

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

June 17, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: Councilmember Zahn

1. Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:07 p.m., with Mayor Chelminiak presiding. There was no Executive Session.

2. Study Session Items

(a) Temporary Year-Round Men's Shelter Services at Lincoln Center

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced discussion regarding the plans for maintaining a year-round men's homeless shelter at Lincoln Center until a permanent shelter facility is built.

Nancy LaCombe, Assistant Director, City Manager's Office, said the City has been working with a number of partners to provide year-round men's shelter services at Lincoln Center.

David Bowling, Executive Director of Congregations for the Homeless (CFH), commended the private partnership supporting the efforts to renovate the shelter at Lincoln Center, which has operated as a seasonal shelter for a number of years, for year-round use until a permanent facility is built. He noted the importance of building relationships within the community. He thanked Kevin Wallace for his leadership with the private partners. CFH and the group have raised more than \$638,000 of the \$750,000 goal to date.

Kevin Wallace, President of Wallace Properties, said CFH is the only provider of men's shelter services on the entire Eastside. He said it is critical to have a year-round shelter. He said court decisions have indicated that shelter beds must be available before local governments can enforce laws related to public camping and vehicle residencies. Mr. Wallace thanked the Council for working with the partners and the community to find a year-round solution for the shelter. He

said the intent is that private fundraising will provide the needed upgrades to the Lincoln Center facility and the City will provide grant funds for the shelter's continued operation.

Mr. Wallace said it has been rewarding to be involved in this effort. He said that most of the design and legal work has been provided at no cost. He highlighted the list of project partners, noting that all except one are Bellevue companies. He thanked City staff, including Nancy LaCombe, Matt McFarland, Mike Brennan, and permit staff, for assisting throughout the process.

Mr. Wallace said the project is on track to begin the early demolition work in July and to start construction in September. He noted that achieving the fundraising goal is necessary to maintain the construction schedule, which is anticipated to conclude by Thanksgiving. He said CFH will be able to begin operating the shelter on November 4 while construction is completed.

Ms. LaCombe noted that the shelter is currently funded for operations from November through April. Staff is working to determine the additional costs for year-round operation and will provide an update to the Council in September. She reminded the Council that under LUC 20.20.850, the City Manager will need to declare an emergency in order to operate the temporary facility. CFH will be required to submit an application for approval of a temporary public safety facility for a maximum of three years.

The City continues to work with the property owner of the bridge location to prepare the space for occupancy beginning in August and extending until Lincoln Center reopens in early November. Ms. LaCombe said staff will provide an estimate in July of the anticipated operating costs for the bridge location. She noted that the number of encampments has increased since the seasonal shelter closed in late April.

Mayor Chelminiak thanked everyone for their significant efforts to provide a year-round shelter. He said the private fundraising has raised awareness within the community regarding shelter services and the work of CFH.

Deputy Mayor Robinson thanked Mr. Wallace and Mr. Bowling for their leadership. Ms. Robinson said she is pleased to see human services funding included in the King County Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) levy for support services focused on the prevention of homelessness. She complimented CFH for its success in moving men into housing. She noted that any time there is outside camping, the situation should be considered an emergency.

Councilmember Robertson said she is grateful for the efforts of Mr. Wallace, Mr. Bowling, and City staff. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. LaCombe said the project team will announce the location of the bridge shelter in the next couple of weeks.

Councilmember Stokes observed that the project has pulled the community together and is supported by both small and large contributions. He said the men who use the shelter services are aware and appreciative of the efforts. He thanked Ms. LaCombe, Mr. Wallace, and Mr. Bowling for their work.

Mr. Wallace confirmed that the fundraising effort has raised awareness within the business community about who provides homeless shelter services. He was previously unaware that CFH provides the only men's shelter on the Eastside, and The Sophia Way provides the only women's shelter in Bellevue. He said this work will set the stage for the important next steps in addressing homelessness.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked everyone for their hard work and said he is proud of this community. Mr. Wallace commended the strong support of the business community, noting that the positive response rate to his requests for donations has been approximately 90 percent.

