

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

February 26, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Chelminiak, Deputy Mayor Robinson, and Councilmembers Lee, Nieuwenhuis, Robertson, Stokes, and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m., with Mayor Chelminiak presiding. There was no Executive Session.

2. Approval of Agenda

Mayor Chelminiak noted that Ordinance No. 6401 would be pulled from the Consent Calendar to be considered separately under Agenda Item 4(a). A briefing on gun violence and mental health was added under Item 4(a) as well.

→ Deputy Mayor Robinson moved to approve the agenda, amended as described by Mayor Chelminiak. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

3. Oral Communications

(a) Beth Muller thanked the Council for the Surrey Downs Park redevelopment project. She expressed concern regarding the placement of the fence on some private properties. She said some residents have up to a 14-foot encroachment of the fence onto their properties, based on surveying completed by the City as part of the redevelopment project. She asked the City to help Surrey Downs homeowners to resolve the property line irregularities.

(b) Leonard Marino said he would like the City to maintain the existing fence line bordering his property. He said staff does not appear to have the flexibility or authority to identify

creative solutions for his irregular-shaped lot. He expressed concerns about the impact on setbacks and the potential for damage to a concrete pad and walkway on his property if the fence is moved. He asked the City to allow Parks Department staff to develop a solution that is good for both him and the City.

- (c) Betina Finley expressed concern regarding the condemnation of homes in the Northtowne neighborhood for the construction of Fire Station 10. She said the City did not engage residents in discussing the proposed change for the use of those properties. She recalled that McCormick Park was originally designated as the line between residential and downtown development. The fire station project takes nine properties, and the land is better suited for housing in the form of cottages, townhouses, or single-family homes. Ms. Finley said that taking the homes is counter to the goal of maintaining affordable housing. She suggested alternative locations including the Lincoln Center building owned by the City as well as properties in the BelRed, Wilburton, and Factoria areas.
- (d) Nia Lanier expressed an interest in the outcome of meetings between her mother, Maria Hudson, and the Mayor, Police Chief, and planning staff. She said her sister was pulled out of her school on January 25 due to negligence and endangerment by Bellevue School District staff. Ms. Lanier said she is also interested in affordable housing and home ownership programs and in allegations against the Police involving retaliation and under-protection of her family and other families.

Mayor Chelminiak asked the City Manager to address the request for information regarding the City's meetings with Ms. Hudson as well as affordable housing and home ownership programs. Mr. Chelminiak said he was not familiar with the details regarding the Bellevue School District.

City Manager Brad Miyake said Ms. Hudson's concerns regarding the school district will be shared with district staff.

Deputy City Manager Nathan McCommon said the Council received a staff report on February 7 regarding conversations with Surrey Downs property owners about the fence described during earlier oral communications. The City has progressed with 12 of the property owners, and a second letter of invitation to work with the City has been sent to residents. Mayor Chelminiak said he would like staff to continue to work with the property owners to identify feasible solutions.

Councilmember Lee noted that the earlier speakers requested greater latitude for staff to modify the fencing based on conversations with property owners.

Mayor Chelminiak said his understanding is that the law is strict in this area, and City staff must work within the constraints of the law to find workable solutions. He encouraged residents to continue working with staff.

4. Study Session

(a) Council Business and New Initiatives

Mayor Chelminiak said that he, the Planning Commission Chair, and staff interviewed three applicants to fill the vacant seat on the Planning Commission. Mayor Chelminiak recommended the appointment of Radhika Moolgavkar, an Enatai resident, to the Commission. He noted her interest in neighborhood issues and needs and her work with King County in the area of transit-oriented development (TOD).

- Councilmember Stokes moved to appoint Radhika Moolgavkar to the Planning Commission for a term ending May 31, 2021. Deputy Mayor Robinson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

(1) Briefing on Gun Violence and Mental Health Issues

Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, introduced an update on policies related to gun violence and mental health issues. The Council's Federal Legislative Agenda addresses access to guns. The City has been supportive of improving the public's understanding about the risks of gun violence and reducing easy access to firearms, especially for at-risk individuals. The City supports stopping the illegal flow of guns into the country and sharing information among jurisdictions. The City has supported reducing the firepower available to criminals, who often utilize weapons and ammunition that outgun law enforcement. The City's legislative agenda also supports cooperation between the federal government and local law enforcement related to tracing guns.

The City supports policies that address licensing legislation for guns. The City has supported enhanced penalties for individuals who use or possess guns in the commission of crimes, as well as legislation identifying a felony conviction as a reason to disqualify an individual from obtaining a firearm possession permit. The City has also supported the ability of local government to restrict or prohibit firearms in certain places including schools, parks, and other public facilities, regardless of the possession of a valid gun permit. Policies in the State Legislative Agenda address the importance of mental health funding from the State to local governments.

Ms. Nichols said the state legislature recently approved a bill banning bump stocks, which convert a semi-automatic firearm to a fully automatic weapon. She noted additional legislative discussion regarding mental health funding and the security and safety of children in schools. The bill currently under discussion tries to make the schools safer by preventing those with access to guns from entering schools. A proposed program would provide funding for reasonable precautionary measures in schools through an increase in gun licensing fees. At the local level, the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Levy supports a number of programs for adults and youth. The levy's 1/10th of a cent sales tax generates approximately \$68 million annually.

With regard to federal legislation, Ms. Nichols said the City will be monitoring the positions taken by the International Association of Police Chiefs, National League of Cities, and the U.S. Conference of Mayors.

Police Chief Steve Mylett noted the February 14 school shooting in Florida that resulted in 17 fatalities and 14 injured individuals. Since 2013, there have been 116 incidents of violence involving the use of a firearm on school campuses nationwide. In those incidents, 203 individuals were injured and 106 people were killed.

Chief Mylett said that, despite political views, everyone agrees that the safety of children and the security of schools and communities are top priorities. He said the City works closely with the Bellevue School District to ensure that schools provide a safe environment. Bellevue police officers are assigned as School Resource Officers at all four high schools. The Police Department also provides coverage at middle schools, partners with the District's security team, and provides safety training for students and staff. Bellevue police officers receive annual training on active shooter situations, and every officer has access to floor plans for every Bellevue school. The Police Department and the District have processes in place for students to anonymously provide information regarding behaviors or activities in schools.

Chief Mylett noted the importance of early intervention and care for individuals in crisis. He said the Bellevue Police Department has responded quickly and effectively to reports of threats against schools and/or students. Often an individual is found to be making statements or threats on social media that they never intended to carry out. Chief Mylett noted the Police Department's role in determining which threats are intended to signal that violence is imminent. He said every threat is investigated to its logical conclusion.

Bellevue officers regularly use the State's legal provisions to involuntarily commit individuals exhibiting signs of crisis to a mental health facility for evaluation. The Bellevue Police Department partners with the King County Crisis Team, Youth Eastside Services, State and County mental health practitioners, and other organizations to respond quickly to assist those in crisis and to prevent violent events.

Chief Mylett noted that individuals may reach out to their local police departments for advice, guidance, referral to resources, and assistance. The Bellevue School District provides resources for students and parents and partners with numerous organizations working with youth. King County's website provides extensive information on services for those in need or in a crisis. The King County Crisis Clinic provides 24-hour telephone assistance by calling 866-4CRISIS (427-4747). The County is also available by calling 866-833-6546, which links crisis teams together to assess situations and to determine whether other resources are needed.

Chief Mylett said the International Association of Chiefs of Police has a strong stance on gun control, weaponry, and related issues. He noted that the primary weapons of choice for mass shooters, gang members, and drug dealers are semi-automatic weapons. As a result, the IACP supports a ban on assault weapons.

Responding to Mayor Chelminiak, Chief Mylett said School Resource Officers are not in schools as an occupying force or as guards. Their presence is primarily to identify, deter, and suppress

criminal activity. They serve an important role in building relationships with students and providing an individual to contact with concerns about possible violence.

Mayor Chelminiak said the City has traditionally supported the IACP's position on firearms and gun violence. He said it is critical to identify solutions to address both gun legislation and mental health services. He would like the City to maintain contact with federal legislators on related issues.

- (2) Item pulled from Consent Calendar: Ordinance No. 6401 authorizing and providing for the acquisition of interests in land for the purpose of constructing the Fire Station 10 project; providing for condemnation, appropriation, taking of land and property rights necessary therefore; providing for payment; directing the initiation of appropriate proceedings in the manner provided by law for said condemnation; and establishing an effective date.

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced discussion regarding Ordinance No. 6401.

Ira McDaniel, Real Property Manager, recalled that Fire Station 10 was last discussed with the Council in March 2017. That update addressed the site selection process and, since that time, the City conducted appraisals of affected properties and issued purchase offers to property owners last summer. Two purchase and sale agreements have been signed by property owners, a third agreement is being drafted, and negotiations are ongoing for the other affected properties.

Ordinance No. 6401 authorizes staff to complete the process of acquiring the properties with purchase agreements. If agreements cannot be reached for the other properties, the ordinance authorizes the use of eminent domain to acquire the properties.

