

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

March 2, 2020
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis opened the meeting at 6:00 p.m., and declared recess to Executive Session for approximately 20 minutes to discuss one item of pending litigation.

The meeting resumed at 6:23 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Study Session Items

- (a) Overview of Privately Initiated Proposed Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPAs) for 2020

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced staff's overview of the privately initiated Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) proposals for the 2020 work program.

Emil King, Assistant Director of the Community Development Department, noted that this is the first step in the annual Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) process. Staff is seeking Council direction regarding the 2020 CPA work program.

Nicholas Matz, Senior Planner, described the annual CPA process, which involves threshold review, final review, and a hearing before the Planning Commission before the City Council takes final action. During threshold review, the CPA applications are evaluated to determine whether to invest resources for further consideration of each proposal. The City Council selects the CPA proposals to be moved forward for final review.

Mr. Matz said the City received five privately initiated CPA proposals by the January 31, 2020 deadline. The proposals were presented to the Planning Commission on February 26. Mr. Matz said that a key component of the process is to engage residents and stakeholders in the CPA annual review. He noted that this is the first annual CPA process since the Council adopted code amendments modifying the process.

Mr. Matz described the CPA proposals. The first is a proposed map amendment for property located at 100 Bellevue Way SE to change from a split Downtown Mixed Use (DNTN-MU) and Office (O) designation to the DNTN-MU designation for the 0.87-acre site.

The Safeguard Self Storage CPA application proposes a map amendment from Office (O) to Community Business (CB) on five parcels totaling 6.4 acres located at 1015 164th Avenue NE.

The NE 8th Street Partners CPA proposes a map amendment from Office (O) to Multifamily-High (MF-H) on two parcels at 13635 and 13655 NE 8th Street.

The Kapela Property CPA proposes a map amendment from Single Family-Low (SF-L) to Multifamily-Low (MF-L) on two parcels totaling 30.1 acres in the Bridle Trails area: 5652 132nd Avenue NE and 5755 140th Avenue NE.

The Glendale Country Club CPA application proposes a map amendment from Single Family - Low (SF-L) to Multifamily-Medium (MF-M) on a 3.3-acre portion of the currently undivided Glendale Country Club property.

Mr. Matz highlighted the CPA review process timeline. The Planning Commission will hold threshold review public hearings in May and June, and will then present its recommendations to the City Council for direction regarding which proposals should move forward to final review. The Planning Commission will hold public hearings and discussions in the fall regarding the CPA proposals selected for final review. Final Council action is anticipated in December.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the presentation and noted that she is pleased to hear that recent code changes contributed to more thorough CPA proposals.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Mr. Matz said he was not aware of additional split-zoned parcels in Downtown Bellevue. However, staff is working on others in different parts of the city.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for the presentation and said he looks forward to hearing the Planning Commission's recommendations.

Mayor Robinson said she looks forward to more housing opportunities in Bellevue. She said she would love to see an active senior community on the Kapela property. She wondered whether the City could attach a requirement for the development of affordable housing or fees in lieu to the Kapela CPA application. Mr. King said staff plans to explore whether and how any of the CPAs could be tied to affordable housing objectives.

Councilmember Stokes concurred with Ms. Robinson's comments.

(b) Vision Zero Action Plan - Safe Systems Approach and Strategies

City Manager Miyake recalled that the Council adopted the Vision Zero framework in 2015. The overriding Vision Zero goal is to eliminate traffic fatalities and serious injuries by 2030.

Andrew Singelakis, Transportation Director, introduced staff's presentation regarding the Safe Systems approach of proposed strategies to move the Vision Zero program forward. Staff is seeking direction to prepare a resolution for formal Council approval of the approach and to move forward with developing the Vision Zero Action Plan. Mr. Singelakis noted that Comprehensive Plan Policy TR-61.2 states: "Develop a programmatic approach to Vision Zero that integrates components of Education, Encouragement, Enforcement, Engineering Equity, and Evaluation."

