

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

March 28, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting  
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Robertson

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding. She noted that Councilmember Robertson requested an excused absence for tonight's meeting.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to excuse Councilmember Robertson from this evening's meeting. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers except Councilmember Robertson were present and participating remotely. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis led the flag salute.

(a) Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation

Councilmember Lee read the proclamation recognizing April 2022 as Sexual Assault Awareness Month in Bellevue and encouraged everyone to commit to a safer future for all children, youths, adults, and families in the community.

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 6-0.

4. Oral Communications

- (a) Martha Lane, representing Trees 4 Livability, urged the Council to protect and expand the tree canopy. She said many large trees are being removed for redevelopment in neighborhoods. She said the organization's report and recommendations are available on their web site. She asked the Council to protect neighborhood character. She encouraged the development of many types of housing.
- (b) Galen Helmgren, a resident of the Lake Hills neighborhood, said he supports Trees 4 Livability because he loves the shade that trees provide. He expressed concern regarding the loss of the tree canopy to build large homes on smaller lots. He encouraged stricter tree codes and provided examples of the codes in the Bridle Trails area. He acknowledged the need to address view preservation in the development of tree codes.
- (c) Don Marsh, a resident of the Somerset neighborhood, said he became involved with a number of community organizations over the past 10 years to address issues related to the wise use of energy and environmental protections. He expressed support for Trees 4 Livability and noted that he is the founder of 300Trees, which provides free trees to Bellevue residents, schools, churches and small businesses. He said they recently distributed 1,000 small trees during their spring tree giveaway event. He commented on the importance of saving large trees. He encouraged stricter tree codes and paid permits for all significant and landmark tree removals. He said the permit fees should fund a tree canopy program.
- (d) Gauri Gupta, a resident of the Crossroads area, expressed support for funding a new aquatic center. She said she is a sophomore at Interlake High School, where she serves on the Bellevue Youth Council and writes for the school newspaper. She said that swim teams and water polo teams practice outdoors year-round and compete in Mercer Island or travel to Tacoma for water polo practice. She said the aquatic center will provide a safe and inclusive space to connect.
- (e) Susan Pappalardo, a Kirkland resident, said she is the co-founder and president of SPLASHForward. She thanked the Council for considering the memo of understanding (MOU) with SPLASHForward that formalizes our working relationship and outlines the non-profit organization's role as a private fundraising partner to build a new aquatic center. She described the group's fundraising efforts and highlighted key supporters. She thanked the Parks and Community Services Board, Director Michael Shiosaki and staff for their support and assistance.
- (f) Michelle Wannamaker thanked the City for recognizing the problem of cut-through traffic in the Eastgate neighborhood and attempting to do something about it. While Ordinance No. 6656 will decrease cut-through traffic on 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and near Tyee Middle School, it will not decrease cut-through traffic in the neighborhood. She said two of the worst streets for cut-through traffic are exempted from the speed limit reduction due to the potential impacts on transit. She said southbound cut-through traffic from SE 36<sup>th</sup> Street toward Newport Way affects both 136<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE and 146<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE. She

expressed concern about pedestrian safety in the areas that do not have sidewalks. Ms. Wannamaker suggested decreasing the speed limit to 20 miles per hour for cars and 25 miles per hour for transit.

- (g) Bob Peters, a Seattle resident, expressed support for the proposed MOU between the City and SPLASHForward regarding the potential aquatic center at Bellevue's Airfield Park. He described his involvement in the swim team in college and his experience teaching people to swim and coaching competitive swimming. He said he has served on the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA) Board and the Seattle Chamber Board Executive Committee. He encouraged the Council to invest in a world-class aquatic center in Bellevue. He commented on the lack of swimming facilities in the region and the need for more opportunities for swimming lessons.
  - (h) Rita Meher, co-founder and Executive Director of Tasveer, noted the arts and culture organization's 20<sup>th</sup> anniversary in the Pacific Northwest. She thanked the City's Economic and Cultural Development team and Lorie Hoffman for their assistance and participation in the celebration. She said Tasveer operates the largest south Asian film festival in North America. She said Tasveer's main office was located in Bellevue before the pandemic and they are now looking for a new home in Bellevue. Ms. Meher encouraged the Council to support small and BIPOC-led arts organizations. She said Tasveer works to serve otherwise underserved communities.
5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
6. Report of the City Manager
- (a) Kelsey Creek Farm Annual Sheep Shearing Event

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director, and Annamarie Solomonson, Community Services Supervisor for the Parks and Community Services Department.

