

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

Tuesday  
January 11, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

*Via Zoom*

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Hamilton, Vice-Chair Unger<sup>1</sup>, Boardmembers Clark, Giampetro, Kumar, Synn, Trescases<sup>2</sup>

**COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT:** Councilmember Zahn

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Pamela Fehrman, Shelley McVein, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Ryan Walker

**OTHERS PRESENT:** David Plummer

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

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

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hamilton at 6:00 p.m.

Chair Hamilton announced that there are a few procedural items that need to be addressed. He explained that because in-person meetings are prohibited by the Governor's emergency order concerning the Open Public Meetings Act, the Board will be holding its meetings remotely for an unknown period of time. Chair Hamilton reminded Boardmembers that the Board's Bylaws regarding remote participation and the order of business have been suspended until such time as the Board is no longer holding its meetings remotely.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Boardmember Kumar and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the November 9, 2021 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

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<sup>1</sup> Departed meeting at 8:46 p.m.

<sup>2</sup> Joined the meeting at 6:05 p.m.

4. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

5. **COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL:**

Councilmember Zahn provided the following report:

- The art sculpture at the Gateway of Downtown Park is expected to be installed in 2Q22 or 3Q22.
- Council recently received an update on the Bellevue Arts District. There is a lot of art within the parks so it will be important for the Parks Board to know critical elements and potential collaborations.
- Bellevue will host the 2022 St. Jude Rock 'n' Roll Running Series Washington event. The event will be held over Labor Day weekend (Sept. 3-4, 2022). Boardmembers are encouraged to participate.

Councilmember Zahn enjoyed visiting Garden D'Lights during the holidays.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Mr. Shiosaki updated Boardmembers on the current status of the City's services during the current state of the pandemic.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Kumar spent time walking dogs at many of the parks throughout Bellevue. She expressed appreciation to the City for their quick response to the recent snow storm.

Boardmember Clark recently visited Central Park in New York and expressed his appreciation for parks throughout the country. He also enjoyed many of Bellevue's parks.

Boardmember Giampetro reminded Boardmembers that the state legislative session commenced yesterday. There are various legislative issues that relate to Bellevue parks and land. The legislature will be in session through the end of March.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

No report.

9. **BOARDMEMBER/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

No reports.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. Parks & Open Space System Plan 2022 Update

Ryan Walker, Senior Planner, reminded Boardmembers that Parks & Community Services is in the process of updating the Parks & Open Space System Plan, which is one of the long-range policy planning documents for the Department. The current plan was last updated in 2016 and is on a six-year schedule for renewal and adoption by the City Council.

Mr. Walker reviewed the project timeline and summarized outreach efforts. There are two surveys that have been running concurrently: statistically valid (ABS) resident survey, and the open park user survey. The following survey results were summarized:

- Use of Park and Recreation Facilities.
- Frequency of Park and Recreation Facility Use.
- Reasons for Visiting Parks and Recreation Facilities.
- Access to Parks, Trails, or Recreation Facilities.
- 10 Year Focus.
- Funding Priorities.
- Development Facilities Priorities.
- Development Groups Priorities.

Determining some of the reasons for visiting parks involved a variety of avenues, including: engaging Bellevue hub; outreach to Boards/Commissions, neighborhood groups, and community groups; and publications and social media. Mr. Walker highlighted some of the common themes from the public involvement and common input on the survey. He also responded to various questions from Boardmembers, including survey response rates for the various neighborhoods throughout the community. Ways to increase community participation was also discussed.

Boardmember Synn asked if there has been any analysis of pet owners within the survey. Mr. Walker clarified that the statistically valid survey can be evaluated in many ways and does allow respondents to indicate if they own pets.

Mr. Walker said that the objectives of the Working Draft Plan Review include:

- Identify significant edits/additions to language.
- Focus on the big ideas.
- Consider what may be missing.
- Finalize Capital Project Objectives chapter.
- Review next steps and prepare to recommend the plan forward in February.

Mr. Walker noted that the Parks & Open Space Systems Plan update provides an opportunity to revise with more contemporary language and add based on current trends and information.

Some language will not be significantly altered from the 2016 plan. He clarified that additional, non-substantive edits may be made prior to adoption.

Mr. Walker reviewed changes to each section of the Parks & Open Space Systems Plan.

Boardmembers provided the following feedback:

- Introduction
  - *No recommended changes.*
- Bellevue, A City in A Park
  - Boardmember Synn suggested that data be incorporated regarding dog owners.
- Policy Framework
  - Councilmember Zahn asked if innovation should be included in the policy framework particularly regarding all abilities. Boardmembers agreed that this should be added.
  - Boardmember Synn suggested that clarification be added regarding corporate partnerships and engagement. Mr. Parker clarified that citizen engagement is in the current Comprehensive Plan and will be reviewed to see if this should be included in the Parks & Open Space Systems Plan. Boardmember Trescases agreed and thinks the clarification should be broad to include the positive partnerships.
- Planning for the Future
  - Boardmember Synn would like estimates added for daytime visitors to the community (i.e., commuters/business community).
  - Boardmember Clark asked if there should be more direct usage data regarding public participation at facilities. Staff explained that specific level of service metrics per facility are not used widely, but can provide a reference to use trends. This section will be assessed further.
- Capital Project Objectives
- Open Space, Greenways, Wildlife Corridors and Trails
  - Councilmember Zahn suggested that “trails” be added to: “Incorporate underused spaces, such as street ends, as opportunities to add to or connect open spaces, trails, and park facilities.”
- Park Facilities
- Active Recreation Facilities
  - Chair Hamilton expressed concerned about listing Bellevue Airfield Park lighted sports fields when these may not occur. Staff explained that there is potential for the ballfield; therefore, it should be kept in the plan. He also thought that the necessity of an off-leash dog area in downtown should be included.
- Urban Parks Systems
  - *No recommended changes.*
- Waterfront Access
  - *No recommended changes.*
- Partnership Opportunities
  - *No recommended changes.*
- Historic, Cultural, and Art Resources

- *No recommended changes.*
- Financing
  - Councilmember Zahn suggested park impact fees be considered. She also asked if there are other funding sources that should be considered.
- Conclusion and appendices
  - *No recommended changes.*
- Next steps
  - *No recommended changes.*

B. Parks Board Approval of Fourth Quarter 2021 Report and Communication to Council

Chair Hamilton called attention to the Fourth Quarter 2021 Report and Communication to Council that was included in the Board packet. Councilmember Zahn expressed her appreciation for the additional context that was included regarding Council's request for renaming the Environmental Education Center at Mercer Slough Nature Park and the reasons why the Parks Board did not take further action on the request.

Boardmember Synn would like additional information added to the memo to enhance how the Board has been involved with Newport Hills and advocacy.

Boardmember Clark thought that the context of the current draft doesn't stress the lack of process, specifically renaming the Environmental Education Center at Mercer Slough Nature Park. He would like a specific process outlined and followed.

**Motion by Boardmember Synn and second by Boardmember Clark to extend the meeting until 8:35 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

Boardmember Trescases concurred with Boardmember Clark and said that a process needs to be identified and then followed, including a defined public process for naming/renaming parks.

**Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Synn to extend the meeting until 8:40 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

Boardmembers would like Council to clarify if their request to rename the Environmental Education Center at Mercer Slough Nature Park assumed that a public process would be conducted.

Chair Hamilton said that the Resolution is clear on what needs to happen when renaming a facility. He said that a public process must be undertaken prior to making a recommendation.

**Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Kumar to extend the meeting until 8:45 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).**

Councilmember Zahn said that any time the Parks Board has been asked to name a park a public engagement process is identified and followed. However, since Council has asked the Parks

Board to select a name, and no public data has been obtained, the Parks Board must conclude that a public process should commence.

**Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Trescases to extend the meeting until 9:00 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

Councilmember Zahn said that she will communicate to Council that additional clarification is necessary regarding whether or not Council's request to rename the Environmental Education Center at Mercer Slough Nature Park implied that the Parks Board should commence a public engagement process.

**Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Synn to approve the Parks Board's Fourth Quarter 2021 Report and Communication to City Council substantially in the form presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

None.

12. **PROPOSED AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

None.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Parks CIP Project Status Report
- B. E-mail re Bellevue Aquatic Facility Options - 12.14.2021
- C. E-mail re Ashwood Park - 11-17-2021
- D. E-mail re Aquatic Facility Questions - 11-3-2021
- E. 2022 MLK Health Fair Virtual Event

14. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

**Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Synn to adjourn the meeting at 8:59 p.m. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**