

East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

October 2, 2018
6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Hummer, Vice Chair Walter, Alternate Vice Chair Gooding, and Councilmembers Dhananjaya and Kasner

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: None.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m., with Chair Hummer presiding.

2. **ROLL CALL/FLAG SALUTE**

Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts called the roll. All Councilmembers were present.

Chair Hummer asked Councilmember Gooding to lead the flag salute.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice Chair Walter moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Gooding seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL**

Irene Fernandes, speaking on behalf of the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association (LHNA), reported that a successful, well attended candidates' forum was held on September 13. The next neighborhood function is the 2nd Annual Trunk or Treat event on Saturday, October 27 at the Lake Hills Shopping Center.

Fiona Cofield provided an update on 300trees.org, which is opposed to Puget Sound Energy's Lake Hills Transmission Line project. She said the Lake Hills Substation has been out of commission for three months. She said PSE has not publicly released the data related to the justification for the project. She expressed concern that the project is intended to increase profits

for PSE's investors. Ms. Cofield expressed concern about tree removal and construction impacts, including traffic impacts. She said that 300trees.org urges PSE to install a self-healing grid instead of the proposed transmission line. The technology has been installed in 22 other neighborhoods, including Downtown. She noted that 300trees.org held its first rally and said that a petition asking PSE to install smart solutions instead of environmentally harmful technology has reached nearly 1,000 signatures.

5. **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Chair Hummer noted that the EBCC's City Council Liaison is Councilmember Jennifer Robertson.

6. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Hummer noted that she provided a report on the EBCC activities during the October 1 City Council Regular Session. She spoke regarding the EBCC's disapproval of the Homeless Services Uses Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) and preference for the conditional use permit (CUP) process. She provided updates on the Kelsey Creek culvert projects and the EBCC's courtesy hearing regarding the Highland Village Apartments. Ms. Hummer said she reviewed the EBCC's authority and responsibilities as well.

Ms. Hummer read an email from Bob Parker, Puget Sound Energy's project manager for the Lake Hills transmission line/substation looping project, which said that the upgrades and construction for the Lake Hills Substation began in June and will be completed in mid-October. With regard to the transmission line, PSE is in ongoing discussions with the City on a number of topics, including the final landscape design plan. Construction is anticipated to begin in early 2019.

7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

(a) Memo regarding Installing Speed Limit Radar Signs

Chair Hummer read the memo included in the meeting packet regarding the installation of speed limit radar signs on SE 16th Street between 148th Avenue SE and 156th Avenue SE. Construction is anticipated to begin later this year, weather permitting.

Councilmember Kasner said the project is located in the same area as the City's proposed sidewalk and bike lane project. He noted that SE 16th Street is fairly steep at the location of the proposed radar signs and there is little traffic.

Vice Chair Walter said she contacted the City about speed calming on SE 16th Street between 140th and 148th Avenues SE. She suggested writing a memo requesting radar signs at roughly 146th Avenue SE, instead of or in conjunction with the proposed signs between 148th and 156th Avenues SE.

Chair Hummer concurred and suggested requesting statistics regarding traffic volumes and speeding.

Councilmember Kasner said there is a newer sidewalk on the north side of SE 16th Street in front of the master gardeners building, which turns into a gravel path heading west. He expressed concerns regarding the loss of vegetation and buffer to the wetlands if a sidewalk is installed on the south side of the street.

Chair Hummer appointed Councilmembers Dhananjaya and Kasner to write a letter to the Transportation Department and the Transportation Commission regarding the speed limit radar signs. Mr. Dhananjaya suggested that traffic data needs to be collected prior to drafting a letter.

Vice Chair Walter said she would like the communication to focus solely on the proposed radar signs on SE 16th Street. Councilmembers concurred.

8. **PUBLIC/COURTESY HEARINGS:** None.

9. **RESOLUTIONS:** None.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS:** None.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

(a) Discussion regarding EBCC Business Cards, Web Page, and Liaisons

Chair Hummer opened discussion regarding business cards and the EBCC web page.

Councilmembers agreed with including links to the community council-related state law, the EBCC boundary map, and EBCC meeting information on the reverse side of the cards.

Chair Hummer invited comments regarding the EBCC's web page. The Community Council agreed that they would like to update the home page with a picture of Larsen Lake and a map of the EBCC's jurisdiction. They also agreed to add more language regarding state law that created and authorizes community councils.

Chair Hummer introduced discussion regarding EBCC liaisons to the City's Boards and Commissions. She would like the liaisons to attend the Board and Commission meetings and provide reports during EBCC meetings.

Councilmember Dhananjaya spoke about partnering with the City and developing ongoing communications with staff to keep the EBCC informed.

Councilmember Kasner spoke about the additional time commitment of attending meetings and suggested focusing on issues and projects that directly affect East Bellevue. He noted the value of establishing relationships with the Board or Commission Chair and/or Vice Chair.

Councilmember Gooding spoke about being out in the community to keep abreast of issues, projects, and priorities.

Vice Chair Walter spoke about the importance of communication, engagement, and community. She noted that the relationship starts by attending the meetings. She acknowledged that people work differently and that there should be some flexibility in each liaison's approach. She said it will be helpful to have business cards to facilitate networking.

Councilmember Dhananjaya suggested sending an introductory email to each of the Chairs of the Boards and Commissions.

EBCC members expressed an interest in having the audio recordings of Board and Commission meetings on the City's website.

Vice Chair Walter spoke about the tree canopy presentation during the City Council meeting. She learned that different municipalities have different treatments of park land. She expressed concern that a portion of the Mercer Slough Nature Park was traded to facilitate Sound Transit's light rail project. In Bellevue, parks are located in residential zones. She suggested drafting a Resolution asking the City Council to consider creating a park land use district/zone. She noted that once parks are gone, they are very hard to reclaim.

Councilmember Kasner said the City's tree canopy goal is 40 percent, and the current tree canopy is 36 percent. He said the EBCC cannot create a Resolution affecting land use.

Vice Chair Walter suggested asking the EBCC's attorney to provide an opinion and advice. Chair Hummer concurred, noting that state law refers to the EBCC's ability to draft Resolutions. She said a clarification would be helpful.

Councilmember Gooding noted that Bellevue calls itself a City in a Park and said that older trees and native vegetation are hardier and less prone to diseases.

13. **CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS**

Don Boettiger spoke about Puget Sound Energy's artistic renderings of the Lake Hills Transmission Line project, noting that they do not depict tree stumps. He said he has requested information from PSE but has not received anything. He noted homeless individuals living in their vehicles along NE 6th Street and said the Police Department has a meeting scheduled for later in the month to address that issue. He encouraged the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association (LHNA) to become involved with the City Council.

Vice Chair Walter questioned the appropriate manner for responding to communications presented to the EBCC. Deputy City Clerk Roberts suggested that EBCC members may contact

her regarding issues and concerns affecting the EBCC jurisdiction, and she will contact the appropriate staff for a response.

Regarding concerns about PSE, Chair Hummer suggested that individuals attend meetings of the City's Environmental Services Commission and/or contact City staff who work around electrical reliability.

Councilmember Dhananjaya suggested communicating Mr. Boettiger's PSE concern to City Council Liaison Jennifer Robertson.

Vice Chair Walter noted that, while all of the City's information is publicly available, Puget Sound Energy is not required to make information available to the public. She said there is a group of citizens who share Mr. Boettiger's concerns. She noted the EBCC's limited authority and encouraged him and others to present their concerns to the City Council.

Mr. Boettiger acknowledged the EBCC's efforts to oppose the Lake Hills Transmission Line project and expressed concern that PSE has not been forthcoming with information.

Chair Hummer said she will discuss the issue with the EBCC's attorney. She encouraged Mr. Boettiger to communicate his concerns to the City Council and the Environmental Services Commission. She said the EBCC did what it could to oppose and mitigate the project.

Councilmember Kasner said that he and several residents met with City staff, within the context of the PSE franchise renewal, to discuss the tree canopy and related issues.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.**

15. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(a) Summary Minutes of the September 11, 2018 Regular Meeting

Councilmember Dhananjaya moved to approve the minutes of the September 11, 2018 Regular Meeting. Vice Chair Walter seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:14 p.m., Chair Hummer declared the meeting adjourned.

Karin Roberts, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

/kaw