Ms. Solomonson announced the return of the annual Sheep Shearing Event at Kelsey Creek Farm on Saturday, April 30, 11:00 AM to 4:00 PM. She said free shuttle services will be provided from Bannerwood Park and the Wilburton Park and Ride lot. Visitors may also park at the International School and the surrounding neighborhood, and the event is free to the public.

Ms. Brittingham said the event draws a diverse crowd of visitors of all ages and is especially popular with families with children. She said the attendance ranges from 4,000-5,000 people. The event includes a number of demonstrations and activities including the sheep shearing event and arts and history exhibits at the Fraser log cabin.

Ms. Solomonson said there will be visual and hands-on activities including animal viewing, pony rides, a train display and others. There will be wagon rides, arts and crafts, play area, food truck, coffee wagon and Kettle Corn booth. The sheep shearing event began in 1972 when the farm brought animals to the site.

Ms. Brittingham said this is the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Kelsey Creek Community Park, and it has been 100 years since the original property owner, Twin Valley Dairy, was founded. The Kelsey Creek barns are listed in the Washington Heritage Barn Registry.

Ms. Brittingham invited everyone to come to the sheep shearing event on April 30.

(b) Consent Calendar Items

City Manager Miyake said Agenda Item 8(c), Ordinance No. 6656, is the third ordinance for speed reduction from 25 miles per hour to 20 miles per hour as part of the Neighborhood Slow Zone Program. He said the program is also part of the Vision Zero Action Plan, which includes an assessment of citywide local streets.

Mr. Miyake said Agenda Item 8(e), Resolution No. 10081 authorizing the MOU with SPLASHForward formalizes a working relationship to support the fundraising for and development of the new Bellevue Aquatic Center. He recalled that at the October 18, 2021 Council meeting, the Council provided direction to develop a MOU to work with SPLASHForward to support fundraising efforts for a regional aquatic center. Mr. Miyake said the aquatics center is currently on the work program for the Parks and Community Services Board.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

(a) Council Liaison Recommendation for Appointment to Human Services Commission

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis recommended the appointment of Jaskaran Singh Sarao to serve on the Human Services Commission. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he is a longtime Bellevue resident and a 2017 Bellevue Essentials graduate with a track record of working in the community. He is president of the Norwood Village Association and has been involved in organizations addressing homelessness. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said Mr. Sarao understands the challenges of language barriers and cultural differences when trying to access resources in the community.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to appoint Jaskaran Singh Sarao to serve a partial term on the Human Services Commission expiring on May 31, 2025. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

(b) Council Liaison Recommendations for 2022 Reappointments to Bellevue's Boards and Commissions

Councilmember Stokes recommended the reappointment of Judy Gowdy to the Arts Commission and noted that she is currently completing a partial term.

Mr. Stokes recommended the reappointment of Paul Clark to the Parks and Community Services Board.

- Councilmember Stokes moved to reappoint Judy Gowdy to the Arts Commission for a term expiring on May 31, 2026. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.
- Councilmember Stokes moved to reappoint Paul Clark to the Parks and Community Services Board for a term expiring on May 31, 2026. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Councilmember Lee recommended the reappointment of Kenneth Wan to the Environmental Services Commission. He said Mr. Wan has demonstrated extreme interest, competence and participation in working with the commission.

- Councilmember Lee moved to reappoint Kenneth Wan to the Environmental Services Commission for a term expiring on May 31, 2026. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mr. Lee recommended the reappointment of Sarah Rock to the Library Advisory Board. He said she has been a great addition and is very committed to the board.

