

**CITY OF BELLEVUE  
ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMISSION  
MEETING MINUTES**

Thursday  
January 10, 2019  
6:30 p.m.

Conference Room 1E-113  
Bellevue City Hall  
Bellevue, Washington

**COMMISSIONERS PRESENT:** Vanja Knezevic (Acting Chair), Negin Khanloo, Aaron Morin, Lisa Schreiner, Ling Zhuang

**COUNCIL LIAISON:** Jared Nieuwenhuis

**COMMISSIONERS ABSENT:** Diann Strom, Anne Howe

**OTHERS PRESENT:** Lucy Liu, Assistant Director – Resource Management & Customer Service; Laurie Devereaux, Stream Team Coordinator; Joe Harbour, Asst. Director O&M ; Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

**1. CALL TO ORDER:**

The meeting was called to order by Chair Vanja Knezevic at 6:30 p.m.

**2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA**

**Motion made by Commissioner Zhuang, seconded by Commissioner Schreiner, to approve the agenda as presented. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

**3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

Oral and written communications were solicited. There were none.

**4. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMISIONS**

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis welcomed everyone back. Council was focused on getting through the budget cycle at the end of 2018. He summarized the budget process. At the recent Council meeting there was an executive session and then a study session on small cell and 5G.

**5. STAFF REPORTS**

Assistant Director Liu reported she is the new staff liaison. The position will

rotate in the future between the deputy director and the assistant directors. She reported that Deputy Director Lee has moved on to Seattle Public Utilities. She recognized and expressed appreciation for his contributions to the department, and noted he will be missed.

She announced that the City has signed the contract with an AMI provider.

**6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

11/1/18 Regular Meeting Minutes

**Motion made by Morin, seconded by Commissioner Zhuang approve the minutes as presented. Motion passed unanimously (5-0).**

**7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**8. NEW BUSINESS**

A. Stream Team Update

Laurie Devereaux gave an update on the Stream Team's highlights in 2018. She explained that her job focuses on Monitoring and Restoration; Technical Assistance, and Education and Outreach. There were 25 volunteer salmon watcher units who watched streams all over Bellevue all year long. There were over 500 visits to streams, logged 174 volunteer hours, and made over 100 citizen contacts. Surveyors also walk in streams once a week. Very few fish were reported this year. Regionally it was a low return year. NOAA data indicated that ocean conditions in the Pacific have been less than favorable in the last five years. She believes urban stream conditions also have an impact. Peamouth volunteers include 14 volunteer units who made 249 site visits involving 93 volunteer hours. Volunteers also participate in electrofishing and macroinvertebrate surveys. This year five volunteers spent 27 hours monitoring resident fish and macroinvertebrates in the summer.

The Stream Team participated in many education and outreach events as well as public events like Crossroads Farmers Market, Earth Day celebrations, and science fairs. This year the Four on the 4<sup>th</sup> Dog Walk was a great opportunity to target dog owners. Social media such as Twitter, Facebook, Instagram, advertising and blogs is an important tool for the Stream Team. They also use social marketing techniques to create behavior change. They have partnered with other organizations such as Bellevue Parks and Community Services, Animal Services of King

County, Seattle Humane Society, and Bellevue School District to increase awareness.

There will be some new requirements for businesses in the new NPDES permit that will be coming out this summer. Ms. Devereaux sees this as a great opportunity to educate businesses about the importance of having cleaner sites and also to provide resources to help with this. She is also looking forward to working with Parks to provide new interpretive signs at Coal Creek.

Questions and answers followed.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis asked how the Stream Team gets the majority of its volunteers and the process for bringing them on board. Ms. Devereaux explained that some volunteers have been with Stream Team since before she was in the position. Others are on the team for one season and then never come back. In addition to the core that has been around for a long time, she does outreach in many ways such as flyers, social media, community contacts, and students. She discussed the onboarding process for new volunteers.

Commissioner Morin asked about the cause of the dumpster issues. Ms. Devereaux explained that it involves a number of different parties, and more research needs to be done. Some of the more challenging sites are strip malls where a number of businesses share the site and no one wants to assume responsibility. She explained that better communication between the haulers and businesses is also necessary.

