

MEMORANDUM



Bellevue Parks &
Community Services

Date: February 9, 2021

To: Parks & Community Services Board

From: Pam Fehrman, Planning & Development Manager
Scott Vander Hyden, Project Manager

Subject: Newport Hill Neighborhood Park Naming
Borghild Ringdall Background Research
(No Park Board action required)

At the November 10, 2020 meeting, staff shared the naming process and community preferences for the new 13-acre park in the Newport Hill neighborhood. After thorough deliberations, the Parks & Community Services Board passed a motion to recommend the name "*Borghild Ringdall Neighborhood Park*" to Council. The Board additionally requested that staff conduct research into the recommended name and the School District's plans for the adjacent Ringdall Middle School site prior to forwarding the Board's recommendation to the City Council. Staff contacted the Bellevue School District and the Eastside Heritage Society to assist with research.

The School District verified Ms. Ringdall's employment and provided an overview of Bellevue District School history that included Ms. Ringdall's many contributions. The District currently uses Ringdall Middle School as a transition site when other schools within the district are undergoing construction or renovation. Highland Middle School was the most recent and last school scheduled to make temporary use of the site. The School District has not determined the future use of the school site and has not contemplated a name change.

Eastside Heritage Society reports that detailed information is limited; however, research identified no untoward issues, and verified a chronology of Ms. Ringdall's life and lengthy career highlights with the Bellevue School District. Most notable were her involvement in starting several Bellevue School District hot lunch programs, serving as a school board member for 16 years and being named Bellevue's first "Woman of Achievement" in 1948.

An outline of significant dates in Borghild Ringdall's life follows:

- 1903 – Born in Stavanger, Norway
- 1919 – Came to US at age 16
- 1926 – Moved to Bellevue, age 23
- 1932 – 1942 Bellevue School Board Member (Highland School District No. 57)
- 1936 – Started first hot lunch program at Highland School
- 1942 – 1948 Bellevue School Board Member
- 1945 – Hired as Bellevue High School cook
- 1948 – Named Bellevue's first "Woman of Achievement"
- 1968 – Retired, Director of Food Services, Bellevue School District

NEXT STEPS

Staff will share the Parks & Community Services Board's name recommendation with Council for their consideration and adoption in early 2021.