

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

Tuesday
January 10, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Hamilton; Vice-Chair Clark¹, Boardmembers Clima, Giampetro, Synn, Singh², Trescases

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Pam Fehrman, Mike Ingram (Transportation), Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki

OTHERS PRESENT: Katherine Hollis, Curt Warber (King County Parks),

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

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

Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Synn to approve the November 8, 2022 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

¹ Departed at 7:47 p.m.

² Arrived at 6:04 p.m.

4. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Alex Zimmerman

Alex Zimmerman distributed a letter and said that making time allocations on public comments during a meeting is a crime; and Council should not be elected for 20 or 30 year terms. He demands that everyone running for election be added to the city's website immediately, including himself. He said that Nazi, social-democratic mafia with progressive gestapo principles, which has brought Seattle to the #1 fascist city in America, needs to be stopped.

Katherine Hollis

Katherine Hollis is the Executive Director of Eastrail Partners. Appreciation was expressed to the City of Bellevue for the partnership and efforts with Eastrail.

David Lai

David Lai thanked City Council and the Parks Department for including pickleball courts in the development plans at Airfield Park. A report was included in the Board packet describing the rationale and vision for 16 dedicated pickleball courts to be included at Bellevue Airfield Park. The pickleball community believes that the funding is in place for the additional courts—4 pickleball courts will not satisfy the demand.

Court Wilson

Court Wilson discussed an email that was sent to City Council on behalf of the neighborhood. The neighborhood surrounding Airfield Park is concerned about security in the neighborhood. The undeveloped forest area poses concern with tree removal, wildlife and security—the plan shows a roadway going through this area to a dead end with parking stalls and picnic tables. This is not needed for a park to this extent. Picnic tables can be anywhere in the park. The picnic area and parking would be totally concealed and would be a hazard to users that might be accosted.

Court Wilson further explained that there are big trees in the wooded area that would be cut down to create the proposed picnic area. At a time when Bellevue is trying to increase its tree canopy for aesthetic and climate resilience reasons, such tree cutting by the city would be a hypocritical environmental mistake.

5. **COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL:**

Councilmember Stokes expressed his enthusiasm about the passage of the levy. Appreciation for the Parks Board and staff efforts was also expressed.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Michael Shiosaki, Parks & Community Services Director, discussed the following items:

- Thank you to staff and Boardmembers for their efforts with the parks levy. Specific appreciation was expressed to Dave Hamilton, Chair of the campaign.
- The third public workshop for the Airfield Park Master Plan will be held on Thursday, January 19, 2023, at South Bellevue Community Center.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Singh hopes more soccer fields can be included in Robinswood Park. Concern was expressed for the park lights not being on unless the park is reserved, and for smoking in parks, including marijuana.

Boardmember Clima recently helped Ranger Jeff with a Bellevue Naturalist project. In 2022, there were 22 Bellevue Naturalist graduates. Also of note is the upcoming Wilburton Hill Park event.

Boardmember Clark noted the value of a park close to home, particularly during inclement weather events—Downtown Park is always great.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Hamilton looks forward to 2023 events—levy planning, Airfield Park, etc.

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

No report.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Eastrail Project Update and Wayfinding Session**

Curt Warber, Eastrail Program Manager, King County Parks, said that the Eastrail Corridor comprises 42 miles of a former BNSF rail line from Renton to Snohomish County, including seven miles in Bellevue. The Bellevue portion of the corridor includes a current and future regional trail, as well as a portion of the Sound Transit East Link light rail. Currently, King County has opened the Eastrail from Bellevue's southern boundary to Coal Creek Parkway and from 120th Avenue NE (at the Sound Transit Operations and Maintenance facility in BelRed) to Bellevue's northern boundary. Curt Warber said that additional segments will be coming online in the next several years. King County partners with Bellevue, Sound Transit, private entities, and others to complete the trail and create additional connections into the corridor. A map of the currently rail banked trail was shown.

Eastrail is a funding partnership. There is approximately \$60M in King County Parks funding and then \$62M in partner contributions. The many contributors were discussed, including the City of Bellevue.

The next most critical upcoming project is to get the trail across I-90. All partners will need to contribute and see value in this project. The other emerging opportunity is to develop the regional system through Bellevue. The city hopes to have a role in turning this area into a linear park to provide additional benefit to local Bellevue citizens, as well as the regional trail. Some of the major contributors for the project were discussed.

