

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

May 3, 2021  
6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting  
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers were present and participating remotely. Mayor Robinson led the flag salute.

(a) Older Americans Month Proclamation

Mayor Robinson said she was honored to serve on The Bellevue Network on Aging (BNOA) for seven years and she continues to appreciate their work.

Ms. Robinson read the proclamation recognizing May 2021 as Older Americans Month in Bellevue. She thanked Dan Lassiter, Community Services Supervisor, for his work with the BNOA.

Mary Fredeen, representing the BNOA, accepted the proclamation and provided brief background information regarding the organization, which was established in 2006. The group was formed to act in an advisory capacity to the Parks and Community Services Department. She noted that 51 percent of BNOA members are over the age of 50, and members must live or work in Bellevue. The mission of the BNOA is dedicated to helping the aging in our community by promoting awareness of needs and resources that support older adults through life's transitions.

Ms. Fredeen said the 2021 theme for Older Americans Month is Communities of Strength. She said it is important for older adults to be aware of the programs and services available to them. She noted the challenge of communicating and relaying information during the pandemic to older adults who do not use a computer. She highlighted the BNOA's activities in the community and the group's advocacy for older adults.

(b) Asian American Pacific Islander Heritage Month Proclamation

Councilmember Lee read the proclamation declaring May 2021 as Asian American Pacific Islander (AAPI) Heritage Month in Bellevue. He encouraged residents to celebrate the many contributions of Asians and Pacific Islanders to our community, reflect on the challenges they have faced in the past, and support them against hate now.

(c) Public Service Recognition Week Proclamation

Councilmember Zahn read the proclamation recognizing May 2-8, 2021, as Public Service Recognition Week. She urged all citizens to reflect on the contributions of public employees in various branches of government.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

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

4. Oral Communications

(a) Sharon Lai spoke in support of Study Session Item 10(b). She described efforts with EastHUB to plan a multi-performance playhouse facility as part of a larger mixed-use development. She said the facility will be a major cultural destination on the Eastside and will activate downtown Bellevue in the evenings. She expressed support for EastHUB's presentation later in the meeting.

(b) Heidi Dean said she was speaking for herself and on behalf of Mr. Kelly O'Neil. Ms. Dean said the Council will be asked tonight to approve the recommendation of the Parks and Community Services Board for the name of the new park property in Newport Hills. She recalled her previous written and oral communications to the Council opposing the Board's recommendation. Ms. Dean said the recommended park name does not meet the City's criteria. She said there is already a school named for Ms. Ringdall. She noted that Ms. Ringdall lived in north Bellevue and not in the Newport Hills area. Ms. Dean encouraged the Council to honor Shannon O'Neil, the original owner of the park property, in selecting the park's name. As a separate issue, Ms. Dean urged the Council to move forward with implementing the recommendations of the off-leash dog parks study.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions

- (a) Parks and Community Services Board First Quarter Report to Council

City Manager Brad Miyake noted the Parks and Community Services Board's first quarter 2021 report in the meeting packet.

6. Report of the City Manager: None.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: None.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:

- (a) Council Minutes  
Minutes of April 19, 2021 Regular Meeting
- (b) Resolution No. 9928 authorizing the execution of a Purchase Order for two (2) years with Point and Pay, LLC for services that allow City customers access to their Bill Presentment solution and the ability to pay their outstanding Development Services invoices, with the option for the City to renew, in an amount not to exceed \$360,000, plus all applicable taxes. The Purchase Order shall be substantially in the form of the Purchase Order in the Council Library.
- (c) Motion to award Bid No. 21042, 2021 Overlay Program (CIP Plan Nos. PW-M-1, R-199, W-91, W-103, and W-104) to Lakeside Industries, Inc. as the lowest responsible and responsive bidder, in the amount of \$3,808,126.46, plus all applicable taxes.
- (d) Resolution No. 9929 determining that the existing water main easement located at 13620 SE Eastgate Way is surplus to the City's needs and no longer required for providing continued public utility service; and setting a time and place for a public hearing to consider the release of this easement.
- (e) Resolution No. 9930 initiating vacation of a dead-end portion of SE 1st Street between Bellevue Way SE and 105th Avenue NE; and setting a time and place for a hearing to consider such a vacation.
- (f) Resolution No. 9931 authorizing execution of a \$4,000 contract amendment with Bockyn, LLC to provide City staff software training for the BlueRec system for a total contract amount of \$186,820, inclusive of all applicable taxes.

