

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

May 10, 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. Councilmember Robertson led the flag salute.

(a) Affordable Housing Week Proclamation

Councilmember Barksdale read the proclamation recognizing May 9-15, 2021, as Affordable Housing Week in Bellevue.

(b) National Nurses Week Proclamation

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis noted that his mom was a nurse. He read the proclamation recognizing May 6-12, 2021 as National Nurses Week in Bellevue

(c) National Police Week Proclamation

Councilmember Stokes read the proclamation recognizing May 9-15, 2021, as National Police Week in Bellevue.

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) Christopher Randels said he just moved in with his non-binary partner. He said he has lived in Bellevue for more than six years, and he has always felt welcome. He said he feels like the City and its leadership consistently support the LGBTQ community. He expressed concern, however, regarding the Franklin Graham event for law enforcement to take place in Bellevue. He noted Mr. Graham's history of homophobic comments and support of gay conversion therapy. He said there are concerns that some of the City's law enforcement officers do not stand with the LGBTQ community. While he is not trying to cancel anyone for exercising their rights, he asked the City and the Bellevue Police Department to stand by its Hate Has No Home Here campaign and to reject Mr. Graham's organization.
- (b) Barbra Chevalier, co-founder of 300 Trees, commented on the Council's vision and priorities to be discussed later. She encouraged a stronger focus on climate change, which she believes is the most urgent issue at this time. She said the health of the environment and the economy are intertwined. She asked the Council to revise the vision and priorities documents to reflect a whole government approach to climate change. She said that every project, policy, and strategy within City government should be linked to climate change.

Mayor Robinson asked Police Chief Steve Mylett to comment regarding Mr. Randels' concerns.

Chief Mylett said he listened to Mr. Randels' comments and he wanted to communicate the message that the Bellevue Police Department stands united with the LGBTQI community. He said the role of the police department is to focus on everybody's public safety. He thanked Mr. Randels for his comments and said the police will continue to support the LGBTQI community.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.

6. Report of the City Manager

(a) Hate Has No Home Here Campaign Update

City Manager Brad Miyake said the Hate Has No Home Here campaign launched on April 5 following the Council's March 15 proclamation condemning discrimination, hate and violence against the Asian Pacific Islander (API) community.

Elaine Acacio, Diversity and Inclusion Program Administrator, said the City has received support for the Hate Has No Home Here campaign from residents, City staff, community organizations, businesses, and local governments. While the campaign was triggered by the recent hate and violence against the Asian community, the City is committed to protecting everyone against discrimination and hate. She said the campaign is a joint community response that provides tools and opportunities for public involvement. She noted collaborative awareness campaigns with the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), Bellevue Chamber of Commerce, King County Library System, and Bellevue School District. She said more than 1,000 yard signs have been distributed throughout the community.

In honor of May as Pacific Islander Heritage Month, the City aired the community and crowd-sourced video of students and residents discussing a vision of inclusion and racial healing. Ms. Acacio said the video is available on the City's web site, and the public is invited to submit additional submissions to the video. She said the City recently hosted a Cultural Conversations forum to discuss the power of voice in the Asian community. Staff is working with the school district to develop an educational component to the Hate Has No Home Here campaign, and businesses have expressed an interest in training and dialogue around racism and coalition building. In June, the City will provide a presentation to the Sound Cities Association (SCA) regarding the project.

Ms. Acacio thanked everyone in the community for their support of the Hate Has No Home Here campaign and activities.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for their work and affirmed that the Council and City staff stand solidly behind the campaign.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives

(a) Council Vision and 2021-2023 Priorities

City Manager Miyake noted that the updated Council Vision and the 2021-2023 priorities are included in the meeting packet for final approval. He recalled that the documents were discussed and revised during the Council's February and April retreats.

Mayor Robinson thanked Council and staff for their hard work in organizing the retreats. She noted that at least one Councilmember would like to propose an amendment.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Council Vision, strategic target areas, and 2021-2023 priorities as presented in the meeting packet. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

Councilmember Lee proposed the following amendment to Priority 15 to add the words "and complete the cross-cultural study already underway."

→ Mr. Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt the proposed amendment, and Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

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

→ The main motion, as amended, carried by a vote of 7-0.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Lee 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 February 25, 2021 Special Meeting
Minutes of April 26, 2021 Regular Meeting
Minutes of April 27, 2021 Special Meeting
- (b) Resolution No. 9932 adopting the City of Bellevue 2022-2027 Transportation Improvement Program (TIP).
- (c) Resolution No. 9933 authorizing the software maintenance agreement between the City and CUES, Inc. for maintenance of the GraniteNet software in an amount not to exceed a total of \$129,499 plus all applicable taxes, which includes five years' continued funding of annual maintenance.
- (d) Resolution No. 9934 authorizing execution of a two-year extension of the Lease Agreement between Kimschott Factoria Mall, LLC, and the City of Bellevue for the Bellevue Police Community Substation at Factoria Mall.
- (e) Resolution No. 9935 authorizing execution of a contract with Landscape Structures, Inc., in an amount not to exceed \$96,583.80, plus all applicable taxes, for the demolition of existing play equipment and the purchase and installation of new play equipment at Chism Beach Park.

9. Public Hearing

- (a) Public Hearing and action on Ordinance No. 6576 authorizing execution of the Development Agreement, pursuant to the provisions of Chapter 36.70B RCW, to enable the mixed-use Crossroads Multifamily Project in Planning District E of the Crossroads Subarea; and establishing an effective date.

City Manager Miyake introduced the public hearing and discussion regarding the proposed development agreement for the Crossroads mixed-use, multifamily project in Planning District E of the Crossroads Subarea.

Mike Brennan, Director of the Development Services Department (DSD), described the development agreement related to the Crossroads multifamily project, which was initially introduced to the Council in January. He recalled that the Council asked staff to work with the developer to explore the potential for adding affordable housing to the project. He said the development agreement reflects the incorporation of affordable housing units.

Trisna Tanus, Consulting Attorney, said that the Crossroads multifamily project is a six-story, mixed-use building with 224 residential units, ground-level retail space, and a parking garage. The City is currently processing the application for design review for the project. The project

requires a development agreement under the Land Use Code based on its location in the Crossroads area. Ms. Tanus said the development agreement must include the public benefits of the project, as specified in the Comprehensive Plan. The public benefits of the Crossroads multifamily project include connections to Crossroads Park and Community Center, pedestrian improvements, open space, and a mid-block connector/urban trail.

Ms. Tanus said that, consistent with the Council's direction, the project will also include affordable housing units as an enhanced public benefit. A minimum of 20 percent of all units must be available for households earning 80 percent area median income (AMI) or below. Any unit that is 300 square feet or less would charge rent based on 45 percent AMI. Ms. Tanus said the units will remain affordable for the maximum duration that the multifamily tax exemption (MFTE) program is available to the project. She noted that, in exchange for providing the affordable units, the City will include the project site in the MFTE program.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

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

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo noted that two written comments were received for this public hearing and copies have been provided in the Council's desk packet.

The following individual provided oral comment:

Jessica Clawson thanked the Council and City staff for working with them to achieve a creative solution that provides a number of affordable housing units. She noted the public benefits of the project including pedestrian amenities and gathering spaces.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

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

Councilmember Robertson highlighted the public benefits of the project including the affordable housing units and outside amenities.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6576, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

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

- (b) Public Hearing and action on Ordinance No. 6577 designating the Crossroads Multifamily Project Site, a 7.5 acre area in Planning District E of the Crossroads Subarea, as a residential targeted area for eligibility in the City's Multifamily Housing Property Tax Exemption Program; providing for severability; and establishing an effective date.

City Manager Miyake introduced the public hearing and discussion regarding the proposed designation of the Crossroads Multifamily Project as a residential targeted area for eligibility in the City's Multifamily Housing Property Tax Exemption Program (MFTE Program).

Mr. Brennan requested Council approval of the proposed MFTE program extension to the Crossroads Multifamily Project site.

Matt McFarland, Assistant City Attorney, said that including the Crossroads project site in the City's MFTE program is a provision of the development agreement in exchange for the development of a number of affordable housing units. He said the project site meets the criteria provided in BCC 4.52.030 for a residential targeted area (RTA) in the MFTE program. He said the City is required to hold a public hearing before taking action on the ordinance. The project covers a 7.5-acre site.

Mr. McFarland complimented the applicant for their work with City staff and the City Council. He highlighted the public process to date and requested Council approval of the ordinance.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to open the public hearing, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

The following individual provided oral comment:

Chris Cole, speaking on behalf of the Crossroads Shopping Center, thanked the Council for approving the development agreement for the multifamily, mixed-use project. He urged the Council to approve the extension of the MFTE program to the project site. He said they look forward to including affordable housing units in the development. He thanked staff for their work related to the project and said he looks forward to collaborations with the parks department.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to close the public hearing, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

Councilmember Lee said this is a very good project. He said the Crossroads area has always been a vibrant and diverse community. He noted the amenities located near the housing development including Crossroads Park and Community Center and the Bellevue Youth Theatre. He said he had concerns about parking impacts but he believes that staff adequately addressed those issues. He thanked everyone for their work.

- Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to adopt Ordinance No. 6577, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

At 6:50 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared a break. The meeting resumed at 7:00 p.m.

10. Study Session Items

(a) Arts and Culture Program Biannual Update

Mayor Robinson said she just learned that Scott MacDonald, Arts Community Manager, is leaving the City. She noted his background in design and environmental studies. She thanked him for his nine years of service to Bellevue and for his contributions related to public art and Eastgate and Factoria development.

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's update regarding the Arts and Culture Program, which is a component of the Cultural and Economic Development Office.

Jesse Canedo, Assistant Director, Community Development, said the staff report is an update regarding ongoing operations and programming.

Mr. MacDonald said the Arts and Culture Program includes a number of public functions including the arts grant program, public art projects, cultural planning for major City initiatives (e.g., Grand Connection, Cultural Compass Plan), and efforts to establish the arts district. He noted that the pandemic has had a significant negative impact on arts organizations. However, it has also pulled the community together to support the resiliency of the arts.

Mr. MacDonald said the City is exploring ways to improve access to and equity in programs and services for underserved communities. He said that Bellevue is the Eastside's destination for arts and culture. He noted that the shift to online performances during the pandemic resulted in much larger audiences than the previous live events.

Mr. MacDonald said the Economic Development Plan includes information regarding the creative economy and tourism. One objective of the creative economy is to establish an arts district in the BelRed corridor. He said the City's role would be to increase the visibility of art in the community, capacity building work, and arts-oriented redevelopment. He noted the Arts and Culture Program's focus on expanding cultural tourism in Bellevue, supporting the arts grant program, and implementing the public art program. He highlighted the positive economic impact related to arts and culture events, exhibits, and performances.

Mr. MacDonald said that arts grants will be critical in helping arts organizations recover from the economic impacts of the pandemic. He said the City will focus on connecting artists of color with upcoming opportunities and including a more diverse group of individuals on the art selection panels. Mr. MacDonald presented artistic renderings of public art under development for Bellevue and commented on the growing demand for arts and culture options.

Mr. Canedo said that ongoing redevelopment in Bellevue and inflation create risks for the future of arts organizations in this community. He noted a 20 percent increase in the number of grant applications since 2017 and said that increased competition for grants decreases the average

award. Mr. Canedo said the Downtown Park art installation is anticipated to be completed later this year. He noted that there have been significant cost increases in certain materials used for artwork. He said that smaller art projects include murals and utility box wraps. He noted the City's partnerships with 4 Culture, KidsQuest Children's Museum, PACE, Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), Tasveet, EastHUB, Bellevue Arts Museum, and Tabor.

Mr. MacDonald said that upcoming work items include the 130th Avenue fabrication contract, 121st Avenue fabrication contract, Bellwether 2021 festival, public-private partnerships, and BelRed Arts District activation.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the presentation.

Councilmember Stokes said he has had the honor of serving as the Council liaison to the Arts Commission for some time now. He expressed support for efforts to develop the BelRed Arts District. He noted the Council's longtime support for affordable housing as well as affordable spaces for arts organizations and performances. Mr. Stokes thanked Mr. MacDonald for his work on behalf of the City.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked Mr. MacDonald for his contributions to the community. Mr. Barksdale noted his deep appreciation for the arts and its role in cultural expression and building community. Referring to the KidsQuest Children's Museum, Mr. Barksdale wondered whether there is a way to bring play to Bellevue. As liaison to the Special Events Committee, he asked whether there is anything the committee can do to support arts and culture projects.

Mr. MacDonald said they are always looking for ways to play. He recalled the marching band from City Hall onto downtown streets in recent years. He noted that planning is underway for outdoor art experiences this year. He said staff is always looking for ways to engage the community.

Councilmember Zahn thanked Mr. MacDonald for his work for the City. Ms. Zahn expressed an interest in supporting arts spaces and affordable housing for artists. She encouraged pop up music throughout the community. She said that members of the Bellevue Symphony Orchestra played throughout the Bellevue Botanical Garden during the past year. Ms. Zahn expressed support for engaging the community and reaching out to local artists.

Mr. MacDonald concurred with Ms. Zahn's comments regarding pop up performances. He said the City recently launched the Eastside Artist Roster, which is open to all artists on the Eastside. He said the utility box art wraps in the BelRed corridor are the first example of selecting artists from the roster. Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Mr. MacDonald said that activation of the BelRed Arts District encompasses a number of things including public art and art elements incorporated into development and redevelopment projects.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis said we need to bring back the marching band. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. MacDonald said staff recently completed the BelRed Arts District Engagement Report, which involved surveying more than 200 businesses, stakeholders, and community members to gather feedback regarding the district. He said that will lay the

groundwork for the next step of developing an action plan. Mr. MacDonald said a separate project is the arts market survey, which is largely focused on marketing outreach to the community. He said the best way to stay connected to the Arts and Culture Program is to subscribe on the City's web site and to follow social media. He said they post a number of funding resources from many other sources, not just those from the City.

In further response to Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, Mr. MacDonald said there will be a lot of art in the 2021 Bellwether exhibit and festival. A digital art gallery has been added for this year, and some artworks will have a play component. Mr. MacDonald said the City is talking with EastHUB about sponsoring a multi-day music festival.

Councilmember Lee acknowledged the challenges associated with funding arts and culture initiatives and programs. He expressed support for moving forward with BelRed Arts District activation and other amenities that will appeal to new residents of the BelRed area. He said there are so many cultural and ethnic groups in Bellevue and the region. He noted that arts and culture programming can bring people together.

Mayor Robinson said she appreciates that the Arts and Culture Program falls under the Economic Development Plan. She likes the 130th Avenue and 121st Avenue art streetscapes in the BelRed corridor.

Ms. Robinson encouraged the development of more partnerships to achieve more funding for the arts. She said the pandemic emphasized the importance of the arts in our quality of life and wellbeing.

(b) Regional Issues *[Written information only.]*

11. Land Use: None.
12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.
13. Unfinished Business: None.
14. New Business: None.
15. Executive Session: None.
16. Adjournment

At 7:53 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

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