- Councilmember Lee moved to reappoint Sarah Rock to the Library Advisory Board for a term expiring on May 31, 2026. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis recommended the reappointment of Benjamin Piper, the current chair, and Angela Phan to the Human Services Commission. He said both individuals have been great members of the commission and will continue to contribute in meaningful and thoughtful ways.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to reappoint Benjamin Piper and Angela Phan to the Human Services Commission for a term expiring on May 31, 2026. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

8. Consent Calendar

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 6-0, and the following items were approved:
  - (a) Council Minutes  
Minutes of March 14, 2022 Regular Meeting
  - (b) Ordinance No. 6655 amending Ordinance No. 6557, adopted December 14, 2020 and previously amended, to amend the 2021-2022 budget by increasing the General Fund appropriation by \$358,482 and amend the Development Services Fund appropriation by \$869,035 to allow the addition of 12 full-time revenue-backed employee positions for the Development Services line of business; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.
  - (c) Ordinance No. 6656 relating to speed limits; amending Section 11.32.015 of the Bellevue City Code to establish a speed limit of 20 miles per hour (mph) on most local streets in a portion of the Eastgate neighborhood surrounding Tyee Middle School.
  - (d) Resolution No. 10080 ratifying the 2021 King County Countywide Planning Policies and 2021 Urban Growth Capacity Report.
  - (e) Resolution No. 10081 authorizing a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with SPLASHForward formalizing a working relationship to support the fundraising for and development of a new Bellevue Aquatics Center.
- 9. Public Hearings: None.
- 10. Study Session Items
  - (a) Proposed Bellevue City Code Amendment to Expand Exemption Days and Hours for Amplified Sound

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced discussion regarding the proposed Noise Control Amplified Sound Code amendment. He said the topic was last before the Council on February 28, 2022. At that time, the Council directed staff to initiate work on the noise code. He said staff is seeking direction to prepare an ordinance for final action at a future meeting.

Nick Whipple, Planning Manager, said the proposed code amendment expands the days and hours that the City may consider and approve for the use of amplified sound. He said this action is part of the 2022-2023 Land Use Planning Initiatives (LUPI) work plan that was presented to the Council on March 21.

Mr. Whipple said the two amendments to the noise code are based on an analysis of current barriers and challenges to small-scale events in the City's neighborhoods. Examples include neighborhood block parties on Sundays and after-work activations in the Downtown along the Grand Connection route.

Kristina Gallant, Senior Planner, said the City studied maximum environmental noise levels reflected in state regulations. She said noise levels are measured from the site receiving the sound and not at the source of the sound. She said the limits depend on the land use type. In residential districts, the upper limit is 55-60 decibels on receiving properties. The maximum is 60-70 decibels in industrial districts. Ms. Gallant said 70 decibels is similar to the sound of a car or a vacuum cleaner.

Ms. Gallant said the noise control code has specific provisions regulating sound amplification. In general, a noise permit for sound amplification is necessary when the amplification is clearly audible across a real property boundary or at least 75 feet from the source. Once a noise permit is obtained, an additional 10 decibels above the current limits is available for permittees during the approved period of sound amplification. Ms. Gallant said there is a separate permitting process for using amplified sound for certain large events.

Ms. Gallant described the permit decision criteria. No sound amplification is allowed on Sundays and holidays, and the amplification is permitted only between 8:00-5:00 PM, Monday through Saturday. The sound cannot take place for more than four days per week and is subject to decibel limits and quiet zone prohibitions. Ms. Gallant said there are also protections for schools and hospitals.

Ms. Gallant said the proposed Bellevue City Code amendments are targeted and will produce a meaningful benefit. The amendments remove the ban on sound amplification on Sundays and holidays and amend the hours allowed for sound amplification to 8:00 AM to 8:00 PM, Sunday through Thursday, and 8:00 AM to 10:00 PM on Friday and Saturday.

Ms. Gallant said the genesis of the project came from engagement as part of the Cultural and Economic Development Plan update. She said additional public engagement included representatives of residents, events, cultural organizations, businesses and other community groups. She noted that information is available on the City's web site.

Responding to questions previously raised by the Council, Ms. Gallant said staff identified opportunities to streamline the permit process and to indicate which permits are required for different types of events. She noted efforts to improve the clarity of permit application materials. She said staff is developing enhanced frequently asked questions (FAQs) and other supporting guidance.

Ms. Gallant requested direction to expand the days and hours for amplified sound, for final action on an ordinance at a future meeting.

Mayor Robinson noted that the Council has previously discussed the proposal.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale, Mr. Whipple said staff is not proposing to remove the permit requirement for the use of amplified sound.

Councilmember Zahn suggested developing a special events guide, available in multiple languages, to make it easier for people to understand the City's permitting process.

Ms. Zahn expressed concern regarding the permitting of amplified sound beginning at 8:00 AM versus 9:00 AM on Sundays. Ms. Gallant said most of the public comments addressed the ending hours. She said staff did not hear complaints about the proposed start time for Sundays.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to prepare legislation for future action on a consent calendar amending Bellevue City Code 9.18 to expand the days and hours allowed for amplified sound. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

(b) Initiation of Work on an Update of the Arts Grants Guidelines

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding proposed work to update the arts grants guidelines. He said the last update to the guidelines occurred in 2018.

Jesse Canedo, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said staff is requesting direction to initiate work to update the arts grants guidelines to help improve the outcomes and lower the barriers for nonprofit organizations.

Lorie Hoffman, Arts Community Manager, said the City has provided community arts and culture grants since the early 2000s. The grants currently fund artists and organizations in three programs: 1) Eastside Arts Partnership, 2) Special Projects, and 3) PowerUp program. The Arts Commission reviews applications and presents funding recommendations to the City Council, which ultimately approve the annual awards.

The City is funding 42 organizations and individuals in 2022 and is awarding 45 grants in total for the three programs. The Eastside Arts Partnership includes 18 community partner grants and 14 pro partner grants. EAP grants provide operational support to nonprofit organizations that provide arts, culture and heritage programs. The PowerUp program helps organizations with development and capacity building, and is available for organizations that have already received an EAP grant. The City distributed 10 Special Projects grants, six to individuals and four to nonprofit organizations.

Ms. Hoffman said the presence of arts and culture experiences attracts regional visitors to Bellevue. She said they allow the limited art staff to have an out-sized impact by bringing an estimated total of nearly 3,500 artists and more than 4,800 volunteers to contribute their creative talents to Bellevue every year. In 2022, artists and arts groups funded by the City will serve an estimated 1.1 million residents and visitors through programs, performances, cultural events and arts education. The grants will ensure that more than 188,000 people have access to opportunities



with free or reduced admission, and they will provide 16,900 scholarships for students in arts education programs.

Ms. Hoffman said the grantees will offer programs designed to increase arts and culture access for diverse communities, including people with disabilities, senior adults and historically underserved populations. She said arts and culture organizations are uniquely equipped to foster positive community and health outcomes including an increase in the number of community activities, an increased likelihood of having a diverse group of friends, improved social skills and empathy and understanding for others in the community.

Ms. Hoffman said that, after reviewing feedback from grantees over the past four years and conversations with the City's diversity, equity and inclusion division, staff recommends the following updates to the arts grants guiding principles: 1) Make sure our grant program reflects the current needs of our arts and culture community, 2) Ensure equitable access by simplifying the application process, 3) Center underserved communities in funding priorities, 4) Activate the BelRed Arts District through arts grants incentives, and 5) Explore multi-year support to streamline and reduce work.

Ms. Hoffman said next steps include incorporating feedback from the Council, ensuring that the City is meeting its goals to provide an equitable and inclusive grant process, and ensuring that the City is meeting its legal requirements in granting public funds. She highlighted the update process involving the Arts Commission and City staff. The Arts Commission is anticipated to submit its recommendations to the Council in May for approval. In July, staff will provide information sessions and release the new guidelines. The City will begin accepting applications in August.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for their work and commented on the importance of fostering the creative economy. He said the update to the guidelines provides the opportunity to incorporate the City's commitment to equity, inclusion and unity. He expressed support for moving forward to update the grant guidelines.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked Ms. Hoffman for highlighting how important the arts are to the community. He expressed support for moving forward to update the guidelines and suggested an update to the Council after they are implemented.

