

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

Tuesday
September 13, 2022
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Hamilton; Boardmembers Clark, Clima, Giampetro, Singh, Synn, Trescases

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Brad Bennett, Shelley Brittingham, Pam Fehrman, Dan Lassiter, Jen Newton, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Ryan Walker

OTHERS PRESENT: Abigail Brown (BNOA), Micki Larimer, Gazel Tan

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

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

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

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Synn to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Trescases to approve the July 12, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

4. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Micki Larimer

Micki started by thanking the members of the Park Board for serving and making Bellevue a better and greener place, followed by sharing support for walkable parks in Eastgate. Micki shared the suggestion of creating a “string of pearls” in Eastgate, rather than a central park, since it is a long, skinny, and geographically unique neighborhood. Micki believes Eastgate residents would be well served by a number of pocket parks.

5. **COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL:**

Councilmember Stokes discussed some of the upcoming projects City Council will be working on.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Michael Shiosaki, Parks & Community Services Director, provided the following report:

- Thank you to the Recreation Division for all of the successful summer camps. Approximately 90% of camps were full with over 40 different kinds of camps offered. Grants and scholarships were also provided for some of the summer camps.
- The Rock 'n' Roll Half Marathon was held on September 3 and 4. Approximately 6,200 people participated in the event. Special appreciation was given to Brad Bennett and Susan Freeberg for such a wonderful event.
- The Newport Hills Woodlawn Park Grand Opening will be held on October 15, 2022.
- The Bellevue Botanical Garden will be hosting their Volunteer Appreciation Event tonight. This is a wonderful opportunity to thank the many BBG volunteers.

Boardmember Clark asked if the timing of the lights can be adjusted in Woodlawn Park to allow later use in the winter. Ms. Fehrman said that changing the hours for park lights may require a code change for park hours of operation. Therefore, staff will monitor the park usage to determine if any adjustments need to be made to the lighting.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Trescases expressed appreciation to staff for all of the wonderful summer camp offerings. Boardmember Trescases also volunteered at the Rock 'n' Roll Run and noticed that Downtown Park is quite dark during non-daylight hours.

Boardmember Synn recently played pickleball and can see why playing the sport is so loved by the community. Boardmember Synn also hopes that the Grand Connection will encompass the spirit of Bellevue, similar to High Line park in New York City.

Boardmember Clark visited several parks and participated in many community events during the summer months.

Boardmember Giampetro hopes that the Well K.E.P.T. Program can extend to the youth community. Boardmember Giampetro said that programs like these are vital to the community, particularly since many industries are having struggles within the workforce.

Boardmember Clima shared a story about Bellevue's Naturalist program and expressed appreciation to Ranger Curtis.

Boardmember Singh expressed appreciation to staff for the wonderful summer events that were offered to the community, particularly the Rock 'n' Roll Run. Boardmember Singh enjoyed Lakemont View Park, and also visited Covington where people praised Bellevue parks.

Chair Hamilton looks forward to the grand opening of Woodlawn Park. Chair Hamilton also recently enjoyed Robsinwood Park.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

No report.

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

No report.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Bellevue Network on Aging**

Dan Lassiter, Bellevue Network on Aging, said that Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA) is dedicated to healthy aging in the community by promoting awareness of needs and resources that support older adults through life's transitions.

Abigail Brown, BNOA, said that the fastest growing segment of the population nationwide is individuals over the age of 85. In King County, Bellevue has the highest increase in percentage of people over the age of 65. Abigail Brown discussed the background of BNOA, purpose, and activities in advocating for the needs of Bellevue older adults. The BNOA was formed in 2006 and is managed by North Bellevue Community Center staff. The mission of the organization is "To support the healthy aging in Bellevue through effective and systemic outreach, regional collaboration and community involvement with a unified voice." The BNOA is an advisory network of volunteers whose mission is "dedicated to healthy aging of the Bellevue community by promoting awareness of needs and resources that support older adults through life's transitions."

The goals of the BNOA include:

- **Serve:** Effectively serve older adults in Bellevue.
- **Communicate:** Communicate older adult needs and provide a forum for that communication.
- **Strengthen:** Strengthen community outreach to inform and connect older adults with the necessary resources.
- **Unify:** Create a unified voice for older adults in Bellevue.

- **Livability:** Create an enrollment that makes Bellevue a livable community where older adults have the ability to age in place. Bellevue is a great place to grow up and grow old.
- **Gain Respect:** Gain respect and knowledge of older adults in Bellevue.
- **Set Standard:** Set the standard in the region for older adult services through an annual forum of regional senior services providers.
- **Regionality:** Create a regional approach to serving older adults.

Abigail Brown discussed some of the BNOA committees and projects that assist with achieving goals. Some of the committees include:

- Advocacy
- Transportation & Housing
- Outreach

Abigail Brown also highlighted some of the senior related services offered by the City of Bellevue. Since the new norm has shifted to added remote contact, additional assistance has been added to assist with technological challenges.

Boardmembers expressed appreciation for the efforts by BNOA. Councilmember Stokes said that there needs to be a direct communication connection between the BNOA and City Council so it is easier for seniors to make connections and get resources. In addition, Council will need to have a conversation with the BNOA to create a better alliance so that more people are aware about the organization.

Boardmember Giampetro asked what the primary requests are from the aging community. Abigail Brown said that housing, transportation, and general community services are the top requests.

Boardmember Synn offered to be the liaison between the Parks Board and BNOA. Boardmember Synn suggested that technological partnerships be created to help the older community members (i.e., Lyft, Uber, Microsoft, etc.). Boardmember Synn also expressed condolences for the recent passing of the BNOA Boardmember.

Since the meetings are now in hybrid format, Boardmember Trescases suggested that BNOA provide BNOA reports during Park Board Oral Communications.

B. South Bellevue Community Center

Parks staff members, Jennifer Newton and Brad Bennett, provided an overview of the South Bellevue Community Center, which opened in 2005 with the mission statement: “Through partnerships and exceptional customer service, South Bellevue Community Center provides accessible opportunities for recreation, fitness, education, and celebrations to build a healthy community.”

Jennifer Newton highlighted the SBCC’s background and history, facility features, programs, partners/vendors/sponsors, special events, COVID transitions, and future plans. A video was

shown that provided highlights of the SBCC. Jennifer Newton also provided highlights for Eastgate Park, including programs and activities.

Jennifer Newton summarized how the staff, contractors, vendors, and partners have embraced the mission statement and continually produce programs. Jennifer Newton noted that diversity, equity, and inclusion are part of the ongoing efforts at SBCC. The programs would not be possible without the generous grants from SEEK and King County.

Jennifer Newton summarized the future plans and renovations for SBCC.

Boardmember Trescases said that the SBCC has aged perfectly in the community. Boardmember Trescases thinks that the center is well used and the Movies in the Park are fantastic. Boardmember Trescases encouraged staff to provide additional enrichment opportunities for teens. Brad Bennett discussed the connection between staff and SBCC sponsors.

Jennifer Newton responded to other questions from Boardmembers, including:

- What is the utilization of the facility?
- Have teens provided feedback on what they want in the community?
- Does the SBCC facility provide meals?
- Is there public transportation to the center?

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Remote Participation Approval**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Trescases to approve remote participation for Boardmember Singh at the November Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

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

The following future agenda items were discussed:

- Recreation Program Plan Update (2023)
- Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan
- Bellevue Watershed

Boardmember Trescases expressed her concern about staff resources and the number of events being held the first weekend in October (Kelsey Creek Farm Fair, school family event at Downtown Park, Salmon Days, etc.).

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Parks CIP Project Status Report
- B. 2022 Well K.E.P.T. Program Brief
- C. Kelsey Creek Farm Fair – October 1, 2022
- D. Email, RE: Cherry Crest Park Tennis and Basketball Courts (7-5-2022)
- E. Email, RE: Dedicated pickleball courts at Bellevue Airfield Park (7-25-2022)
- F. Email, RE: Driving range problem (8-3-2022)
- G. Email, RE: Petition for skate park in Downtown Bellevue—South Bellevue (8-6-2022)
- H. Email, RE: Meydenbauer Bay Beach (8-18-2022)
- I. Email, RE: Robinswood small dogs off-leash area with big dogs (8-19-2022)

14. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

At 8:22 p.m., Chair Hamilton declared the meeting adjourned.