9. Public Hearing: None.

10. Study Session

(a) Newport Hills Neighborhood Park Name Selection

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the name for the new Newport Hills neighborhood park.

Michael Shiosaki, Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said staff is seeking Council direction about how to proceed with adopting the name for the park.

Pam Fehrman, Planning and Development Manager, presented a map of the new 13.7-acre park located at 11550 SE 60<sup>th</sup> Street. In December 2018, the 2019-2025 Capital Investment Program (CIP) Plan included \$3 million to plan, design and construct a new neighborhood park in Newport Hills. The planning process began in May 2019 and staff received extensive public feedback throughout the process. In December 2019, the Parks and Community Services Board presented its recommendation and the Council expressed general support for the preferred park plan.

Ms. Fehrman described the preferred park plan, which includes forested trails, an open lawn play area, playground, large picnic shelter, restrooms, and an off-leash dog area. Lakehurst Creek runs partially through the park. She said that Resolution No. 8229 outlines the policies and procedures for naming public parks and recreation facilities, and the Council typically selects a name after receiving a recommendation from the Parks and Community Services Board. The Board's recommendations are based on public input using the following criteria: 1) neighborhood or geographical identification, 2) natural feature, 3) historical figure or name of historical or cultural significance, or 4) an individual or group that has made a significant contribution to the park system.

During the planning process, staff initially reached out to the community, including local historical groups, to help research and inform the name options. A total of 22 potential names were identified as consistent with the City's criteria for naming parks. An online survey was conducted from September 7, 2020, to October 19, 2020. A survey request was sent to more than 1,200 community members for input. Staff also invited survey participants via the Newport Hills Community Club, Nextdoor.com, and park signage.

Ms. Fehrman said that 203 individuals completed the survey, of which 97 respondents provided at least some personal information including name, address, zip code, and/or email address. She highlighted the list of 22 suggested park names listed in order of the community's preferences. The top two preferred names were Newport Hills Neighborhood Park and Ringdall Park. She noted that the park is adjacent to Ringdall Middle School. Borghild Ringdall started the first hot lunch programs in Bellevue in 1936 and retired from the Bellevue School District in 1968. A second historical figure considered for naming the park is Chip Hanauer, the hydroplane racer who grew up in Newport Hills.

Ms. Fehrman said that the third historical figure considered as a namesake for the park was Shannon O'Neil, the previous property owner. The proposed name Shannon Glen's Park honors Mr. O'Neil and his family's history in Newport Hills. Several names were inspired by the area's coal mining history. Ms. Fehrman noted that at one time, the mining activity around Coal Creek had a larger population than Seattle. She presented the results of the voting percentages for the top six preferred park names: 1) Newport Hills Neighborhood Park (18 percent), 2) Ringdall Park (10 percent), 3) Newport Hills Sunset Park (7 percent), 4) Newport Woods Park (7 percent), 5) Newport Hilltop Park (6 percent), and 6) Happy Trails Park (6 percent).

Heather Trescases, Chair, Parks and Community Services Board, presented the Board's recommendation for naming the park the Borghild Ringdall Neighborhood Park. She said the Board had a thoughtful and robust discussion about the potential names. The Board noted the significance of a female historical figure that made contributions to the entire community, as well as the park's proximity to Ringdall Middle School. Ms. Trescases noted that there are two existing parks with names beginning with "Newport Hills," and the area has been associated with the name Ringdall since the school was named in the 1970s.

Ms. Fehrman requested Council direction to prepare a resolution for the future adoption of the park name or to provide alternative direction to staff.

Mayor Robinson thanked everyone for the presentation.

Councilmember Zahn, liaison to the Parks and Community Services Board, said the Board had a lengthy discussion and deliberation regarding the potential names for the park. She said there was a concern that naming the park Newport Hills Neighborhood Park would cause confusion due to two existing parks with "Newport Hills" at the beginning of their names. She noted that the Board voted 6-1 to recommend the name Ringdall Park. She said there was discussion about which portion of the survey respondents live in Newport Hills versus those living in other areas of Bellevue or outside of Bellevue. However, there is no sufficient information regarding the geographic distribution of the respondents.

