

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

September 11, 2017
6:00 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Stokes, Deputy Mayor Chelminiak, and Councilmembers Lee, Robertson¹, Robinson, Simas, and Wallace

ABSENT: None.

1. Approval of Agenda

The meeting was called to order at 6:06 p.m., with Mayor Stokes presiding.

- Deputy Mayor Chelminiak moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Robinson seconded the motion.
- The motion to approve the agenda carried by a vote of 6-0.

2. Oral Communications

- (a) Don Marsh, President of the Coalition of Eastside Neighborhoods for Sensible Energy (CENSE), commented on the reliability of electrical infrastructure. He said he was driven to speak to the Council due to the hurricanes, earthquake in Mexico, and the anniversary of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks. He said Puget Sound Energy (PSE) is trying to avoid an unlikely 15-minute power outage with the Energize Eastside project. He expressed concern regarding the proximity of the project to the oil pipeline. Mr. Marsh said a preferred solution is non-flammable batteries, which can survive disasters better than traditional infrastructure.
- (b) Dr. Richard Kaner, a member of CENSE, expressed concern regarding PSE's plans to split the Energize Eastside project into north and south segments for permitting purposes. He said the impacts of the entire transmission line project must be studied versus the artificial division into two projects. He said that splitting the permitting process is

¹ Councilmember Robertson joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.

wasteful and redundant. Dr. Kaner suggested that the City should stand against splitting the project into two permitting processes. He opined that it is inconsistent with prior State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA) review, local ordinances, and state case law.

Responding to Councilmember Robinson, Deputy City Manager Kate Berens said she will consult with the City Attorney's Office regarding permitting for the Energize Eastside project. She said the conditional use permit (CUP) could become a quasi-judicial matter under the Council's rules.

[Councilmember Robertson joined the meeting at 6:15 p.m.]

- (c) Rod Bindon, a Medina resident and President of the Meydenbauer Bay Neighbors Association, expressed concern that Argosy Cruises cancelled its annual holiday ship visit to Bellevue due to park construction. He said the City did not inform residents regarding the impact of the park project on the annual holiday tradition. He asked the Council to work to restore the holiday ship visit.

Responding to the Mayor, Parks and Community Services Director Patrick Foran said staff is working with Argosy Cruises to continue its cruise through Meydenbauer Bay, even if it is unable to stop as in the past. Mr. Foran said staff will provide an update when a decision is made.

3. Study Session

- (a) Council Business and New Initiatives

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak noted it is the 16th anniversary of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. He commended first responders and heroes who come forward in disasters, including the recent hurricanes in other parts of the country and the forest fires in Washington and Oregon. He noted that his employer's headquarters is in Houston, where people have been unable to get to work. Mr. Chelminiak recalled the crane collapse in Bellevue in recent years, which demonstrated the response of Police, Fire, and building inspector personnel. He requested a 30-second pause to reflect on past and current disasters and on the first responders who put themselves at risk to help others.

Councilmember Wallace noted that Amazon released a request for proposals (RFP) for choosing the location for a second headquarters. He said it is important to keep the company in the region in both Seattle and Bellevue. He said he asked the City Manager and Economic Development Manager to explore the potential for responding to the RFP. Mr. Wallace said every element of the RFP is fulfilled in Bellevue: 1) 500,000 square feet of office space initially, growing to 8 million square feet over time; 2) stable, friendly business environment; 3) labor force; and 4) a community that is willing to think big with real estate decisions. He believes Bellevue can be a serious contender in the Amazon RFP process. Mr. Wallace suggested an intensive effort by the City to respond to the RFP and to work with County and State partners in this effort.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak and Councilmembers Robertson and Robinson concurred with Mr. Wallace's suggestion. Mayor Stokes concurred as well and said others in the community have mentioned Bellevue as a potential contender.

Councilmember Robertson noted that Amazon has office space in Bellevue and many people who work for the company live in Bellevue. She suggested that, at a minimum, the City should let Amazon know that it appreciates their presence and looks forward to their continued growth. She expressed support for competing to be the company's second headquarters.

Ms. Berens said she will work with staff to determine the required time and resources needed to respond to the Amazon RFP.

Councilmember Wallace said Bellevue's transportation projects and planning for the Grand Connection are assets for Amazon. Mayor Stokes noted the efforts of the Innovation Triangle and other regional initiatives as well.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for Mr. Wallace's suggestion. Mr. Lee suggested that the process will be extremely competitive nationwide, and Bellevue needs to be realistic about the resources needed to respond to the RFP.

Mr. Lee thanked Deputy Mayor Chelminiak for his comments honoring those affected by the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001. He expressed his appreciation for first responders and others who come forward to help in times of tragedies and disasters.

Councilmember Robinson said there are 47 business headquarters in Bellevue due to its favorable quality of life. She noted that Bellevue is a Tech Hire city with the workforce needed to support technology companies. She expressed support for Mr. Wallace's suggestion.

Councilmember Simas expressed his support as well. He said that responding to the RFP will demonstrate Bellevue's continued interest in attracting business and in showing that Bellevue welcomes the world.

Mayor Stokes said that competing in the Amazon RFP process is an opportunity to demonstrate that Bellevue is a vibrant city and the place people want to be.

Councilmember Wallace suggested there is no stronger contender than Bellevue for meeting the criteria in the Amazon RFP. Mr. Lee concurred and suggested that the effort should receive the necessary resources. He encouraged Councilmembers to be advocates for the application.

(b) Eastside Pathways Update

Deputy City Manager Kate Berens recalled that the Council last received an update from the Eastside Pathways program in September 2015. The Council approved a two-year funding contract with the program earlier this year. She said Eastside Pathways has facilitated several community approaches to address the needs of Bellevue's families and children, specifically with regard to education. Ms. Berens said no action is requested of the Council at this time.

Patrick Foran, Director of Parks and Community Services, recalled that funding to Eastside Pathways was approved during the previous budget cycle and certain deliverables were identified

at that time. He said the purpose of tonight's agenda item is to provide an update on the status of those deliverables. Mr. Foran noted that more than 60 partners are involved in the Eastside Pathways community-based organization.

Stephanie Cherrington, Executive Director of Eastside Pathways, said the mission of the Eastside Pathways partnership is to shape systems that support children from cradle to career, step by step. The mission of the Eastside Pathways "backbone" is to mobilize the community to support the partnership. She said the distinction between those two efforts is important. She said the City of Bellevue provides funding assistance to the work of the backbone, which uses data, engages the broader community in the work of the partnership, ensures that the partnership defines common goals, guides the strategy of the partnership, and communicates the outcomes of the work of the partnership.

Ms. Cherrington noted Eastside Pathways' eight collaboratives: 1) school readiness, 2) summer and extended learning, 3) attendance, 4) transitions, 5) career pathways, 6) mental health and wellbeing, 7) community engagement, and 8) business engagement group. Ms. Cherrington described the organization's adaptive leadership model to ensure that the work of the partnership is moving forward. She said Eastside Pathways partnered with Leadership Eastside over the past 12-18 months to co-develop a certification program to ensure adaptive leadership expertise in each of its collaboratives.

Ms. Cherrington said the update would address the: 1) alignment of data outcome measures, 2) development of data-sharing framework, 3) annual community report, and 4) training and volunteer services. She said the Eastside Pathways backbone aggregates data from different organizations and partners, and publishes an annual community report. She described the development of the online Tableau Dashboard to provide real-time reporting on the progress of outcome measures.

Ms. Cherrington said it is important for the partners to agree on the organization's goals. Over the past year, Eastside Pathways gained agreement on the shared goal that: "The partnership facilitates the collection and connection of academic data across the cradle to career pipeline and among partners to enable continuous improvement." She said partners have a responsibility to share data and to act upon that data. She said the Eastside Pathways backbone relaunched the Data Council to move this work forward and to ensure that the collaboratives' efforts are consistent with the goal.

Ms. Cherrington said the annual community report, released in April, addresses the five primary goals for individuals from birth to 26 years old: 1) every child is ready to learn, 2) every child thrives both in and out of school, 3) every youth graduates from high school prepared for a post-secondary plan, 4) every young adult attains post-secondary education or training, and 5) every child attains optimal mental and physical health.

Ms. Cherrington said that, when Eastside Pathways is shaping systems, it is ultimately creating better outcomes for kids. Performance indicators include skills when entering kindergarten, third grade reading proficiency, high school graduation, and completing a post-secondary degree. She said training and volunteer services include the quarterly Eastside Pathways 101 program. The organization gained 12 new partners last year and sponsored tailored events for City of Bellevue

employees. Additional training and volunteer activities include partnering with Leadership Eastside's adaptive leadership training, quarterly facilitator training and review, the Promotores Project engaging the Latino community, and support of the Eastside Latino Leadership Forum and the Eastside Refugee and Immigrant Coalition.

Ms. Cherrington provided additional details regarding the Promotores Project, which trained eight members of the Latino community to lead in education, employment, and professional development. She highlighted the findings of the Latino Community survey and report.

Ms. Cherrington described the attendance campaigns conducted over the past four years to address and prevent chronic absenteeism. She said the City provided support to the September Attendance Awareness Month campaign by providing campaign materials and overpass banners, and through its participation with the Attendance Collaborative. She said the results of the 2016 campaign indicated a 28 percent decrease in tardiness.

Ms. Cherrington described activities focused on incorporating racial equity into systems. She said 38 Eastside Pathways partners were trained in racial equity and established the Racial Equity Team. She described the partnership with the Bellevue School District to host the Northwest Pacific Educational Group (PEG) Regional Summit, which will return to Bellevue in 2018.

Ms. Cherrington said Eastside Pathways signed the Lake Washington School District as a partner and provided Eastside Pathways 101 training for District employees and for the staff of cities within the school district.

Ms. Cherrington thanked the City for its leadership and involvement with Eastside Pathways.

Councilmember Robinson thanked Ms. Cherrington for the presentation and for the work of Eastside Pathways. Responding to Ms. Robinson, Ms. Cherrington said the Annual Community Report compares year-to-year data. She said the report and the Tableau Dashboards are available on the Eastside Pathways website.

Ms. Robinson noted the correlation between housing stability and student performance. Ms. Cherrington said housing is not a specific focus of the Eastside Pathways program. However, the organization recognizes the impact of housing stability and was supportive of the successful effort to retain Highland Village in Bellevue as affordable housing. Ms. Cherrington said Eastside Pathways partners include housing agencies.

Councilmember Robinson said she would like to know whether students who are struggling also have challenges related to housing stability. As a Councilmember, she is interested in addressing housing needs and stability.

Councilmember Robertson commented on the importance of teaching families about the value of using public libraries. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Ms. Cherrington said the King County Library System is an Eastside Pathways partner. She said the library system has shifted its

strategy from years ago of requiring families to come to the library to a focus on community outreach.

Councilmember Robertson noted there are milestones in student development including the third grade reading level. Responding to Ms. Robertson, Mr. Cherrington said that Eastside Pathways' common goals align with monitoring and evaluating key milestones.

Ms. Robertson questioned whether the City and/or Eastside Pathways are using their data and efforts to pursue funding from the Best Starts for Kids levy. Ms. Cherrington said she serves on the Best Starts for Kids evaluation advisory committee. She said King County received Eastside Pathways' community report. She said Eastside Pathways is working to apply for Best Starts for Kids funding and also works with partner organizations to encourage them to apply individually for levy funding.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Ms. Cherrington said Eastside Pathways has a volunteer who is tracking the grant proposal deadlines, applicants, organizations that receive funding, and upcoming grant opportunities. Ms. Cherrington said the Eastside Pathways Board has discussed sending a letter to King County regarding the Best Starts for Kids levy to highlight the needs on the Eastside.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak said the dashboard feature is very helpful for accessing information quickly and easily. He said Speaker of the House Paul Ryan and Senator Patty Murray are working together to create a commission on evidence-based and outcome-based policymaking. Mr. Chelminiak said Eastside Pathways' efforts are a great example of supporting evidence-based policymaking. He questioned whether the information is used in determining the City's human services funding.

Mr. Foran said Eastside Pathways uses the City's Human Services Needs Update as a tool in identifying needs and areas of emphasis. He said City staff is involved in the EP Data Council. He said the City is interested in moving the Needs Update's process, goals and objectives toward a more predictive model. He said Eastside Pathways is working to encourage data sharing between partners.

Mr. Chelminiak concurred with Councilmember Robinson's comment on the importance of housing stability for children and families. Mr. Chelminiak said it is good to consider a broad range of factors that affect learning. He said the next task is to translate that information into setting policies and budgets. Mr. Cherrington noted that Eastside Pathways' focus on shaping systems ultimately involves policy decisions.

Mr. Foran commented that there is often a family problem when students are late or not attending school. Ms. Cherrington said the data could be used to help shape the human resources policies of organizations to provide flexibility for parents related to getting their kids to school.

Councilmember Lee complimented Eastside Pathways' work. He said the Bellevue School District has many high achievers. However, others may be left behind. Responding to Mr. Lee, Mr. Foran said Eastside Pathways focuses on all children and on issues beyond academic success, including mental health and family-related issues. He said Bellevue has the third highest

teen suicide rate in King County. Mr. Foran said the factors in children's success are not necessarily linked to socio-economic levels. In further response to Councilmember Lee, Ms. Cherrington noted that school attendance is important for all children. She offered to meet with him individually to provide more information.

Councilmember Simas expressed support for Eastside Pathways' efforts with many community partners. He noted the result of the Latino community survey which indicates the importance of community and culture. He said that is consistent with Councilmember Robinson's comments on housing stability. He questioned who has ownership of the needs reflected in the survey results.

Ms. Cherrington said all of the Eastside Pathways partners own a part of responding to identified needs. As an example, she said that information regarding the Promotores program has been forwarded to the Bellevue School District, which will consider modifications to address the needs reflected in the Latino community survey and report.

Mayor Stokes said the eight Eastside Pathways collaboratives work together to jointly address issues. He said this has been an interesting journey. He said the cities of Kirkland, Issaquah, and Redmond are members of the partnership. He said the organization is an example of Bellevue being the leader of important governmental policy regarding cultural and societal issues and programs in the region.

Mayor Stokes thanked Mr. Foran and Eastside Pathways for their ongoing work.

Councilmember Wallace thanked Mayor Stokes for his efforts as one of the founding Board members for Eastside Pathways.

Ms. Cherrington thanked the City for its support and leadership.

(c) Vision Zero Update

Deputy City Manager Kate Berens introduced discussion regarding the Vision Zero program and activities. She recalled that the Council endorsed the Vision Zero program by approving Resolution No. 9035 on December 7, 2015. The Council adopted Vision Zero policies into the Comprehensive Plan on December 12, 2016, and directed staff to prepare and implement a Vision Zero Action Plan.

Franz Loewenherz, Senior Planner, recalled the six elements of the Vision Zero program: engineering, education, enforcement, encouragement, evaluation, and equity. He said the Vision Zero work builds on the City's long track record of road safety. He noted that City staff conduct an annual assessment of collisions and use the information to determine appropriate corrective measures. In 2016, the City received the U.S. Department of Transportation's Safer People, Safer Streets Award, which was presented to Councilmember Robinson and Mr. Loewenherz.

Mr. Loewenherz said staff is moving forward with a Vision Zero action plan in collaboration with the Police Department. The scope of work combines data, people, and policy to develop a unified strategy for moving forward. Staff will conduct a thorough review of collision data over

the past 10 years to identify trends and behavioral patterns for focusing Vision Zero efforts. Mr. Loewenherz said the City will engage the community and public agencies to learn about concerns and priorities.

Mr. Loewenherz presented the Vision Zero Action Plan timeline. Staff will begin discussing Vision Zero program implementation with the Transportation Commission on September 28. A policy framework will be developed in early 2018, action strategies and performance measures will be developed in mid-2018, and the completion of the final report is targeted for September 2018.

Mr. Loewenherz described one of the evaluation elements of the program, which is a collaboration with Microsoft using video analytics. The project will begin using the raw video footage from the City's existing traffic cameras to derive actionable data. That data will help identify behaviors and patterns to guide the implementation of corrective measures and to prevent accidents.

Mr. Loewenherz recalled that, in the March discussion with the Council, he described the crowdsourcing initiative hosted on the Institute of Transportation Engineers website. He said that individuals developing machine-learning algorithms need the video footage in order to identify the objects in the videos. He said the project would not be possible without cloud computing and machine learning. He noted that the collaborative between the City and Microsoft has attracted national attention. He said crowdsourcing is generating real-time data on driver patterns in Bellevue.

Mr. Loewenherz described the traffic analytics dashboard for different time periods earlier that day. The graphics indicate vehicle movements as well as bicycle and pedestrian activity. He said this is exciting data for a number of reasons. Mr. Loewenherz said Microsoft developed the dashboards and is creating alert systems for traffic management that will enable staff to identify deviations from the norm in terms of extensive queuing, unusual traffic volumes, and/or behavioral patterns (e.g., U-turns at certain locations).

Mr. Loewenherz said there is a growing list of partners involved in the City's collaboration with Microsoft, including Unity Technologies. Before the current project, the City has worked with nonprofit organizations and public agencies. Unity Technologies is the first private sector entity to join the collaboration. The company has 150 employees in Bellevue and 1,500 employees world-wide. Mr. Loewenherz thanked the City's economic development staff for facilitating the relationship with Unity Technologies, which is developing a platform that will enhance the accuracy of pedestrian and bicycle data.

Mr. Loewenherz said the Society of Automotive Engineers (SAE) International is creating a research committee dedicated to developing open, consensus standards on surrogate (near miss) measures of safety. He noted SAE International's work related to autonomous vehicles.

Mr. Loewenherz noted that the video analytics project underway by the City and Microsoft recently received the 2017 Transportation Achievement Award for Safety from the Institute of Transportation Engineers.

Deputy Mayor Chelminiak thanked City staff and Microsoft for their work to develop a tool that will make Bellevue's streets safer. He said this is a great example of evidence-based policymaking. He suggested presenting the program to Senator Patty Murray and others in the future.

Responding to Mr. Chelminiak, Mr. Loewenherz said the project has not gotten to the point in which the data from the video analytics platform is detecting near misses. However, the City receives input from the public. Mr. Loewenherz said the City has a favorable road safety record compared to many other communities. Last year, there were 433 injuries related to roadway collisions. The Vision Zero program views accidents as preventable.

Mr. Chelminiak said the video analytics project is another example of this city and region being on the cutting edge of doing things smart with information and data to improve the quality of life.

Responding to Councilmember Simas, Mr. Loewenherz said the City and Microsoft are building their work on the research of a number of institutions in Sweden, Canada, and elsewhere, which have already developed platforms similar to this project. Mr. Loewenherz said the intent of the video analytics project is to create a system using existing infrastructure to identify and prevent accident near misses.

Councilmember Robinson commended Mr. Loewenherz's presentation in Washington, D.C. to representatives of cities from all over the country. The presentation was well received and has resulted in requests for additional presentations in other cities. Ms. Robinson said this is the type of innovation that everyone expects in Bellevue. She is pleased to see the partnership with Unity Technologies.

Responding to Ms. Robinson, Mr. Loewenherz said the City continues to collect and study data on the flashing left-turn arrows. He said more information can be provided in a future update.

Councilmember Lee expressed support for private-public partnerships. He noted the opportunity to expand partnerships and to continue to generate national involvement. He said the importance of technology is how it affects humans.

Mayor Stokes thanked staff for the report.

Mr. Stokes said an event was held earlier in the day in Downtown Park as part of National Drive Electric Week, which Councilmember Simas attended as well. Mr. Stokes said State Senator Patty Kuderer and King County Councilmember Claudia Balducci attended the event. He said Bellevue has two of the country's largest electric car dealerships: Nissan and Tesla. Bellevue Nissan sells more electric Leaf vehicles than any location in the country. Mr. Stokes said the Tesla dealership in Bellevue Square is among the top locations in the United States for advance sales of the new Tesla Model 3.

4. Council Discussion of Upcoming Items: None.

5. Continued Oral Communications: None.

6. Executive Session

At 8:04 p.m., Mayor Stokes declared recess to Executive Session for approximately 30 minutes to discuss one item of potential litigation.

The Executive Session concluded at 8:58 p.m., and the meeting was adjourned.

Kyle Stannert, CMC
City Clerk

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