

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 3, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Council Chambers
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Robinson¹, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis and Councilmembers Barksdale, Lee, Robertson, Stokes and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:02 p.m., with Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis presiding.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers were present with Mayor Robinson participating remotely. Councilmember Zahn led the flag salute.

(a) Autism Acceptance Month

Councilmember Lee read the proclamation recognizing April 2023 as Autism Acceptance Month in Bellevue. He encouraged everyone to celebrate and support individuals with autism and their contributions to the community.

Joy St. Germain, Director of the Human Resources Department and a member of the employee Disability Allyship Resource Team (DART), thanked the Council for the proclamation. She noted the City's long history of improving access and inclusion for persons with disabilities, including recreation programs at the Highland Community Center and sponsoring the supported employee program based on the values of full inclusion and access.

(b) Distracted Driving Awareness Month

Councilmember Stokes read the proclamation recognizing April 2023 as Distracted Driving Awareness Month in Bellevue. He urged all residents to intentionally practice safe driving behaviors and to pledge to drive without distractions.

¹ Mayor Robinson participated remotely.

3. Approval of Agenda

- Councilmember Robertson moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

4. Oral Communications

City Clerk Arredondo reminded the public that no election-related topics may be discussed during oral communications, including promoting or opposing a ballot measure or candidate.

- (a) Guarangi Gupta, a 7th grader, thanked the Council for the opportunity to speak. She described her crayon recycling project, or RRR (Reduce Recycle Repurpose) initiative. She noted her group's support of the All in for Autism Run and Walk in Bellevue Downtown Park and their plan to distribute crayons at the event to raise money for the autism awareness organization.
- (b) Court Olson expressed support for the City's plans for the grassy area in Airfield Park. However, he asked the City to leave the woods undisturbed. He noted the wildlife including coyotes, owls, frogs, skunk, deer and birds. He said the trails are on the perimeter of the woods, which helps to preserve the natural area. He suggested that the City utilize the parking stalls it purchased from The Boeing Company when it purchased the park site.
- (c) Alexandra Caggiano, a Spiritridge resident, asked the City to preserve the open spaces in Airfield Park to contribute to overall health and to help mitigate climate change impacts. She encouraged the City to site the aquatic center at another location and to preserve the natural areas at Airfield Park.
- (d) Kaylee Huang expressed strong support for building the new aquatic center at Airfield Park. She described her experience with swimming and lifeguarding. She said learning to swim reduces the risk of drowning by 88 percent. She said swimming helps youth to gain confidence. She thanked the Council for pursuing the development of a new, much-needed aquatic center.
- (e) Susan Pappalardo, Co-Founder and President of SPLASHForward, expressed support for the Park and Community Services Board's recommended Airfield Park Master Plan, which includes the aquatic center. She said an aquatic center builds community and bridges our diversity while offering essential life skills. She said that 64 percent of Black children, 45 percent of Latinx children and 66 percent of Asian children and adults do not know how to swim. She described efforts in local schools to build lifeguard and swim instructor training. She expressed support for the variety of activities reflected in the Airfield Park plan and for the focus on environmental sustainability goals. Ms. Pappalardo said SPLASHForward looks forward to continuing to work with the City.

- (f) Kate Sinon said she represents a group of residents who oppose the proposed development of the current meadow at the Airfield Park site. She noted the City's goal to lower greenhouse gas emissions by 50 percent by 2030 and 80 percent by 2040. She said wild spaces mediate the effects of deadly thermal events, such as those experienced over the past two summers. She expressed concern regarding the methane underground on the former landfill site.
 - (g) Heidi Dean, a Newport Hills resident, thanked the Council for considering Resolution No. 10242 authorizing the City to purchase property to complete the trail connection at Woodlawn Park. She thanked Camron Parker in the Parks and Community Services Department for his work. She acknowledged the efforts of Michelle Hilhorst in advocating for the park and trail. She thanked Matt Decker and Trish Brown for alerting the community club to the availability of the land and for working with City and King County staff. Ms. Dean expressed support for the efforts of the Save Coal Creek group related to the proposed Isola development in the Lakemont area.
 - (h) Avi Ulstein said he lives approximately one block from Airfield Park. He expressed appreciation for the opinions and suggestions from the public about the park. He urged the Council to preserve the wildlife corridor through the park site. He encouraged everyone to compromise in refining the park plan. He spoke against creating trails and encouraged preservation of the trees and vegetation.
 - (i) Johnny Lu, a Newport Hills resident, expressed support for Resolution No. 10242 to complete trails at Woodlawn Park. He thanked the neighbors mentioned above by Ms. Dean who advocated for the acquisition and development of the park. He thanked City staff and the Parks and Community Services Board for their work. He said parks are important community gathering spaces, especially in the Newport Hills neighborhood.
 - (j) Elaine Duncan said she uses Bellevue trails and King County parks nearly daily. She said public usage of parks increased significantly during and since the pandemic. She expressed support for Save Coal Creek in opposing the proposed Isola housing development, which is adjacent to the City's Coal Creek Natural Area. She noted the historical value of the area as a former coal mining center. She encouraged the City to purchase the property for public park land.
5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.
6. Report of the City Manager
- (a) Eviction Resolution Pilot Program Update

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff's update regarding the Eviction Resolution Pilot Program.

Mike McCormick Huentelman, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said the pilot program began on November 1, 2021 and the state mandate and funding end on June 30, 2023. Bellevue's Conflict Resolution Center has provided eviction resolution services to the City of Kirkland as well. The program is a state-mandated, pre-court program in which landlords are required to work with the City as a first attempt to negotiate a rental payment plan with the tenant before filing an eviction proceeding. The program has reviewed more than 2,600 cases and 80 percent were resolved without the issuance of a certificate that would advance the case to court.

Marci McReynolds, Conflict Resolution Center Manager, said that 15 staff and volunteers work within the eviction resolution program. She said the overall number of cases has not decreased and the City is carrying approximately 300-350 active cases at any given time. She said more tenants are beginning to default on their repayment plans, and the most vulnerable tenants are people of color, low-income immigrants, individuals struggling with mental illness and physical disabilities, elder adults and young families. She thanked the Council for allocating \$7 million in federal funding toward rental assistance, which continues to be a critical need.

Ms. McReynolds said the program has verified that the process of conciliation works. She said conciliation includes working with one party at a time, which balances the power between the landlord and the tenant. She said the City has built relationships with community partners who help to provide a safety net for individuals in need. Ms. McReynolds said Bellevue has the only conflict resolution center in the state that is housed within a local government. She shared communications from both tenants and landlords thanking the City for its assistance.

Ms. McReynolds thanked the staff and community volunteers who have put in a tremendous effort to serve landlords and tenants. Over the past 18 months, they have helped more than 7,000 people to remain housed and many landlords to be made whole.

Mr. McCormick Huentelman said the eviction resolution program will sunset on June 30, 2023. He said the Conflict Resolution Center will continue to offer conciliation for negotiations regarding rental payment plans to tenants and landlords on a voluntary basis. The City will also continue to promote sources for assistance to tenants. Staff will issue a report this fall regarding the overall effectiveness of the program.

(b) Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA) Board Appointment

City Manager Miyake requested concurrence from the Council regarding his appointment of Uzma Siddiqi to the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA) Board.

- Councilmember Robertson moved to concur with the City Manager's appointment of Uzma Siddiqi to the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA) Board. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.

8. Consent Calendar

- Councilmember Robertson 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) Motion to reject all bids for Bid No. 23021 for Robinswood ADA Walkways, revise the scope of work, and re-bid at a later date.

 - (b) Ordinance No. 6733: 1) amending the 2023-2029 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan to increase the budget for the I-405 Non-Motorized Crossing project (CIP Plan No. PW-R-216) by \$2,500,000; and 2) amending the 2023-2024 General CIP Fund to increase the appropriation by \$2,500,000 to reflect the donation agreement executed with Amazon on November 7, 2022.

