

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on May 09, 2023.

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

Tuesday
March 14, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

BOARDMEMBERS PRESENT: Chair Hamilton, Vice-Chair Clark; Boardmembers Clima, Synn, Trescases

BOARDMEMBER ABSENT: Boardmember Singh

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Patrick Alina, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki

OTHERS PRESENT: Joshua Barr, Heidi Dean, Richard Li (Youth Link), Neha Mukhara (Youth Link), Court Olson, Ashley Salazar, Alex Tsimerman

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

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

Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:01 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Synn and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Clima and second by Boardmember Clark to approve the February 14, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (5-0).

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Court Olson

Court Olson reminded Boardmembers that various reasons were provided at the February 2023 Board meeting as to why the parking and picnic shelters at Airfield Park should not be carried into the woods in the NW corner of the park.

A request was made for Boardmembers to amend the action that was taken last month for Airfield Park by using properly scaled drawings to include all of the features highlighted in the plan into the unforested area of the park. The drawings previously presented to the Board and the public were erroneous, incomplete, and not drawn to scale.

Using snapshots from Google maps, along with the actual engineer stamped park boundary drawings furnished by the city, the features that were approved, plus even more parking, be readily accommodated in the actual park boundary plot without needing to intrude into the woods.

Handouts were distributed showing:

- Attachment 1: The city's Concept 2 drawing that was approved with the provision of additional picnic shelters that were not shown in the drawing.
- Attachment 2: The existing parking area purchased from Boeing inside of the east park boundary, all of the features that were approved fit in the unforested area when properly scaled. The drawing shows a total of 262 stalls, versus 220 stalls shown in Concept 2.
- Attachment 3: Shows more than 1,000 existing parking stalls nearby the park, nearly all of which are vacant in evenings and weekends when major aquatic events might be held.
- Attachment 4: Shows the many existing trails already in the park that don't appear on the city's proposed park plan. Given these many existing trails in and around the ponds and edges of the woods, and the connecting trails to nearby Robinswood and Weowna parks, there should be no need to make new trails cutting into the heart of the wildlife preserving woods.

In light of oversights in the prior Concept 2 drawing, and the neighborhood concerns for preserving the forested area of the park, Court Olson asked the Parks Board to amend the February action to reference a properly scaled and corrected park plan.

Ashley Salazar

Ashley Salazar said that she and her daughter have been verbally harassed and called vulgar names by a man at Robinswood Dog Park. This person creates an intimidating and hostile environment. The man was also seen filming Ashley Salazar and at times he has called the police on her. Ashley Salazar asked Boardmembers to support residents in maintaining a peaceful and safe environment at Bellevue's only dog park. There is a fear

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that this man will also demonstrate this behavior at Newport Hills Woodlawn Park, because this is where Ashley Salazar first experienced these threats with the man.

Heidi Dean

Heidi Dean lives in the Newport Hills neighborhood and looks forward to the new dog park. Concerns were expressed about the man referenced in Ashley Salazar's public comments. This man has bullied other park users and has harassed park goers at Newport Hills Woodlawn Park. Bellevue Police have been contacted, and they informed park users that it is a park-related issue.

Alex Tsimerman

Alex Tsimerman said that he was trespassed for six months after speaking during a Seattle School Board meeting. Concerns were also expressed about Bellevue schools and what is being taught.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Stokes said that Council is working with staff to fill the Parks Board vacant position. Council is also looking forward to the Airfield Park planning process.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Michael Shiosaki, Parks & Community Services Director, said that there has been a slight restructure within the Parks Department. This includes the promotion of Camron Parker to Assistant Director.

Boardmembers were invited to join Michael Shiosaki for his upcoming *Parks, Plants, and Perseverance* presentation at Bellevue Botanical Gardens.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Clima discussed recent activities conducted by Bellevue Naturalists.

Boardmember Clark enjoyed watching the art installation progress on the Northeast corner of Downtown Park. The parks along NE 12th also add a lot of enjoyment to the parks system.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Hamilton expressed enthusiasm for the completion of the art installation at Downtown Park.

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

No report.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Wilburton Vision Implementation Update**

Ryan Walker, Senior Planner/Parks & Community Services Department, said that the Wilburton Vision Implementation planning initiative focuses on a study area in the neighborhood from NE 12th St. to SE 5th St., referred to as the Wilburton Transit Oriented Development (Wilburton TOD) study area. The initiative will amend the existing Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street Subarea Plan and BelRed Subarea Plan, the Comprehensive Plan Map, and the Land Use Code. These amendments will consider how Wilburton's future is a key component in implementing the citywide growth strategy for housing and jobs for the next 20 years. Wilburton is one of the last growth corridors and will be served by its own east link light rail.

Objectives for the work ahead include:

- Adopt Comprehensive Plan Amendments (CPA).
- Adopt Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA).
- Adopt legislative rezone.