Councilmember Lee complimented everyone on their good work and noted the value of partnerships. He said he believes that when people become aware of a problem, they want to help.

Responding to Mayor Chelminiak, Mr. Bowling said the Lincoln Center location enables CFH to offer wraparound services on site including employment specialists, addiction support, and medical care. Mr. Bowling said the support services are critical in helping the men to stabilize and to move forward. He said the year-round operation of the shelter will allow CFH to maintain momentum with clients. He noted that 18 individuals recently moved into 30 Bellevue, the new Imagine Housing development at St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

Responding to Mr. Chelminiak, Mr. Bowling said that approximately 60 percent of the individuals receiving services give Eastside addresses as their last home, which includes 40-50 percent of the residents identifying Bellevue as their last address. Mr. Bowling said that 80-90 percent of the bed nights are Eastside residents.

Mr. Bowling noted that, thanks to the efforts of King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci, two vans will be provided to transport individuals between the day center at Lincoln Center and the bridge overnight shelter location.

Mayor Chelminiak observed that the community is moving toward a Bellevue solution involving businesses, residents, and nonprofit and faith-based organizations.

(b) Update on Proposed 2020-2025 King County Parks, Trails and Open Space Replacement Levy

City Manager Miyake said the current King County parks levy expires at the end of the year. He recalled that the Council was briefed on the proposed levy in March. The King County Council amended the proposal in April and voted to place it on the August ballot.

Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, introduced Bob Burns, King County Department of Natural Resources and Parks (DNRP), to provide an update.

Mr. Burns said the County is currently near the end of its third Parks levy program, which was approved in 2014. Previous levies were approved in 2004 and 2008. The four goal areas of the levy package are maintaining existing parks and trails, increasing access to parks and recreation activities, improving and expanding regional trails, and expanding and connecting open space. King County has 200 parks, 175 miles of regional trails, and 28,000 acres of open space. The levy generates an estimated \$810 million over the next six years. The levy rate is 18.32 cents per \$1,000 of property assessed valuation (AV), or \$7.60 per month for a home valued at \$500,000.

Mr. Burns summarized the four goal areas. Approximately 39 percent of the levy (\$318.5 million) is directed toward operations and maintenance (\$277 million) and active recreation repair and renovation (\$41.5 million). The latter includes replacing 11 synthetic turf ballfields, play area rehabilitations, sport court and grass ballfield replacements, and other items.

The second goal area related to accessibility represents 24 percent of the levy funding (\$192.6 million). The package includes new and expanded grant programs, including community partnerships, targeted equity grants, city capital and open space acquisition grants, and public pool grants. Mr. Burns said the King County Council increased capital funding for pools in response to input from cities. He noted that pass-through funding to cities and towns is nearly double the amount of the current levy. Bellevue currently receives \$2.75 million, which will increase to \$4.4 million under the proposed levy.

The third goal area to improve regional trails and mobility represents 20 percent of the levy funding, or approximately \$165.6 million. The levy package includes an investment of \$51 million for the Eastside Rail Corridor, which will allow the County to build approximately eight miles of the 16 County-owned miles. Mr. Burns said that four of the six Eastside Rail Corridor projects are in Bellevue with a total cost of approximately \$32.4 million.

Curt Warber, King County Special Projects Manager, said that approximately \$120.5 million is directed toward the fourth goal area to grow and connect the regional open space network. He summarized the investments in and around Bellevue including the Eastside Rail Corridor, \$4.4 million in pass-through funding, and expanded grant funding for cities.

Ms. Nichols noted the desk packet memo providing information previously requested by the Council regarding attendance to the Woodland Park Zoo and Seattle Aquarium. In 2017, the zoo had 1.34 million visitors and the aquarium had 850,000 visitors. Both do educational outreach to schools. Ms. Nichols said that data regarding the number of visitors per zip code is available.