 - (c) Resolution No. 10241 authorizing the execution of a 5-year Software as a Service agreement with CivicPlus LLC to implement and provide ongoing a Parks Recreation Management system in an amount not to exceed \$759,708 plus all applicable taxes.

 - (d) Resolution No. 10242 authorizing execution of all documents necessary for the acquisition of property in the Newport neighborhood area, at 5380 Lake Washington Blvd SE, including a purchase and sale agreement, in an amount not to exceed \$1,025,000, plus related costs.

 - (e) Motion to award Bid No. 23004 for the Valley Creek - NE 21st Street Culvert Replacement Project to Marshbank Construction, Inc, as the lowest responsive and responsible bidder, in an amount not to exceed \$1,703,083, plus all applicable taxes (CIP Plan No. D-94).

Councilmember Robertson thanked the City for the purchase of 16.4 acres for \$1.025 million to expand the trails and wildlife areas in the Newport Hills neighborhood. She thanked residents for their advocacy of the purchase.

Councilmember Zahn thanked the public and the City for longtime efforts to identify and acquire enough parcels to develop the park.

Mayor Robinson said this is a great acquisition for the community and noted that she enjoys hiking in the area.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session Items

(a) Informational Briefing on King County Crisis Care Centers Levy

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff's update regarding the King County crisis care centers levy.

Lacey Jane Wolfe, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations, welcomed Mr. Flor to provide information regarding the crisis care centers levy.

Leo Flor, Director of the King County Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS), said behavioral health includes both mental health and substance use disorder, and people do recover when they have access to care in the right settings. He said there are no walk-in urgent care facilities to provide behavioral health care in King County. For the county crisis solution center in downtown Seattle, a person must be referred by a law enforcement officer or brought by certain crisis teams. The center provides 16 beds. Mr. Flor said King County has lost one-third of its behavioral health residential treatment beds since 2018, when there were 355 mental health residential beds. He said an additional challenge is maintaining a behavioral health workforce due largely to low wages.

Mr. Flor said a functional crisis system has three core components: 1) someone to talk to (e.g., crisis line), 2) someone to respond (e.g., mobile crisis teams, co-responders, outreach teams, peers), and 3) someplace to go.

The crisis care centers levy: 1) creates five new regional crisis care centers, 2) preserves and restores the significant loss of residential treatment beds, and 3) fosters a behavioral health care workforce. The proposal divides the county into four crisis response zones, with Bellevue located in the East Zone. A center will be located in each of the four zones and the fifth center will target youth under 19 years old. The purpose of the levy is to provide crisis centers for 24-hour urgent care, 23-hour observation units, 14-day crisis stabilization (i.e., beds for short-term care) and on-site access to a designated crisis responder (DCR).

Mr. Flor said the crisis care centers would be operated by provider agencies under contract with DCHS's Behavioral Health and Recovery Division. The centers would be sited by providers proposing sites with host jurisdiction support through a request for proposals (RFP) or similar procurement process. The proposed ballot measure requires the creation of an implementation plan before levy proceeds can be spent.

Mr. Flor said the new facilities would be limited to 16 beds. He recalled that larger mental health facilities were closed beginning in the 1960s, and the federal government turned to providing incentives for the creation of smaller, community-based facilities. He noted that the limit on 16 beds relates to eligibility for Medicaid reimbursement. Mental health residential care provides access to treatment, case management, assistance in basic life skills and a setting that builds community. Mr. Flor noted that vacancies in mental health provider positions doubled from 2019 to 2021. The levy invests in systemwide support to increase the sustainability of a behavioral health workforce and makes specific investments in crisis care centers to support staff.