Janet Shull, Strategic Planning Manager/Community Development, said that the city has heard from over 4,000 individuals and presented to over 25 groups. Engagement efforts included walking tours and tabling events, small business canvassing, presentations to community groups and organizations, monthly meetings with property owners. During this process, over 350 visitors provided information about Engaging Bellevue, 100 responses were received to online questionnaires, and 68 pins were placed on an online interactive map. Engagement efforts will also include updates to Bellevue's Boards and Commissions in 2023.

Ryan Walker said that some of the key takeaways from the engagement efforts include:

- Diverse and affordable housing.
- Economic and cultural vitality.
- Multimodal and connected network.
- Publicly accessible parks, plazas, and open spaces.
- Natural environment and sustainability.

The first related policy includes the Parks & Open Space System Plan—specifically, Eastrail development and connections, which were added to this Plan.

The Eastrail Framework Plan is being led by King County. The purpose is to assess opportunities and constraints within the corridor for multiple uses, illustrate principles that will support a trail and transit-oriented community, and identify key partners and their roles in achieving the vision. This is a guide for the Eastrail corridor but is not adopted by City Council. The purpose of the Eastrail Framework Plan is to assess opportunities and constraints within the

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corridor for multiple uses. The Eastrail Framework Plan looks to illustrate principles that will support a trail and transit-oriented community. The Eastrail corridor will not have motorized vehicles. A chart of low and high integration options was shown.

Currently, there's been movement on the Grand Connection project. Phase 1 is adopted in code, and the project is moving into Phase 2. Looking ahead, there will be many funding sources required. There is a Grand Connection Program and the goals are to:

- Manage the route holistically.
- Increase use of existing spaces and develop an operations framework.
- Quickly advance work on the I-405 crossing.

Councilmember Stokes added that the inspiration for having a park over the freeway comes from a similar design in Dallas, Texas. The point is to connect the west side of Bellevue to the east side.

Janet Shull said that the Wilburton Vision Implementation is currently in the Comprehensive Plan policy development phase. As described at the project launch, this phase includes inventorying adopted plans, identifying policy changes and policy issues, and drafting policy language for Comprehensive Plan Amendments (Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street and BelRed Subarea Plans). The policy update scope includes:

- Add new section about Wilburton TOD vision, goals, and policies.
- Modify existing policies reflecting revised policy intent and impact of policy's application.
- Add new policies because of changed conditions or future needs.
- Repeal existing policies no longer relevant, outdated, or redundant with other policies.
- Develop new land use designation(s) for Wilburton Transit-Oriented Development (TOD).

The Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street Subarea Plan will be updated with a new section for the Wilburton TOD study area. This new section will include an introductory vision statement, goals, and policies. The vision statement and goals set the framework for the policy direction. Each of these goals is supported by a set of policies that in turn, inform land use code amendments. Because the Wilburton study area is located within the Wilburton/N.E.8th Street and BelRed Subareas, changes will be made to both subarea plans.

Existing Wilburton/N.E.8th Street Parks, Recreation and Open Space policies were identified in the Board Packet. Comprehensive Plan Amendments for the Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street Subarea Plan will pertain only to the Wilburton TOD study area, and will include:

- Adding new policies because of changed conditions or future needs.
- Repealing existing policies that are no longer relevant, outdated, or redundant with other policies.
- Modifying existing policies reflecting the revised policy intent and impact of the policy's application.
- Moving existing policies specific to the Wilburton study area to a new section of the Wilburton/N.E. 8th Street Subarea Plan.

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- Amending the citywide Comprehensive Land Use Plan Map and Map LU-1. Generalized.
- Comprehensive Plan Land Use Designations with new land use designation(s).

Discussion:

- Are there areas within the study that don't need to be studied? *Response: Possibly. The policies will be retained, and some policies will pertain to specific subareas. There will most likely be policies specific to the Eastrail corridor as well.*
- Need to understand what is being developed in each of the zones.
- Need additional clarification on the goal. *Response: There is a recognition that the success of Wilburton will hinge on not only public but private use. The intention is that what is developed in the Wilburton study area should be activated on the adjacent uses.*
- The amenities in Wilburton should be used by everyone. The goal seems a little limiting.
- The goal may get interpreted to apply solely to the neighborhood.
- Glad the note about linear parks is included.
- Need amenities integrated.
- Where does the Grand Connection end? *Response: At Eastrail.*
- The area beyond Eastrail should be considered, rather than just ending. Connectivity is a critical part of the connection.
- Under Parks, Recreation and Open Space—should public park spaces be included?
- The goal seems a little limiting. Should add “publicly owned.”
- The Wilburton TOD should support “City in a Park.”
- Will this be called Wilburton Study Area or Wilburton TOD?
- The updated Policy Guidance section on Parks, Recreation and Open Space should include land acquisitions as a policy.
- Need to break Eastrail and Grand Connection apart.
- Want to stress the importance of activating Eastrail. Memorable open space does not resonate. Vital park space is better.
- In regards to the lake-to-lake trail reference, what is being changed? *Response: It's being specified and identified in the policy. Ultimately, there will be a connection from Main Street.*
- Would like to emphasize SWI37, which has to do with surplus school sites.
- Prefer “retain” rather than “grow” on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space Plan. *Response: This will be shared with the Comprehensive Plan Team.*
- Would like activated spaces that provide experiences on the Parks, Recreation and Open Space policy guidance.
- For an area that is named historic, the word “history” is not included. Need to add arts, culture, preservation, historic interpretation, heritage, etc.
- “Supporting Lake Bellevue” needs verbiage improvement. Change to “supporting access to Lake Bellevue.”

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Janet Shull said that staff will return to the Parks Board this summer to review draft Parks, Recreation and Open Space Comprehensive Plan Amendments.

B. Youth Link Program

Patrick Alina, Youth Link Program Coordinator, introduced Youth Link Boardmembers Richard Li and Neha Mukhara.

Richard Li said that Youth Link has been providing innovative youth leadership and community service programming for middle and high school students since the early 1990's. In fact, the program will be celebrating its 33rd anniversary this coming May. Youth Link's main mission is to engage the city's youth in civic leadership opportunities, community service, and provide a platform for youth voice and input as an advisor to the City Manager.

The broader Youth Link program began as a collective vision of the city in partnership with the Bellevue School District and many other community leaders on engaging young people in addressing important social issues and topics affecting young people. In 1991, the Youth Link Board was formed as an advisory body to the City Manager.

As part of convening youth input, Youth Link hosts a citywide youth involvement conference every two years organized by youth and for youth that features speakers and workshops about important youth topics. The outcome of these conversations has resulted in various award-winning programs and projects serving the needs of the community's young people. During the pandemic, Youth Link members continued to work in addressing emerging youth and family needs such as homelessness, food insecurity, youth mental health, diversity, equity, inclusion, and social justice work.

The City Manager appoints the members of the Youth Link Board and it is an advisory board to the City Manager. The Youth Link Board is comprised of 12 youth and 6 adults who work together to discuss important youth-related matters and provide valuable insights and input for the City Manager. The Youth Link Board provides a pathway for civic dialogue, and with guidance from the City Manager, Youth Link Boardmembers may provide program and policy input, and engagement of youth leaders in the city's work.

Youth Link Boardmembers represent Bellevue public/private schools and other learning communities, representing diverse backgrounds and lived experiences. The Youth Link Board adult members also represent various public and private sectors and professions. Youth Link Boardmembers are excited to have past Youth Link participants now return as adults to serve on the Youth Link Board as well.

Neha Mukhara said that the Bellevue Youth Council is the broader body of the Youth Link program, with currently over 120 youth members. The Bellevue Youth Council is the largest and oldest youth council and board in the Eastside, and, to their knowledge, in the nation. Bellevue middle and high school students serve during the school year organizing various community service projects, special events, and participate in various youth trainings and

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forums. Students meet bi-monthly, in-person, at City Hall and carry out youth priorities via Action Teams. The Council serves as the praxis arm of the program carrying out the program activities such as the Kids Care Coat Drive, Community Leadership Awards event, Youth Link Community Food Pantry, and many more.

With direction from the City Manager, Youth Link participants may provide youth input in programs and policies throughout the city. When this occurs, Youth Link members are charged with the responsibility of not only representing their own perspective, but also gathering input and perspective from their respective communities. Given the diversity found within Youth Link participants, input from this group frequently represents the voice of communities that may otherwise go unheard. As referenced, Youth Link provides input ranging from regional and local city initiatives as well as the Parks & Community Services Department plans.

Patrick Alina asked Boardmembers the following questions:

- How can Youth Link support the work of the Parks & Community Services Board by providing pathways for youth engagement and/or helping with plan implementation?
- How can the Board support the work of Youth Link—providing unique opportunities for investment in and partnership with youth leaders?

Boardmembers said that a recurring challenge is getting more of a community voice. Maybe the Youth Link Board could assist with helping the Parks Board obtain the voice of youth. Boardmembers asked Youth Link Boardmembers to keep in touch and engage with the Parks Board each month during Oral Communications.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

A. **Remote Participation Approval**

Boardmember Trescases expressed concern about a schedule conflict for the April Board meeting due to spring break. Staff will reach out to other Boardmembers to determine if the April Board meeting needs to be rescheduled.

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

Camron Parker said that the April meeting agenda will include a Robinswood Tennis Center Presentation, and a review of the Quarterly Letter to Council.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

A. **Parks CIP Project Status Report**

B. **Sheep Shearing at Kelsey Creek Farm**

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- C. Email: Response to Opposed to aquatics facility and pickleball at Bellevue Airfield Park (02.24.2023)
- D. Email: Response to Please don't develop the old airfield (02.24.2023)
- E. Email: Disc Golf course in Bellevue

14. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Joshua Barr

Joshua Barr introduced himself and discussed his efforts to engage the community and create dialogue. Mr. Barr is assisting the city with updating the city's Diversity Advantage Plan.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next Board meeting will be held April 14, 2023.

At 7:58 p.m., Chair Hamilton declared the meeting adjourned.