Councilmember Barksdale suggested guiding principles that support activities and organizations that encourage community interaction across a broad set of cultures. He expressed support for initiating the update of the guidelines. Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Ms. Hoffman said the City is encouraging artistic activity across the entire community and the Eastside. She said the grant programs are not limited to organizations and artists within the city boundary. She said there are creative businesses but little arts activation to date in the BelRed Arts District.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for initiating an update to the arts grants guidelines. She concurred with Councilmember Barksdale's comment about art as a way to create connections within the community. Ms. Zahn expressed support for exploring multi-year support to streamline and reduce the work. She said she attended the Visit Bellevue Washington meeting

the previous week. She wondered if there might be a way to receive matching grants from the business community.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Ms. Hoffman concurred that operational funding is critical for arts organizations, in addition to event funding. Ms. Hoffman said she recently joined the Visit Bellevue Washington Board and the events and festivals community has fantastic partners. She noted Visit Bellevue's interest in major events to fill hotel rooms. She said arts organizations also receive support directly from businesses and other sources.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for staff's proposal to update the grant guidelines. He thanked staff for their interest in improving the guidelines and making them more relevant for the community. He encouraged seeking out underserved populations and organizations. He would like to see people of different populations showcase their arts and culture. He encouraged events and activities for all ages as well. Mr. Lee said he wants to see the cross-cultural community working together to share and create experiences.

Mayor Robinson wants to ensure that all public art displays are accessible to people with different abilities. She suggested sustainability as a criteria for a project. She said it would be interesting to see sustainable art. Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Hoffman said Bellevue is mid to low in its per capita arts spending compared to surrounding cities. Seattle funds approximately \$5.34 per capita for arts grants. Issaquah funds \$3.74 per capita. Bellevue funds 94 cents per capita for arts grants, and Renton provides 51 cents per capita.

Mayor Robinson said she appreciated the work of staff and the community to provide art and culture experiences in Bellevue.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to initiate work on updates to the Bellevue Arts Grants Guidelines to better support arts and culture nonprofit organizations and to make Bellevue a more vibrant community consistent with the Economic Development Plan and the Council's 2021-2023 Vision and priorities. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

At 7:41 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:51 p.m.

(c) Review of the 2022 Update to the Parks and Open Space System Plan

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the Council's review of the 2022 update to the Parks and Open Space System Plan. He said the plan is updated every six years and the current plan was adopted in 2016. Staff is seeking Council input to finalize the plan for approval at a future date.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, Parks and Community Services Department, recalled that staff provided a brief presentation regarding this work during the Council's March 7 budget workshop. He said the Parks and Open Space System Plan covers a 20-year horizon and is

updated every six years. He said the process to update the plan involved robust public engagement. He highlighted public comments regarding the need for facilities and programs for emerging sports, such as cricket and pickleball, and the need for parks and open space amenities in fast-growing areas such as the Downtown, Wilburton and BelRed areas.

Ryan Walker, Senior Planner, recalled that staff began the plan update last summer and after initial scoping and research, there was a public comment period lasting approximately four months, which also overlapped with the Parks and Community Services Board's review. In February, the Board voted on its recommended draft plan for the Council's consideration. Mr. Walker thanked Councilmember Stokes and Councilmember Zahn for their support as liaisons to the Board during its review. Staff anticipates adoption of the updated plan in late spring.

Mr. Walker said the Parks and Open Space System Plan is required for National Recreation and Parks Association accreditation and for some grants. The intent of the update is to ensure it is consistent with the Comprehensive Plan and other policies. Staff uses community input and data on recreation trends to evaluate which objectives from the prior plan remain appropriate and whether objectives should be added.

Mr. Walker said public engagement activities included two surveys, public meetings and a public hearing, presentations to Boards and Commissions, outreach to community organizations and the use of digital media. Common themes from public input included that parks are important to overall quality of life and protect natural resources. There were suggestions to expand local trail connections and to consider a variety of facilities in parks. Commenters noted the need for parks in high-growth areas and in areas with minimal access to parks. There were suggestions to design parks for interaction and gatherings, provide relevant facilities for a diverse population, and to preserve history and cultural resources.

