

East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

April 2, 2019
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 6:34 p.m., with Chair Hummer presiding.

2. **ROLL CALL/FLAG SALUTE**

Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts called the roll. All members were present, except for Councilmember Gooding who arrived at 7:02 p.m.

Chair Hummer asked Councilmember Dhananjaya to lead the flag salute.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Vice Chair Walter moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Kasner seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4-0.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL**

Don Boettiger expressed concern that affordable housing will not be provided, as previously indicated, in a housing development in the Lake Hills neighborhood. He commented that Puget Sound Energy indicated in the past that it would not be able to install a transmission line along SE 16th Street. However, that plan has changed. He expressed concern that the King County Housing Authority affordable housing project on NE 8th Street did not allow all of the residents to remain following the remodeling and renovation.

Chair Hummer read a statement from the EBCC's attorney, which indicates that the EBCC will not be able to consider public comment on Puget Sound Energy's conditional use permit (CUP) application for the South Bellevue segment of the Energize Eastside project because the matter is not before the EBCC. A public hearing on the Development Services Department (DSD)

Director's recommendation regarding the project was held on March 28, 2019, before the City's Hearing Examiner. All public comment, both written and oral, is now closed. Final argument by the department and the applicant is scheduled for April 3. Chair Hummer noted that more information is provided on the Hearing Examiner's page of the City's website.

Fiona Cofield spoke about the Planning Commission's consideration of gun control regulations. She said she does not understand why the Commission is involved in addressing public safety laws. She believes it is not appropriate for the Planning Commission to get involved in political issues and asked the EBCC to oppose the Commission's consideration of gun control policies.

Bart Goft expressed concern regarding the displacement of buses from downtown Seattle's tunnels in order for light rail to use the tunnels. He expressed concern regarding the impacts on senior and disabled individuals who are now forced to walk a longer distance in Seattle to use light rail instead of buses. He said he has communicated his concerns to the relevant agencies. He asked the EBCC to advocate for Bellevue residents regarding the hardship on seniors and disabled persons.

Tony Yu expressed concern regarding Puget Sound Energy's transmission line project along 148th Avenue and the lack of public notification regarding the project. He commented on the anticipated impacts to his home and property. He questioned whether PSE could choose an alternate route.

Chair Hummer said the EBCC received written comments regarding the Planning Commission's consideration of gun control policies, Bellevue's future, PSE's transmission line project, and the lack of a crosswalk on SE 16th Street between 148th Avenue SE and 156th Avenue SE, which are available to read on the City's website.

5. **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS:** None.

6. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Hummer commented regarding parliamentary procedures. She said the discussion is not a conversation and every EBCC member has the opportunity to speak without interruption. She said comments should be germane to the topic and encouraged courtesy and respect to one another and the public.

Ms. Hummer spoke about the March 4 update to the City Council regarding the Affordable Housing Strategy. She expressed concern about allowing churches to build affordable housing units on their properties, upzoning, increased traffic, and inadequate transit service.

Chair Hummer spoke about the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) and the City's tree canopy goals. She attended the City Council's most recent study session on the topic, as well as the neighborhood leadership gathering's discussion about trees in the community. She noted that most of the trees in Bellevue are in parks and on residential properties. Ms. Hummer questioned how developers can cut down trees and not have an impact on the tree canopy. She described a

project in East Bellevue involving the clear-cutting of a site that previously had two homes in order to develop six houses.

Ms. Hummer noted that the next meeting regarding the Puesta del Sol project has not yet been scheduled. She said the EBCC recently held a courtesy hearing regarding the project. She noted that the permit application is a quasi-judicial matter, and EBCC members cannot discuss the permit with the public at this time.

[Councilmember Gooding arrived at 7:02 p.m.]

Chair Hummer commented on the renovations at Highland Village apartments by the King County Housing Authority. The upgrades are anticipated to be completed by early October and include a play area, social services office, laundry facilities, and community meeting rooms for the residents.

Ms. Hummer noted that the Islamic Center of Eastside (Bellevue Mosque) permits have been submitted and are under review, and a decision will be issued by May. They anticipate beginning construction this summer.

Vice Chair Walter said the tree canopy and the City's 40 percent target are addressed in the Comprehensive Plan. She suggested providing input to the City Council regarding East Bellevue's priorities related to trees.