Lei Wu, Chair of the Transportation Commission, presented information regarding the number of fatal and serious injury accidents in the state, Bellevue, and other cities. She recalled that Resolution No. 9035 endorsed the Vision Zero program and directed the Transportation Commission to review the Comprehensive Plan for related policies. Ordinance No. 6334 adopted Vision Zero amendments into the Comprehensive Plan.

Ms. Wu described the analysis of data related to Bellevue accidents involving vehicles, pedestrians, and cyclists. Five behaviors contribute to 70 percent of all fatal and serious injuries: 1) failure to yield to pedestrian, 2) distraction (e.g., using phone, eating), 3) not granting the right-of-way to another vehicle, 4) under the influence of drugs or alcohol, and 5) speeding. Ms. Wu said staff conducted a community survey seeking input on Vision Zero priorities and received nearly 1,500 responses. The City and Overlake Medical Center held a Vision Zero Summit and the numerous presentations by participants from around the world offered valuable insights about staff's proposed Safe Systems approach and strategies.

Ms. Wu said the Transportation Commission discussed the Safe Systems approach over five meetings. Communities that have adopted the strategies have a lower level of fatalities than other communities. The approach focuses on safe vehicles, safe people, safe speeds, and safe streets.

Lisa Leitner, Vice Chair of the Transportation Commission, said there are 36 strategies in the Safe Systems approach, which will be used to create the Vision Zero Action Plan. She noted that three principles were applied to every strategy, which is that they be aspirational, achievable, and accountable. The strategies focus on public education and encouraging everyone to take personal responsibility for meeting Vision Zero objectives.

Ms. Leitner presented examples of Safe Streets strategies including crosswalks, roundabouts, and projects to create separations between mobility modes. Safe Speeds strategies include traffic calming projects, signage, and enforcement. Safe Vehicles strategies involve issues related to autonomous vehicles, transit services, and car safety features. Ms. Leitner noted the importance of public engagement in the Vision Zero process and highlighted the areas of Culture Strategies, Partnership Strategies, Data Strategies, and Leadership Strategies. She said young drivers are involved in 25 percent of the fatal and serious injury collisions in Bellevue. She said the Leadership Strategies commit all levels of the City to learn, refine, and expand our toolbox to

ensure that the strategies, policies and actions are implemented. The related leadership actions include projects through the neighborhood safety, connectivity, and congestion levy as well as visionary projects like the Grand Connection and Eastrail.

Vice Chair Leitner said the Transportation Commission voted unanimously to recommend the City Council's approval of the Safe Systems approach. She thanked Councilmember Lee for his work with the Commission.

Chair Wu thanked Councilmember Lee for his guidance and support of the Commission. She welcomed Councilmember Robertson as the new liaison to the Commission and noted that Ms. Robertson serves on a number of transportation-related committees. Ms. Wu thanked City staff for their work and thanked the community for their interest and input.

Franz Loewenherz, Senior Planner, said staff is seeking Council approval of the Safe Systems approach and the preparation of the Vision Zero Action Plan. Staff will periodically evaluate the Safe Systems approach, strategies, and action plan to monitor the performance.

Mayor Robinson thanked everyone for the presentation.

Councilmember Robertson said the Puget Sound Regional Council (PSRC) Transportation Policy Board is working on an updated transportation plan for the region. She noted that the City of Bellevue, City of Seattle, King County, and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) are leading that effort. Ms. Robertson said she would like the City's Vision Zero work to be used in the development of the regional transportation plan.

Ms. Robertson expressed support for the Safe Systems approach. She said it should be implemented in a way that maintains mobility while increasing safety. Ms. Robertson expressed her appreciation for the extensive efforts of staff and the Commission.

Councilmember Lee thanked the Transportation Commission, Director Singelakis, and Transportation Department staff for their work and expertise. Mr. Lee said that implementation will be challenging. He noted the value of using available and new technologies to enhance mobility and safety. He expressed support for the Safe Systems approach.

Councilmember Zahn said this work is a good example of what Bellevue does well in taking best practices to the next level. She thanked everyone for their work and said that Bellevue is always working to improve. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Loewenherz said staff is finalizing a grant application for State safety funds, and the City is always exploring grant and partnership opportunities. In further response to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Loewenherz said that Seattle is the only other city in Washington to adopt the Vision Zero program. The Washington Traffic Safety Commission has adopted the Safe Systems approach.

Councilmember Stokes thanked everyone for their hard work and expressed support for the Safe Systems approach. He noted Bellevue's commitment to innovation, safety, mobility, and neighborhood connectivity.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked the Transportation Commission and staff, and commended the data-driven nature of the Safe Systems approach and strategies. He noted the importance of safety in overall quality of life. He expressed support for the proposed approach and the development of the action plan.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked the Transportation Commission, staff, Councilmember Lee, and Councilmember Robertson for their efforts. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Loewenherz said the data is used in a number of ways including to identify high-occurrence corridors, time of day, nature of the roadway, speed limits, and other factors that contribute to accidents. Mr. Loewenherz noted the value of using police reports, video analytics, and other technologies as well.

Mayor Robinson said she looks forward to the rapid implementation of the strategies. She encouraged a comprehensive approach to public education regarding street and pedestrian safety.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to prepare a resolution regarding the adoption of the Safe Systems Approach and the development of the Vision Zero Action Plan. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

At 7:30 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 7:34 p.m.

3. Report of the City Manager [*Regular Session Agenda Item 6*]

(a) Technology to Improve Communications and Customer Service

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the technologies used to enhance the City's communications and customer service

Brad Harwood, Chief Communications Officer, provided an update on the City's use of social media. In 2019, the City experienced a 25 percent increase in Facebook followers, doubled the number of Instagram followers, and tripled its Nextdoor reach. He noted that expanding the audience allows the City to communicate more proactively and effectively, whether to distribute emergency information or to facilitate and foster a sense of community.

Sabra Schneider, Chief Information Officer, said there was a 31 percent increase in unique visits to Bellevuewa.gov from 2018 to 2019, with 54 percent of the users accessing the site from a desktop/laptop computer, 41 percent using a mobile device, and 4 percent using a tablet. The top search terms were jobs, Land Use Code, Comprehensive Plan, business license, and summer camp. She noted that users of the City's website have selected the following non-English languages: Chinese, Korean, Russian, Japanese, and Spanish.

Ms. Schneider highlighted several mapping applications available for the public:

- Building Bellevue (<https://buildingbellevue.bellevuewa.gov>)
- Fire Department community risk assessment (www.bellevuewa.gov/firerisk)
- Illegal fireworks reporting (www.bellevuewa.gov/mybellevue)
- Small wireless facility map (www.bellevuewa.gov/smallwireless)

Ms. Schneider said the Fire Department recently began using an inspection software that allows property owners to access their inspection reports and to update their compliance efforts online. The City continues to work with the eCityGov Alliance, which is currently onboarding three new member cities: Edmonds, SeaTac, and Woodway.

Responding to Councilmember Stokes, Ms. Schneider confirmed that several words and phrases related to parks and recreation were in the list of the top 30 search terms.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Harwood acknowledged that different departments choose to use different social media. Mr. Harwood said that one of the goals of the communications plan is to create a consolidated presence on social media. Mr. Nieuwenhuis encouraged the consistent use of City-related terminology across the social media platforms.

Councilmember Robertson said she appreciates the improved website and search function. She concurred with Mr. Nieuwenhuis's suggestion about consistent terminology. Ms. Robertson said it would be helpful to be able to push alerts regarding emergencies or other urgent community information via the MyBellevue app.

Councilmember Lee said it would be interesting to know the top search terms by users using different languages to determine whether there might be common interests and needs from a particular population or cultural group.

Councilmember Zahn said she appreciates that many of the City's web pages indicate a staff person to contact for more information.

Responding to Ms. Zahn, Ms. Schneider said that staff is always looking for ways to leverage the GIS information used by the City. She said the Transportation Department is currently exploring ways to provide video links from traffic maps.

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

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to excuse Councilmember Lee's absence from the March 9 Extended Study Session. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.
- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve Councilmember Zahn's remote participation during the March 9 Extended Study Session. Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

At 8:00 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared recess to the Regular Session.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

/kaw