Mr. Walker highlighted the survey data regarding facility usage for different activities including trails, beaches/waterfront parks, parks with display gardens, outdoor sports fields or courts, playgrounds, visitor centers, indoor sports facilities/fitness centers, off-leash dog areas and others. The top development priorities identified by the public were trails, beaches and waterfront parks, unstructured play and picnic areas, parks with display gardens, outdoor sports fields and courts, swimming pools and indoor facilities. Mr. Walker said 87 percent of survey respondents indicated that they live or work within a 10-minute walk of a park or trail. Of those, 95 percent said they can reach the park or trail safely.

The key elements of the plan that were updated are the Community and System Profile, Natural Resource Characteristics, Policy Framework, Level of Service Analysis, Capital Project Objectives, Financing, System Inventory, and the Maintenance, Renovation and Security chapter. The 2022 update includes updated statistics, recently adopted policies, updated level of service data, capital project recommendations, recent grants and donations, updated system inventory and an updated Parks levy status.

Mr. Walker said that recently completed projects include acquisitions in Newport Hills, Mercer Slough and Lake Sammamish; Meydenbauer Bay Park Phase 1; Surrey Downs Park; Downtown

Park improvements; sports field improvements; aquatic center feasibility study; Newport Hills Woodlawn Park planning and Bridle Trails neighborhood park planning.

Mr. Walker presented a map depicting the level of service across Bellevue for access to parks and open space. The three measures typically used for level of service are individual participation, public satisfaction and walkable access. He highlighted the focus areas for capital projects, including a parks/open space acquisition in the Wilburton area and the acquisition and development of public waterfront.

Mr. Walker commented on partnership opportunities with public, private and nonprofit entities. Proposed additions are partnerships with conservation organizations and expanded cross-cultural programming. Mr. Walker said a core objective is to protect and interpret cultural history and to provide space for artistic expression. He noted a proposed revision to the plan narrative to reflect new opportunities, including along the Eastrail corridor.

The plan is subject to State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review. Upon adoption by the City Council, the plan will be submitted to the State Recreation and Conservation Office in order for the City to be eligible for grants this year.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff and the Parks and Community Services Board for their work to update the plan. She encouraged inclusive access for all abilities and communities, space activation and efforts to facilitate connections and engagement. She acknowledged the need for parks and open space in the Factoria and Eastgate areas. She suggested that the proposed cross-cultural center could provide arts and culture programming as well as more physical activities. Mr. Walker said the updated plan reflects the feasibility study for the cross-cultural facility.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the presentation. He said off-leash dog areas are a growing priority for residents, especially downtown. Mr. Walker said the prior plan was fairly broad in its interpretation of off-leash areas. He said the plan still refers to the 2010 feasibility study but it expands a number of specific details. Mr. Walker noted plans to update the Robinswood Park off-leash area, add an off-leash area to serve the downtown, complete the Newport Hills Woodlawn Park facility, and to explore additional sites citywide.

Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed support for providing park facilities in the Eastgate and Factoria areas. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Walker said there are some dedicated pickleball courts around Bellevue while others are striped for pickleball but also used for tennis. He noted an interest in shared court usage and access to pickleball in City or regional facilities.

Mayor Robinson asked whether there are plans to connect designated urban pathways in the downtown. As a cyclist, she noted a gap in the system between Kelsey Creek and Crossroads. Mr. Walker said the plan focuses on greenways (e.g., Lake to Lake Trail) and how those are connected to the southern portion of the downtown as well as the Grand Connection. Ms. Robinson said the City offered an amenity incentive for property owners to provide pathways through their properties. She said it would be great to highlight those paths for the public. Referring to the gap in the bike trail system between Kelsey Creek and Crossroads, Mr. Walker said they work with Transportation Department staff to address the pedestrian and bike plan.

Councilmember Stokes commended the City's strong history of park planning. He expressed support for the Grand Connection and connections to the Eastrail. He expressed enthusiastic support for the plan.

Councilmember Lee said this has been a good discussion. He encouraged facilities to connect and bring people together, including for cross-cultural events and activities. He noted that ping pong was not mentioned in the survey. Mr. Walker said the community centers offer ping pong. Mr. Lee said squash is also popular and he encouraged the consideration of squash courts. He said he felt more discussion about the proposed plan is needed.

Mayor Robinson noted that the Council can have further discussion at the retreat later in the week. She thanked staff for their hard work.

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

At 8:38 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw