated at \$119,943. The event promotes a healthy, active lifestyle and includes a Kids Rock run and a 5K event on Saturday followed by the half-marathon on Sunday, September 4. The

event involves neighborhoods and community groups along the race route, and grant opportunities for activations along the route are available from the IRONMAN organization.

Ms. Marsh said that global promotion of the Bellevue Rock ‘n’ Roll half marathon has already started with IRONMAN’s 6.7 million social media followers. Members of the City’s Special Events Committee will travel to the Arizona Rock ‘n’ Roll Marathon to observe best practices in preparation for the Bellevue event. Ms. Marsh encouraged everyone to subscribe to updates regarding the event on the city’s website. To register for the run, visit [www.RunRocknRoll.com/washington](http://www.RunRocknRoll.com/washington).

(b) December 2021 Snowstorm Response

City Manager Miyake introduced staff’s update regarding the winter storm over the holidays and the City’s preparedness and response.

Chris Long, Assistant Director, Transportation Department, recalled staff’s briefing to the Council in November about the City’s preparations involving numerous staff in multiple departments for responding during snow and ice storms.

Bianca Siegl, Assistant Director, City Manager’s Office, said that support for unhoused residents in Bellevue requires ongoing active collaboration with service providers, other Eastside cities and regional agencies. Last fall, the City developed communication protocols, met with shelter representatives to anticipate their needs, provided donations of warm clothing and update public information regarding shelters and the City’s warming centers.

Mr. Long said it began snowing around 11:00 p.m. on Christmas Day when staff began the first 12-hour shift of emergency response operations. For the first couple of days following approximately six inches of snow, staff focused on ensuring that all arterials were passable before moving into neighborhoods for plowing. Freezing rain and hail on January 3 created icy conditions and the City’s snow operations wrapped up on January 6.

Mr. Long said the storm provided the opportunity to further test the City’s automated vehicle locating system, which was one of the Livable City Year projects developed by staff with University of Washington students.

Ms. Siegl said that staff from the City Manager’s Office, Parks and Community Services Department, and the Fire Department CARES (Citizen Advocates for Referral and Education Services) program worked together to respond to evolving needs. Staff participated in daily meetings with the King County Regional Homelessness Authority, Eastside cities and shelter providers to share information and resources and to request donations of warm clothing from the community. Ms. Siegl said that Eastside shelters hosted approximately 250 individuals nightly between December 23 and January 1. Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) and The Sophia Way provided additional temporary beds to accommodate the increased need during that time. With that extra capacity as well as access to hotels, no one was turned away from shelter during the snow and ice event.

Ms. Siegl thanked shelter staff for their hard work to provide food and warmth to individuals, especially given the additional complexity related to the COVID pandemic.

Mr. Long highlighted communications with residents via social media. He thanked Parks and Community Services Department staff for assisting with snow plowing, dispatch services and administrative support during the storm and for clearing snow at fire stations, hospitals, City Hall and other municipal facilities. He thanked Finance and Asset Management Department staff for supporting the fleet teams, which had 15 plows on the road 24 hours per day for 13 days.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

Councilmember Zahn provided an update on her activities in Washington, D.C. She said the City would be hosting a Vision Zero and Technology Roundtable session the following day involving representatives of the U.S. Department of Transportation, private companies and legislative staff. She said this work positions Bellevue well for federal grant opportunities to implement Vision Zero elements in City projects.

8. Consent Calendar

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:
  - (a) Ordinance No. 6639 authorizing (1) execution of a second amendment to a professional services agreement with Carollo Engineers LLC (# 2050010), for Lake Washington Sewer Lake Line Management Plan (CIP Plan Nos. S-58 and S-71), to increase the contract value in an amount not to exceed \$1,338,456, plus all applicable taxes, and to extend the term of the agreement until January 22, 2024; (2) amendment of the 2021-2027 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to transfer \$890,000 of budget from the Sewer Renewal and Replacement Fund (CIP Plan No. S-96) to the Lake Line Management Plan (CIP Plan No. S-58); and (3) amendment of the 2021-2027 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to transfer remaining \$20,648 of budget from the Utilities Lakeline Sewer Replacement (CIP Plan No. S-71) to the Lake Line Management Plan (CIP Plan No. S-58).
  - (b) Resolution No. 10053 authorizing execution of an Interlocal Agreement with the Cities of Kirkland, Redmond, and Bothell to provide a regional (Eastside) campaign to support community efforts to reduce waste and increase the reuse of items.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session

(a) Recommended Land Use Code and Bellevue City Code Amendments for Consistency and Clarity

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's presentation regarding recommended Land Use Code and Bellevue City Code amendments to improve clarity, correct citations and enhance internal consistency.

Nick Whipple, Planning Manager, Development Services Department (DSD), said staff is seeking Council direction to prepare ordinances adopting the amendments for action at a future meeting. He said staff periodically conducts a review of the Land Use Code and Bellevue City Code to improve clarity and internal consistency and to correct outdated references. The proposed amendments are minor in nature and limited to items that are not substantive and do not address policy issues.

Kristina Gallant, Senior Planner, DSD, said a number of the amendments fall into the category of references and numbering. Examples include correcting an internal reference to another section of the code and updating definitions. The second category of amendments relates to internal consistency and clarity.

Mohammad Malakoutian, Planning Commission Chair, said the commission held a study session on October 27 to discuss the code amendments and a public hearing on December 8. The commission recommends the adoption of the Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) without modification. Mr. Malakoutian said the commission did not receive any public comment regarding the amendments. He thanked staff for their careful review of the codes. He noted that the commission's recommendation is included as Attachment A to the agenda memo in the meeting packet.

Ms. Gallant highlighted the proposed amendments to the Bellevue City Code to update references and to clarify that clearing and grading permits are required within 50 feet of the shoreline (BCC 23.76.035). She said the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) held a courtesy hearing regarding the code changes on November 2, 2021. The Planning Commission held its hearing and issued its recommendation on December 8. Following action by the City Council, the LUCA will be forwarded to the EBCC for a public hearing and action.

Councilmember Barksdale, liaison to the Planning Commission, thanked the commissioners and staff for their work to improve the usability of the code. He expressed support for moving forward with the amendments.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the proposed amendments and suggested placing the ordinances on a future consent calendar for Council action.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff and the commission for their work. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Whipple recalled that the Shoreline Master Program was updated in 2018. Before the update, the shoreline was considered a critical area. The proposed clearing and grading amendment clarifies that a clearing and grading permit is required within the shoreline vegetation area, which

is the term used in the shoreline code. Mr. Whipple said the revision incorporates the updated term because the critical areas code no longer covers grading activity along the shoreline. He said there is no change in the administration of grading permit requirements and the code clarification does not change the requirement for clearing and grading permits within 50 feet of the shoreline.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Mr. Whipple said the code amendment clarifies the standard for when a permit is required.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to prepare the Land Use Code Amendment and Bellevue City Code amendment ordinances for final action at a future meeting on the consent calendar. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

(b) Increasing Diversity: Bellevue Fire Department Works to Close the Gender Gap

Fire Chief Jay Hagen introduced staff's update regarding the Fire Department's efforts to recruit female firefighters.

Lt. Camari Olson said the National Fire Protection Association reports that less than four percent of all firefighters nationwide are female. That equates to 11,000 women firefighters out of a total of 350,000 career firefighters. More than half of the fire departments in the country have no female firefighters. The Bellevue Fire Department has eight female firefighters working on the line or in administrative positions and two women who are currently involved in training at the fire academy.

The City of Bellevue hired the first career female firefighter in the state, Jeanette Woldseth, in 1977. Her father was also a firefighter. Ms. Woldseth reached the rank of captain and acting battalion chief during her career.

Lt. Olson said the fire department wants its personnel to reflect the community that it serves. The department has implemented many of the recommendation contained in the City's hiring for equity recruitment guide, including blind applications, phone interviews, and involving staff from other departments and diversity liaisons in the interviewing process. She said City staff realized that they were probably missing a number of high-quality candidates by basing the pool of potential applicants strictly on the written test. The fire department now holds a round of speed interviews of up to 200 candidates, which has resulted in an increase in the diversity of candidates.

Lt. Olson highlighted efforts to attract younger candidates before they have chosen other career paths. Camp Blaze is a nationwide event held annually for girls age 16-19 at the North Bend Fire Academy. King County hosts the Future Women in EMS and Fire workshop, which provides the opportunity for women age 18 or older to hear from a number of female firefighters. Lt. Olson said a number of Bellevue firefighters have participated as instructors for those forums. Most recently, the Bellevue Fire Department hosted the King County Fire Chiefs Association's first

diversity and recruitment workshop. Additional efforts include a recruitment video on Bellevue TV, a Firefighting 101 workshop for women at the training center, and a girls camp. Lt. Olson described her experience mentoring an intern from the Big Picture School, Grace Huxtable, who had volunteered as a Fire Explorer since she was 15 years old. Ms. Huxtable worked with Bellevue's female firefighters to produce a recruitment video that is now available on social media channels and Bellevue TV.

Firefighter Emily Peterson said Firefighter Maia Brown developed and led a one-day, hands-on course at the training center in the spring of 2020 involving a team of female instructors from fire departments across the country. Firefighter Jesse Cartwright developed a program similar to Camp Blaze but targeted specifically to girls in the Bellevue area who could potentially become Bellevue firefighters.

Ms. Peterson said there are perceived barriers for female firefighters including promotional opportunities, whether they have the strength necessary to do the job, and issues related to pregnancy and motherhood. She said both women and men can gain the strength needed for the job through a dedicated workout regimen. Regarding promotional opportunities, Ms. Peterson said that, of the 18 female firefighters in the Bellevue Fire Department, five have become officers, three have become paramedics, and two have become firefighter engineers.

Ms. Peterson said female firefighters across King County, including Lt. Olson, hosted a media event in January 2021 to discuss female firefighters and motherhood. She said Firefighter Brown started a closed Facebook group a couple of years ago to connect women working in the fire service with women who were interested in pursuing the career. The group discusses a number of topics including the testing process, how to properly train, and perspectives on being female in a male-dominated profession.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale, Lt. Olson said the Bellevue Fire Department currently does not have any women of color working as firefighters. Lt. Olson said that changes to the recruitment process have resulted in an increased diversity in the women who have participated in events and expressed an interest in the profession. She said efforts to recruit a diverse staff are ongoing. Mr. Barksdale said it would be helpful to review data related to the intersectionality of gender, race and other dimensions of diversity.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked Lt. Olson and Firefighter Peterson for being an inspiration to young women and the general public. He encouraged them to continue their efforts to raise the visibility of female firefighters. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Lt. Olson said the fire department's web site contains a career section that provides information about testing and other topics. She noted the department's interest in mentoring young women and suggested that interested individuals contact her. Lt. Olson said she is working with the training division to develop a mentoring list.

Councilmember Zahn said she appreciates the fire department's efforts to recruit and expand participation and to provide guidance regarding the testing process. She concurred with Councilmember Barksdale's interest in reaching out to people of color and diverse populations and asked about diversity in the youth Fire Explorer program. Lt. Olson said that, as the Public

Information Officer (PIO), she works with other fire departments who do have women of color and who participate in regional recruiting efforts. In further response to Councilmember Zahn, Lt. Olson said she is starting to see more interest in the Fire Explorer program than earlier in the pandemic.

Lt. Olson said staff would follow up with more information regarding the diversity of the applicants. She said the fire department is increasing its involvement with the Boys and Girls Clubs of Bellevue and she recently joined their safety committee. She said that will be a great partnership for reaching youth at an early age to promote safety as well as a potential career in the fire service.

Councilmember Stokes thanked Chief Hagen, Lt. Olson and Firefighter Peterson for their significant efforts to recruit and mentor female firefighters.

Councilmember Lee complimented the fire department for their great programs and work within the community. He said Lt. Olson, Firefighter Peterson and others are great role models for girls and youth and he encouraged them to continue their good work.

Councilmember Robertson said this is another example of how City staff are always stretching to be leaders in their field. She thanked them for their efforts to teach girls and women that firefighting is a career option for them.

Mayor Robinson said she was proud to see the female firefighter featured in the annual report to the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) and noted that they are role models for adults as well.

At 7:37 p.m., Mayor Robinson called for a break. The meeting resumed at 7:47 p.m.

(c) Arts and Culture Program Biannual Update

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's update regarding the City's arts and culture program, which is a unit of the cultural and economic development office in the Community Development Department.

Jesse Canedo, Assistant Director, Community Development, introduced Lorie Hoffman, who joined the City in October as the new Arts Community Manager.

Ms. Hoffman said her most recent position was as the Executive Director of ShoreLake Arts, a nonprofit arts organization working with the cities of Shoreline and Lake Forest Park. She has a Master of Fine Arts (MFA) degree and an undergraduate degree in business, marketing, media and theatre.

Ms. Hoffman said the mission of the City's art program is to encourage and support the arts as a vital part of community life. The program includes the annual arts grants, public art, Bellwether art exhibit, BelRed Arts District and cultural planning. Bellwether 2021 held in September had 65 participating artists, nine publicly accessible events, 34 artwork installations and more than



2,500 participants. Ms. Hoffman said this was the first year collaborating with EastHUB, a local arts nonprofit organization that delivered a series of musical events as well as assistance with sponsorship and partnership development. Additional partners included the Bellevue Arts Museum, Bellevue Botanical Garden, and numerous artists and curators.

Ms. Hoffman said work is underway to develop the BelRed Arts District. In 2020, the City distributed a survey as part of a larger study of the district funded by the 4Culture Creative Consultancies Project led by artist Katie Miller. The results of the research were compiled into the BelRed Arts District Project Report, which is one of the first pieces of research that includes significant feedback from local businesses, employees and residents. The research will help launch future projects in the BelRed area.

Phase 1 of the report identified four key components for implementing a successful arts district: 1) collaboration, 2) financing, funding and sustaining, 3) arts district management, and 4) defining arts and culture within the Arts District. In Phase 2, seven key areas of inquiry were identified: 1) retention and attraction, 2) long-term sustainability, 3) goals for BelRed Arts District, 4) affordable space, 5) art events and programming, 6) visibility of the Arts District and 7) BelRed identity. Ms. Hoffman said the report concludes by emphasizing that the City will need to take a leadership role in the establishment of the Arts District by building the capacity of community stakeholders, organizing private-sector partnerships, prioritizing affordable art space and working with the creative community to develop a financial plan for long-term sustainability.

Ms. Hoffman described the installation of utility box wraps throughout the BelRed area designed by artists selected from the Eastside Artists roster: Vikram Madan, Molly Keen, Larine Chung, Raili Janese, Marsha Rollinger and Juliana Kang Robinson. Public feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and a second group of utility box wraps will be installed this year in the Downtown.

Ms. Hoffman provided an update regarding the artwork installation at the Downtown Park, noting that a grand opening celebration is anticipated later this year. Two additional locations for artwork installations are 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue NE and Spring Boulevard and 121<sup>st</sup> Avenue NE and Spring Boulevard. For the 130<sup>th</sup> Avenue project, a fabrication and installation contract will come before the Council early this year. The project by artist Po Shu Wang is an interactive, technical artwork featuring a sound bath where users can trigger a quiet musical collage developed from recordings of BelRed musicians. For the 121<sup>st</sup> Avenue project, artist Jill Anholt is finalizing artwork concepts for review by the Arts Commission to mark the pedestrian route from Spring Boulevard to the 120<sup>th</sup> Avenue light rail station. Ms. Anholt is developing her concepts with input from groups with historical connections to the BelRed area including local indigenous communities and descendants of Japanese-Americans who farmed the area before incarceration during World War II.

Councilmember Stokes, liaison to the Arts Commission, said he has enjoyed getting to know Ms. Hoffman. Mr. Stokes said he looks forward to the grand opening of the artwork at the Downtown Park.

Mayor Robinson thanked Ms. Hoffman for the presentation and expressed an interest in allocating more funding to the City's arts programs. Mr. Canedo noted that staff will provide updates later this year regarding public-private partnerships to enhance the arts and cultural experience in Bellevue.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis concurred with Mayor Robinson's interest in increased funding for the arts. Mr. Nieuwenhuis noted that the presentation focused on the BelRed district and the Downtown and asked about art projects throughout Bellevue. Ms. Hoffman said there is a collection of public art across the community. She noted a new public art installation planned for later this year in the Crossroads area that is privately funded. She said the City received a large gift of funds to maintain and expand the children's tiles in the Wilburton area. She noted plans to expand utility box wraps across Bellevue.

Councilmember Barksdale said he looks forward to seeing the interactive art installations. Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Ms. Hoffman said the Visit Bellevue web site provides a walking tour of Bellevue's public art. She noted plans to add images and location information for public art on the City's web site as well.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for expanding the utility box wraps across the community as soon as possible. She suggested involving youth artists as well. She encouraged a continued focus on public-private partnerships. She suggested the use of apps or other mechanisms to allow the public to engage with art. She expressed support for artist live-work spaces and suggested murals for public art installations.

Ms. Hoffman said that in 2017, the City launched a preliminary study to determine whether it would be feasible to have artist live-work spaces at the 30 percent to 60 percent AMI (area median income) level. The second phase of that work, an art market study, will launch later this year.

Councilmember Lee said he likes projects that bring the community together to share and learn about art and different cultures. He noted the importance of partnerships and a commitment to supporting the arts. He suggested the potential for an arts and culture levy.

Councilmember Robertson recalled discussions beginning in 2007 regarding the creation of an arts district. She looks forward to seeing the completed Downtown Park project and art installations in the BelRed area. She suggested a scavenger hunt or similar activity to guide participants through the public art in Bellevue. Ms. Robertson encouraged more funding for public art noting that, like libraries and schools, it is available to everyone in the community.

Councilmember Robertson noted that she and Mayor Robinson have been advocating for transportation investments, including I-405 bus rapid transit (BRT), before the state legislature. Ms. Robertson said the governor's proposed budget includes partial funding and she encouraged the consideration of GARVEE (Grant Anticipation Revenue Vehicles) bonds for additional I-405 funding. Ms. Robertson said additional Eastside partners who testified included the Renton Chamber of Commerce and elected officials from Renton and Bothell.

11. Land Use: None.
12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.
13. Unfinished Business: None.
14. New Business: None.
15. Executive Session: None.
16. Adjournment

At 8:22 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw