

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

June 6, 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 6:03 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

Mayor Robinson noted that today was the anniversary of the World War II D-Day invasion of Normandy, France on June 6, 1944. She said that as a physical therapist, she has treated many World War II veterans and heard many stories. She thanked all veterans for their courage and protection of our country.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll and all Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Robertson led the flag salute.

(a) Juneteenth Proclamation

Councilmember Barksdale said Juneteenth is the oldest recognized celebration and historic milestone observing the freedom of African-Americans from enslavement in the United States following the Civil War. On June 19, 1865, more than two years after President Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation, the last enslaved Americans in Galveston, Texas finally received word that they were free. Mr. Barksdale read the proclamation recognizing June 19, 2022 as Juneteenth in Bellevue and called on the community to join in embracing a commitment to continued reflection and actions to advance equity, inclusion and justice.

(b) LGBTQ+ Pride Month Proclamation

Councilmember Lee read the proclamation declaring June 2021 as LGBTQ+ Pride Month in Bellevue. He urged the community to stand in solidarity with LGBTQ+ residents against

ongoing discrimination and injustice and encouraged everyone to celebrate the meaningful impacts of this community on Bellevue's rich and diverse history and culture.

The two proclamations were presented to Dr. Linda Whitehead, Chief Diversity, Equity and Inclusion Officer in the City Manager's Office.

(c) World Elder Abuse Awareness Day Proclamation

Councilmember Zahn read the proclamation recognizing June 15, 2022 as World Elder Abuse Awareness Day in Bellevue and urged everyone to commit to building safer communities for our aging residents. A review in the New England Journal of Medicine found that elder abuse affects approximately 10 percent of older adults.

Diana Thompson, representing the Bellevue Network on Aging, accepted the proclamation and thanked the Council for highlighting elder abuse, which includes financial exploitation, neglect, personal exploitation, sexual abuse, physical abuse, mental abuse and self-neglect. She said elder abuse is often committed by a known, trusted person (e.g., spouse, adult child or grandchild). Ms. Thompson cautioned that elder abuse is under-reported. In Washington state, Adult Protective Services (APS) focuses on vulnerable adult abuse. In 2021, APS received more than 66,000 reports of vulnerable adult abuse. To report the abuse or neglect of a vulnerable adult, call APS at 1-877-734-6277 or file a online report. In an emergency, the public should call 911. Ms. Thompson thanked the City for its support of older adults in Bellevue.

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) Heidi Dean thanked the Council for moving forward to address the City's tree codes. She expressed concern about the loss of trees and vegetation throughout Bellevue. She said there is a lack of verification during the permitting process regarding the size and number of trees to be removed. Ms. Dean said she would like to see better enforcement. She noted that information submitted to the City regarding a specific proposed short plat is not consistent with the actual number of trees on the site. Ms. Dean said that in some cases, builders leave the required number of trees. However, they sometimes scrape the trees halfway up to accommodate building to the lot lines. Ms. Dean said this will result in diseased trees and potential wind hazards. She said the Master Builders Association has criticized the City of Kirkland's tree codes. She hopes that attempts at intimidation will not deter the City of Kirkland or the City of Bellevue in their work to strengthen tree codes. She thanked the Council for the proclamation regarding World Elder Abuse Awareness Day.

- (b) Khaiersta English, founder of Trees 4 Livability, thanked the Council and staff for moving forward to define and protect landmark trees. She said she sent meeting requests to all Councilmembers and she will be meeting with Mayor Robinson this month. Ms. English acknowledged the need for housing. However, she does not want development to continue to threaten the tree canopy.
- (c) Pamela Johnston thanked the Council for addressing tree codes. Noting the Council's upcoming retreat, Ms. Johnston provided input on the vision for Bellevue based on a meeting with other members of the community. She said Bellevue is where residents share the best of their culture, transforming it into popular culture. She highlighted the beauty of Bellevue's natural environment and said that air, water, transportation and public spaces should be clean, safe and healthy. She cautioned against allowing development to overwhelm nature and the neighborhoods. She commented on the value of social and physical connections throughout the community.
- (d) Kate Sinon expressed support for the recommendations of the tree code study by Trees 4 Livability. She said her interest in protecting trees and wildlife began in 1967 when 81 Weowna Park area property owners, including her grandmother and great uncle, fought to stop development on part of the park property. The case went to the State Supreme Court and the community prevailed. The parcel of land was later sold to King County and is now owned by the City of Bellevue. She expressed concern regarding climate change and spoke to the importance of preserving trees. She encouraged stricter definitions for significant trees and permits for the removal of all significant and landmark trees. She urged the City to adopt all of the recommendations from the Trees 4 Livability study.
- (e) Dominic Vautier expressed concern regarding high water utility bills, especially given the billing cycle of every two months.
- (f) Alex Zimmerman expressed concern that the King County Council does not currently allow the public to speak in person.
- (g) Aliyah Atwell said workers are not getting what they need from the City. As a technology worker, she feels privileged to be able to afford to live in this area. However, she commented on the need for regulations to help gig workers.
- (h) Fiona Cofield said she is the daughter of Dominic Vautier who spoke earlier about water utility billing. She said her father is 80 years old and has been a resident of Bellevue for approximately 35 years. She said he would like to see a water bill that is more equitable and that follows industry standards. She encouraged the City to consider monthly billing instead of billing larger amounts every two months, and to allow the public to pay with debit cards. She said her father must go to the post office to mail his payment. She encouraged the Council to consider individuals who are older and/or have disabilities that make this difficult.

Mayor Robinson asked the City Manager for a response from the Utilities Department regarding the water billing system and potential options to address the concerns. She asked for a response from economic development staff regarding gig workers in Bellevue.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.

6. Report of the City Manager

 (a) National Award for Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail (I-405 to 132nd Avenue SE)

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff's update regarding a national award for the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail project between I-405 and 132nd Avenue SE.

Andrew Singelakis, Transportation Director, introduced Maher Welaye as the new Assistant Director for Capital Projects in the Transportation Department.

Mr. Welaye said the Mountains to Sound Greenway Trail project was recognized by the American Public Works Association (APWA) as the 2022 Washington state and national project of the year in the \$5 million to \$25 million project category. The project extends over 3,000 linear feet and features a tunnel under the I-405 off-ramp at I-90 as well as a bridge over Factoria Boulevard. Mr. Welaye said staff from multiple departments were involved in the project. He thanked Chris Masek, Project Manager; Dale Lydin, Construction Manager; and Kyle Thieme, Senior Inspector, for their work.

Mr. Singelakis thanked the funding partners who made the project possible: Federal Highway Administration (FHA), Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT).

Mayor Robinson congratulated staff for the project and the award.

At 6:51 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:00 p.m.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

 (a) Council Liaison Recommendation for Appointment to Planning Commission

Councilmember Robertson said seven individuals were interviewed to fill the vacancy on the Planning Commission. She recommended the appointment of Luisa Cuellar-Calad, noting that she is a Downtown resident who works for Microsoft and is active in community organizations.

→ Councilmember Robertson moved to appoint Luisa Cuellar-Calad to the Planning Commission for a term expiring May 31, 2026. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

(b) Council Liaison Recommendation for Appointments to the Parks and Community Services Board

Councilmember Stokes recommended the appointment of Pradeep Singh and Rowena Clima to the Parks and Community Services Board. Mr. Singh lives in east Bellevue, is employed by T-Mobile and is an avid supporter of parks.

- Councilmember Stokes moved to appoint Pradeep Singh to serve on the Parks and Community Services Board for a partial term expiring May 31, 2024. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Mr. Stokes said Ms. Clima lives in southeast Bellevue and her background includes education and experience in environmental planning and technology management. She is currently enrolled in Bellevue's Master Naturalist training program.

