

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

June 4, 2018
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Chelminiak, Deputy Mayor Robinson, and Councilmembers Nieuwenhuis, Robertson¹, Stokes, and Zahn

ABSENT: Councilmember Lee

1. Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:05 p.m., with Mayor Chelminiak presiding. There was no Executive Session.

Mr. Chelminiak noted Councilmember Lee's excused absence and said Councilmember Robertson would arrive shortly.

2. Study Session

(a) Citizen Advocates for Referrals and Education Services (CARES)

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff's briefing regarding the Citizen Advocates for Referrals and Education Services (CARES) program. The purpose of the program is to address the needs of individuals who call 911 for non-emergency issues and to refer them to the appropriate resources.

Fire Chief Jay Hagen introduced Natasha Grossman, CARES Program Administrator, to provide the update.

Ms. Grossman said the CARES program was implemented in 2012 and was modeled after a partnership between the Spokane Fire Department and Eastern Washington University graduate students majoring in social work. The purpose of the program is to connect residents with the right services at the right time and to advocate for them as they receive assistance. Eastern Washington University students currently work with the City of Everett, and staff proposes placing two students to work with the City of Bellevue.

¹ Councilmember Robertson arrived at 7:10 p.m.

Ms. Grossman said she volunteered as a supervisor during the first year of the program until grant funding was received. An average of 10-14 students participate in the program annually. The program was seen as a way to address the needs of individuals who call 911 for non-emergency issues. The goal is to build relationships and to refer individuals to the appropriate social services. The program's Eastside High Utilizer Work Group (HUG) is a partnership with Overlake Hospital, Adult Protective Services, Sound Mental Health, Therapeutic Health Services, King County Behavioral Health and Recovery Division, and Fairfax Hospital. Ms. Grossman noted that agencies will often prioritize assistance for referred individuals if needed. King County's mobile crisis team will respond to an individual's home or location to assess their needs and to consider whether involuntary commitment is appropriate.

Referrals to the CARES program are made in response to requests from the Police Department, Fire Department, Parks and Community Services Department, Code Compliance, and Neighborhood Mediation Program. The students in the CARES program visit individuals to determine their needs. Ms. Grossman said the program also has three professional social workers who are available during weekday business hours to be dispatched by the Fire Department or Police Department. The reasons for 911 calls resulting in referrals to social services include mobility issues, falls, mental health issues, medical needs, living conditions, issues related to self-care and caregivers, substance abuse, homelessness, domestic violence, and other types of crises. Ms. Grossman noted that the number of referrals increased by one-third from 2016 to 2017.

Battalion Chief David Beste said the program received a \$156,000 grant from King County Emergency Medical Services for 2018. An ordinance will be presented to the Council in the near future to accept the grant funds. He said King County provides funding to the six CARES programs in the county.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Battalion Chief Beste said the program was initially funded through a King County Office of Emergency Management grant. In further response, Ms. Grossman said 911 calls were reduced by 70 percent during the first year of the CARES program and by 54 percent over the past year. Mr. Beste said the program reduces the cost and resources related to Fire Department personnel being out of service in response to non-emergency calls.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said CARES is an effective program for helping those in need of services and advocacy. Noting the number of calls due to mobility and falls, she questioned whether individuals are referred to physical therapy. Ms. Grossman said referrals are often made to King County's fall prevention program, which provides physical therapists who visit individuals in their homes.

Councilmember Stokes observed that the CARES program is consistent with the Council's vision statement and priorities regarding a caring community, inclusion, human services, and regional leadership. He thanked staff for their hard work.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Ms. Grossman said that calls related to mobility can be due to a person's weight, excessive clutter, or other challenges and constraints. In further response, Ms. Grossman said the program receives few referrals for families. When individuals in need of assistance speak a language other than English, social workers who speak the appropriate language, if available, are dispatched or they use the language line to access an interpreter.

Responding to Ms. Zahn, Battalion Chief Beste said a Fire Department unit is always dispatched when a 911 call is received. Those personnel will determine whether to engage the CARES program based on specific situations.

Responding to Mayor Chelminiak, Mr. Beste confirmed that the program is a way to assist individuals in crisis who do not know where to turn. Most do not want to go to the hospital, especially elderly individuals who are afraid that they might not be able to return to their homes. In further response, Ms. Grossman said Sound Generations (formerly known as Senior Services) is typically the best entry point for older adults in need of help.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said a significant benefit of the program is the ability to connect people who do not have a support network with needed services. She noted that the Bellevue Network on Aging works to encourage residents to look out for their neighbors and others who might be in need of assistance. Ms. Robinson thanked CARES program staff for their work and effectiveness.

Mayor Chelminiak thanked staff for the update.

(b) Update on Economic Development Activities for Q1 and Q2, 2018

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's update on economic development activities.

Mac Cummins, Community Development Director, recalled that the Economic Development Strategic Plan was a five-year plan running through 2018. Staff will work with the Council over the next several months to update and develop the next plan, which will include a stronger focus on placemaking and attracting individuals to the community.

James Henderson, Economic Development Director, highlighted the direct and foundational strategies included in the current strategic plan and summarized the activities and accomplishments during the first half of this year. He noted that the City received a Port of Seattle Economic Opportunity Grant, which will be used to strengthen the Innovation Triangle partnership and the Startup425 program.

In the area of business attraction, the Innovation Triangle partners marketed Bellevue at three trade shows: Mobile World Congress, 34th Space Symposium, and DICE 2018 (Design, Innovate, Communicate, Entertain). In the area of business retention and expansion, staff continues to reach out to businesses and to offer technical assistance to companies. Mr. Henderson noted the City's work with T-Mobile regarding transportation and mobility issues, permitting and land use, and the Smart Cities initiative. T-Mobile is interested in expanding its facilities in the Factoria area.

Within the Next Generation Bellevue program, Startup425 is a partnership of the cities of Bellevue, Issaquah, Kirkland, Redmond, and Renton that focuses on fostering entrepreneurs in all industries. Mr. Henderson noted that the One Million Cups program, a worldwide entrepreneurship support program, now holds meetings on the second Wednesday of each month at 7:30 a.m. at We Work in Bellevue.

Mr. Henderson described the Startup425 Founders Series, noting that 60 percent of the participants in last fall's program identified as persons of color, and nearly two-thirds identified as women. The 2018 program is currently underway and will hold 52 workshops across the Eastside. Approximately half of the participants self-identify as persons of color, and two-thirds identify as women.

The City will continue to strengthen and expand its partnerships and business development through its work with the Innovation Triangle, Port of Seattle, Challenge Seattle, King County, Snohomish County, and the Economic Development Council of Seattle and King County.

Mr. Henderson said the community's talent pool is a primary component of the City's economic development strategy and placemaking is an integral effort in attracting, retaining, and growing the talent pool. He said the Creative Edge Plan and the Destination Development Plan recognize Bellevue's role in the region as a cultural and economic center. The studies highlight the need for the City to work in partnership with businesses, creative organizations, and developers to create vibrant areas throughout the community to attract and retain the talent necessary to support the economy, bring visitors to Bellevue, and to provide the amenities desired by residents.

Mr. Henderson said the Office of Economic Development and arts staff have joined to form the Cultural and Economic Vitality Office, which integrates the placemaking and talent objectives with the other three economic development programs: business attraction, business retention and expansion, and Next Generation Bellevue.

Staff will provide the first briefing on work plan development to the Council in September or October, and a second briefing in November or December. Council adoption of the work plan is anticipated early next year.

Mr. Cummins said staff participated, for the first time, in the International Shopping Center Council conference, which hosted approximately 45,000 attendees representing retail, restaurants, shopping centers, and malls. Staff met with a number of large shopping center owners to discuss placemaking and marketing activities. Mr. Cummins noted the value of reaching out to investors and landowners in Bellevue while developing future economic development strategies. Staff's objective is to bridge the gap between placemaking and economic development initiatives to create one cohesive community development strategy.

Councilmember Stokes commended staff's efforts and accomplishments over the past few years. He concurred with the importance of integrating traditional economic development efforts with placemaking initiatives in one strategic plan. He said Bellevue will continue to be a leader as it works collaboratively within the region.

Councilmember Zahn concurred with the importance of approaching placemaking and economic development activities as one strategy. She observed that the new department name and structure reflects Bellevue's role and aspirations as an international powerhouse. She expressed support for the strategy recommended by staff. She likes the concept of addressing diversity and inclusivity in terms of race, culture, age, income level, and other factors.

Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Henderson acknowledged the benefits of regional efforts, including the Innovation Triangle with Kirkland and Redmond, and noted that marketing Bellevue and the region is expensive. He confirmed that efforts with Visit Bellevue Washington will continue to increase the community's visibility. He said Bellevue is more advanced in the startup culture than many cities and regions, and he noted the City's interest in focusing on both technology and other types of businesses.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said she looks forward to the next update on the Tech Hire program, which has received a great deal of community interest and support. Responding to Ms. Robinson, Mr. Henderson said three roundtables were held this year with education and business representatives to discuss talent development and needed skills.

Ms. Robinson said a representative of the Welcome Back Center, which provides support for internationally educated professionals entering the job market, spoke during the Eastside Human Services Forum meeting. She noted that the organization is researching opportunities for an Eastside location.

[Councilmember Robertson arrived at 7:10 p.m.]

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Henderson said a lead is any company that could potentially be in the site location phase within the next 12-24 months. A prospect is a company that is currently and actively in the site location phase. Mr. Henderson said outbound leads are situations in which the City is actively marketing Bellevue (e.g., conferences, regional efforts). He said he can provide more information on outbound leads versus situations in which companies are initiating contact with the City. In further response, Mr. Henderson said the economic development plan identifies target industries (i.e., information technology, business and financial services, tourism, and others). Information technology includes the subcategories of commercial aerospace, cloud computing, interactive media, and enterprise software.