Councilmember Kasner said there is a higher percentage of trees on private property than on park properties. He expressed support for the King County Housing Authority's project at the Highland Village apartments. Responding to Mr. Kasner, Chair Hummer confirmed that an update regarding the City's enforcement related to single-family room rentals is slated for the May EBCC meeting. Mr. Kasner said the issue is relevant to affordable housing goals.

Councilmember Gooding said the tree canopy percentage will fluctuate as dead and diseased trees are removed over time.

7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

(a) Memo regarding Wolter Preliminary Short Plat

Chair Hummer noted the memo in the meeting packet regarding the Wolter Preliminary Short Plat, which is located near Lake Hills Elementary School. Two lots of approximately 9,000 square feet each will be redeveloped. The permit application is identical to the application approved on June 11, 2015. However, the approval expired on June 11, 2017 because the applicant failed to apply for a Final Short Plat permit or to file for an extension.

Responding to Chair Hummer, Deputy City Clerk Roberts said DSD staff indicated that the matter will not go before the EBCC for action. However, the planner suggested providing the information as a courtesy.

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

9. **RESOLUTIONS**

(a) Resolution 572 Electing the 2019 Community Council Officers

Vice Chair Walter moved to approve Resolution 572 electing the 2019 Community Council Officers. Councilmember Dhananjaya seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4-1, with Councilmember Kasner dissenting.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

(a) Continued discussion of the EBCC taking a formal position on TFP-158, SE 16th Street Bike Lane and Sidewalk Project

Councilmember Dhananjaya spoke regarding TFP-158, SE 16th Street Bike Lane and Sidewalk Project. He said the EBCC has voiced its position that there is no need for the bike lane and the funds should be used elsewhere. He said he spoke at the Transportation Commission's March meeting. He was advised that the EBCC should submit a recommendation versus a Resolution to the Transportation Commission.

Councilmember Kasner said the EBCC, in the past, achieved the support of the majority of the Transportation Commission. He said staff indicated they would keep the project in the Transportation Facilities Plan (TFP) despite the Commission's support of the EBCC's request to remove it.

Chair Hummer said the deadline for the public comment period regarding the TFP State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review is mid-April. The public comment period began in mid-March. She suggested moving forward with a Resolution because it is a solid document reflecting a recommendation.

Chair Hummer suggested changing the draft Resolution language expressing disapproval of the project to language requesting that the project be removed from the TFP. She said the EBCC's attorney advised that the EBCC does not have the authority to disapprove a non-land use item. However, Ms. Hummer said the issue falls under provisions that the EBCC work with the legislative body of the City on any issues that impact the EBCC's service area.

Chair Hummer said the Transportation Commission Chair stated that she had no idea why the Commission wanted to remove TFP-158 from the plan. Ms. Hummer said the Resolution will clearly explain the EBCC's reasons for wanting to remove the project. Ms. Hummer said the EBCC may comment on the SEPA review and the draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). She requested the EBCC's approval to revise the draft and to submit it as the EBCC's comment.

Vice Chair Walter observed that the Resolution does not address the EIS. She suggested it would be more expedient to write a Resolution and to transmit it to the City Council when they are specifically addressing the TFP.

Councilmember Kasner noted that the next meeting of the Transportation Commission is May 9. A meeting regarding 156th Avenue is scheduled for April 3. He said the EBCC does not need a Resolution. He suggested a motion to comment on the environmental review before the deadline. He said the EBCC's statement needs to be sent to the City Council because there is no Transportation Commission meeting before the public comment deadline.

Chair Hummer opined that an EBCC motion is not effective because when EBCC members attend Board and Commission meetings, the comments are reflected only in the meeting minutes. She said the Resolution is easy to follow because it is on the EBCC website and it is much more directive.

Ms. Hummer said the other thing to consider is that, since the project does not involve land use, the EBCC is assisting and advising the legislative body, which is represented through the Transportation Commission.

Councilmember Kasner said the City Council will ultimately make the decision. He said the EBCC's recommendation should be submitted to address the EIS review, and it should be copied to the City Council. Ms. Hummer said it should be sent to the Transportation Commission and Transportation Department staff as well.

Deputy City Clerk Roberts noted that the EBCC's attorney advised against submitting a Resolution and instead suggested transmitting a recommendation.

Councilmember Dhananjaya suggested focusing on the EBCC's preference to remove the SE 16th Street project from the TFP. He proceeded to read his suggested revisions to the Resolution language, which references the dates of the EBCC's previous communications asking that TFP-158 be removed from the plan. He highlighted his additional revisions.