Commissioner Zhuang commented on the effects of urbanization she has noticed in her neighborhood wildlife. She asked about the consequences of urbanization on the streams. Ms. Devereaux commented that in areas where it is very developed there can be high flows which are hard on fish. There can also be a lot of bank hardening. There can also be an impact on storm drains. This makes it all the more important to provide the wildlife corridor and the safe habitat. There was some discussion about the importance of incentivizing rain gardens where they are an option. Commissioner Zhuang referred to the Cost of Service study for stormwater coming up in May and asked if the rain garden part would be considered. Assistant Director Liu commented that the study will evaluate incentives offered by the city's rate structure.

Commissioner Morin thanked Ms. Devereaux for the work she does. The Commission concurred.

B. Drinking Water Quality Regulations

Joe Harbour, Asst. Director O&M, provided an informational briefing regarding Drinking Water Quality in Bellevue. He discussed drinking water quality regulations, monitoring and reporting and also maintaining distribution water quality. Drinking water standards are important to control the level of contaminants in the nation's drinking water. They also require water monitoring schedules and methods to measure contaminants in water. He gave an overview of the regulatory agencies and standards. He then discussed Bellevue's water sources and Bellevue's water distribution system. Mr. Harbour reviewed how and why the City monitors distribution disinfectant residual, total coliform, heterotrophic plate count, disinfection by product, lead and copper, unregulated contaminants, asbestos, and emergency wells. Maintaining distribution drinking water quality is essential to make sure the water supplied to residents' homes remains safe and clean.

Questions and answers followed.

Commissioner Khanloo asked about efforts related to the water use efficiency rule. Mr. Harbour reviewed how the City tracks and reports distribution system leakage (DSL) to the State. The State goal is to have less than 10% water which is unaccounted for. Bellevue's numbers have been 4-7%. AMI will also help to understand DSL. There will also be new technology to help find the leaks. Artificial intelligence may also be helpful in the future.

Commissioner Zhuang asked about the cause of backflow. Mr. Harbour explained that it is water moving in the direction opposite of where it should. It generally comes from a cross connection through back-siphonage or backpressure. Elevated buildings downtown have backflow preventers on them, so the water doesn't get pushed back into the City's watermain. The cross-connection control program documents over 14,000 backflow prevention devices in the City. There have been only a few documented backflow cases in Bellevue in past years. He commented it might be helpful to come back to talk about some of City's programs related to cross connection, private drainage inspection, etc. and how best to maintain compliance.

Ling Zhuang asked if new buildout of industrial areas turned into residential would have a negative impact on water quality. Mr. Harbour did not believe it would since the City has what is needed to maintain distribution water quality.

The Commission thanked Mr. Harbour for his presentation.

**9. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS**

None

**10. REVIEW OF ESC CALENDAR/COUNCIL CALENDAR**

- ESC Calendar/Council Calendar

Assistant Director Liu stated that Seattle Public Utilities will be at the February meeting to provide a briefing on the seismic vulnerability planning efforts that they are doing on the Seattle transmission system. In March Doug Lane will be present to provide an update on the Water System Plan implementation efforts. In February or March, staff will provide an update on the AMI contract.

Code changes including the changes to the Utility Rate Relief Program recently went to the Council for approval. Council approved the recommendations the Commission made. Council also directed staff to look in to and implement a donation program as an additional source of funding for the Utility Rate Relief Program. Staff will bring that to the Commission later in the year for input.

In February, staff will be bringing a couple grants to Council for approval. One is the Waste Reduction and Recycling grant which provides funding for the residential, commercial and schools education programs on recycling and waste diversion. The other is the Local Hazardous Waste Management grant. This is a county grant which provides funding for household hazardous waste and pollution prevention education programs.

Staff will also be taking a contract to Council for Phase 2 of the AC Main Replacement Program projects for construction in 2019.

- Conservation & Outreach Events & Volunteer Opportunities

**11. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 7:58 p.m.