Councilmember Robertson, a former liaison to the Parks and Community Services Board, thanked Chair Trescases for presenting the Board's recommendation. Ms. Robertson said she typically prefers to not name parks after individuals. She expressed a preference for Newport Woods or perhaps Newport Meadows. While she likes the name Shannon's Glen Park, she acknowledged that the name recognizes an individual. She recalled that Ringdall Middle School was originally Eastside Catholic school. She stated her understanding that the school will eventually be closed as the Bellevue School District updates its schools. She suggested that naming the park after Ms. Ringdall could be confusing as to who owns the park property. She is not supportive of naming the park after Ms. Ringdall.

Councilmember Stokes concurred that naming the park after a person might not be the best route, and he agreed that having the Ringdall name on the school and the park could be confusing. He suggested taking another look at the park naming process to select a name more identifiable within the neighborhood. He too likes the name Shannon's Glen Park. However, he agreed with

Ms. Robertson about avoiding names reflecting specific individuals. Mr. Stokes said he is not in favor of moving forward with the name Ringdall Park at this time.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Chair Trescases said the vote against the recommendation was based largely on the existence of a school already named for Ms. Ringdall. Mr. Lee noted that 18 percent of the survey respondents voted for the name Newport Hills Neighborhood Park. He suggested the name Newport Hills Ringdall Park as a compromise.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked Chair Trescases and the Parks and Community Services Board for their work. He suggested that if a person's name is to be used, there are a number of people who have made significant contributions to Bellevue. He suggested choosing a name that is not already in use for a public facility and considering people of color who have been prominent in the community. He opined that it is appropriate to use "Newport Hills" in the name of the park to identify its location. Councilmember Barksdale suggested considering the new park name within the context of the two existing park names and determining how to differentiate the parks.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis concurred that he has reservations about naming the park after a person. He said it would be helpful to know how people voted in the survey based on their residence. He agreed with concerns about using "Newport Hills" at the beginning of the name. However, he suggested that "Newport Hills" could be incorporated elsewhere in the name to differentiate it from the existing parks (e.g., Glen at Newport Hills, Meadow at Newport Hills). Mr. Nieuwenhuis suggested sending the matter back to the Parks and Community Services Board to consider a name that is distinctive and will not cause confusion. He noted that the school is already named after Ms. Ringdall.

Mayor Robinson said that one purpose of naming a parking is to identify its location. She acknowledged, however, that there are already two park names beginning with "Newport Hills." She said there are differences between a regional park and a neighborhood park, and she believes the name should resonate with the neighborhood. She suggested the name Newport Glen Neighborhood Park.

Councilmember Zahn noted that a number of the 22 suggested names have "Newport" in the title. There was also a suggestion for Lakehurst Creek Park as well as suggestions based on translations from Chinese. She suggested that, if the Council chooses to send the matter back to the Parks and Community Services Board, the Council should identify names to eliminate from further consideration. Ms. Zahn suggested approaching the park naming as the City approaches Neighborhood Enhancement Program (NEP) projects, which is to have the neighborhood residents vote on the names.

Councilmember Robertson observed that her colleagues are generally supportive of avoiding names based on individuals and of including "Newport," but not necessarily "Newport Hills," in the park's name. She expressed support for the Glen at Newport Hills, Newport Glen Neighborhood Park, or the Meadows at Newport Hills. She said she prefers that the Council make a decision without sending the matter back to the Parks and Community Services Board.

Councilmember Stokes opined that the name should include the word “Newport.” He likes the name Newport Glen. He suggested removing the naming criteria that includes naming parks and facilities after individuals. He said he is open to making a decision tonight or bringing it back for another meeting.

Councilmember Lee said he believes the name should identify the neighborhood, whether that is “Newport” or “Newport Hills” in the name. He said that perhaps there is a better way to involve the neighborhood in naming the park.

Councilmember Barksdale said he could support Newport Glen Neighborhood Park as the park name.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the Glen at Newport Hills, Newport Glen or Newport Hills Glen. However, he is not opposed to sending the matter back to the Parks and Community Services Board for further consideration.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for Councilmember Zahn’s suggestion to send the matter back to the Board. Ms. Robinson suggested asking that the naming process be a neighborhood and Bellevue resident process. She said the name needs to be something that the neighborhood likes and will embrace. She noted the preference among Councilmembers for avoiding names of individuals and for including “glen” in the park name.

