

City of  
Bellevue



## East Bellevue Community Council

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The East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) held a retreat this last summer to better understand its powers and duties. It was apparent that work is needed to educate its members and others in the community on what the EBCC can and cannot do, as well as how to make better informed decisions and work more closely with City Hall.

The EBCC was established in 1969 in accord with the State Statute RCW 35.14.

- The EBCC has five elected Councilmembers – Chair Betsi Hummer, Vice Chair Stephanie Walter, Alternate Vice Chair Ross Gooding, Councilmember Steve Kasner, and Councilmember Hassan Dhananjaya.
- The EBCC's jurisdiction is from NE 8<sup>th</sup> Street (Bartells) to SE 28<sup>th</sup> Street (the entrance to Bellevue College) and from 140<sup>th</sup>/145<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE to the west side of 156<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE.
- The EBCC's powers and duties include approval/disapproval of Conditional Use Permits, Land Use and Comprehensive Plan Amendments, and some zoning changes. The EBCC is also charged to act as an advisory to Bellevue's legislative body, the City Council, and to provide a forum for other land use and civic issues.

During its 50-year history, the EBCC has approved the majority of projects that have come before it, including

- Three new Bellevue School District schools (Sammamish High, Lake Hills Elementary, Odle Middle),
- Three new Electrical Substations (College, Midlakes, Phantom Lake),
- Two parks (Larsen Lake and Robinswood\*),
- Two swimming pools (Bellevue Aquatic Center and Samena Club),
- The Shoreline Management Program Comprehensive Plan Amendment, and, most recently,
- The "Nursery" and the Temporary Encampment Land Use Code Amendments.

Occasionally, the EBCC is not able to approve projects as written, such as

- The Blue Tarp Rule (East Bellevue residents can have blue tarps sheltering prized objects in their yards),
- The PSE Lake Hills/Phantom Lake Transmission Line, and

- The Homeless Services Uses Land Use Code Amendment (which was developed as a Process I Land Use Code instead of a Process III).

The EBCC has served as a public forum for several difficult issues. The EBCC had active participation from the Community

- To protest access to Odle Middle School through an adjacent neighborhood and
- At a Courtesy Hearing on the Highland Village development.

Both of these hearings provided necessary feedback for the applicants and neighborhoods: Odle's traffic patterns remained on the main streets; the City and its partners bought the Highland Village apartments and maintain them as affordable housing.

Projects and issues within the EBCC's jurisdiction come before the Community Council just twice, once in a Courtesy Hearing and then in a Public Hearing at which the EBCC votes to approve or disapprove the item. To better work with the development of the Conditional Use Permits, Land Use and Comprehensive Plan Amendments, the EBCC would like to be involved in the process from the beginning, so the input of our constituents who elected us can be heard at the beginning rather than the end of the process. The EBCC also feels direct, regular representation of discussion at its meetings will better inform City Council as to the feedback from the other elected body in the City of Bellevue.

A few issues that will have a great impact on East Bellevue's jurisdiction include affordable housing, traffic, human services, flooding, and park preservation.

We greatly appreciate the appointment of Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis as the EBCC liaison. We look forward to serving our constituents and working closely with our colleagues at City Hall.

\*During the time that Dick Partington served as president of the Robinswood Community Club and as a member of the City of Bellevue Park Board, United Homes wanted to purchase the Lang property (now Robinswood Park) to develop homes and townhouses. Dick was instrumental in the City submitting a bond issue which passed, enabling the City to purchase and develop a wonderful park that includes soccer and baseball fields, a wedding venue, and a dog park. RESOLUTION 024 and 026