The levy is a property tax of 14.5 cents per \$1,000 in assessed valuation (AV). According to a 2022 methodology estimate, the owner of a median AV property in Bellevue (estimated \$1,335,928 in 2024) would pay \$193.71 annually in 2024. Under a 2023 methodology estimate, the estimated median AV for Bellevue property is \$1,514,000 and the estimated 2024 property tax for the levy is \$219.53.

Mr. Flor said the election is scheduled for April 25 and a simple majority is required for voter approval. Tax collections would begin in 2024 and the implementation planning process would be completed by the end of this year before going to the Regional Policy Committee and the King County Council for review and consideration.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, liaison to the Human Services Commission, thanked Mr. Flor for the presentation. Mr. Nieuwenhuis noted that Bellevue has a co-responder model and asked how the levy might benefit first responder operations, including co-responders, law enforcement and fire rescue. He asked whether the crisis care centers would allow those entities to operate more efficiently.

Mr. Flor said that if an incident cannot be resolved at the scene or if a person's conduct or situation does not warrant an arrest, there is no place for the person to go. He said first responders and law enforcement have indicated that crisis care centers are a critical need. He said the State of Washington continues to create regimes that allow law enforcement officers to transport individuals to a crisis care center in certain situations. Mr. Flor said the County hears feedback from police officers in particular that they are typically eager to get to the next call that is more appropriate for law enforcement intervention.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis about the loss of residential beds in recent years, Mr. Flor said it relates to the capital construction of facilities at the state level in the 1980s and 1990s followed by a lack of investment in the maintenance of those facilities.

Councilmember Stokes said he is one of five individuals appointed by the Sound Cities Association (SCA) to the Regional Policy Committee (RPC), which includes representatives from the King County Council and other cities. He said this has been a positive regional process and he thanked King County for its leadership.

Councilmember Zahn said she and Councilmember Lee recently attended the National League of Cities (NLC) conference in Washington, D.C., and behavioral health services is a prominent topic for many states and cities.

Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Flor said funding for mental health care has been lacking. There is substantial Medicaid funding for the provision of behavioral health services. However, the majority of Medicaid funding is for primary care versus crisis care. Mr. Flor said there is state non-Medicaid funding that can be used for crisis care. He said capital funding is needed for the construction and maintenance of facilities. King County has structured the levy to absorb as much federal and state funding as possible.

Mr. Flor said that if property values continue to increase, the levy will grow by one percent annually. If property values decrease, the revenue generated by the levy will decrease. The levy establishes a tax rate instead of being set up to generate a specific dollar amount. In further response to Councilmember Zahn, Mr. Flor said the ballot measure ordinance does not preclude the participation of Bellevue College in any apprenticeship program funded by the levy.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Mr. Flor said King County continues to look for opportunities for federal funding. Mr. Flor said that as the City of Bellevue begins to construct new affordable or supportive housing, the level of services to be offered is a topic of discussion. He said those facilities typically are not equipped for a comprehensive crisis response.

Mr. Lee said the City of Kirkland is partnering with other cities to build a new crisis response center for north and northeast King County. He asked how that effort interacts with the proposed levy. Mr. Flor said the ballot measure ordinance does not reference a relationship with Kirkland and the other cities. He said it is possible that the Kirkland-sited facility could become the crisis care center for the North Zone if desired by that group of cities.

Councilmember Robertson said she appreciated King County's efforts to address behavioral health care. She listed a number of existing programs totaling nearly \$340 million annually (2021) that are working to address behavioral health care. She said the proposed levy would add approximately \$140 million annually. Ms. Robertson asked why \$340 million is not enough money. She said it appears that some of the programs and funding sources are duplicating efforts.

Mr. Flor said that two of the five programs noted by Councilmember Robertson are fully attributable to behavioral health expenditures. For the other three programs, only a portion of those funds are dedicated to behavioral health purposes. Mr. Flor said the total annual amount to King County in 2023 for behavioral health services is estimated to be approximately \$365 million. The majority of that is Medicaid funding that is passed through King County to reimburse behavioral health services providers.