- Councilmember Stokes moved to appoint Rowena Clima to serve on the Parks and Community Services Board for a full-term expiring May 31, 2026. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

(c) Interim Landmark Tree Regulations Proposal

Mayor Robinson described her proposal for interim landmark tree regulations. She said the City plans to begin a full review of the tree codes in the third quarter of this year. However, there was a significant tree removal incident in April that damaged a home. Ms. Robinson said the proposed interim regulation is intended to improve safety until permanent regulations are adopted in 2023. The interim regulations would amend the Clearing and Grading Code, Bellevue City Code Chapter 23.76, to define landmark trees as trees with a diameter of 24 inches or greater and to require a clearing and grading permit to remove any landmark tree. Removal of landmark trees would be allowed only by a licensed contractor ensuring workplace safety during removal.

Liz Stead, Land Use Director, said Mayor Robinson asked staff to consider language to amend the Clearing and Grading Code to require permits for the removal of landmark trees. Ms. Stead said the proposal is modeled on regulations in the City of Edmonds. If directed by the Council, staff will bring back an ordinance to revise the code to require a permit for the removal of any tree that is 24 inches or greater in diameter. The clearing and grading permit can be issued only to a licensed contractor or to an individual homeowner. The interim regulation will ensure that professionals are removing large trees and will provide the opportunity for the City to document the number of trees that are being removed.

Mayor Robinson said she was reluctant to wait until July to approve the interim regulation because a number of trees could be lost by that time. Ms. Stead said staff is prepared to return with an ordinance for Council action at the next meeting, and the ordinance would go into effect five days after its approval.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to prepare an ordinance establishing regulations and permit requirements for landmark trees for an interim period, to be brought back to the Council for formal action on June 21. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Ms. Stead said that all of the City's building permits require a licensed contractor. However, homeowners have the right to complete the work if they certify that they are doing it themselves. In further response to Ms. Zahn, Ms. Stead said staff will prepare public education information in association with the interim regulations and can add tips and recommendations regarding the use of licensed professionals.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Stead said she believed that homeowners must be allowed under state law to complete construction and tree removal work themselves. Ms. Stead said she would confirm the state law before the next discussion and adoption of the ordinance. Ms. Zahn suggested defining a landmark tree by both circumference and diameter. Ms. Stead said staff will add information to the City's web site to help guide the public as well.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Ms. Stead said that significant trees in the Bridle Trails tree code are defined as eight inches in diameter. In further response, Ms. Stead confirmed that the interim regulation does not affect a homeowner's right to remove trees. Ms. Stead said the 24-inch diameter is the industry standard for defining a significant or landmark tree.

Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Stead said tree height is not addressed through the regulations. In further response, Ms. Stead said the required clearing and grading permit fee is \$464 to remove up to two trees. For three or more trees, the permit fee is \$857. She said that is consistent with the Bridle Trails regulations.

Councilmember Stokes asked whether the City has any liability if a homeowner removes a tree. Nick Melissinos, Deputy City Attorney, said that is one issue to be analyzed by legal staff.

Councilmember Barksdale said he shared Councilmember Robertson's interest in whether tree height should be part of the definition for a landmark tree. Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Ms. Stead said the development services web page includes information regarding tree removal, and printed information is available at City Hall. She said staff will explore additional ways to inform the public about the regulations.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for the proposed interim regulations. He said tree regulations have been a controversial issue for many years in Bellevue. He said a determination was made in the past that the City would respect each neighborhood's characteristics, which led to the development of the Bridle Trails tree codes. He encouraged robust public engagement as permanent regulations are developed. He said it is important for the public to understand the purpose and rationale for the regulations.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked Mayor Robinson for her leadership on this issue and expressed support for the proposal. Referring to data collection, Mr. Nieuwenhuis said it would be helpful for the City to understand the geographic distribution of tree removals across Bellevue as well as the reason for the tree removal and the types of trees removed, if possible.

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

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 7-0, and the following items were approved:

- (a) Council Minutes
Minutes of May 16, 2022 Regular Meeting
- (b) Resolution No. 10101 adopting the City of Bellevue 2023-2028 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- (c) Resolution No. 10102 determining that an existing water easement located at 1525 132nd Avenue NE is surplus to the City's needs and is no longer required for providing continued public utility service; and setting a time and place for a public hearing to consider the release of this easement.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session

- (a) Smart Mobility Update and Introduction to Automated Vehicle Strategic Vision

Transportation Director Andrew Singelakis introduced staff's update regarding smart mobility projects.

