

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: January 12, 2021

To: Janice Zahn, City Councilmember, Parks & Community Services Board Liaison
and Bellevue City Council members

From: Heather Trescases, Chair
Parks & Community Services Board

RE: Fourth Quarter 2020 Report and Communication

The Parks & Community Services Board is pleased to report on its work during the fourth quarter of 2020. The Board held business meetings during the months of October and November and ended the year with a brief joint special meeting with the Human Services Commission.

In October, the Board received a presentation on the Aquatic Feasibility Study, similar to the presentation provided to the City Council in July 2020. The Board has tracked the feasibility project since its inception. We asked questions regarding the next steps in the study as it moves forward to evaluate specific candidate sites. The Board also received an informative presentation describing how the department has pivoted its recreation programming during the season of Covid pandemic restrictions that encompassed most of 2020. It is appreciated how adaptable the city's recreation programs have been during this time and we support continued efforts to offer safe outdoor and virtual recreation opportunities for Bellevue residents.

In November, the Board acted to recommend a name for the new neighborhood park that will be constructed and opened in 2021 in the Newport Hills neighborhood. Background information on potential names was provided along with an overview of the public outreach and engagement that has occurred. Members of the Board engaged in a balanced and wide-ranging discussion of several of the name options. We ultimately concluded with a name recommendation that will be forwarded to the Council for consideration at a future meeting in 2021. A presentation on the Grand Connection was also provided by staff from Community Development and Parks & Community Services. The Grand Connection continues to be of great interest to the Parks & Community Services Board and we look forward to continued engagement on that project in the years to come.

During the fourth quarter, the Board received public comment on a variety of topics. Some comments related to agenda items, such as the Newport Hills park naming process and the Aquatic Feasibility study. Others encouraged the City to acquire and preserve property adjacent to Coal Creek Natural Area and supported future planning efforts for Ashwood Park.

The Board had a strong start in 2020 working on the plans and documents that the department used to earn its re-accreditation. The accreditation process is a point of celebration. The perfect score of 151 criteria met out of 151 affirmed what we in Bellevue have always known about the excellence of our parks, natural areas, community services and recreation programs.

The transition to virtual meetings had its challenges, but allowed the Board to finish the year strong with the items described above as well as our recommendations on the Parks Capital Improvement Program budget included in our previous memo to the Council, dated September 10, 2020. We have appreciated the high level of communication and engagement provided by you, Councilmember Zahn, as our new City Council Liaison. We look forward to continuing that in 2021. If you have any questions about the Board's work, please contact me anytime at htrescases@bellevuewa.gov.