Monica Buck, Assistant City Attorney, said the ordinance authorizes the Civic Services Department Director or designee to execute the purchase and sale agreements for the properties and, if needed, to file litigation to acquire the property rights of affected properties. After the ordinance is adopted by the Council, the property owners receive tax benefits for selling their properties in lieu of condemnation proceedings.

Mayor Chelminiak noted the importance of the power of eminent domain for a specific public benefit.

- Deputy Mayor Robinson moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6401, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

(b) Destination Development Plan Strategy Briefing

City Manager Miyake recalled that the Council adopted the City's Economic Development Plan in 2014, which initiated the creation of a strategy to promote tourism in Bellevue. The

Destination Development Plan was developed through a partnership of the City, Meydenbauer Center, and Visit Bellevue Washington.

James Henderson, Economic Development Director, introduced discussion regarding the Destination Development Plan and thanked everyone for their hard work. The plan's objectives are to enhance the visitor experience, foster economic and employment growth, and support infrastructure improvements.

Stacy Graven, Executive Director, Meydenbauer Center, said tourism is the fourth largest industry in Washington State. It attracts visitors who spend nearly \$21 billion annually, generates \$1.8 billion in state and local tax revenue, and supports more than 170,000 jobs. She said Washington State is the only state in the country without a statewide tourism marketing program. In 2016, there were 1.7 million visitors to Bellevue, which generated \$762 million in direct spending, supported 12,000 jobs, and generated \$69 million in tax revenue. Ms. Graven said Bellevue hotels are full on weekdays but have higher vacancy rates on weekends. She noted the need to attract more leisure travelers, to broaden the number of attractions and events, and to align convention activities with economic development goals. She said a one percent increase in visitors to the region results in an additional \$10.5 million in spending annually in Bellevue.

Ms. Graven said the 2017 Visit Bellevue Washington budget totaled \$790,000, with revenue sources including hotel/motel tax revenues (\$680,000 through the Transient Occupancy Tax), the annual contribution from the City's Office of Economic Development (\$55,000), and affiliate fees and commissions (\$55,000). She noted the following budgets for tourism programs in other cities including Seattle (\$22 million), Spokane (\$4.7 million), Tacoma (\$2.3 million), and Yakima (\$2.7 million).

Sharon Linton, Marketing and Communications Manager, Visit Bellevue Washington, described the development of Phase 1 of the Destination Development Plan in 2016, which involved research, stakeholder interviews, and analysis focused on examining Bellevue's tourism and visitor sector results, tourism assets, visitor satisfaction, tourism organization/operations and an analysis of the area's competitiveness. The Phase 1 effort resulted in 39 recommendations. Phase 2 was conducted during 2017, with the goals of creating a future vision for Bellevue tourism and providing recommendations, an action plan, and budget for future activities. That work involved a steering committee, which narrowed the original 39 recommendations to 18, as well as an online survey and analysis to prioritize and group the recommendations. The 18 recommendations were organized into three phases and will be implemented through a partnership of the City, Visit Bellevue Washington, and other entities.

Mr. Henderson said the recommendations and a request for \$250,000 in 2018 (and potentially additional funding in 2019) to support further development of Visit Bellevue Washington will be presented to the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA) Finance Oversight Committee for consideration. Next steps for Visit Bellevue Washington are to hire an experienced executive director and to continue to partner with the City and other local/regional entities.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Linton said Visit Bellevue Washington does not have segregated data comparing domestic and international visitors. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he liked the concept of Bellevue as a gateway to the greater Seattle region. Ms. Linton noted

VBW's efforts to market Bellevue as an attractive central point for visiting other attractions in the area as well. Mayor Chelminiak said a number of college and professional sports teams choose to stay in Bellevue hotels when they are participating in events in Seattle.

Councilmember Stokes said the tourism efforts tie into a number of objectives related to making Bellevue a dynamic place to work and play with parks, the technology industry, and a number of attractions. He noted that efforts to enhance tourism can create a higher quality of life for Bellevue residents as well in terms of shopping, restaurants, walkability, and the overall experience. He said Bellevue is a central location for visitors to access the entire region, and it provides many positive amenities without the negative elements of certain other areas.

Councilmember Zahn said the presentation demonstrates that Bellevue is a place of abundance. She said she was impressed by the significant economic impact of a one percent increase in visitors. Referring to the three phases to implement the recommendations, Ms. Zahn suggested moving the cleanliness, safety, security and walkability recommendation to Phase 2. She concurred with Councilmember Stokes about the important connection between tourism and how it contributes to residents' overall quality of life. She expressed support for focusing on arts and economic development, nightlife, airport access, and overall transportation. Ms. Zahn suggested thinking about the concept of Greater Puget Sound versus Greater Seattle to broaden Bellevue's potential impact as a tourism destination. She further suggested exploring opportunities for larger events such as fun runs and competitive activities.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for Visit Bellevue Washington's efforts over the past seven years. He said Bellevue is the best place in the world, and he noted the importance of highlighting Bellevue's role in technology and global innovation. He noted that a benefit of referring to Greater Seattle is that individuals worldwide are familiar with Seattle but might not know the location of Puget Sound. Mr. Lee said he was pleased to see the VBW budget and the economic impact of a one percent increase in visitors. He suggested focusing on the international market to promote Bellevue as a gateway to the country. He thanked everyone for their hard work.

Deputy Mayor Robinson expressed appreciation for the hard work invested in producing the Destination Development Plan. She acknowledged the importance of both the local and global markets. Noting the reference to the Grand Connection as the placemaker for Bellevue, Ms. Robinson highlighted the Meydenbauer Bay Park and Eastside Rail Corridor as comparable placemakers. She suggested incorporating those amenities into the plan and noted the potential for bicycle trips to Woodinville wineries.

Responding to Mayor Chelminiak, Ms. Graven said the requested funding is generated by TOT (Transient Occupancy Tax, or hotel/motel tax) revenues. In further response to Mr. Chelminiak, Ms. Linton concurred with the value of educating residents about Bellevue activities for out-of-town guests (e.g., KidsQuest Museum, Wintergrass and other festivals, restaurants, and shopping) rather than them thinking only about attractions in Seattle.

Mayor Chelminiak asked the presenters to elaborate on Councilmember Stokes' comment that tourism is good for residents as well. Ms. Graven concurred that tourism and marketing

programs must be beneficial for both residents and visitors. She said a survey of residents was conducted as part of the work in drafting the Destination Development Plan. Ms. Linton commented that Bellevue's restaurants and nightlife are dependent on both residents and visitors to succeed. Mayor Chelminiak said Bellevue has done a good job of attracting technology companies from China, which contributes to tourism as well.

(c) Update on 2017 Economic Development Activities

City Manager Miyake noted that the Office of Economic Development has been providing quarterly updates regarding the Economic Development Plan since it was adopted in 2014.

Mac Cummins, Director of Planning and Community Development (PCD), introduced staff's update of 2017 economic development activities. He said attracting labor and focusing on placemaking are becoming increasingly important as emerging trends in economic development throughout the country.

James Henderson, Economic Development Director, thanked Economic Development staff (Jesse Canedo, Economic Development Manager and Anthony Gill, Economic Development Analyst) and Arts staff (Joshua Heim, Arts Manager) for their hard work and support throughout 2017, when he served as the Interim Chief Executive Officer for the Seattle-King County Economic Development Council.

Mr. Henderson noted that Bellevue is an innovation center and a major research and engineering center for firms from around the world. Bellevue is a bridge between the U.S. and global markets with a strong international workforce that supports creative global solutions. He said Bellevue is competitive with a number of cities including Atlanta, Austin, Boston, Dallas, Denver, and San Jose. He highlighted employment growth in Bellevue's key industry clusters (i.e., information technology, business services, health/fitness and beauty services, retail, tourism). As a global center for technology development, many Bellevue companies specialize in enterprise and gaming. Bellevue is the home of 45 corporate headquarters as well as offices for 90 international firms, including companies in China. Companies are attracted by Bellevue's highly educated workforce, safe community, and beautiful natural environment.

Mr. Henderson highlighted the Innovation Triangle partnership between Bellevue, Kirkland, and Redmond, which is focused on recruiting global technology firms and encouraging regional cooperation between communities. The organization received a 2016-2017 grant from the Port of Seattle which supported marketing activities, participation in the SelectUSA Summit in Washington, D.C., an immersion event for international technology companies, and an advertisement in Site Selection magazine.

Bellevue supports entrepreneurs through the Startup 425 regional initiative that provides a small business advisor and partnerships with business development experts. The Startup 425 Foundation Series provides classes and partners with the King County Library System for classroom and meeting space. The Foundation Series held 14 sessions in five cities during the fall of 2017, which were attended by 177 participants, 62 percent of which were women and 60 percent who identified as an ethnic minority. Mr. Henderson said the Startup 425 Global

Passport program is currently underway and three Eastside companies are participating. The program provides mentoring and the opportunity to network with European peers and investors.

Mr. Henderson described the TechHire Bellevue program, whose goal is to understand employers' needs, explore ways to grow non-traditional technology career pathways, and to support the Eastside's growing Information Technology sector. He noted Deputy Mayor Robinson's role in Bellevue receiving the TechHire designation in 2016, which partners with local and regional companies to provide coding workshops and to support companies in need of technology workers. He said the workshops have attracted a number of individuals who have not previously worked in the technology industry.