Mr. Flor said that MIDD (Mental Illness and Drug Dependency) funding is directed toward services but not toward the creation of facilities or workforce development. He noted that Mayor Robinson serves on the MIDD Advisory Committee. He said the Best Starts for Kids program provides screening in schools to help identify indicators of potential behavioral health issues. The veterans and human services levy provides certain services. However, they are primarily focused on screening (e.g., screening older adults for behavioral health conditions, screening veterans who are not eligible to receive Veterans Affairs (VA) services).

Mr. Flor said the missing components in existing programs are facilities, especially crisis care facilities, and workforce development.

Councilmember Robertson noted the \$1.7 billion Harborview Medical Center capital bond measure that has increased to an estimated \$2.6 billion. Assuming the crisis care center levy is approved, Ms. Robertson asked whether King County is considering using some of the levy revenue to complete the larger funding package for Harborview.

Mr. Flor said the crisis care centers levy references specific allowed and unallowed uses for the funds. He was uncertain about whether providing funding to Harborview would be an eligible expenditure under the levy. He said any decision would be taken up by the RPC and the King County Council.

Councilmember Barksdale asked how the number of five crisis care centers was selected. Mr. Flor said the number of centers is based on geographic distribution and on estimates about the need. He noted that one of the centers is for youth, which represent approximately 20 percent of the county's population. Mr. Flor acknowledged that the five centers will not be sufficient to address all behavioral health care needs in the county. He said the need for services is growing significantly nationwide and the youth mental health crisis is well documented.

Mayor Robinson said she appreciated Councilmember Zahn's suggestion about the potential role for Bellevue College in developing the behavioral health workforce. Ms. Robinson shared a story of an adult who went to a hospital with their parents for help and they were turned away because the facility was not equipped to handle the situation. Mr. Flor said that hundreds of people wait in emergency rooms for two or more days for behavioral health placement in local hospitals. He confirmed that crisis care centers are designed to handle the type of situation described by Mayor Robinson. Mr. Flor said approximately 26 percent of individuals who are assessed as needing involuntary detention are turned away by an evaluation and treatment center due to other medical needs. He said crisis care centers are designed to address both behavioral health and other medical services needs.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked Mr. Flor for the information and discussion.

At 7:55 p.m., Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:12 p.m.

(b) Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan Update and Parks and Community Services Board Recommendation

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's presentation regarding the Airfield Park Master Plan. He recalled that in October 2021, the Council directed staff to prepare an update to the 2012 Bellevue Airfield Park Master Plan, with the goal of understanding community preferences, including about the impacts of locating an aquatic center at the park. Mr. Miyake said the Council received an update on related outreach efforts during the December 5, 2022 meeting.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said staff is seeking Council feedback and support for a preferred master plan concept to be submitted for environmental review.

Pam Fehrman, Parks Planning Manager, said the 27-acre site is located along a pedestrian path leading to Robinswood Park. The site has three parcels: 14.5-acre purchase from The Boeing Company, 2.5-acre utility stormwater detention pond and a 10-acre elementary school site (i.e., the northwest parcel). Ms. Fehrman said the site is well-located to support active recreation.

Surrounding land uses are residential to the north and west, and office and business use zoning for approximately two-thirds of the park border. There is good vehicle access from the south/I-90 through the office park on 160th avenue SE while the pedestrian trail access is provided from north and west residential neighborhoods. Ms. Fehrman said the site has many utility easements.

Ms. Fehrman described a slope analysis of the park site. She noted areas with steep slopes, which limit the development of the park. The north portion of the site is 16 acres with steep slopes, existing forest and proximity to residential neighbors. The remaining 11.5 acres is a relatively flat meadow and developable park space.

Ms. Fehrman recalled that the Council adopted the Master Plan in 2012 following a four-year community outreach and State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) process. The plan includes two sports fields, trails, a picnic area, off-leash dog area and shared parking with commercial neighbors.

In 2021, the Council directed an update to the Airfield Park plan to understand both community preferences and the impacts of locating an aquatic center at the site. The site is the only undeveloped City-owned site that is large enough to accommodate the preferred aquatic center concept. Ms. Fehrman said the Council's preferred aquatic facility concept includes the Recreation Splash family pool, warmwater/therapy pools, competition pool, spectator seating, deep water/dive pool, fitness facilities and classroom/event space.

Ms. Fehrman said the community consistently ranks the following top preferences for parks facilities: 1) trails, 2) beaches and waterfront parks, 3) unstructured play/picnic areas, 4) parks with display gardens, 5) outdoor sports fields/courts, 6) swimming pool, and 7) indoor facilities.

During the master planning process, the City received more than 1,000 emails, phone calls and survey responses that often questioned the need for various park amenities (e.g., trails, sports fields, picnic shelters, pickleball and aquatic facility). Ms. Fehrman said the park system provides 10 sports fields (i.e., soccer, football, field hockey and cricket), and the demand for field usage outpaces the City's ability to meet the community's needs. The City's parks and open space system provides 18 picnic shelters that are used year-round.

Ms. Fehrman said the City has received a great deal of input regarding pickleball. There are currently 17 pickleball courts in Bellevue and 12 more will be added this year. Pickleball is offered at most indoor facilities/community centers during the day.

Ms. Fehrman said the need for an aquatic center has been informed by feasibility studies in 2009, 2020 and 2021 by the City, as well as by a King County 2019 Regional Aquatic Report. She said the only public aquatic facility in Bellevue was funded by Forward Thrust in the 1960s and is approaching the end of its useful life.

Ms. Fehrman highlighted the extensive community outreach process since June 2022 including Parks and Community Services Board meetings, neighborhood site walks, community workshops and a City Council meeting discussion in December 2022. Community input indicated that Airfield Park should be active, inclusive, safe and environmentally responsible.

Ms. Fehrman said that principles of the CPTED (Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design) approach will be applied in the park development.

Ms. Fehrman described the three master plan alternatives discussed on December 5, 2022. Feedback included that there are not enough pickleball courts in any of the alternatives. The next most frequent comment was support for an aquatic facility. Ms. Fehrman said community input included concerns about: 1) the loss of trees, habitat and open space, 2) potential nefarious activities, and 3) any level of development at the site. The Parks and Community Services Board expressed support for an aquatic facility and pickleball courts. In December, the Council supported the alternative with the aquatic facility in the southwest portion of the site, sports fields, basketball courts, public art, benches and exercise equipment, with expanded off-leash areas at Robinswood Park.

Ms. Fehrman said the plan evolved into a preference for preserving the forested areas and keeping more passive activities in the north portion of the site, and locating the active recreation area, aquatic center and parking on the south end of the site. She said the community's desired amenities have remained consistent throughout the outreach process. Approximately 3.5 acres are available for active recreation including sports field, play area, basketball, pickleball, water play and picnic areas.

Ms. Fehrman described the two most recent concepts for the site. Concept 1 includes multi-use fields, basketball court, pickleball courts, amphitheater, stormwater area, restrooms and aquatic center. Concept 2 includes a flexible field, playgrounds, basketball court, pickleball courts, amphitheater, stormwater area, restrooms and aquatic center. Both concepts have water play areas and picnic shelters.

Ms. Fehrman highlighted community feedback responding to the question of whether the concepts have captured the right balance of active and passive areas. Approximately 51 percent of respondents said yes, 28 percent said there is too much passive use, and 21 percent said there is too much active use. Ms. Fehrman said that 83 percent of the respondents preferred Concept 2 while 17 percent preferred Concept 1. She noted that Concept 2 has more pickleball courts (8 versus 4). Approximately one-third of the respondents expressed support for pickleball courts and 30 percent expressed support for an aquatic facility. In terms of passive program elements, 39 percent of respondents expressed support for trails and 30 percent preferred natural areas.