Mr. Shiosaki said staff will work with the Board to continue the naming process.

(b) EastHUB Organization Update

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding EastHUB’s work to support the Eastside’s arts and cultural organizations.

Scott MacDonald, Arts Community Manager, said the presentation is for information only and no Council action is requested. He noted the City’s existing partnerships with numerous arts and culture organizations including 4 Culture, KidsQuest Children’s Museum, Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), Bellevue Arts Museum, and others. Mr. MacDonald said that EastHUB’s work aligns with components of the City’s economic development plan. He noted that the City’s partnership with EastHUB includes the development of an arts community calendar and discussions about the Bellwether annual arts event.

Ray Cullom, CEO, EastHUB, introduced the presentation.

Elke Suber, EastHUB Board Chair, thanked the Council, Bellevue Arts Commission, and City staff for their partnership. She said EastHUB was established in 2020 to focus on making Bellevue a destination for arts and culture. She noted that seed funding from Microsoft enabled the establishment of EastHUB.

Mr. Cullom described EastHUB’s placemaking objectives. He noted the incredible growth of diverse communities in Bellevue and the lack or loss of existing arts and cultural organizations.

He said EastHUB is not an arts organization but was created to support the arts as well as access to the arts and cultural amenities. Mr. Cullom highlighted the significant economic benefits of arts and cultural opportunities. In King County, arts, culture and scientific nonprofit organizations generate \$2 billion in business activity annually and support 30,721 jobs. Statewide, the total value added to the Gross State Product (GSP) is \$53.2 billion, or 8.7 percent of the total GSP. Mr. Cullom noted EastHUB's objective to develop arts and culture infrastructure, which includes supporting nonprofit organizations.

Michael Bobbitt, CEO of the Massachusetts Cultural Council and Racial Equity Consultant for EastHUB, said the COVID pandemic and the country's racial equity reckoning have exposed a number of issues about the inequities related to the arts and culture sector and to the nonprofit business model. He said the traditional nonprofit arts organization model will be reexamined with an antiracist and inclusive lens. The EastHUB leadership will prioritize antiracism, inclusivity and multiculturalism in its policies, procedures and practices.

Sudeshna Dixit, EastHUB Director of Cultural Connections, said that EastHUB plans to hire diverse staff to conduct extensive research with arts and cultural organizations, residents, faith-based organizations, schools, and others to build partnerships and to understand the needs of the community.

Mr. Cullom said EastHUB's goal is to act as a catalyst for collaboration between business and community leaders, arts and cultural organizations, civic leaders, developers, and residents. He noted EastHUB's interest in working with the City to develop a cultural corridor along the Grand Connection and to address other opportunities for partnership. He commented on the objective to create a citywide cultural district with activated arts and culture spaces. Mr. Cullom described the Cloudvue Playhouse project planned for 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue. He said that EastHUB would like to see an arts and culture hub at the intersection of 110<sup>th</sup> Avenue and the Grand Connection. He said EastHUB is having conversations with developers in Bellevue and across the Eastside to create facilities that will include rehearsal rooms, classrooms, recital halls, black box theaters, and community spaces. He said they are focused on creating spaces near transit corridors for enhanced public access.

Mr. Cullom said the facilities will be supported through ticket sales, sponsorships, government support of specific programs, program fees and rentals, and community fundraising. Users of the facilities include arts and culture groups, public schools, corporate events, independent educators, and others. Shared services provided by EastHUB include marketing and publicity, accounting, database management, production services, ticketing/box office, equipment sharing, and graphic design.

Mayor Robinson thanked the guests for the presentation.

Councilmember Stokes noted his longtime interest in arts and culture and his involvement with the Arts Commission. He observed that working with EastHUB provides the opportunity for Bellevue to be a statewide leader in arts and cultural activities. He noted the economic and quality of life benefits of arts and culture in communities. He thanked Mr. Canedo and Mr. MacDonald for their work on this initiative.



Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked EastHUB staff for the presentation and expressed his enthusiasm for their mission to create and support a thriving arts and cultural community. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. Cullom said EastHUB is working with developers who are interested in creating activated spaces. Mr. Cullom noted EastHUB's goal with developers to provide 200-250 nights of events and activated spaces annually. He said EastHUB's work will be an ongoing campaign with communities and stakeholders to develop new opportunities.