The Creative Edge program is a partnership of economic development and arts staff to explore ways to integrate and embed artists, cultural organizations, and creative firms into Bellevue's economy and civic life. Staff is working with a consultant to develop a strategy anticipated to be presented to the Council in May. This effort includes extensive public outreach including a task force, surveys, and individual interviews to develop the strategy.

Mr. Henderson summarized the lessons learned during the past few years, including that Bellevue is a center for world-class technology that is increasingly becoming a magnet for new, growing technology companies from the United States, Europe, and Asia. The Creative Edge strategy indicates that Bellevue is a leader in arts, learning, and innovation. Mr. Henderson noted that Amazon's public search for an area to locate its second headquarters highlighted the criteria for a growing digital economy, including the capacity to produce skilled technical talent, access to domestic and global markets through modern infrastructure, connected and sustainable placemaking, and support for cultural, entertainment, and artistic amenities.

The overall objective for the City's future work plan is to enhance Bellevue's stature with the creative economy and its identity as a destination for talent and companies worldwide. Areas of focus include business formation and diversification, placemaking and talent retention, arts and culture, talent development, and regional partnerships. Mr. Henderson said the continued development of the Wilburton area provides a strong placemaking opportunity to establish a community adjacent to the downtown. He noted that Bellevue lost approximately one-third of its musicians and actors since 2007, largely due to the lack of performance venues.

Councilmember Zahn asked whether the City has evaluated how the 2015 and 2016 metrics are tracking with 2017. Referring to the Startup 425 Foundations courses, she questioned whether the City is tracking how many participants have started their own business. Ms. Zahn said she likes the idea of regional cooperation versus competition in terms of attracting and retaining businesses. She is pleased to hear that individuals are turning to technology interests as second careers.

Councilmember Stokes said he likes the concept of economic development as an integration of business, arts, culture, education, and placemaking. He said REI's new headquarters in Bellevue will be an asset to the community. He observed that transportation innovation is an important part of economic development. Councilmember Stokes endorsed the key assets of synergy, connectivity, and the regional outlook and cooperation. He noted that Bellevue's current and

planned amenities include the KidsQuest Museum, Tateuchi Performing Arts Center, Meydenbauer Center, Grand Connection, Global Innovation Exchange (GIX), and parks. He complimented staff's interdepartmental efforts.

Councilmember Lee said that economic development has always been a top priority for Bellevue. He said economic development encompasses everything in the community including education, environmental assets, infrastructure, a talented workforce, and housing. He expressed an interest in staff's plans for the components of the City's economic development strategy. He expressed support for regional cooperation. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Henderson said the Port of Seattle's grants are based on population, and Bellevue received \$60,000 annually over the past two years.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the Innovation Triangle partnership and regional collaboration, as well as for promoting what makes Bellevue different and special. He encouraged targeting companies that can be successful in Bellevue even when there is a downturn in the economy.

Mayor Chelminiak said the key advantages of this region include transportation, growth management, and economic development. He said the Puget Sound Regional Council's integration of those planning priorities is unique within the country, and Bellevue is in a strong position to influence all three areas. Mr. Chelminiak said Bellevue does a good job of integrating economic development and community planning/development within one department and coordinating with transportation innovation and planning as well. He questioned when it might be appropriate to review the City's economic development plan.

Mr. Cummins said staff would like to do an even better job of integrating the planning work program and the economic development work program for maximum outcomes. The future of economic growth is placemaking, and multiple efforts contribute to that objective including redevelopment of the Wilburton and BelRed areas and the Grand Connection project. Mr. Cummins noted an interest in looking at a 2-3 year versus a 4-5 year planning horizon, which would allow a more frequent evaluation and review of the economic development plan's effectiveness. Mr. Henderson concurred, noting that the world and the region are rapidly changing. He said there is an increasing focus on non-traditional forms of education and career development in the region.

Mr. Chelminiak said Bellevue has done a good job of attracting and supporting higher education and workforce development endeavors. He suggested that the next step is ensuring that talented individuals stay in Bellevue and support businesses.

At 8:24 p.m., Mayor Chelminiak declared a brief recess. The meeting resumed at 8:37 p.m.

- (d) Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy Program Overview and Project Update

City Manager Miyake recalled that the Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy was approved by the voters in November 2016.

Transportation Director Dave Berg introduced staff's update on the 20-year Neighborhood Safety, Connectivity and Congestion Levy, which was initiated to address a backlog of projects. He recalled the public process leading to approval of the levy, including open houses and discussions by the Transportation Commission and the City Council. The Council affirmed the 2017-2018 project list in February 2017. He noted the Council's interest in geographic equity and in expediting projects where possible. Mr. Berg said 2018 activities will focus on identifying a process for the Neighborhood Congestion Relief Program as well as implementing a number of projects.

John Murphy, Transportation Levy Co-Manager, said the 20-year levy provides approximately \$7.4 million annually through a property tax of \$0.15 per \$1,000 assessed valuation (AV). The Council previously directed staff to set aside \$2 million annually for congestion reduction projects. The remaining \$5.4 million supports safety and connectivity projects, including the backlog of safety, sidewalk, bike, Smart Mobility Plan [Intelligent Transportation System (ITS)], and maintenance projects.

Mr. Murphy noted the annual levy funding allocation for the project categories: 1) neighborhood congestion reduction, \$2 million; 2) neighborhood safety, \$2.25 million; 3) bicycle facilities, \$900,000; 4) new sidewalks, trails and paths, \$1.125 million; 5) safety and traffic management technology, \$500,000; and 6) sidewalk and trail maintenance, \$500,000. He said staff will continue to explore opportunity projects through grant funding matches, private development, and potentially collaboration with the Bellevue School District. As an example, he said the Wilburton Area Sidewalk Project is funded in part by the levy as well as through a partnership with the school district. The project will also provide traffic calming and bike infrastructure elements.

Approximately 43 projects were partially or fully funded by the levy for 2017 and 2018. Activities in 2017 focused on project scoping and design, and 2018 efforts will construct and implement projects. Many projects are nearing the end of the design phase. Mr. Murphy said the City is waiting to group certain projects when the bidding environment is less competitive and less costly. He noted bicycle infrastructure projects to be completed in the Eastgate area by the end of this year.

Mr. Murphy said the levy projects are spread throughout Bellevue, and many projects incorporate a number of elements. Several projects have been completed or are under construction. He noted that levy projects add to the workload of contract, inspection, and other staff. Mr. Murphy said staff is working to identify the list of projects through 2020 to be discussed with the Transportation Commission before being presented to the Council this summer.

Chris Long, Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Program Manager, said the program has dedicated funding from the levy and the Transportation Commission recently developed the project selection evaluation criteria. He recalled Council direction to expedite two projects in 2017 in the Eastgate area. A broader traffic study for the area was recently completed as well. Mr. Long said staff worked with the Transportation Commission over the past few months to

develop the evaluation criteria for the neighborhood congestion reduction program. The projects are focused on improving access in and out of neighborhoods and include improvements on adjacent arterials. Mr. Long said approximately 50 projects were evaluated using the established criteria, and the projects were categorized into Tier 1, projects with the greatest need, and Tier 2, projects providing desired benefits. Staff will consider both project needs and benefits to prioritize projects for final design and construction.

Mr. Long said staff worked with the Transportation Commission to identify recommended projects for 2018, which resulted in: 1) nine traffic analysis contracts informed by the Tier 1 scored project list; 2) design projects for intersection improvements on Newport Way and on 150th Avenue SE; and 3) the construction of intersection improvements on Newport Way.

Marie Jensen, Transportation Levy Co-Manager, described levy communications efforts including the design of a standard levy program logo, the creation of a website (bellevuewa.gov/transportationlevy), public engagement meetings and open houses, an annual accountability report, interactive map of projects, and program fact sheet. Ms. Jensen said public input informed the list of projects identified through 2020 and will continue to inform future project lists. She noted a project open house scheduled for February 28 at Chinook Middle School and an open house scheduled for March 6 to address Newport Heights traffic safety. She said 2018 will be a busy construction year. The project list through 2020 will be developed by mid-2018 and will be shared with the Council this summer. She said project signs will begin showing up in neighborhoods going forward.

Mayor Chelminiak concurred with the importance of continuing to inform the public about the use of levy funds. He said that even smaller projects make a difference to residents and demonstrate the City's investments in neighborhoods.

Councilmember Robertson said she appreciates the support of the community, staff and the Council in moving forward with levy projects. She expressed support for the six categories of projects and concurred with the importance of public outreach. She said the levy website provides the opportunity to sign up for alerts. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Jensen said the alerts will include project updates as well as advance notice of opportunities for public input for potential future projects to be considered by the Transportation Commission and the Council. Ms. Robertson suggested adding a "Suggest a Project" link to the web page and, if possible, to the MyBellevue app.

Responding to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Long said the project selection evaluation criteria are provided in an attachment in the meeting packet. The criteria was developed by staff and the Transportation Commission. However, he welcomed Council input regarding those or additional criteria. Ms. Robertson suggested clarifying that trail projects are focused on connectivity in and between neighborhoods as opposed to recreational park trails. She suggested posting information regarding the 2018 budget public hearings on the Transportation Department web page, Neighborhood Transportation Levy web page, and on Nextdoor.com.

Councilmember Stokes said he appreciated the support of the levy from the voters, Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, and the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA). He encouraged

Councilmembers and residents to attend the neighborhood open houses and project ribbon cuttings.

Councilmember Zahn recalled that she served on the Transportation Commission when the ballot measure was developed, and she appreciated the public's support. She concurred with Mr. Stokes regarding the importance of attending neighborhood meetings. She thanked staff for rescheduling the Newport Heights meeting due to a conflict with the neighborhood leadership meeting. She said there was active citizen engagement in discussing projects at the Tyee Middle School meeting.

Ms. Zahn expressed support for the broader Eastgate transportation study. She said she did not see a project on Bellevue Way in Northtowne but she recalled several residents who expressed concerns before the Transportation Commission regarding the need for more crosswalk locations. Ms. Zahn said she would like to see a related project in the 2019-2020 plan. She expressed support for Smart Mobility projects. Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Ms. Jensen confirmed that educational materials are provided in multiple languages.

Deputy Mayor Robinson thanked staff for their work, including the extensive community involvement process that allows residents to offer any and all ideas. She questioned the ability to measure the effectiveness of traffic calming projects. Mr. Long said all traffic calming projects are monitored and evaluated with the public to assess their impact.

Referring to the Neighborhood Congestion Reduction Program, Ms. Robinson asked whether the goal is to steer cars away from neighborhood streets or to better manage congestion within neighborhoods. Mr. Long said the program does not directly address cut-through traffic and is more focused on managing traffic on arterials adjacent to neighborhoods. He said cut-through traffic is primarily addressed through neighborhood safety projects.

Councilmember Lee concurred with the Mayor regarding the importance of small projects on individual neighborhoods.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis encouraged staff to consider all of the ways for residents to participate and provide input. He said it would be helpful to be able to receive push notifications through the MyBellevue app about upcoming meetings and open houses. He suggested public education regarding the use of impact fees as well for transportation projects.

Mayor Chelminiak thanked staff for their good work.

(e) Briefing on 10-Year Update of Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed
Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan

Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, introduced discussion of the 10-year update of the Lake Washington/Cedar/Sammamish Watershed (Water Resource Inventory Area 8, or WRIA 8) Chinook Salmon Conservation Plan. She recalled that the Chinook salmon was listed as threatened in 1999 under the federal Endangered Species Act. She said that was the first time a species in a heavily urbanized area was listed under the act, and cities and other entities

worked together to establish a regional plan. Ms. Nichols recalled that former Councilmembers Don Davidson and Chuck Mosher were actively involved in WRIA 8 efforts, and Councilmember Stokes has been involved in recent years. Ms. Nichols requested Council feedback regarding the City's continued involvement in the salmon recovery effort.

Alison Bennett, Assistant Director of Intergovernmental Relations, said there are indications that the region's watershed projects are having a positive effect. She said juvenile Chinook salmon survival is improving, which indicates that stream habitat projects are making a difference. The WRIA 8 Salmon Recovery Council adopted an update to the recovery plan last September, and the Council is asking local jurisdictions to ratify that plan. Ms. Bennett said Councilmember Stokes is Vice Chair of the Salmon Recovery Council.

Ms. Bennett said Bellevue's salmon recovery efforts are part of the larger Puget Sound salmon recovery efforts. She noted that there are 62 WRIsAs in the state. Under the Endangered Species Act, local governments are responsible for habitat improvements in fresh water and along the marine shoreline. State and federal agencies are responsible for other factors that influence the recovery of salmon such as harvest, ocean conditions, and other factors not within the control of local government. Ms. Bennett said the WRIA 8 process has worked well for many years, and the first salmon recovery plan was ratified by participating jurisdictions in 2005. She noted that Bellevue and its regional partners were working on salmon recovery long before the Chinook salmon was listed as threatened. The WRIA 8 plan is a chapter in the Puget Sound Salmon Recovery Plan.

Kit Paulsen, Watershed Planning Supervisor, said the WRIA 8 watershed is particularly challenging due to the extensive development throughout the region as well as the presence of two major lakes. The initial development of the 100-year plan compiled and shared technical information among local governments, stakeholders, and other interested parties. That effort led to projects, the development of land use policies, public outreach and education, and ongoing stewardship. The strategies have benefited salmon populations. However, the plan was very complicated. The plan update is focused on making it easier for people to understand the key strategies, which are voluntary. The new plan is locally developed, continues compliance with the Endangered Species Act, identifies voluntary actions, and supports the local quality of life.