Dave Hamilton, Chair of the Parks and Community Services Board, said this process will produce an amazing park to serve the entire community for many years. The Board believes in the vision for the aquatic center and wants to support the project in any way feasible. Mr. Hamilton said the Board arrived at its recommendation after many opportunities to hear from the public. He said the City has benefited from the enthusiastic and engaged community involvement. He said the community wants a park that is inclusive, safe, environmentally responsive and supportive of an active, healthy lifestyle.

Mr. Hamilton said partnerships, for example with SPLASHForward, are vital to the success of the new park and will continue to provide benefits long after the park is built. He acknowledged the popularity of pickleball. He noted concerns from neighbors bordering the park regarding

wildlife impacts, preservation of the tree canopy and security issues. Mr. Hamilton said the plan provides a light buffer along the border with residences to maintain the tree canopy and wildlife habitat. He said the Board supports the inclusion of an open flexible-use field to support multiple sports and recreational opportunities.

Mr. Hamilton said the Board's recommendation honors the City's purchase of the airfield property for the purpose of providing a community park with active recreation.

Paul Clark, Vice Chair of the Parks and Community Services Board, said the recommendation is in support of Concept 2, modified to add a picnic shelter included in Concept 1. The Board recommends evaluating options for a covered pickleball court area and for a full-sized basketball court. The Board supports the expansion of the Robinswood Park off-leash area.

Ms. Fehrman said the next steps are the SEPA review leading to Council action during the fourth quarter.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked everyone for the presentation.

Mayor Robinson said she appreciated the Board's careful consideration in making its recommendation. She said this is the 40th anniversary of the Downtown Park, which was developed despite a number of challenges and opposition.

Ms. Robinson recalled that when she and Councilmember Stokes served on the Parks and Community Services Board, the name Airfield Park was chosen to honor Nancy Dunnam, who flew during World War II with the Women's Airforce Service Pilots and received a Congressional Gold Medal.

Mayor Robinson said she would love to see a sustainable heating system in the aquatic center. Mr. Shiosaki said they would see what the design can incorporate as the process moves forward.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Mayor Robinson said she supported the Concept 2 modified plan recommended by the Board.

Councilmember Robertson said she is thrilled to see the aquatic center moving forward. She noted that the park levy provides funding for the development of Airfield Park. She expressed support for the Concept 2 modified plan. Referring to security concerns related to the park, Ms. Robertson said the City conducts a safety review when planning park facilities and incorporates CPTED concepts where appropriate. She said that activating the trails is one of the best ways to maintain a safe environment and to bring people out to enjoy nature.

Councilmember Stokes said he has been involved in discussions regarding Airfield Park since 2009. However, the aquatic center was not considered in the original concept. He said this has been a good process with effective public engagement.

Councilmember Barksdale expressed support for the Concept 2 modified option, which he feels has a good balance of active and passive spaces. He said he looks forward to the environmental review to address certain concerns about the site.

Councilmember Lee recalled the development of Downtown Park and working with Parks and Community Services Director Lee Springgate. He said parks bring people of all ages and walks of life together. He commented on the City's history of acquiring property and developing beautiful parks. Mr. Lee expressed support for the Concept 2 modified alternative.

Councilmember Zahn thanked the Board and the community for their extensive engagement and input. She said the recommended plan strikes the right balance between active and passive uses. She said she appreciated the focus on inclusive, safe, environmentally responsive and active spaces. She thanked staff and the Board for their deliberations regarding pickleball courts and off-leash areas. She noted the long waiting list for swimming lessons at the current Bellevue Aquatic Center.

Councilmember Stokes congratulated the Board and staff for working with the community to plan a great facility.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the Concept 2 modified alternative. He thanked staff and the Board for all of their work and the extensive community outreach. He thanked everyone who attended tonight's meeting due to an interest in this topic. He said the City wants to continue to hear from the public about concerns and ideas. He believes the park will serve the entire community for many years.

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 9:04 p.m., Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

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