There are approximately nine major projects occurring in Bellevue, including:

- I-405 Lake Lanes
- I-405 Crossing
- Wilburton Trestle
- NE 8th Street Overcrossing
- SR 520 Trail Connector
- Spring Boulevard Connector
- Ollis & Doolittle Property Acquisitions
- NE 4th St. to SE 5th St. segment - SS4A Grant application
- I-90 Steel Bridge Project

Discussion:

- The elements of the trestle were highlighted. There was also a discussion about the wood quality of the Wilburton Trestle.
- Will construction on the trestle impact Richard's Creek? *Response: yes, there will be changes at the creek (i.e., clearing under the trestle).*
- Claudia Balducci and Boardmember Trescases were commended for their efforts with the NE 8th Street Overcrossing.
- What was the cost of the Ollis property? *Response: approximately \$1.1M.*
- What street is the King County-owned Doolittle property on? *Response: 118th Avenue SE*
- The at-grade crossings in Bellevue were discussed.
- When will the paving get complete on the Wilburton segment? *Response: hopefully in the next levy, and through partnership funding.*
- Bellevue's gravel trails are quite bike friendly.
- Can you walk the Steel Bridge? *Response: no.*

Curt Warber provided an overview of the Eastrail Wayfinding project. Understanding where you are is important on a trail. Trail users report that wayfinding needs improvement. King County Parks is asking for input for new maps and signs that will be installed along the trail.

Boardmembers discussed the various wayfinding maps and provided feedback on preferences.

Comments included:

- Mileage indicators are important.
- Red/green can be difficult to read for people that are color blind.
- Don't like the color scheme on the Panel Sign.

- Line Map A: Bellevue Downtown route is hard to read on the Line Map.
- Line Map B: Need to add “to Seattle” on the Line Map.
- Line Map C: Can’t locate the nearest restroom.
- Will there be an emergency call box on the trail route? *Response: there have been discussions. However, cell phones are readily available so call boxes aren’t on the list.*
- Which map gives you the most confidence about your location on the trail: A
- Which map is easiest to use to find a destination: A
- Which map is most confusing: B
- Will other languages be incorporated (i.e., the top 5-10 most utilized languages)? *Response: Looking into the best way to incorporate multiple languages into wayfinding options.*

Boardmembers discussed the various directional signs and provided feedback on preferences. Comments included:

- Is the text on the signs clear and readable: *Yes.*
- Could you easily use these signs while walking, running, rolling, or cycling: *No.*
- Are the arrows and icons on the signs understandable and visually clear to you: *No.*
- If not why: *Larger size, more contrast between colors.*
- What do the subway stops represent? *Response: an intersection or station. Feedback: because light rail is being built in parallel to Eastrail, it’s confusing messaging on subway stops and/or trails.*
- Why is the trail double-lined? *Response: to make them stand out on the map. Feedback: maybe a solid line in a different color. Double line looks like freeway.*
- Use another color as the background—white.
- There are some exceptional wayfinding signs along the Grand Connection.

B. Fourth Quarter 2022 Council Report

Camron Parker summarized the activities included in the Fourth Quarter 2022 Council Report.

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Synn to approve the Fourth Quarter 2022 Council Report substantially in the form presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. Remote Participation Approval

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Clima to approve remote participation for Boardmember Synn at the February 14, 2023 Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

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

None discussed.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Parks CIP Project Status Report
- B. Invite to Community Meeting 3 of the Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan Update
- C. Email, RE: Support for Aquatic Center at Bellevue Airfield Park (01-05-2023)
- D. Email, RE: Dedicated Pickleball Courts in Airfield Park (12-21-2022)
- E. Email, RE: Mini Park Progress in Eastgate (12-18-2022)
- F. Email, RE: Property (12-7-2022)
- G. Email, RE: Newport Hills Woodlawn Playground Follow-up (11-28-2022)
- H. Email, RE: Concern with current Airfield Park development plans (11-22-2022)

14. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Alex Zimmerman

Alex Zimmerman commended Boardmembers for the thoughtful discussion throughout the meeting. However, displeasure was expressed about living in Bellevue.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next Board meeting will be held February 14, 2023.

At 8:19 p.m., Chair Hamilton declared the meeting adjourned.