Daniel Lai, Senior ITS (Intelligent Transportation System) Engineer, recalled the smart mobility vision to use innovation and partnerships to deploy emerging technologies that enhance the safety, sustainability, efficiency and accessibility of Bellevue's transportation system. The six smart mobility initiatives are: 1) traffic management, 2) real-time traveler information, 3) data management, 4) electric vehicles, 5) autonomous and connected vehicles, and 6) shared mobility.

Mr. Lai said that smart mobility accomplishments include the full implementation of adaptive traffic signals in Bellevue, high-speed network connectivity between traffic signals and City Hall, a pilot project of advanced sensor technology to improve safety at two downtown intersections, next generation transit signal priority partnership with King County Metro,

advanced signal timing capabilities for at-grade light rail crossings, online winter weather road response map and an automated dashboard for monitoring the transportation system performance.

Mr. Lai said the City is leading a partnership with the City of Seattle and others to plan the strategic vision for automated vehicles. The purpose is to prepare for automated mobility with a focus on ensuring that programming, resources and investments are maximizing the readiness of automated vehicle deployment in the region. The regional goals for the project are to improve safety, invest in innovation, ensure transportation equity, leverage strategic partnerships, increase mobility options and enhance sustainability.

Sam Van Hecke, Cambridge Systematics, said automated vehicle applications include personal vehicles, shared fleet vehicles, mass transit, ride shares, drones, commercial freight and personal delivery devices. Stakeholders involved in the public engagement process include the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT), Seattle Department of Transportation (SDOT), Puget Sound Regional Council, Autonomous Vehicle Work Group, Motional, Cruise, Mobile Eye and Zoox. Key themes from the discussions include automated vehicle curb usage, improved safety, enhanced public awareness of the technology and the need for a streamlined permitting process.

Mr. Van Hecke said that automated vehicles are governed by a complex set of federal, state and local regulations. The U.S. Department of Transportation sets Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (FMVSS) for new motor vehicles and equipment, investigates and manages noncompliance, and conducts public education regarding motor vehicle safety issues. The State licenses drivers, registers motor vehicles, enforces traffic laws, conducts safety inspections and regulates motor vehicle insurance and liability. The local role is to implement automated vehicle policies that are aligned and complementary to state policies, develop a localized approach to automated vehicle deployment that helps to achieve regional goals, and to manage and operate local infrastructure and systems.

Mr. Van Hecke highlighted case studies in San Francisco and Las Vegas where automated vehicles have been deployed. There are currently commercial driverless taxi operations (Waymo, Cruise) and commercial driverless goods delivery (Nuro) in San Francisco. Las Vegas implemented a first/last mile, low-speed shuttle service to enhance mobility for senior adults and disabled individuals. Waymo launched its first commercial autonomous ride-share service in Arizona in December 2018 and Zoox began testing in Seattle in October 2021. In March 2022, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA) approved eliminating the need for human controls in fully automated vehicles.

Mr. Lai said the next steps for the project are to identify candidate automated vehicle regulatory tools, document best practices, describe the projected timeframes for the implementation of automated vehicles, and to identify local agency actions. Staff anticipates presenting the next update and recommendations to the Council during the fourth quarter of this year.

Mr. Lai noted grant opportunities through a number of programs including USDOT Safe Streets and Roads for All, USDOT Strengthening Mobility and Revolutionizing Transportation

(SMART), WSDOT Zero-Emissions Vehicle Infrastructure Partnership, USDOT Small Business Innovation Research and the USDOT \$10K Intersection Safety Challenge. Based on the City's work in video analytics, the USDOT contacted Mr. Lai and Franz Loewenherz, Mobility Planning and Solutions Manager, to encourage participation in the USDOT \$10K Intersection Safety Challenge.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for staff's efforts regarding automated vehicles. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Lai said the City is currently working with T-Mobile as well and an announcement on their role is anticipated in the near future.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Singelakis said automated vehicles are able to operate on 4G technology. Mr. Singelakis said the City meets with all of the cellular carriers on a regular basis to identify issues, challenges and potential solutions related to 5G technology. He said AT&T has installed 5G infrastructure on the east side of 106th Avenue NE near the Transit Center.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Van Hecke said there are a number of opportunities for a pilot program in Bellevue. Mr. Van Hecke said it is important to define the local goals for automated vehicles and to design a pilot program around those goals. He encouraged projects that support the transit network and for-hire ride options.

