

East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

February 4, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Councilmember Dhananjaya, Councilmember Gooding, Councilmember Hummer, Councilmember Kasner, and Councilmember Walter

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: None.

1. **CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m., with Chair Hummer presiding.

2. **ROLL CALL/FLAG SALUTE**

Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts called the roll, and all Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Hummer asked Councilmember Walter to lead the flag salute.

(a) Election of 2020 Officers

Councilmember Hummer introduced the election of the 2020 East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) officers. She said the nominations would be voted in the order they are received, and abstaining from voting would be counted in the affirmative.

Councilmember Walter nominated Councilmember Hummer to serve as Chair.

Councilmember Kasner nominated Councilmember Dhananjaya to serve as Chair.

Hearing no further nominations, Councilmember Hummer closed the floor for nominations.

Councilmember Dhananjaya said that while he appreciated the nomination, he must withdraw due to other commitments.

The nomination for Councilmember Hummer to serve as Chair carried by a vote of 4-1, with Councilmember Kasner dissenting.

Councilmember Gooding nominated Councilmember Walter to serve as Vice Chair.

Hearing no further nominations, Chair Hummer closed the floor for nominations.

The nomination for Councilmember Walter to serve as Vice Chair carried by a vote of 5-0.

Vice Chair Walter nominated Councilmember Dhananjaya to serve as Alternate Vice Chair.

Councilmember Dhananjaya nominated Councilmember Gooding to serve as Alternate Vice Chair.

Councilmember Dhananjaya said that while he appreciated the nomination, he must withdraw due to other commitments.

Hearing no further nominations, Chair Hummer closed the floor for nominations.

The nomination for Councilmember Gooding to serve as Alternate Vice Chair carried by a vote of 5-0.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Councilmember Dhananjaya moved to approve the agenda, amended to add the discussion of a letter to the City Council under Agenda Item 12, New Business, and a discussion regarding Vision 2030 under Agenda Item 11, Unfinished Business. Vice Chair Walter seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

4. **COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL**

Chair Hummer said the East Bellevue Community Council (EBCC) may not hear comments or discussion regarding two quasi-judicial matters: Puesta del Sol Elementary School and Puget Sound Energy's Energize Eastside project.

Don Marsh spoke about the Puget Sound Energy (PSE) project on 148th Avenue. He said that the work started yesterday, and crews have removed approximately one dozen trees. At this point, he feels there is no official way to stop the project. He noted that there is still tremendous anguish about losing the trees. He urged the City to discuss with PSE the potential for undergrounding the line.

5. **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS**

Chair Hummer welcomed Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis to the meeting.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked EBCC members for their service. He said he looks forward to working with everyone and being their voice with the City Council, particularly on land use issues. He would like the Lake Hills area to remain a great neighborhood.

Chair Hummer thanked Mr. Nieuwenhuis for attending and thanked Councilmember Kasner for originally requesting a City Council liaison to the EBCC. Responding to Ms. Hummer, Mr. Nieuwenhuis said the agenda for the City Council's retreat has not yet been finalized.

Councilmember Dhananjaya said that he looks forward to working with Mr. Nieuwenhuis.

Councilmember Kasner thanked the Deputy Mayor for coming. Responding to Mr. Kasner, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said he is also the liaison to the Human Service Commission and the King County domestic violence task force. Mr. Kasner observed that the City has changed significantly over the past 10 years and human service needs have changed. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said the City Council recently received a presentation regarding the Human Services Needs Update.

Councilmember Gooding said he appreciated that Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis lives in the Lake Hills area.

Vice Chair Walter noted that East Bellevue has more low-income housing than other parts of Bellevue, and it is important to have supportive services. She said there could be a role as well for Bellevue College regarding human services.

Chair Hummer thanked Mr. Nieuwenhuis for his interest in being the City Council's liaison to the EBCC. She noted that his service on the Human Services Commission is relevant to the EBCC's priorities as well. She expressed concern regarding the ability of developers to pay a fee in lieu under affordable housing requirements, and she questioned how that money is spent. Chair Hummer said she hopes to see Mr. Nieuwenhuis at the EBCC meetings or that he sends a written update when that is not possible.

6. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Hummer noted that the EBCC received an invitation to attend the Islamic Center of Eastside groundbreaking.

Councilmember Kasner said the groundbreaking was a well-attended event with approximately 25 City staff, Mayor Robinson, Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, and many more members of the mosque and the public. Mr. Kasner noted that he was welcomed to be part of the group of elected officials in attendance. He said the center plans to host a Meet Your Muslim Neighbor event in May or June.

Chair Hummer said that the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Student Services building at Bellevue College has been delayed.

Ms. Hummer encouraged the public to email EBCC@bellevuewa.gov, instead of individual EBCC members, to ensure that the emails are included in the EBCC written communications posted on the City's website.

7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS:** None.

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

9. **RESOLUTIONS**

- (a) Resolution No. 575 approving electing 2020 EBCC Officers

Councilmember Kasner moved to adopt Resolution No. 575 approving electing a Chair, Vice Chair and Alternate Vice Chair for the year 2020. Vice Chair Walter seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

- (a) Continued Discussion of EBCC Retreat Items/Vision 2030

Chair Hummer recalled that Vision 2030 is included in the list of action items that resulted from the EBCC's retreat.

Councilmember Kasner noted the topic of connectivity and 5G technology and observed that not all of the EBCC's constituents have computer or wireless access. He said that connectivity, transportation, affordability of housing and other living expenses, and infill development are high priorities for East Bellevue. However, he suggested it is even more important to review the issues to be addressed by the City Council over the next several months.

Councilmember Dhananjaya concurred with the importance of addressing transportation needs and improvements, including traffic congestion on 148th Avenue. He expressed an interest in an update on Sound Transit's East Link light rail project.

Vice Chair Walter said she would like to have a copy of the report following the City Council's upcoming retreat.

Chair Hummer expressed an interest in information regarding infill development and larger homes, the adult family homes cottage industry in neighborhoods, affordable housing, transportation needs, and traffic mitigation. She encouraged enhanced public education regarding development and proposed zoning changes.

Councilmember Kasner expressed an interest in more information regarding intersection capacity and vehicle throughput. He said the Eastgate area transportation improvements will help to mitigate traffic congestion on 148th Avenue. He noted a concern regarding the intersection near the tennis center. Mr. Kasner said he would like to hear from the EBCC's constituents regarding their holistic vision for East Bellevue.

Chair Hummer suggested reaching out to neighborhood associations to solicit input from the community.

Vice Chair Walter said the EBCC is an elected body and not an advocacy group. She noted that the workload for the EBCC varies and sometimes there are no issues or decisions to be addressed.

Chair Hummer acknowledged that it can be difficult to attract the public to EBCC meetings unless there is a significant issue or project to discuss. Ms. Hummer said she did not see any information from the City regarding a conditional use permit for the housing at the Episcopal Church of the Resurrection. She said a project at St. Louise Catholic Church is on hold.

Responding to Councilmember Dhananjaya, Chair Hummer said she met with Mayor Robinson regarding concerns about Bellevue College and the surrounding neighborhood. Ms. Hummer suggested that EBCC members consider meeting individually with City Councilmembers regarding topics of interest.

Councilmember Kasner suggested inviting neighborhood leaders and Bellevue Essentials graduates to be involved with the EBCC and the City.

Vice Chair Walter concurred and suggested exploring whether the EBCC could be represented as part of the Bellevue Essentials program.

Councilmember Dhananjaya spoke in favor of including information about the EBCC in the curriculum for the Bellevue Essentials program.

Chair Hummer requested an update on 156th Avenue improvements, traffic impacts on 148th Avenue related to development, and other transportation projects that affect East Bellevue.

Councilmember Kasner requested information regarding the neighborhood transportation levy projects. Chair Hummer said it would be helpful to have a presentation by City staff.

Ms. Hummer noted a request from Vice Chair Walter for an update on Kelsey Creek flooding. Deputy City Clerk Roberts said staff was not available for this meeting. However, she will request a presentation for a future meeting.

Vice Chair Walter said she would like to have two City staff members in attendance at the EBCC meetings to help facilitate the meetings and to enhance security. She suggested developing a budget proposal to request a second staff person during meetings as well as updated technology at the Lake Hills Clubhouse.