Councilmember Robertson, liaison to the Parks and Community Services Board, thanked staff for the presentation. She said this is the best County parks levy package to date with a good mix of projects and investments. She thanked staff for the information on the zoo and aquarium and noted that these are countywide assets regardless of where they are located.

Ms. Robertson said there is a strong demand for a regional aquatic facility, and she is interested in the grant process for pool funding. She questioned the maximum grant amount and asked whether cities can partner and combine their funding. Mr. Burns said staff will develop detailed

proposals for the grant programs early next year. He said King County will work with local jurisdictions, stakeholders, and user groups to develop and refine the grant processes and requirements.

Councilmember Robertson suggested it would be beneficial to link grant funding to the usage of the facility and the number of people served. She opined that the facilities serving a broader segment of the regional population should be eligible for larger grants.

Ms. Robertson said she looks forward to the development of the Eastside Rail Corridor through Bellevue. She suggested a presentation on the County parks levy to the City's Parks and Community Services Board, if that has not already been done. She expressed support for the levy package.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for the proposed levy package and its broad range of investments. He said the Eastside Rail Corridor committee has been one of the more energetic and creative groups on which he has served.

Mr. Stokes concurred with Councilmember Robertson regarding the need for pools. He questioned whether County funding is intended to go to smaller or to larger pools, and he encouraged flexibility in the use of pool funds.

Councilmember Lee thanked staff for the presentation and expressed support for the new and expanded grant programs. Mr. Burns said the intent is that grant funding will help to be a catalyst for cities.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked everyone for their hard work and expressed support for the levy. Noting that he previously served on the Parks and Community Services Board, he observed that the levy package is a nice mix of all types of projects and amenities. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Burns said the synthetic turf fields are intended to last for approximately 10 years. However, the County has not always been able to replace them at that frequency.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Nichols said that Bellevue taxpayers will pay approximately \$11.9 million toward the levy package. In further response, Mr. Burns described the improvements planned for Marymoor Park and the Cougar Mountain trails.

Deputy Mayor Robinson expressed support for the levy package. She noted that a Bellevue resident with a home valued at \$1 million will pay approximately \$15 per month for the levy. In exchange, Bellevue residents will receive the development of the Eastside Rail Corridor, programming and education throughout the county, park and trail improvements, grant funds, and hopefully a regional pool.

Mayor Chelminiak asked the City Attorney to comment on the process for the Council to take an official position in support of or opposed to the levy.

City Attorney Kathy Gerla said the City Council may take a formal position on the ballot measure during an open meeting. She said that Councilmembers and the public must be given

equal opportunities to express their views during the Council meeting. Responding to Mayor Chelminiak, Ms. Gerla said the item could be handled under oral communications with the Council granting 15 minutes for public comment on each side of the issue. She said it is not necessary to hold a public hearing, which requires a two-week advance notice.

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo said the ballots for the August election are mailed on July 18. Noting the cancellation of the July 1 Council meeting, she suggested that the public comment and Council decision could potentially be scheduled for July 8.

Councilmember Robertson spoke in favor of the Council taking an official position on the levy, whether on July 8 or July 15. Councilmember Stokes concurred.

3. Council Business and New Initiatives *[Regular Session Agenda Item 7]*

→ Deputy Mayor Robinson moved to excuse Mayor Chelminiak and Councilmember Robertson from the June 24 Extended Study Session. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

Mayor Chelminiak introduced the consideration of Board and Commission appointments.

Councilmember Stokes, liaison to the Arts Commission, nominated Lydia Aldredge to serve a four-year term expiring on May 31, 2023.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis, liaison to the Environmental Services Commission, nominated Neil Hines to serve a four-year term expiring on May 31, 2023.

→ Councilmember Lee moved to appoint Lydia Aldredge to the Arts Commission and Neil Hines to the Environmental Services Commission for four-year terms expiring on May 31, 2023. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 6-0.

At 7:31 p.m., Mayor Chelminiak declared recess until the Regular Session.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw