

The Parks & Community Services Board approved these meeting minutes on July 11, 2023.

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

Tuesday
June 13, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

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

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Norm Dalire, Jera Gilmore, Billie Hassebrock, Camron Parker, Justin Panganiban, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Janet Shull, Ryan Walker, Dionne Wardrop

OTHERS PRESENT: Heidi Dean, Mike Ogliore , Ashley Salazar, Alex Tsimerman

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

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

Chair Hamilton called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

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

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Clark and second by Boardmember Clima to approve the May 9, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (6-0).

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Hamilton reviewed the guidelines for Oral Communications noting that no election related topics may be discussed during oral communications or other public participation portions of the agenda.

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Jera Gilmore, City of Bellevue

Mike Ogliore, Bellevue Downtown Association

On behalf of the City of Bellevue and the Bellevue Downtown Association, Mike Ogliore and Jera Gilmore invited Boardmembers to the 31st Annual Bellevue Family 4th of July celebration presented by The Bellevue Collection. The event is the largest 4th of July celebration on the Eastside and will take place in Bellevue Downtown Park where families and friends can enjoy food, games, live music, and a spectacular fireworks show. This year, there will be 20 food vendors at the event along with many other event highlights.

Heidi Dean

Heidi Dean lives in the Newport Hills neighborhood and expressed concern with the amount of cars parked and visiting Newport Hills Woodlawn Park. It was suggested that signage be added to encourage park users to park at Ringdall Middle School. Heidi Dean said that dog waste is a problem at the park as well. People disrespect the park and are not properly cleaning up after their dogs.

Ashley Salazar

Ashley Salazar thanked Boardmembers for Newport Hills Woodlawn Park. Concern was expressed about the number of cars parked and visiting the park, as well as the dog waste that is being left behind by dog owners.

Alex Tsimerman

Alex Tsimerman expressed dissatisfaction with the government.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Stokes welcomed the newest Boardmembers Eileen Chou and Elizabeth Kronoff to the Parks Board.

6. **DIRECTOR'S REPORT:**

Michael Shiosaki, Parks & Community Services Director, provided the following report:

- The Downtown Park Grand Opening Celebration will be held on June 24, 2023 at noon.
- Summer camps begin on June 26, 2023.
- There are three off-leash pop-up dog parks (Wildwood, Crossroads, Wilburton). Two additional pop-up dog parks will be added this summer (near City Hall, and Lincoln Center).
- Bellevue has six beaches with lifeguards. There is still a nationwide shortage of lifeguards so adjustments may need to be made.

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7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmembers welcomed newest Boardmembers Eileen Chou and Elizabeth Kronoff to the Parks Board.

Vice-Chair Clark recently visited Newport Hills Woodlawn Park and observed the parking issues that were referenced during Oral Communications.

Boardmember Clima looks forward to the 4th of July celebration with the additional food vendors. Boardmember Clima visited the pop-up dog parks and heard positive feedback from park users. It was suggested to add the dog waste station inside the fenced area at Newport Hills Woodlawn Park for convenience.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Hamilton visited Newport Hills Woodlawn Park, Downtown Park, and walked part of the Eastrail.

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

No report.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Wilburton Vision Implementation Policies**

Justin Panganiban and Janet Shull discussed a draft of the Comprehensive Plan amendments to the parks, recreation, and open space policies in the Wilburton/NE 8th Street Subarea Plan, and specifically the policies that are relevant to the 300-acre Wilburton Transit-Oriented Development (TOD). Appreciation was expressed to Ryan Walker for assisting with the project.

Justin Panganiban requested the Parks Board's input on whether the amendments provide clear and adequate direction to inform the design and development of parks, recreation, and open space investments to support the vision. As part of this process, a formal recommendation from the Parks Board is not necessary, but input from the Parks Board will help inform the final draft of Parks, Recreation & Open Space policies that will be shared with the Planning Commission in the fall. The Planning Commission reviewed draft policies on this topic in May, and affirmed the direction these policies are going in informing the implementation of the Wilburton TOD Vision.

Justin Panganiban explained that the Wilburton Vision Initiative was launched in April 2022. Council directed staff to utilize the 2018 vision and the Citizen Advisory Committee's preferred alternative as the baseline for implementation. This has been the starting point for policy

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amendments. The urban design framework includes the greatest development intensity adjacent to Downtown, stepping down in intensity toward more mid-rise scale opportunities toward the east and southeast edges. This framework also includes design principles for walkable blocks, parks and open space, placemaking, environmental enhancements, and affordable housing opportunities.

The policies also build off the growth that is being planned along the Bellevue Transit Growth Corridor, which includes the Wilburton TOD as well as Downtown Bellevue, East Main, and BelRed. The Wilburton TOD area is within the walkshed of four different light rail stations and at the crossroads of major investments in light rail, Eastrail, and the Grand Connection.

The Board received a presentation about the TOD vision in March 2023 where key elements of the vision that inform the policy goals for this area were discussed.

The Board's guidance in March regarding the preliminary vision, policy goals, and guidance statements, included:

- Clarifying types of open space opportunities within different areas of the Wilburton TOD.
- Ensuring parks, recreation & open space goals and policies apply to everyone, not just those who live and work in the area.
- Considering the area east of Eastrail as a critical connection to Eastrail.
- Providing policy on land acquisitions.
- Emphasizing Eastrail activation.
- Consideration of historic and cultural resources in the area.

A major milestone of this initiative is to adopt comprehensive plan amendments that serve as the guiding framework for implementation. This work will inform the land use code amendment that will establish more specific development standards and design guidelines, as well as new land use districts, or zoning. Policies specific to the Wilburton/NE 8th Street Subarea Plan will be evaluated, along with policies; including the modification, addition, or removal of policies to align with changed conditions or future needs in the Wilburton TOD. Analysis being conducted as part of the environmental review process for Wilburton is occurring in parallel with policy development, and findings from that process may inform policy updates as well.

Staff are looking to update policies related to the Wilburton TOD. Policies that are part of the broader Wilburton Neighborhood Area are outside the scope of this initiative, and the city will update neighborhood area plans once the Comprehensive Plan Periodic Update is complete. Staff are also looking to update policies to align with recommendations found in the Parks & Open Space System Plan, which speaks to a variety of open space opportunities.

Preliminary Parks, Recreation & Open Space policy amendments were included in the Board packet. Complementary policies in areas of Environment, Transportation, and Urban Design were highlighted.

These draft policies are grouped into several key policy moves.

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The first key move is the Creation of an Urban Park System. Parks, open space, and trails are needed to serve current and future urban densities within Wilburton. An urban park system is envisioned that leverages Grand Connection and Eastrail, connects to major community parks, and offers a variety of community-oriented uses. Staff preliminarily recommends a modification of one existing policy (S-WI-36) and the addition of several new policies.

To support an urban park system, proposed new policies establish types and general locations of where future parks and open space opportunities are to support the vision.

- New Policy 1 and 2 provides guidance on neighborhood parks, which help create greater neighborhood access to open space. New Policy 1 considers city actions to acquire and develop neighborhood park opportunities across the Wilburton TOD. New Policy 2 provides guidance on how future development can implement open space opportunities. Future development can support the development of land for public park use, as well as other publicly accessible open spaces, like urban plazas.
- New Policy 3 and 4 provides guidance on connectivity between parks and recognizes non-motorized connections as extensions of the urban park system that can connect between parks and destinations within Wilburton, as well as contribute open space amenities.
- New Policy 6 provides guidance on larger gathering spaces associated with the Grand Connection and Eastrail that support civic functions, and complements the density and mix of activities envisioned at the heart of Wilburton. These opportunities are identified and coordinated with ongoing work on Grand Connection and Eastrail.
- New Policy 7 provides guidance on opportunities to connect or extend major open space opportunities provided by Eastrail and Grand Connection to 120th Avenue NE and further east. This could be implemented through dedicated linear park space, enhanced streetscape connections, or other means.
- New Policy 9 provides guidance as to where the city may consider strategically acquiring land for public park use. Key opportunities include Eastrail, Grand Connection, Wilburton Trestle, and around Lake Bellevue, which is identified as an opportunity in the Parks & Open Space Plan.

These open space concepts were envisioned at a high-level as part of the 2018 CAC effort. The policies support technical refinements to these draft concepts to support future implementation of these open spaces.

Discussion:

- Need clarity on the definition for some of the items, such as “non-motorized, multi-modal,” etc.
- As the policies are developed, how are goals measured? *Response: Success of parks and open space need to link to how it fits within the broader areas. Many of the items were identified in the 2018 study. There aren't strict measurements but feedback from the community is viewed as a measurement. There are also different tools that can be utilized, like the land use code amendments.*

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- Need to continue gaining community feedback for the Wilburton area. The 2018 study is great, but there also needs to be a check in with the community about what is envisioned. *Response: There has been some community input since the 2018 work (Eastrail Framework Plan, utilization of Engaging Bellevue, etc.). There is also a link between the Comprehensive Plan and the Parks & Open Space Systems Plan.*
- New Policy 1: “Dispersed” doesn’t seem to balance connectivity. Could replace “dispersed” with “broad.” *Response: Will discuss this suggestion with the Planning Commission.*
- Public feedback is valuable, but also need to be mindful of people that fill the new vision, how are they tracked with how they are thinking about their new neighborhood. May want regular open houses or other ways to gain feedback from people that start using the area.
- When people can walk within the community, there are many benefits. The area should be viewed as connective tissue (i.e., Lake Bellevue to the Spring District).
- Need to settle on a name for the project area—prefer West Wilburton.
- There doesn’t seem to be a connection to the Bellevue Botanical Garden. This should be acknowledged and/or connected.
- Eastrail and the Bellevue Botanical Garden should be called out.
- Eastrail should be referred to as a linear park.
- Need to call out Lincoln Center specifically and make it into a park space.
- New Policy 1: “Serve the needs of Wilburton TOD...” Would like it to read “serve the needs of West Wilburton within the Wilburton TOD.”
- New Policy 2: “new development to increase...” *Response: land use code will include some of the public amenities in new development. Want to leverage the redevelopment to increase access to open space.*

The second key policy move is enhancement of natural features. There are several natural features in Wilburton today, including Lake Bellevue, Sturtevant Creek, and a wetland off 116th and Main.

New policies would be drafted in support of natural features. Policies 10 and 11 live in the Environment section of the Subarea Plan, but do have synergies with Parks, Recreation & Open Space policies. New Policy 10 provides guidance on natural features like Sturtevant Creek and Lake Bellevue, which were of significant interest to the CAC and community. They are unseen resources and located on privately owned land. Draft policies speak to opportunities as to how these features can become community assets as redevelopment occurs. Policy 5, located in the Parks, Recreation & Open Space policies, was highlighted to show how opportunities to support enhancements to Lake Bellevue relate to key environment policies. New Policy 11 provides guidance on how streets play a role in the natural network. There are opportunities to implement key ecosystem functions as part of streets, such as stormwater management and street trees.

Discussion:

- Would any of the policies assist with daylighting Sturtevant Creek?
Response: Yes. This is an opportunity that was highlighted in the 2018 study.

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- Does “encourage improvements that enhance the aesthetic and functional qualities...” imply daylighting the creek? This seems a bit broad.
- Does public waterfront access on Lake Bellevue include kayaking? *Response: No. While it is called Lake Bellevue, it is not a lake. It is a designated wetland. Access to Lake Bellevue implies more visual access.*
- New Policy 5 needs clarification about the definition of “public waterfront access.”
- If access to Lake Bellevue is encouraged, does the community want this? *Response: The city would need to acquire property to access Lake Bellevue. This links to New Policy 9.*
- Does “functional quality of natural features” and “environmental performance” help wildlife? *Response: Yes, this encompasses wildlife and more (i.e., sustainable district).*

The final key policy move is the development of Eastrail as a defined trail and park corridor. The city is partnering with King County and Sound Transit to envision a 1.2-mile portion of the Eastrail corridor within the Wilburton TOD, which will be a fundamental infrastructure toward a transit- and trail-oriented district. Eastrail touches several policy topics, including parks recreation and open space, transportation, and urban design.

Eastrail will be pivotal in connecting the urban park network, and draft policies support the integration of different mobility and open space needs. One key opportunity highlighted in New Policy 8 is the integration of recreational and natural features within and adjacent to the Eastrail corridor. The regional trail only makes up a portion of what is generally a 100’ ROW, so there are opportunities for passive and active open space features to be implemented that complement activities within the corridor. While Eastrail policies have been included across multiple sections, some of the Eastrail-related policies in other sections were highlighted, such as Urban Design.

Each segment of the Eastrail corridor is unique in terms of the topography, adjacent land uses, potential for future development, proximity to multimodal connections, and presence of existing vegetation and natural features. The Eastrail Framework Plan speaks to the variety of conditions along the corridor that inform the current and future look and feel.

Opportunities to implement the Eastrail vision may include design guidelines and standards, dimensional standards, incentives, and requirements for adjacent development to activate and contribute to the urban design experience of the trail; and implementation of connections to Eastrail from 116th Avenue NE, Grand Connection, 120th Avenue NE, and Wilburton Station. These cross-sections from the Eastrail Framework Plan, while not an approved or adopted document by the city, help to illustrate the intent of these urban design policies, and that document will be a useful tool moving forward with the implementation of these policies.

Discussion:

- New Policy 20—need to keep in mind that there needs to be an easy process with King County to program, activate, etc. If it’s not an easy process, it may be difficult to fulfill the commitment.

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- New Policy 18 needs additional clarification. *Response: The CAC vision encourages a comfortable environment for sunlight and density along Eastrail. Setbacks and stepbacks may also be utilized.*
- Consider all usages related to “activation” (i.e., food trucks).
- How will the trail be different from the Kirkland corridor? *Response: The Wilburton segment could have greater integration of the trail corridor—mixed use development with various activities at the trail level. Also evaluating incentives for integration. It will be an urban corridor—want the corridor to be the front door, versus the back door.*
- Like the solar access to the trail.
- New Policy 8 should specify “co-lead” with King County versus “coordinate.”
- Recommend Eastrail Linear Park versus Eastrail Corridor.
- How much outreach has been conducted with the medical establishments in this region? *Response: Outreach has been conducted with Overlake and Kaiser. There have been some scheduling challenges. Hospitals have weighed in on the DEIS. Notifications have also been sent to the nearby businesses.*

As part of this process, a formal recommendation from the Parks & Community Services Board is not necessary, but the input provided above will help inform the final draft of Parks, Recreation & Open Space policies that will be shared with the Planning Commission in the fall.

B. Bellevue Youth Theatre

Bellevue Youth Theatre staff members Billie Hassebrock, Dionne Wardrop and Norm Dalire provided an overview of the Bellevue Youth Theatre. Founded in 1990, the Bellevue Youth Theatre (BYT) provides opportunities in the performing arts for all young people, regardless of income or ability, through its 11 main stage productions, theatre day camps, and student projects. The state-of-the-art facility, opened in 2015, provides access to professional-grade equipment in an accessible, safe, and welcoming environment, allowing all to explore their creativity, develop their skills, and connect with others.

Staff Members discussed the impacts of the pandemic on the arts community, and how the program adapted to virtual sessions. They also discussed how the dedicated members and partners of the BYT positively impact the community through inclusive programming and entertaining, social relevancy, and quality productions for the public to enjoy. Upcoming productions were also highlighted.

C. Chair and Vice-Chair Elections

Camron Parker explained the process for Board elections.

Chair Hamilton opened nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position.

Boardmember Trescases nominated Vice-Chair Clark for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position. Vice-Chair Clark accepted the nomination.

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Chair Hamilton requested other nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Chair position. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to appoint Vice-Chair Clark as the Parks & Community Services Board Chair.

Chair Hamilton opened nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position.

Boardmember Trescases nominated Boardmember Clima for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position. Boardmember Clima accepted the nomination.

Chair Hamilton requested other nominations for the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair position. There were none. Therefore, nominations were closed.

At the question, motion carried unanimously (6-0) to appoint Boardmember Clima as the Parks & Community Services Board Vice-Chair.

Boardmembers expressed their appreciation to Chair Hamilton for his leadership as the Board Chair.

11. **NEW BUSINESS:**

- A. Remote Participation Approval

No requests.

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

Camron Parker said that the July meeting agenda will include:

- Update: Recreation Program Plan
- Presentation: Kelsey Creek Farm

Review/Approval: Second Quarter Memo to City Council

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Parks CIP Project Status Report
- B. Written Communications to Parks & Community Services Board

14. **WRITTEN/ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

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None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

The next Board meeting will be held July 11, 2023.

At 8:25 p.m., Chair Hamilton declared the meeting adjourned.