In further response to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Lai said Bellevue is a regional leader in automated vehicle planning based on specific objectives and goals and not on implementing technology for its own sake. Mr. Nieuwenhuis expressed support for employee shuttles.

Councilmember Zahn highlighted the goals of safety, mobility and the generation of predictive data for decision-making. She expressed support for staff's efforts and relationships with community partners. She noted her interest in 5G technology, curb management and streamlining the permitting process. She said the automated vehicle initiative fits well with the Council's adopted priorities regarding safety, innovation, equity, partnership, mobility and sustainability. Ms. Zahn encouraged traffic signal priority for school buses. She wondered whether a downtown circulator shuttle would be appropriate for a pilot project. She looks forward to grant opportunities for smart mobility projects.

Mr. Singelakis said the City is currently reviewing the concept of a circulator and how that might fit within the smart mobility program. Mr. Lai said transit signal priority is predicated on having the technology on the buses (e.g., Metro). Emergency vehicle signal preemption requires GPS emitters or infrared emitters on emergency vehicles. Mr. Lai said school buses are not currently equipped with the underlying technology. However, he noted a current effort to analyze queue times around schools and to provide the data to the schools and parents for managing their travel decisions.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff for their work, noting that it has enabled the City to adopt practical goals and uses for technology. He encouraged continued partnerships, noting that

PACCAR is working on automated truck technology. Mr. Lee expressed support for the approach based on identifying goals before selecting solutions and projects. Mr. Lee expressed an interest in exploring a downtown circulator to enhance safety and to meet the goals of employers, residents and workers. He said Bellevue is in a good position to continue to lead in the areas of smart mobility and automated vehicles.

Councilmember Robertson said a successful automated vehicle launch must involve robust security and the vehicle systems must be reliable. Ms. Robertson said the WSDOT app for state ferries provides helpful real-time travel information, and she wondered if a similar function could be provided on the MyBellevue app. She expressed support for a downtown circulator service. She looks forward to the next update on the curb management study. She suggested the City will need to develop policies governing drone usage.

Mr. Singelakis said the curb management study is underway and it is looking at curb usage by both drivers and driverless vehicles. Mr. Lai said a number of businesses would like to see more loading zones throughout Bellevue. He concurred with Councilmember Robertson that there are opportunities to use data to provide useful public information on the MyBellevue app.

Regarding drones, Mr. Lai said the public sector has a role in identifying permissible fly zones. He said the City has been approached by companies offering platforms for ensuring that every flight is a registered flight.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson regarding system security, Mr. Lai said the federal government has a key role in reviewing the safety of automated vehicles. Mr. Van Hecke said the automated vehicle developers are as focused on safety, reliability and security as government agencies. They understand that they need to build trust in their product.

Regarding drones and privacy, Mr. Van Hecke said the private sector does not have an incentive to protect privacy. He said this creates the opportunity for local policies to address privacy issues. Ms. Robertson clarified that she was also referring to the safety and security of the City's system and its interaction with automated vehicles.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for the thorough presentation. He commended Bellevue's innovative transportation system, including the implementation of adaptive traffic signals, and accomplishments through the neighborhood transportation levy. He expressed support for the work to date and said he looks forward to the next update. He said Bellevue is a technology center and leader.

Councilmember Barksdale commented on the value of data in identifying problems and designing solutions. He asked whether the data will be available to the community. Mr. Lai said the City's work is built off of the developer toolkit available on King County Metro's web site. The City is using the automated data feeds to translate to algorithms affecting real-time signal operations in the field. Mr. Lai said the City is using data that is publicly available.