Responding to Councilmember Nieuwenhuis regarding placemaking, Mr. Cummins said the Visit Bellevue Washington study contemplates cultural, art, restaurants, and entertainment amenities. Mr. Cummins noted opportunities for placemaking as the BelRed corridor continues to develop.

Councilmember Robertson thanked staff for the update and their ongoing hard work.

Mayor Chelminiak said he wants to ensure that the City reaches out to businesses, as it did in creating the initial economic development plan, as staff develops the next five-year plan. Mr.

Cummins said that will again be part of the process, and staff will provide more details in the next update.

Mayor Chelminiak said he met with Lara Littlefield, Chief Strategy Officer for the Global Innovation Exchange (GIX), who expressed an interest in working with the City's economic development and placemaking efforts. He noted that graduate students of the Evans School of Public Policy and Governance will be working with Bellevue next year. He suggested that GIX students work with the City as well to gain real world experience in their fields. Mr. Chelminiak noted that most of the GIX students are living in the new apartments in the Spring District.

Mr. Chelminiak said a delegation of the Greater Seattle Chamber of Commerce is currently engaged in visits with Eastside cities and will visit Bellevue on Thursday, June 21.

3. Items Moved From Regular Session Agenda

(a) Planning and Community Development (PCD) Department Name Change

Mr. Cummins said that when he first began working for the City, he observed that all of the services and programs within the Planning and Community Development (PCD) Department represent what it takes to build an excellent community. Nationwide, community development includes three major components: physical planning, economics, and people. Mr. Cummins said the department has been renamed to the Community Development Department with three divisions: Planning, Cultural and Economic Vitality Office, and Neighborhood Services. Mike McCormick Huentelman is the Assistant Director for Neighborhood Services, and the City is recruiting a planning director. James Henderson will continue as the Economic Development Director in the newly named Cultural and Economic Vitality Office. Minor code changes are needed to accommodate the new name. Mr. Cummins said staff will conduct outreach with businesses and the community regarding the new department name and structure. Mayor Chelminiak expressed support for elevating the Neighborhood Services program.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for the new department name and structure. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Cummins said that environmental stewardship staff are part of the Planning Division, which also works on projects related to the Comprehensive Plan, affordable housing initiatives, BelRed and Downtown livability initiatives, and future Civic Center planning.

Deputy Mayor Robinson and Councilmembers Nieuwenhuis, Robertson and Stokes expressed support for the new department name and reorganization.

(b) Update regarding Online Bellevue City Code and Land Use Code

Kyle Stannert, Assistant City Manager, introduced staff's update regarding improvements to the online access of the Bellevue City Code and the Land Use Code that will help users trace the history of the codes and legislative actions. He encouraged Councilmembers and staff to contact the City Clerk's Office for assistance after the online functions go live later in the week.

Charmaine Arredondo, Assistant Director of the City Clerk's Office, highlighted the enhanced functionality of the online code. She noted that RCW 35.21.500 requires that the City codify its ordinances, and the City has outsourced its codification process since the mid-1990s. That entity has hosted the City's online code since 2002 as well.

Ms. Arredondo highlighted the new features in the updated interface to the City Code, Land Use Code, ordinances, and resolutions:

- Legislative history can be searched by year, type, and status.
- Selecting an ordinance provides the description, adoption date, and effective date, as well as a list of links to sections of the code affected by the ordinance.
- When scrolling through the code, the section number and title will remain fixed at the top of the screen, and each page will provide links to previous and subsequent sections.
- Sections of the code that have been recently revised are flagged and additional details are provided (e.g., "This section was recently replaced by Ordinance XXXX, codified in Month/Year.").
- The zoning definition feature provides a pop-up box with a definition when the user hovers over a term (e.g., Downtown).
- The user will be able to view and compare historic versions of the code since 2004.
- The share feature has been expanded and includes options for creating a PDF or Word document, emailing, printing, and sharing to social media.

Ms. Arredondo said the enhanced site will be available beginning on June 7, and staff is available to assist Councilmembers if needed. The public may email CityClerk@bellevuewa.gov with questions as well.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Ms. Arredondo said the site is hosted by Code Publishing, and Bellevue is one of the first cities to move to the new platform. Ms. Arredondo said she reached out to Code Publishing to initiate the project when the City was in the process of updating its website. Ms. Robertson expressed strong support for the improvements and said this will be a great benefit for the public.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for their hard work on the project.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Mr. Stannert confirmed that the launch of the enhanced online functions will be publicized to the community.

Responding to Mayor Chelminiak, Mr. Stannert said that both the old and new versions of the online codes will be available for users, at least for a period of time.

(c) Appointments to the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA) Board

City Manager Miyake requested concurrence with his recommended appointments to the Bellevue Convention Center Authority (BCCA) Board: Bob Wallace, Rick Carlson, Laurie Tish, John Christison, Roger Anderson, Ron Hofilena, and Ann Kawasaki.

Mayor Chelminiak said the Board is a good mix of long-term and newer members representing a range of expertise. He noted the Council's concurrence with the appointments.

At 7:50 p.m., Mayor Chelminiak declared recess to the Regular Session.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

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