Vice Chair Walter suggested clarifying the Transportation Commission's vote. Mr. Dhananjaya suggested language indicating that TFP-158 was the only project that received negative comments.

Councilmember Kasner suggested stating that there is a high level of public opposition. He said the Transportation Commission's action was actually four votes to remove the project, two votes to retain it, and one commissioner absent.

Following additional discussion, EBCC members agreed on the language for their public comment letter regarding the SE 16th Street project and the EIS review of the Transportation Facilities Plan.

Councilmember Kasner moved to send a memo commenting on the Draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement for the proposed 2019-2030 Transportation Facilities Plan to

Peter Rosen, planner, by April 15, 2019; and to copy the Transportation Commission, staff liaison Kevin McDonald, and the City Council. Councilmember Gooding seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

Vice Chair Walter moved to hold the May, July, and November meetings of the EBCC at City Hall. Councilmember Dhananjaya seconded the motion.

Councilmember Kasner said he did not support moving the meetings out of East Bellevue. He expressed concern that residents might not attend if they must travel to City Hall.

Vice Chair Walter said she understood Mr. Kasner's concern. However, she noted that City Hall has far superior technology, and past EBCC meetings at City Hall have been well attended. She said the EBCC is part of the City government.

Councilmember Dhananjaya agreed with Mr. Kasner about the benefit of consistency in meeting in East Bellevue near the EBCC's constituents. However, he believes that holding an occasional meeting in City Hall provides visibility for the EBCC.

Chair Hummer concurred with Ms. Walter that the EBCC has experienced better attendance and meeting efficiency at City Hall. Ms. Hummer said a staff person will be available during the May meeting to help EBCC members with their iPads. The EBCC's retreat is scheduled for July, and City Hall provides better facilities, equipment, and access to staff for that meeting.

The motion carried by a vote of 4-1, with Councilmember Kasner dissenting.

Deputy City Clerk Roberts clarified that she will need to confirm the availability of meeting space for the November meeting at City Hall.

Chair Hummer said the retreat will be held on July 9. She would like to address the year in review, the EBCC's successes, potential improvements and opportunities for the EBCC, and the anticipated work plan for the next year. Ms. Hummer said she asked the EBCC attorney to present information regarding the quasi-judicial process, as well as the decision criteria included in the rules of procedure.

Chair Hummer said she would also like to discuss the statute related to community councils. She would like the EBCC to be a more integral part of the decision-making process at City Hall and to understand how the EBCC can be more effective in using Resolutions. Chair Hummer further suggested a review of parliamentary procedures and meeting protocol.

Vice Chair Walter concurred with the suggested topics for the retreat.

Councilmember Dhananjaya encouraged efforts toward partnering with City staff, Boards and Commissions, and the City Council. He suggested inviting Board and Commission

representatives and staff liaisons to attend the retreat. He said land use staff would be especially helpful for the EBCC. He suggested efforts to increase the visibility of the EBCC.

Councilmember Kasner said it would be helpful to review the City's organization chart and how the Council Vision applies to topics of interest that affect East Bellevue. He spoke in favor of inviting Board and Commission Chairs and others who are interested in the EBCC. He said an update on the Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) would be beneficial as well.

Councilmember Dhananjaya said that training on parliamentary procedures would be helpful for him. He opined that hearing and learning from others, rather than focusing only on providing the EBCC's feedback, would be beneficial to the EBCC.

Vice Chair Walter noted that individuals are welcome to write to the EBCC regarding any topic. However, the EBCC cannot directly affect all issues and concerns.

Councilmember Dhananjaya opined that it is important for the EBCC to stay focused on issues that fall within the EBCC's jurisdiction.

13. **CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS**

Bart Goft spoke about the Transcending Boundaries/Transforming Communities event, noting that he submitted his proposal for banners and/or flags celebrating the diversity in East Bellevue. He agreed with the EBCC's support for holding meetings at City Hall. However, he opined that meetings should be held in the East Bellevue area when there are issues directly affecting the EBCC jurisdiction.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

15. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

- (a) Summary Minutes of the March 5, 2019 Regular Meeting

Vice Chair Walter moved to approve the minutes of the March 5, 2019 Regular Meeting. Councilmember Gooding seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:29 p.m., Chair Hummer declared the meeting adjourned.

Karin Roberts, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

/kaw