

*The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on January 10, 2023.*

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
PARKS & COMMUNITY SERVICES BOARD  
REGULAR MEETING MINUTES**

Tuesday  
November 8, 2022  
6:00 p.m.

*Via Hybrid*

**BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT:** Chair Hamilton; Boardmembers Clark, Clima, Giampetro, Synn, Trescases

**BOARDMEMBER ABSENT:** Boardmember Singh

**COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT:** Councilmember Stokes

**PARKS STAFF PRESENT:** Pam Fehrman, Shelley McVein, Kate Nesse, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Ryan Walker

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Debra Deutsch, Sally Lawrence, Alex Zimmerman

**MINUTES TAKER:** Michelle Cash

1. **CALL TO ORDER/ROLL CALL:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Hamilton at 6:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

**Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Trescases to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

**Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Synn to approve the October 11, 2022 meeting minutes as presented.**

**Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Synn to amend the October 11, 2022 meeting minutes with the following correction:**

**Boardmember Clark corrected page 4, Item 7 Board Communications, second sentence should read: *There is a working group within the BNOA that is creating a resource guide/document for about seniors.***

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**At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to approve the meeting minutes as amended.**

**4. WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Sally Lawrence  
Save Coal Creek

Sally Lawrence said that Save Coal Creek is preparing for a public hearing on the Isola proposal in January, 2023. At the same time, Save Coal Creek is asking King County, the City of Bellevue, and state representatives to help pull together a funding package that would interest Isola in selling.

Debra Deutsch

Debra Deutsch is pleased to see the completion and opening of Newport Hills Woodlawn Park. However, it does not appear that the new playground offers elements that are accessible to users with varying ability levels. The city should take the necessary steps to ensure new playgrounds are built to reflect the city's stated priority for inclusion and to increase children and family access to these city amenities.

Alex Zimmerman

Alex Zimmerman lamented the current state of the city and opined on negative impacts that are perceived from large-scale private employers in Bellevue.

**5. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL:**

No report.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Michael Shiosaki, Parks & Community Services Director, discussed the following items:

- Thank you to the Board, along with staff members Camron Parker and Ryan Walker for their efforts with the Parks & Open Space System Plan earlier in the year, helping lead to the parks levy on the November ballot.
- An update was provided on the department's Capital Investment Program (CIP) budget, specifically how elements of the Board's CIP recommendation letter are reflected in the city's 2023-2024 Preliminary Budget.
- A status report was provided by Camron Parker regarding the Isola property in Coal Creek. The developer seeks to build 35 new single-family homes on approximately half of the site. The property has been in a land use approval process for many years with no approvals issued yet. Once the land use approvals are made, then the city can engage in discussions about the future of the property, if there is any interest from the current property owner.

Chair Hamilton asked if the Newport Hills Woodlawn Park off leash dog area will open soon. Michael Shiosaki anticipates the dog area opening in spring 2023. Chair Hamilton also asked if the toy drive will take place at Crossroads Community Center. Staff will follow up with Chair Hamilton about the toy drive.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Trescases visited Vancouver, British Columbia and enjoyed the beautiful waterfront experience.

Boardmember Clark visited Ashwood Park, and other neighboring parks. Boardmember Clark also visited Plymouth, Minnesota where there were many things similar to Bellevue (i.e., private green spaces, lakefront properties, great street vendors too).

Boardmember Giampetro said that it was nice to see so many people at the Newport Hills Woodlawn Park Opening Celebration.

Boardmember Clima attended the Newport Hills Woodlawn Park Opening Celebration. Most people that Boardmember Clima spoke with had positive things to say about the park. However, Boardmember Clima did receive a few comments regarding accessibility and inclusivity regarding the playground. Boardmember Clima looks forward to the dog park area opening at Newport Hills Woodlawn Park as well.

Boardmember Clima attended Arbor Day on October 22, 2022 at Bannerwood Park. There were approximately 50 volunteers.

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8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Hamilton provided the following report:

- Great turnout at the Newport Hills Woodlawn Park Opening.
- Walked around Wilburton Hills Park.
- Visited Bellevue Botanical Gardens and walked the suspension bridge.

9. **BOARDMEMBER/COMMITTEE/LIAISON REPORTS:**

No report.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Comprehensive Plan Update**

Kate Nesse, Senior Planner, Community Development, discussed the forthcoming major update of the Bellevue Comprehensive Plan.

The Comprehensive Plan is made up of 12 chapter/elements and it puts forth a 20 year vision for growth for the city. This project will update the city's Comprehensive Plan to meet state and regional requirements, Council's 2021 Vision, and other topics of importance to the community and Council. In particular, the update will include changes to Elements throughout Volume 1 of the plan and accompanying map amendments to distribute the city's growth targets. Volume 2 of the Comprehensive Plan (sub area plans) will only be updated as they relate to map amendments and policies that would conflict with either those map amendments or other updates to Volume 1 policies.

The Comprehensive Plan is the overarching plan for the city so other plans need to be in alignment with the Comprehensive Plan (i.e., the Parks & Open Space System Plan) and programs are often derived out of the direction from the Comprehensive Plan. There are multiple streams of engagement for the Comprehensive Plan, including:

- Public Engagement Events, Surveys, Discussion
- Strategy Team Engagement
- Public Comment at Board/Commission/Council Meetings
- Board/Commission Comments

The goal is for the Parks Board to make policy recommendations on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element to the Planning Commission and then the Planning Commission will make a recommendation on the entire Comprehensive Plan to City Council for adoption.

The current task for the Parks Board is to review the policies in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element of the Comprehensive Plan. Because this is a significant update to the Comprehensive Plan, an Environmental Impact Statement is being conducted.

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Staff have reviewed all policies in the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element and made an initial determination regarding what to propose for repeal, modification, retention, or addition. Additional analysis is planned, including:

- Analysis of racially disparate impacts of policies and actions by the city and other governments. This is currently underway through a consultant, and results are expected near the end of Q1 2023. These results will include recommended modification or repeal of current policies that have inequitable impacts and modification of or new policies that help to mitigate the past inequities.
- Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) will analyze the environmental impacts of 3 different land use and policy alternatives. The analysis will include measures that the city can take to mitigate these impacts, which could include recommended policy changes. The Draft EIS is expected in Q2 2023.
- Collaboration with other subject matter experts in the future could lead to consolidation or modification of some policies as staff tries to make the Comprehensive Plan as concise as possible. The two subject areas that have the most impact on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Element are environment and utilities, particularly related to the preservation and expansion of natural areas and the tree canopy and stormwater management.

There are three change alternatives being evaluated in the Environmental Impact Statement to address growth. These include:

- Alternative 0: No Action (used as baseline for analysis only)
- Alternative 1: Providing Options for Families of all Kinds
- Alternative 2: Unlocking Access for More Residents
- Alternative 3: Providing Options Throughout the City

Discussion:

- Are enrollment numbers included in the data gathering. *Response: enrollment is not specifically evaluated but the institutions are part of the process (i.e., Bellevue School District, Bellevue College, etc.) to make sure all of the plans align.*
- What are racially disparate impacts? *Response: this is a new requirement under the Growth Management Act. Staff is currently learning more about this requirement. The goal is to make sure that the policies and Comprehensive Plan are not inequitably impacting some race or ethnic groups adversely. All policies and historic activities will be evaluated.*
- How much capacity does Bellevue have in growth areas? *Response: an urban growth capacity report was recently completed and the research determined approximately 27,000 units of capacity in the city.*

Ryan Walker, Senior Planner, Parks & Community Services highlighted some of the areas of interest, since the last Comprehensive Plan Update in 2015. Some of the changed circumstances for the plan update include:

- Policy gaps identified through updated department planning documents.
- Environmental Stewardship Plan related analysis.
- New housing growth targets.
- Increasing diversity of user groups.

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- Impact of COVID-19 and increasing human services needs.
- 2019 Clean Building Act.

There are four different sections of the Parks, Recreation, Open Space Element. The elements and recommended changes were discussed and listed below.

- Parks & Open Space System
  - Recommended changes:
    - Park System Expansion. Add policies to:
      - Assess/meet needs for different facilities
      - Develop facilities for a variety of user groups
      - Design to maximize resources and user benefits
      - Add policy to increase safe pedestrian access
      - Reduce policy redundancy around private facilities

Discussion:

- Explain what is being considered to reduce policies. *Response: There are 2-4 policies around encouraging private facilities, and linking private facilities. These are facilities that the city may not operate—need to determine what the city should do to encourage these, if desired.*
- Assess/meet needs for different facilities—there are a few places in the Comprehensive Plan that discuss actively soliciting community input. Can this be woven into this section? Will specific areas be called out like Eastrail, the aquatic center, etc.? *Response: there are policies specific to the Eastrail because it is a global element in the system across the city. Specific facilities, like the aquatic center, are better placed in the System Plan.*
- Some of the areas that could benefit from park property acquisitions are: Factoria, Bel-Red, Spring District, northwest Bellevue, etc.
- The aquatic center is a regional center and should be called out. A lid park and/or Grand Connection should also be noted. *Response: staff is working to identify where these should be listed.*
- Should add a premier pickleball center to the list.
- How are user groups defined? *Response: this is primarily defined as diversity of the city (i.e., income, accessibility, age, etc.).*
- Are there current policies on what constitutes a park? *Response: unless there are specific grant funds attached, the guidelines are quite broad.*
- Safe pedestrian access—why does this need to be included? *Response: the policy won't increase safety but walkable access should allow people to walk or bike to parks. Trail connections also help with this.*
- Recreation & Community Services
  - Recommended changes:
    - Amend to align with current outreach practices
    - Modify policies to reflect inclusive access and design
    - Modify to connect parks programming and facilities to human services

Discussion:

- Does Human Services include North Bellevue Community Center, Highland Community Center, etc.? *Response: yes, it could be this or also social services, homeless services, education, youth centers, etc.*

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- Stewardship should also be included in this scope as well.
  - Tree canopy is important.
  - Stewardship
    - Recommended changes:
      - Add policy to seek restoration opportunities
      - Coordinate policies on climate change mitigation across elements
      - Considering the appropriate location of environment element policies
- Discussion:
- Tree canopy is important.
  - Wildfires and smoke have been growing—can something be included related to fire/smoke?
- Maintenance, Renovation & Redevelopment
  - Recommended changes:
    - Add/amend policy to use sustainable materials, when feasible
- Discussion:
- Do Bellevue parks have a backlog for maintenance? *Response: Bellevue has been wise to invest in maintenance so there isn't a huge backlog. However, this does not mean that everything is fully funded.*
  - PA-36 calls attention to funding plans for maintenance, etc.
  - Can this be broadened to include new builds? *Response: yes, it could be for new builds, renovation, etc. This will be clarified a bit more.*
  - Should transitioning away from gas vehicles be included? *Response: this is included in the Environmental Stewardship Plan. In addition, the city is actively working on ensuring the vehicle fleet is sustainable. Staff will research the exact policy location and report back.*
  - As part of this process, may want to explore a historic preservation ordinance. Need to think more broadly. *Response: a modestly scoped historic resource inventory is being conducted as part of the Environmental Impact Analysis.*

The timeline and next steps were discussed. The implications of growth alternatives and a review of the draft policies text will be presented at a future Board meeting.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Remote Participation Approval**

**Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Trescases to approve remote participation for Boardmember Synn at the January 10, 2023 Board meeting. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).**

12. **PROPOSED AGENDA FOR NEXT MEETING:**

None discussed.

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13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Parks CIP Project Status Report
- B. Email, RE: Pickleball Courts at Bellevue Airfield Park (11-02-2022)
- C. Email, RE: Proposition 1 would like more info before voting (10-28-2022)

14. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The December Board meeting is canceled. The next Board meeting will be held January 10, 2023.

At 7:43 p.m., Chair Hamilton declared the meeting adjourned.