Councilmember Kasner concurred with the request for better technology. However, he does not believe there is a need for additional City staff or security personnel.

Councilmember Dhananjaya welcomed input from the Deputy City Clerk regarding the staffing request. Responding to Mr. Dhananjaya, Vice Chair Walter commented on her security concerns. She said the area around the clubhouse is very dark. She recalled that police officers were present during past meetings that involved discussions about controversial topics. Ms. Walter said she would also like to see additional staff to help guide the meeting as well. Mr. Dhananjaya said he would support anything that the City could do to address Ms. Walter's concerns.

Councilmember Gooding concurred that it could be helpful for the Deputy City Clerk to have a second staff person, especially during busier meetings.

Chair Hummer agreed that an additional staff person would be beneficial during EBCC meetings, with one person to facilitate the meetings and a second person to take notes. Deputy City Clerk Roberts noted that a separate staff person writes the meeting minutes from her notes and the audio recording. Ms. Roberts concurred that a second staff person is helpful for the busier meetings. She noted that the Boards and Commissions have staff liaisons who are subject matter experts within the relevant departments. However, City Clerk's Office staff typically must follow up with the appropriate department staff after the EBCC meetings to request information or transmit questions.

Responding to Vice Chair Walter, Ms. Roberts confirmed that City Hall is more convenient for staff and has the technology and equipment needed for effective public meetings.

12. **NEW BUSINESS**

(a) Discussion regarding letter to the City Council

Chair Hummer referenced her draft letter to the City Council and asked for feedback from EBCC members.

Councilmember Kasner encouraged communicating a message that the EBCC wishes to work with the City Council to address common priorities. He expressed general support for the draft letter. However, he suggested perhaps shortening the letter to focus on how the EBCC and City Council can work together moving forward instead of recapping history of the EBCC in the letter.

Vice Chair Walter expressed support for the letter as written. She said it is never the EBCC's intention to be contrary. However, EBCC members sometimes disagree with the City Council if they believe their position best serves EBCC residents and businesses.

Councilmember Dhananjaya suggested highlighting the EBCC's past accomplishments on the first page. He suggested combining items 5 and 6 and revising certain language to be more positive.

Councilmember Kasner opined that item 9 is the most important message in the letter. However, he would like to create separate paths for quasi-judicial matters and non-quasi-judicial matters. He said there is no reason that the EBCC cannot be kept informed about the City Council's non-quasi-judicial matters.

Mr. Dhananjaya concurred that it would be helpful to receive the same communications that the City Council receives. He suggested that item 8 should be moved to the beginning of the letter.

Following additional discussion, Chair Hummer confirmed the requested revisions. Responding to Councilmember Dhananjaya, Ms. Hummer said she will distribute the revised draft to EBCC members for review.

Vice Chair Walter expressed concern regarding the traffic impacts of the recent flooding. She noted that the impacts can be especially significant if there is road construction on the alternate routes.

Chair Hummer suggested scheduling a retreat for the July meeting, perhaps at the library, with Assistant City Manager Kyle Stannert as the facilitator.

Vice Chair Walter moved to schedule a retreat at City Hall for the July 7 meeting, with Kyle Stannert serving as the facilitator. Councilmember Dhananjaya seconded the motion.

Councilmember Kasner said he would prefer to have the meeting at the Lake Hills Clubhouse to encourage the public to attend. Ms. Hummer recalled that the meeting was held at the library last year because there is air conditioning.

Deputy City Clerk Roberts said she did not believe that Mr. Stannert would be able to function as the facilitator. However, there are alternate resources to explore.

Responding to Councilmember Kasner, Ms. Roberts confirmed that the decision regarding the retreat could be delayed until closer to July.

The motion failed by a vote of 5-0.

13. **CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

15. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(a) Summary Minutes of the January 7, 2020, Regular Meeting

Councilmember Dhananjaya moved to approve the minutes of the January 7, 2020 Regular Meeting. Councilmember Kasner seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:28 p.m., Chair Hummer declared the meeting adjourned.

Karin Roberts, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

/kaw