Councilmember Barksdale said he grew up singing and playing instruments in choirs and bands. He noted the importance of bringing people together, creating connections, and sharing art and culture. He said that opportunities for expression through the arts can be life changing for individuals, especially young people. He said he looks forward to opportunities for expanded nightlife activities in Bellevue as well.

Responding to Mr. Barksdale, Mr. Cullom said EastHUB envisions smaller community-based spaces outside of the downtown for classrooms, dance and music lessons, and rehearsal space. Mr. Cullom spoke to the importance of integrating art into the community and providing opportunities for artistic expression. Councilmember Barksdale thanked EastHUB for its commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion.

Councilmember Zahn expressed support for EastHUB's mission to embed arts and culture within the community. She said Bellevue is an innovative city, and art spaces will create even more opportunities for innovation and entrepreneurship. She would like to see more art exhibitions in City Hall and in community centers. She wondered whether the arts includes culinary arts. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Cullom noted ongoing discussions about creating opportunities for pop up art. Mr. Cullom said he had not thought about the culinary arts. However, art is the expression of culture and culture includes food.

Councilmember Lee said this is a great economic development vision. He noted that art has the ability to bring people together, which is especially important with the ongoing growth in Bellevue. He said Bellevue has a diverse population of individuals from Asia and other areas around the world and we should encourage and cultivate talent and cultural assets. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Cullom said EastHUB wants to make Bellevue its own distinct cultural destination that is different than Seattle or other communities. Councilmember Lee said that music, art, culture and technology all provide opportunities for cross-cultural collaboration.

Councilmember Robertson asked how EastHUB's work fits into the City's interest in developing a multicultural/cross-cultural center. She expressed support for pop up art and music throughout Bellevue. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Jesse Canedo, Assistant Director of Community Development, confirmed that staff is thinking about collaborations related to the multicultural center and other facilities.

Mayor Robinson described her experience with the beehive at the Bellevue Botanical Garden. She said the door is only about three feet tall but when you go inside, the way the light shines is fantastic. She said it was such a delight to come upon this unexpected surprise and it would be great to have more of this in Bellevue.

Mayor Robinson expressed support for the development of a comprehensive arts calendar. She said she liked Mr. Cullom's reference to the Grand Connection as a cultural corridor. Ms. Robinson asked how this effort will connect with existing spaces and future projects. Mr. Cullom said they are interested in working with multiple venues and organizations to establish Bellevue as a destination for arts and culture.

At 8:01 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a short break. The meeting resumed at 8:12 p.m.

(c) HB 1590 Work Plan Stakeholder Analysis and Early Funding Opportunities

City Manager Miyake recalled that HB 1590 provided a sales tax to fund certain affordable housing and related behavioral health services. Staff is seeking Council direction to initiate a request for proposals (RFP) process to identify behavioral health services and housing-related services to fund with the City's tax collections.

Mac Cummins, Director, Community Development Department, said that HB 1590 requires that at least 60 percent of the funds must be spent on facilities and programs that serve specific populations in households at or below 60 percent of the area median income (AMI). No more than 40 percent of the funds may be spent on the operation, delivery or evaluation of behavioral health treatment programs and services or housing related services.

Liesl Olson, Management Fellow, said the allowable uses of HB 1590 funds have been expanded to include acquiring a building or land to be used for affordable housing, behavioral health services, and housing-related services. Affordable housing may include emergency, transitional and supportive housing. The specific populations to be served have been expanded from homeless families with children to all persons who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless. Ms. Olson said stakeholder outreach includes engagement with housing developers and providers, individuals with lived experience, culturally specific agencies, and faith-based communities. This effort is focused on identifying housing and services priorities, funding, existing barriers or challenges, and best practices.

The preliminary themes related to affordable housing are funding, land acquisition and preservation, 0-30 percent AMI housing needs, services connected to housing, and mental and behavioral health services. Ms. Olson said that HB 1590 funding provides the opportunity to close budget gaps on projects that might otherwise not be able to move forward and/or to enhance projects that are already underway. She said staff will return for a discussion regarding land acquisition and preservation strategies related to affordable housing.

Stephanie Martinez, Homelessness Outreach Coordinator, noted the critical need for housing to serve households earning up to 30 percent AMI to continue to enhance equity and accessibility for the most underserved communities. She described the need for housing with supportive services including mental and behavioral health services, substance use treatment, and employment services. Ms. Martinez noted the need for culturally specific and responsive services, rental assistance, case management, and homelessness prevention.

Toni Esparza, Assistant Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said staff is seeking Council direction to initiate a request for proposals (RFP) for early funding opportunities in behavioral health services and housing-related services totaling \$1.8 million for 2021. This is consistent with staff's recommendation to establish a funding allocation of approximately 20 percent of the anticipated HB 1590 revenue to implement early funding opportunities to serve the most critical and high priority needs identified in the community.

Ms. Esparza said the RFP process will allow the City to reach currently funded and unfunded programs. It will also allow the City to request culturally specific and equitable programs and services for historically underserved populations and to include priorities identified through the stakeholder outreach process that address immediate needs. The three RFP priority areas are behavioral health services (including mental health services and substance use treatment), supportive services, and rental assistance.

In the area of behavioral health services, the RFP is seeking applications from agencies that can provide same day mental health and substance use disorder assessments and treatments, medically assisted treatment for substance use disorders, culturally responsive services for historically underserved populations, services collocated at facilities and/or housing, and therapeutic case management. Supportive services help individuals and families obtain and maintain housing and address barriers that lead to housing instability and homelessness. The RFP is seeking applications for employment services and for case management services that help people achieve stable housing. In the area of rental assistance, the RFP is seeking applications from programs that provide rental assistance to maintain housing and that provide move-in assistance for individuals transitioning from homelessness to housing.

Ms. Esparza said the HB 1590 revenue forecast for 2021 is \$8.5 million. Staff recommends allocating \$1.8 million for early funding opportunities in behavioral health services and housing-related services. The RFP will be issued the week of May 10. The Human Services Commission will review the applications and provide funding recommendations to the Council in July. The contracts for services will provide funding for 2021 and 2022.

Mr. Cummins requested Council direction to initiate the RFP process.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for moving so quickly to help the community. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Esparza said the City reimburses contracted agencies on a quarterly basis. In further response, Ms. Esparza said that human services agencies provide quarterly reports regarding the service units provided under the contracts as well as annual reports and demographic information.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for their work. He said he is glad to see an emphasis on helping households earning 30 percent AMI or below. He noted the importance of preserving existing affordable housing and keeping individuals in their homes.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for reaching out to underserved and overlooked populations and suggested the Asian Counseling and Referral Service (ACRS). Ms. Esparza confirmed that staff will conduct broad outreach when the RFP is issued.

Councilmember Zahn suggested more outreach to community connection centers and others in the Bellevue School District. She concurred with Councilmember Lee about reaching out to ACRS, and thanked staff for including agencies that support the LGBTQ community. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Ms. Esparza said she believes that services for homebound senior adults fit the criteria related to underserved populations. Ms. Esparza said she would follow up with more information regarding the percentage of staffing costs reflected in the grants. She said the City tracks the agencies' outcomes, and contract renewal is based on available funding and contract performance.

Councilmember Robertson thanked staff for their work and for focusing on the prevention of homelessness. She said it is less expensive to keep people in housing than to help them recover from homelessness. She expressed support for behavioral health services, which will help address issues that contribute to homelessness and poverty. She said it is especially important to track outcomes because this is the first year to receive the HB 1590 revenues. She expressed support for moving forward.

Responding to Councilmember Barksdale, Ms. Esparza said the staffing funds may be used for technical assistance. She confirmed that the City provides assistance to help agencies, especially newly funded and smaller organizations, with the grant applications.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for working so quickly to plan for the use of HB 1590 revenues. She expressed strong support for same day behavioral health services. Responding to Ms. Robinson, Ms. Esparza said she would need to consult with legal staff for guidance on whether the funds could be used to hire a mental health professional for emergency services. In further response, Ms. Esparza said that individuals experiencing homelessness will have access to services aimed at addressing their challenges and helping them to achieve housing. She said that collocating services at shelters increases the opportunity to help those individuals as well, and the rental assistance will help prevent homelessness.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to initiate a request for proposals (RFP) process to identify behavioral health services and housing-related services to fund with HB 1590 funds. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Esparza said the RFP will be issued the week of May 10.

11. Land Use: None.
12. Other Ordinances, Resolution, and Motions: None.
13. Unfinished Business: None.
14. New Business: None.

15. Executive Session: None.

16. Adjournment

At 9:03 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw