

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

Tuesday
October 10, 2023
6:00 p.m.

Via Hybrid

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

COUNCILMEMBER PRESENT: Councilmember Stokes

PARKS STAFF PRESENT: Shelley Brittingham, Camron Parker, Mariam Sarwary, Michael Shiosaki, Colin Walker, Ryan Walker, Scott Vander Hyden

OTHERS PRESENT: Norm Hansen, Pat Hansen, Barbara Hughes, Loretta Lopez, Alex Tsimerman

MINUTES TAKER: Michelle Cash

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

Chair Clark called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. A quorum was present.

2. **APPROVAL OF AGENDA:**

Motion by Boardmember Kronoff and second by Boardmember Valverde to approve the meeting agenda as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

3. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

Motion by Boardmember Chou and second by Boardmember Hamilton to approve the September 12, 2023 meeting minutes as presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

4. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

Chair Clark reviewed new rules adopted by City Council in Ordinance 6752. The new rules limit the Oral Communication topics about which the public may speak during meetings. The public may now only speak during public comment about subject matters that are related to City of Bellevue government and are within the power and duties of the Parks & Community Services Board.

Alex Tsimerman

Alex Tsimerman expressed dissatisfaction with the Third Quarter 2023 report and communication to Council.

Loretta Lopez

Loretta Lopez thanked the city for supporting the Bridle Trails neighborhood park over the past 15 years. She looks forward to the grand opening of the park. Scott VanderHyden and Pam Fehrman were specifically thanked for their hard work.

Pat Hansen

Pat Hansen thanked Boardmembers for their support with the Bridle Trails neighborhood park. “Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park” is recommended as the park name.

Norm Hansen

Norm Hansen has lived in the Bridle Trails community for 52 years. He expressed appreciation to Scott VanderHyden and the Board for their efforts with the park. The new offerings at the park are a great addition to the community. “Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park” is recommended as the park name.

Barbara Hughes

On behalf of the Bridle Trails Board, Barbara recommended “Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park” as the park name. Boardmembers were thanked for their support of the park and community.

5. **CITY COUNCIL COMMUNICATION:**

Councilmember Stokes expressed appreciation to community members for providing input about the Bridle Trails neighborhood park, noting the importance of naming the park with the community’s name.

6. **DIRECTOR’S REPORT:**

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

- The pop-up dog parks continue to be a success. There are currently four off-leash parks. The dog parks will most likely continue through the end of 2024.
- Bellevue Arbor Day will be held on October 21 at Bannerwood Park.
- Halloween on the Hill will be held on October 28 at South Bellevue Community Center.
- Another park is being added to the park system—112th and Main Street. This park was built by Sound Transit and will be transferred to the city.

7. **BOARD COMMUNICATIONS:**

Boardmember Trescases participated in the Bellevue Downtown Association's (BDA) Study Tour to San Diego. Participants saw urban planning from a different perspective and strengthened relationships with other stakeholders invested in Downtown Bellevue's success.

Boardmember Hamilton also attended the BDA Study Tour and said that there were many great lessons learned. It would be beneficial if Parks staff could attend future tours.

Boardmember Hamilton visited the Bridle Trails neighborhood park and looks forward to the naming and park opening. He congratulated Scott VanderHyden and Parks staff for a job well done.

Vice-Chair Clima is looking forward to the Arbor Day celebration. Appreciation was also expressed to the Parks staff for offering the summer ranger program. Vice-Chair Clima recently visited South Korea and talked about an ancient stream that was daylighted for the community to enjoy.

Boardmember Kronoff enjoyed the Crossroads Dog Park, and the Bellevue Botanical Garden.

Boardmember Valverde attended the Kelsey Creek Farm Fair and reviewed the Comprehensive Plan Update.

Boardmember Chou looks forward to the official opening of the Bridle Trails neighborhood park. She also visited Downtown Park and highlighted an unofficial produce stand that is available at the park.

8. **CHAIR COMMUNICATION & DISCUSSION:**

Chair Clark visited Goddard Park and noted that this park and other small parks are essential to Bellevue's entire park system. He also thanked the Bridle Trails community members for attending the meeting.

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

No report.

10. **DISCUSSION/ACTION ITEMS:**

A. **Naming of new Bridle Trails neighborhood park**

Scott Vander Hyden showed a map of the Bridle Trails neighborhood park. Valley Creek runs through the wetlands of the park. The preferred park plan has a crosswalk on 140th Avenue Northeast, developed frontage, sidewalks, parking, picnic shelter, gathering areas, natural open lawn area, and a looped pathway.

Resolution No. 10151 (2022) was reviewed. This Resolution sets forth policies and procedures for naming public parks and recreation facilities. The City Council selects a park name typically after receiving a recommendation from the Parks & Community Services Board, which is based upon public input using the following criteria:

- A neighborhood or geographical identification;
- A natural or geographical feature;
- A historical figure or name of historical or cultural significance; or
- An individual or group that has made a significant contribution to the park system.
- In the case of names for individuals or historic figures, consideration of diversity, equity and inclusion.

Scott Vander Hyden discussed the outreach efforts that were conducted to obtain recommendations for naming the park. He also noted that the Bridle Trails Club requested the neighborhood as an identifier in the park name. The top selections include:

- Valley Creek Park -or- Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park
- Birdsong Park -or- Bridle Trails Birdsong Park
- Bridle Trails Playground Park
- East Bridle Trails Park
- Belmond Park

Discussion:

- It is wonderful to hear about the collaborative process between the community and staff for the park naming. Prefer Valley Creek in the name. Hesitance was expressed to use the community's name in most of Bellevue's parks. Park names can become the identifier of the area, which may not always be ideal.
- Great process. Like having Bridle Trails in the name. Favor Valley Creek as well.
- Does the name "Valley" come from a person or a depression in the park?
Response: There isn't historical information available about the park. However, there is a creek that runs through the property (Valley Creek).
- Where did the name "Birdsong" come from? *Response: It's a nod toward the wildlife in the area.*
- Prefer Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park as the name.
- Support the name that the community prefers. Want the name to be inclusive.

- Like Bridle Trails in the name and appreciate the community's feedback.
- Location in the park name is important.
- Want to respect the neighborhood association. Favor Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park. Wayfinding in the park is also important.

Motion by Boardmember Valverde and second by Boardmember Hamilton to recommend to City Council the name Bridle Trails Valley Creek Park for the new neighborhood park on 140th Avenue NE in Bridle Trails. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

B. Recreation Plan Update

Ryan Walker said that the Parks & Community Services Department is in the process of updating one of its long-range policy documents, the Recreation Program Plan. First developed in the late 1990s, the Recreation Program Plan guides the department's investment in recreation programming. The Plan iterates the vision for recreation programming in the city and establishes goals, strategies, and actions to implement that vision.

The Plan is a required document set forth by the Commission for Accreditation of Park and Recreation Agencies (CAPRA), under which Bellevue Parks & Community Services is an accredited agency. Through recently updated CAPRA accreditation requirements the Recreation Program Plan shall be updated every 2-3 years (the prior standard was about every 5 years).

The current Recreation Plan dates from 2020 and was updated significantly at that time, including extensive community outreach. The 2023 update is seen as an interim update. The core tenets of the current Plan remain relevant. This update provides an opportunity to assess progress and consider pertinent changes given trends in the last few years. Anticipated changes are focused on the implementation actions, with consideration of those completed since 2020 or those that need to be revised or added based on trends in recreation programming, and within the city.

Ryan Walker reminded Boardmembers that the Board was introduced to the Recreation Plan update at the July 2023 meeting. At that meeting, discussion with the Board focused on Plan goals, strategies, and actions as well as the recreation program broadly and considerations since 2020. Some of the feedback shared included:

- Ensure we are collecting the data needed to evaluate programs.
- Explore options to expand use of universal design principles.
- Consider additional partnerships, particularly with school districts.
- Look into offering classes in languages beyond English.
- The Recreation Provider Inventory is a valuable resource for the public.
- Virtual programming is a useful programming tool.
- Programming geared towards older adults is important.
- Continue to maintain various methods to access program information or expand as gaps in access or challenges are identified.

Some of these items are included in existing implementation actions, while others are seen as possible additions in line with other feedback received. As part of this Plan update, internal discussions and a workshop have been held, along with discussions at meetings of the Bellevue Diversity Advantage Network and Bellevue Network on Aging.

Ryan Walker summarized the proposed updates to the implementation actions based on collective outreach and staff expertise.

Discussion:

- Strategy 1A/Action4A—Noon is not ideal for class sign ups for some people. Early morning, or noon on a weekend are options.
- Strategy 1A/Action 2—Why is the demographic data included? *Response: It helps with inclusion.*
- Strategy 1B/Action 2—Suggest adding “Title 6” to clarify that the compliance is in regards to translation compliance.
- Strategy 1B/Action 2—Where “vital or requested” is cited it speaks to a narrow range. This should be reevaluated by increasing the language even if it’s not specifically requested. *Response: The term “vital” is a requirement in Title 6.*
- May want to consider embedded links. *Response: The city looks at how demographics are changing. The city is limited on AI technology that can be used within Title 6. It is tied to federal law and state interpretation.*
- Will be good to get feedback from Youth Link. Once feedback is obtained, it would be ideal if staff could loop back to the various groups to let them know how their feedback was utilized.
- Technology is advancing. Want to make sure that the Parks Department adds and improves technology and any other leveraging opportunities.
- Some people don’t know what the city can do for them. Has there been any thought about a high level interactive introduction to the city (i.e., cross departmental option), particularly for people new to Bellevue. *Response: Bellevue Essentials is the current offering for community members to get to know the city.*
- Recreational programming could be put in an immediate chat bot for the entire content of the website.

C. Park Board approval of third quarter 2023 report and communications to Council

Camron Parker provided an overview of the Parks Board Third Quarter 2023 Report and Communication to Council.

Motion by Boardmember Trescases and second by Boardmember Hamilton to approve the Parks Board Third Quarter 2023 Report and Communication to Council, substantially in the form presented. Motion carried unanimously (7-0).

11. NEW BUSINESS:

Boardmember Hamilton informed Boardmembers that he will be participating remotely at the November Board meeting.

Boardmember Trescases asked that the wayfinding signs throughout the city be inspected, particularly the signs in the Eastgate area. There are many signs that are faded and/or peeled off. Councilmember Stokes said that the signs around Airfield Park are also worn.

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

Camron Parker said that the November meeting agenda will include a presentation for the Recreation Plan and requested endorsement, and a presentation from the Natural Resources Division. The Comprehensive Plan will be discussed during first quarter of 2024.

13. **OTHER COMMUNICATIONS:**

- A. Parks CIP Project Status Report
- B. 2023 Summer Ranger Program
- C. Invitation to Bellevue Arbor Day, 10-21-23

14. **ORAL COMMUNICATIONS:**

None.

15. **ADJOURNMENT:**

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

At 7:53 p.m., Chair Clark declared the meeting adjourned.