Bellevue's efforts have included fish passage improvement projects, habitat enhancement, technical monitoring programs, and public outreach and education. The City's Stream Team has been involved in a number of those projects. The City's overall efforts have focused on fish passage projects, stream habitat projects, water quality retrofit, and tree canopy goals. She said the NE 8th Street culvert on Kelsey Creek will be replaced this summer.

Ms. Paulsen presented statistics on overall Cedar River Chinook salmon and Sammamish Chinook salmon populations as well as on Cedar River and Sammamish Juvenile Chinook salmon populations.

Ms. Bennett said the WRIA 8 forum is asking jurisdictions to ratify the updated plan by the end of March.

Councilmember Stokes said he became involved with the Salmon Recovery Council approximately four years ago. He noted that WRIA 8 efforts over many years are beginning to show positive outcomes, and related efforts to increase the flow of the Sammamish River are helping to keep Lake Sammamish healthy. He said the City of Bellevue is well respected and has always been a leader in WRIA 8. He commended Ms. Bennett and Ms. Paulsen for their hard work and expertise.

Councilmember Zahn requested information on the projects funded over the past 10 years, as well as anticipated projects for the next 10 years. Ms. Paulsen said the major projects are in the City's Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan and include fish passage improvements, stream channel improvements, and culvert replacements. Flood reduction programs improve low flow salmon migration, and a pilot project for water quality improvement is in this year's budget as well. Ms. Zahn encouraged continued flood reduction efforts. She said she likes the focus on aging bulkheads because that is an area with opportunities to address issues before they fail.

Mayor Chelminiak noted that salmon recovery encompasses the four H's: habitat, harvest, hydropower, and hatcheries. Noting Bellevue's role in managing habitat, he expressed an interest in how the other areas are doing. Ms. Paulsen said, with regard to harvest, an issue was raised last year when the recreational fishery was substantially reduced. Harvest management proposals are focused on the health of native populations (Cedar River and Sammamish), and harvest numbers are allocated between harvest types (e.g., recreational, tribal, etc.). In the early years, Canada agreed to restrict harvests of populations returning to this area. The Muckleshoot Tribe has reduced its harvest as well. A hatchery review program was initiated approximately eight years ago, and the hydropower element is subject to a licensing program to ensure salmon populations are not being harmed.

Mayor Chelminiak suggested providing updates on the City's website regarding local salmon activity. He directed staff to return with the 10-year plan update for Council action before the WRIA 8 deadline.

- Deputy Mayor Robinson moved to extend the meeting to 10:15 p.m., and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

(f) Regional Issues - Legislative Update

Ms. Nichols noted written materials in the meeting packet detailing legislative activity. She said the state legislative session ends on March 8. The revenue forecast is more positive than anticipated with \$1.2 billion more for the State operating budget. The additional revenue provides the potential for some measure of property tax relief. Ms. Nichols recalled that the state legislature approved an 80 cent per \$1,000 AV property tax increase in 2017 to fund K-12 education as required by the McCleary Decision. She said the Democrats are still discussing a state capital gains tax on high-income earners as well.

Ms. Nichols said the capital budget released by the State Senate provides \$500,000 for Meydenbauer Bay Park. Funding is also provided to accelerate the Mountains to Sound Greenway Project.

Two bills that would provide tools for cities to advance the ability to finance affordable housing are still under discussion. One would increase the document recording fee, while the other would provide a credit for counties against the State share of the sales tax. The condominium liability bill died in the House but will return next year. The City continues to advocate for a proviso in the Senate transportation budget that would not directly allocate funds, but it would state the intent of the state legislature to provide potentially up to \$1 million in matching funds for transportation projects. If approved, it will help the City in pursuing federal funds as well. Ms. Nichols said legislation related to reclaimed water failed but will come back next year with the Cascade Water Alliance actively involved.

Responding to Mayor Chelminiak regarding federal legislative activity, Ms. Nichols said there is little bipartisan cooperation on issues that would benefit the City.

5. Mini Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Robinson moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:

- (a) Motion to award Bid No. 18001 to KLB Construction, Inc., as the lowest responsible bidder for the construction of Surrey Downs Park.
- (b) Motion to approve payment of claims and payroll for the period January 1, 2018 through January 31, 2018.

6. Continued Oral Communications

Pamela Johnston encouraged the public to enroll in transportation levy alerts on the City's website. She encouraged the City to make Council PowerPoint presentations accessible for all users. She encouraged the City to explore and acknowledge Native American culture in its diversity program and tourism activities. She suggested it would be helpful to provide convenient transportation for visitors between the Downtown, Bellevue Botanical Garden, and other attractions.

At 10:15 p.m., Mayor Chelminiak declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
Assistant Director, City Clerk's Office

/kaw