Mayor Robinson asked about the status of 5G implementation in Bellevue and how reliant automated vehicles will be on 5G technology. Mr. Lai said that feedback from autonomous

vehicle manufacturers indicates that they are not reliant on public infrastructure to implement their applications. One company indicated that it is not interested in being linked to the City's traffic signal infrastructure because they need to be self-reliant and to develop a system that will work in any city, whether or not there is 5G technology. Mr. Lai said automated vehicles will be fully compatible with both 4G and 5G technology. However, he said 5G technology provides strong communication capabilities for the system and vehicles that will benefit their operations.

At 8:20 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:30 p.m.

(b) Discussion regarding Parks Long-Range Financial Planning

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding parks long-range financial planning. He said staff is seeking direction regarding the package of capital project categories to be considered in a potential voter-approved ballot measure for the November 2022 general election. He said the option of placing a levy measure on the ballot has been discussed with the Council a number of times.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, Parks and Community Services Department, recalled that one of the Council's priorities is to advance a park funding strategy, including the consideration of new funding sources for operations, maintenance and capital needs. He recalled that parks financial planning was discussed during the March 7, 2022 budget workshop, March 28, 2022 Council study session regarding the Parks and Open Space System Plan, and the April 18, 2022 study session regarding options for voter-approved initiatives, impact fees and the role of the Parks and Community Services Board.

Mr. Shiosaki said the Board finalized its recommendation for the Council during its May 10 meeting. Staff anticipates continued Council discussions on June 27 and July 11, 18 and 25. He noted the August 2 deadline for filing ballot measures should the Council choose to proceed with a voter-approved levy package.

Mr. Shiosaki described the 2022 survey regarding the Parks and Open Space System Plan. The most used facilities are trails, community beaches and boat launches, parks with display gardens and park areas for unstructured play. Additional uses include sports fields/courts, playgrounds, community centers, off-leash dog areas, indoor sports/fitness activities, and swimming pools.

Mr. Shiosaki said the 2022 update of the Parks and Open Space System Plan was developed with an equity lens in mind. The City's goals are to provide equitable and inclusive access to park facilities and to provide spaces, services and programs that remove disparities in opportunities, power and resources. The analysis related to the plan update focuses on the geographic distribution of the park system as well as demographic information (e.g., race, ethnicity, household income, resident type and park utilization). The key project prioritization criteria are whether projects serve diverse communities and whether projects will be accessible to those populations and/or improve access to underserved communities.

Mr. Shiosaki described the recommendations of the Parks and Community Services Board. The Board's overall principles are to include a mix of projects (including near-term and phased

investments), advance the goal of increasing access to parks and trails in underserved neighborhoods, address the impacts of rapid growth and to choose a mechanism with significant early funding.

Mr. Shiosaki said the Parks and Community Services Board recommends the following focus areas: 1) trails and open space, 2) urban park system, 3) neighborhood and community park facilities, 4) active recreation (e.g., aquatic center, off-leash dog areas, cricket fields, pickleball courts), and 5) water access. The latter includes continued investments at Meydenbauer Bay Park and increased public access to the City's shorelines, including on Lake Sammamish.

The proposed project categories for a levy package are:

- Open space, greenways, wildlife corridors and trails
- Community parks
- Neighborhood parks
- Recreation/community facilities (e.g., aquatic center, cross cultural center)
- Waterfront restoration and development (e.g., Meydenbauer Bay)
- BelRed/Wilburton acquisition and development
- Emerging sports (e.g., cricket, pickleball) and off-leash areas
- Retire 2008 Parks levy.

Mr. Shiosaki said the 2008 levy package has two remaining projects to be implemented: Airfield Park and the first phase of the park on Lake Sammamish.

Next steps are to amend the capital project categories as directed by the Council, calculate maintenance and operations costs, and to formulate levy rate options for the capital and M&O components. Mr. Shiosaki said staff is conducting additional public outreach through an online survey on the Engaging Bellevue web site.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale, Mr. Shiosaki said that typically a ballot measure should provide enough specificity for the public to understand what they are agreeing to fund while allowing flexibility in choosing projects. Mr. Barksdale suggested clarifying for the public the difference between community and neighborhood parks.

Councilmember Stokes, liaison to the Parks and Community Services Board, thanked staff for their work. Responding to Mr. Stokes, Mr. Shiosaki said applying an equity lens helps to identify gaps in the park system, especially in high-growth areas. Mr. Shiosaki noted that adding public access along shorelines is intended to serve everyone and not just the residents along the water.

Mr. Stokes wondered about the emphasis on trails, noting that he more often sees people enjoying others aspects of parks and related facilities. Mr. Shiosaki said he believed that the statistically valid survey provides an accurate picture regarding the demographics of the community and geographic distribution. He said trails and open space have been identified as high priorities for a number of years. Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the project categories proposed for the levy package.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the project categories. She suggested clarifying that retiring the 2008 levy will move Airfield Park and the Lake Sammamish Park into the new levy package. She expressed support for including maintenance and operations costs as a project category or as a separate levy.

Councilmember Lee concurred with Councilmember Robertson regarding maintenance and operations costs. Mr. Lee expressed strong support for the cross-cultural center. He said he supports the project categories as proposed.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for considering both specificity and flexibility in the levy package description. She is interested in discussing the dollar amounts associated with each project category. She encouraged notifying the public about the proposed project categories before the Council takes action on the final list. She suggested requiring equitable and inclusive universal design for projects.

Ms. Zahn noted that the community has communicated the need to move with more urgency to implement the Environmental Stewardship Plan. She suggested establishing a project category called Green Building, Green Fleet in the levy to consider whether it is a potential funding source for those uses.

Mr. Shiosaki said those policies are consistent with the development of any parks facilities. He said he would not necessarily create a separate category but there is an understanding that green policies are to be part of every project by the City. Ms. Zahn clarified that she was referring to retrofitting and enhancing sustainability in existing buildings. Mr. Shiosaki confirmed that those principles are reflected in the renovation and refurbishment plan for parks facilities.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the levy project categories.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for equitable and sustainable facilities and suggested adding a category that addresses and funds both areas.

Councilmember Barksdale said he liked the idea of a separate category as proposed by Councilmember Zahn and Mayor Robinson. Mr. Barksdale said he appreciates the equity lens as well.

Councilmember Stokes observed that he has never seen equity or sustainability as a levy project category or item. He suggested that the levy should focus on categories and projects and not on how they will be designed or built.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Shiosaki said the Capital Investment Program (CIP) includes funds for renovation and refurbishment, which is considered major maintenance. For the levy, maintenance and operations costs refer to the daily operation of the facility on an ongoing basis. Ms. Robertson said parks are funded through a number of sources including the property tax, real estate excise tax (REET), sales tax and others. She said impact fees are another potential funding source.

Councilmember Robertson opined that the levy package needs to fund projects that residents want and can get excited about. She said the City has a culture of green building when it builds and renovates facilities, and she anticipates that new facilities covered by the levy will follow green building practices. Ms. Robertson said universal design should be a foundation of everything the City does. However, she does not believe it needs to be a separate project category.

Mayor Robinson said it sounds like equity and sustainable retrofits would be incorporated into major maintenance. She asked about having categories for major maintenance and for ongoing maintenance and operations costs. Mr. Shiosaki said major maintenance could be added. However, he observed that the CIP does a good job of providing major maintenance funding.

Councilmember Lee said he agrees that equity and sustainability should be incorporated into all City projects.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said what he is hearing from staff is that the City already has CIP funding for major maintenance projects, and equity, universal design and green building practices are incorporated into all of the City's projects. He does not see a need to add a separate category to address those items. He suggested keeping the levy simple with a clear focus on parks and open space needs and facilities.

Councilmember Zahn said the City continues to hear input from the community regarding the need for funding to expedite the implementation of the Environmental Stewardship Plan. She said that includes reducing energy consumption and promoting green building. She said one of the sustainability elements in the plan is a municipal green fleet. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Shiosaki said there are a number of criteria used by staff when making decisions about renovations and refurbishments, and sustainability is one consideration.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Call said that sustainability is a consideration whenever facilities and equipment are repaired, renovated or replaced. Ms. Robinson asked whether Ms. Zahn was suggesting that actions to enhance environmental sustainability should be completed now before routine maintenance is needed.

Councilmember Zahn said that members of the public continue to ask the City to increase funding to implement the goals of the Environmental Stewardship Plan.

Councilmember Stokes said that while he shares Ms. Zahn's goals, the park levy is not the appropriate place to provide that type of funding. Mr. Stokes expressed concern about jeopardizing voter approval of the parks levy. However, he said Ms. Zahn's comments highlight the need to consider the City's green policies.

Councilmember Robertson concurred, noting that the purpose of the levy is to create a better parks system.

Councilmember Lee said he appreciates Councilmember Zahn's concerns. However, he said there are a number of ways to address sustainability.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis reiterated his support for the project categories as proposed.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to develop a package of capital project categories to be considered in a potential parks voter-approved ballot measure for the November 2022 General Election. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

(c) 2021-2023 City Council Priorities Annual Report

City Manager Miyake opened the 2021-2023 City Council Priorities annual report.

Bianca Siegl, Assistant Director, City Manager's Office, recalled that the 2021-2023 City Council Priorities reflect 22 priorities under seven strategic target areas. The priorities were compiled into a work plan with 105 actions/projects over the three-year period. The City Manager's Office works with department staff to track the progress on implementing the work plan items. Nearly all of the actions/projects are underway and 15 percent have been completed.

Ms. Siegl highlighted the progress within each of the seven strategic target areas: economic development, transportation and mobility, high-quality built and natural environment, great places where you want to be, regional leadership and influence, achieving human potential and high-performance government. She noted that more details are provided in the report included with the meeting packet.

Work is underway on the Economic Development Plan and staff is working to launch the citywide retail study. Three key transportation and mobility priorities are to continue to implement the neighborhood safety, connectivity and congestion levy; acceleration of the I-405 corridor program and SR 520 improvements; and light rail construction oversight and mitigation. In the area of high-quality built and natural environment, priorities include the adoption of housing-related Land Use Code Amendments (LUCAs), the initiation of 45 actions from the Environmental Stewardship Plan, and efforts related to the aquatic center siting and fundraising. Priorities related to great places where you want to be include the Grand Connection, Eastrail and NE 8th Street overcrossing, and the Wilburton Trestle.

Ms. Siegl noted the Council priority to be an active regional partner, pursue public and/or private funding and partnerships, and to work with the Port of Seattle. The City was awarded a Port of Seattle economic development grant for small businesses and arts organizations. Ms. Siegl said the City currently holds seven Sound Cities Association (SCA) appointments. Priorities related to achieving human potential include the Centering Communities of Color (CCC) Team, cross-cultural center feasibility study and the new men's shelter under construction. Ms. Siegl acknowledged the Council's interest in exploring a safe parking program for individuals experiencing homelessness.

High-performance government priorities include implementing technologies that improve customer service, adopting a financial strategy that responds to future operating and capital

needs, considering a new brand identity and exploring data and technology to enhance engagement, equity and accountability. Current projects include developing the City Council Priorities Dashboard and the water utility customer portal. Ms. Siegl said that Phase 1 of the dashboard project will link Council priorities, strategic target area key performance indicators and community indicators. Additional data and interactive features will be added for Phase 2.

Ms. Siegl said quarterly updates will be posted on the City's web site and comprehensive annual report will be provided to the Council prior to the annual retreat.

Mayor Robinson thanked Ms. Siegl for the presentation.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked Ms. Siegl and observed that the updates will be very helpful to the Council.

Councilmember Robertson expressed her appreciation as well. She suggested publicizing the Council priorities dashboard as soon as it becomes available.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for this work, which will help the Council to remain focused on its priorities and progress.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff for the information and said he looked forward to more discussion during the retreat later that week.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the information, noting that it furthers the goals for transparency and open government. She suggested establishing milestones for certain priorities, especially if there are multiple phases or components.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said the online information and the annual update will enhance accountability and transparency within the City organization and with the public. He expressed an interest in the comprehensive communications plan to be drafted.

Mayor Robinson said King County has a similar dashboard to track priorities and funding.

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 9:43 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw