

East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

March 3, 2020
6:30 p.m.

Lake Hills Clubhouse
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Chair Hummer, Vice Chair Walter, Councilmember Dhananjaya and
Councilmember Kasner

ABSENT: Councilmember Gooding

STAFF: Don McQuilliams, Utilities
Gwen Rousseau, Community Development

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. All Councilmembers except Councilmember Gooding were present.

Chair Hummer asked Councilmember Dhananjaya to lead the flag salute.

3. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

Chair Hummer suggested switching the order of Agenda Items 7(a) and 7(b).

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve the agenda, as amended. Councilmember Dhananjaya seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4-0.

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.

Gerry Hughes thanked the EBCC members for their service. He expressed concern regarding a number of roads and sidewalks in need of repair. He said there is a team of people who are interested in replacing Puget Sound Energy with a public utility district (PUD). One member of the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association (LHNA) is on the team, and there will be a presentation at an upcoming LHNA meeting. Mr. Hughes said the LHNA is also interested in a

presentation regarding the City's plans related to the number of Amazon jobs coming to Bellevue.

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

Deputy Mayor Jared Nieuwenhuis spoke about the coronavirus and noted that the City is working very closely with regional authorities. He encouraged everyone to follow the advice of public health officials to wash our hands frequently and to limit activity and contact with others.

Vice Chair Walter said that public health officials are advising that people should call their primary care provider before going into the doctor's office or an emergency room.

Councilmember Kasner cautioned that certain populations, including older adults and those with underlying health conditions, are at a higher risk related to the coronavirus. He said that people who are asymptomatic can still pass the virus to others.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said that the City Council heard a presentation the previous evening regarding the development of the Vision Zero Safe Systems action plan. He noted that the strategies address vehicle speeds, pedestrian safety, road design and infrastructure, and the available data on accidents. He said the Council also addressed the 2020 Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) work program, which includes two applications for multifamily housing CPAs within or near the EBCC jurisdiction: NE 8th Street Partners and the Glendale Country Club.

Alice Park expressed concern regarding potholes and other maintenance issues with streets. Responding to Ms. Park, Mr. Nieuwenhuis confirmed that the Vision Zero program includes public education regarding pedestrian, cyclist, and vehicle safety.

Gerry Hughes said that the number of coronavirus cases is rapidly increasing. He said that one case in North Carolina was related to the Life Care Center outbreak in Kirkland. He noted that 15 percent of the individuals over age 80 who have contracted the virus have passed away.

Councilmember Kasner asked about the status of the Neighborhood Subarea Planning process. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said the program will be a topic at the upcoming Council retreat.

Vice Chair Walter noted that the public can report potholes and other maintenance concerns to the City using the MyBellevue mobile app. She expressed concern regarding House Bill 6302, which would deny cities the right to limit the number of unrelated individuals living in one dwelling. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said he would research information on the proposed legislation. He noted that several bills before the state legislature would limit local authority on a number of issues.

6. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR:** None.

7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**

- (a) 2020 Draft Stormwater Management Program (SWMP) Update

Don McQuilliams, Utilities Operations Manager, presented information regarding the National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit that authorizes the City to discharge stormwater to local streams and lakes. He noted that the City has participated in the NPDES permit process since 2007. He said cities are required to update their Stormwater Management Programs annually. The current permit was issued in 2013 and was later extended to cover the period of 2019 to 2024. Mr. McQuilliams highlighted the 2020 changes to the permit term to address stormwater planning and source control issues. He said the 2020 SWMP update is due to the State Department of Ecology (DOE) by March 31, 2020. The NPDES permit is a federal requirement under the Clean Water Act. However, the DOE oversees the program in Washington state.

Mr. McQuilliams described the administration of the SWMP, stormwater planning, public education and outreach, public involvement, mapping, illicit discharge detection and elimination, water runoff from new development, and ongoing operations and maintenance. In 2017, the City Council adopted the low impact development (LID) approach to development and redevelopment to implement measures that retain stormwater within the project site.

Mr. McQuilliams noted the EBCC's interest in flooding on 148th Avenue. He said the flooding occurs in that low-lying area of the City due to the flow of water between Larsen Lake and Kelsey Creek. He said a study is underway to determine how to mitigate the flooding.

Responding to Gerry Hughes, Mr. McQuilliams said that the primary source of pollution in Puget Sound is stormwater runoff. In further response to Mr. Hughes, Mr. McQuilliams said that all cities in Western Washington are required to comply with the SWMP and NPDES requirements.

Responding to Councilmember Kasner, Mr. McQuilliams said there are sub-basins within the Cedar River Watershed. The larger sub-basins in Bellevue are Kelsey Creek, Lewis Creek, and Vasa Creek. In further response to Mr. Kasner, Mr. McQuilliams said that the weirs were removed from Phantom Lake approximately six years ago due to flooding. The lake ultimately drains to Lake Sammamish.

Responding to Councilmember Dhananjaya, Mr. McQuilliams said that the Puget Soundkeeper Alliance would like to see stricter provisions in the City of Bellevue's NPDES permit. He said the City will eventually be required to obtain the NPDES Phase 1 permit for large cities. He confirmed that the City of Bellevue works with other cities in the region on a regular basis to address stormwater issues. In further response, Mr. McQuilliams said the City is exploring ways to encourage residents to build rain gardens and stormwater management features on private property.

Vice Chair Walter recalled that she served on the Planning Commission when the LID principles were adopted. Responding to Ms. Walter, Mr. McQuilliams said there are higher pollution levels in the commercial areas of Bellevue. In further response, Mr. McQuilliams said that improvements required by the NPDES permit will likely affect stormwater utility rates. Vice Chair Walter expressed concern about the impact of rate increases. In further response to Ms. Walter, Mr. McQuilliams said the City treats specific areas that have problems with mosquitoes.

Responding to Chair Hummer, Mr. McQuilliams said the City renovates approximately two existing detention ponds annually. He said there are 300 detention ponds in Bellevue, and the City is exploring the potential for converting some of them into wetlands. Chair Hummer asked how the EBCC can help get the word out about stormwater and how to improve it. He suggested that the public contact the Utilities Department via phone, 425-452-7840, or thru the MyBellevue mobile app if they see a spill or other issue that needs attention.

Responding to Councilmember Kasner, Mr. McQuilliams said that the detention pond in Robinswood Park is managed by the Parks and Community Services Department. Mr. Kasner noted that a neighbor made a raised garden bed in his yard that ended up causing flooding. He said it would be helpful to have guidelines for the public about the best stormwater runoff practices for private property.

Mr. McQuilliams noted that the Environmental Services Commission (ESC) would like all public comments to be forwarded to them for consideration during the commission's discussions. He said the ESC welcomes EBCC members to attend their meetings as well.

At 7:37 p.m., Chair Hummer declared a five-minute break. The meeting was called back to order at 7:42 p.m.

(b) 2020 Census Presentation

Gwen Rousseau, Senior Planner, presented information regarding the 2020 Census. She said the census determines the number of people in the House of Representatives for Washington state and guides the distribution of federal grants. She said it takes only 10 minutes to complete the 10 questions, and this is the first year that the census is available online. Individuals may also respond via phone or mail. Ms. Rousseau said that everyone, whether or not they are a citizen, should participate in the census. The information is confidential and is not shared with any other government agencies. She asked everyone to encourage others in the community to participate in the census.

Responding to Councilmember Kasner, Ms. Rousseau said the census form requests one's biological sex rather than gender identity.

Responding to Alice Park, Ms. Rousseau said the first round of census forms will be issued in mid-March. Census workers will go door to door this summer to households that have not yet responded. The information will be forwarded to the federal government by the end of the year and will be used for allocating future federal grants in 2021.

Vice Chair Walter thanked Ms. Rousseau for her enthusiastic presentation and hard work. Ms. Walter said she will do what she can to spread the word and encourage participation in the census.

Responding to Councilmember Kasner, Ms. Rousseau said that Bellevue's current population is 145,500. The population of Bellevue in 2010 was 122,363.

Chair Hummer thanked staff for the presentation.

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

9. **RESOLUTIONS:** None.

10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS:** None.

11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

(a) Continued Discussion of Letter to the City Council

Chair Hummer noted the EBCC's ongoing discussion regarding a letter to be sent to the City Council before its mid-March retreat.

Vice Chair Walter said she would like the City Council to better consider the concerns of East Bellevue residents. She noted that the EBCC will not necessarily agree with the City Council's decisions if they do not reflect the views of the EBCC and its constituents. She suggested highlighting the EBCC's powers and duties in the letter and including a map depicting the EBCC's boundaries. She said it is important for City Councilmembers to understand that the EBCC has certain authority under state law.

Councilmember Dhananjaya suggested highlighting that the EBCC is one of only two community councils in the state.

Councilmember Kasner concurred with Vice Chair Walter's comments regarding the City Council's consideration of East Bellevue residents. He noted his ongoing interest that the EBCC receive information earlier in planning processes and decisions.

Following a brief discussion, EBCC members concurred with noting in the letter that the EBCC is one of only two community councils, which are vested with certain authorities under state law on behalf of their constituents.

Vice Chair Walter noted that the letter is intended to communicate the EBCC's interests and how the EBCC anticipates working with the City Council going forward. Ms. Walter suggested including in the letter three City Council decisions that were supported by the EBCC and three decisions in which the EBCC did not agree with the City Council.

Councilmember Kasner disagreed with the suggestion, noting that the EBCC denied only nine City Council decisions over 50 years. He expressed concern that listing six specific examples will make it appear that the EBCC disapproved half of the City Council's decisions affecting the EBCC area.

At 8:30 p.m., Vice Chair Walter moved to extend the meeting to 8:45 p.m. Councilmember Kasner seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4-0.

EBCC members continued their discussion regarding the letter to the City Council.

Vice Chair Walter suggested that it is important to remember the audience of the letter, which is the City Council, and to keep the letter from becoming too detailed.

At 8:45 p.m., Councilmember Kasner moved to extend the meeting to 8:55 p.m. Councilmember Dhananjaya seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4-0.

Following additional discussion, the EBCC reached agreement regarding the content of the letter.

(b) EBCC Vision 2030 - Land Use

[Item postponed.]

12. **NEW BUSINESS:** None.

13. **CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS:** None.

14. **EXECUTIVE SESSION:** None.

15. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

(a) Summary Minutes of the February 4, 2020, Regular Meeting

Councilmember Kasner moved to approve the minutes of the February 4, 2020 Regular Meeting. Councilmember Dhananjaya seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 4-0.

16. **ADJOURNMENT**

At 8:55 p.m., Chair Hummer declared the meeting adjourned.

Karin Roberts, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

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