

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Study Session

May 6, 2019  
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room  
Bellevue, Washington

PRESENT: Mayor Chelminiak, Deputy Mayor Robinson, and Councilmembers Lee, Nieuwenhuis, Robertson, Stokes, and Zahn

ABSENT: None.

1. Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:04 p.m., with Mayor Chelminiak presiding. There was no Executive Session.

Mayor Chelminiak suggested amending the agenda to take King County Councilmember Dunn's update as the first item.

2. Study Session Items

(b) Update by King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn

King County Councilmember Reagan Dunn acknowledged that Mayor Chelminiak would not be seeking reelection and thanked him for his service.

Councilmember Dunn said the King County 2019-2020 budget was adopted in November. He noted that the budget identifies \$200 million for services and shelters to address homelessness and its root causes, including \$2 million toward the permanent men's shelter in Bellevue.

Mr. Dunn recalled that funding was provided to Bellevue by the King County Flood Control District for the Coal Creek Culvert Replacement Project to reduce flooding and enhance fish passage in south Bellevue. The ongoing project is replacing undersized culverts and constructing new storm drains and outfalls.

The Flood Control District initiated the Willowmoor Floodplain Restoration Project in 2013 near the outlet of Lake Sammamish. The District is currently evaluating project alternatives and is expected to select an alternative to develop to 30-percent design later this year. Mr. Dunn said

King County envisions restoring the slough to its original form as the Sammamish River. He said an update will be provided to the Council on May 28.

County Councilmember Dunn said the Tolt pipeline project along the Snoqualmie River south of Duvall was completed in October 2018, and habitat planning will be conducted this summer. The project is fully funded by the Flood Control District.

Mr. Dunn said that he and City Councilmember Robertson recently toured the site of the Coal Creek Sewer Project, which will replace the trunk sewer that was built more than 50 years ago. Two community meetings regarding the project are scheduled for May 15 (6:30-8:30 p.m. at Lewis Creek Visitor Center) and May 29 (6:30-8:30 p.m. at Newcastle Library).

Mr. Dunn noted that the Metro Transit budget includes funds to increase bus service throughout the county by 177,000 hours over the next two years. He said the Mountains to Sound Greenway recently achieved the federal designation as a natural heritage area, and he looks forward to Bellevue's project along the alignment.

Councilmember Dunn indicated his strong support of the region's efforts to stop human trafficking, which includes a public awareness and education campaign to help individuals identify human trafficking and to encourage victims to seek help. A public education campaign in the past increased calls to the national hotline by 500 percent.

Mr. Dunn noted that he and County Councilmember Claudia Balducci, a former Bellevue mayor, have a great working relationship in support of Bellevue's priorities.

Responding to Mayor Chelminiak, Mr. Dunn said there will be brief traffic impacts related to the sewer project along Coal Creek Parkway and the parking lot to access trails will be temporarily relocated. Mr. Chelminiak said he is pleased to see electric buses in Bellevue.

Councilmember Robertson thanked Mr. Dunn for touring the Coal Creek sewer project with her and for advocating for Bellevue's interests. Ms. Robertson recalled that the Willowmoor project began as a flood control project and later added a focus on the environmental impacts on fish. While she strongly supports the latter, she said that flood control to protect shoreline properties is her primary concern.

Ms. Robertson said she appreciated the parks levy funding for projects that benefit Bellevue. She noted that she would like to see partial funding for a regional aquatic center in the county's next parks levy. She suggested that King County consider providing the maximum grant amount to each of the cities that contribute financial support to the aquatic center.

Responding to Councilmember Robertson, Councilmember Dunn said he would follow up with information regarding the property adjacent to the Factoria transfer station that is under consideration for the men's homeless shelter. Ms. Robertson noted her understanding that there have been discussions about placing additional requirements on Congregations for the Homeless to develop either supportive housing or affordable housing. She would like to see the property

split to sell CFH only what they need rather than place the burden of purchasing the entire site on a nonprofit organization.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked Councilmember Dunn for his leadership regarding the continued use of the Cedar Hills Landfill. Mr. Dunn said the landfill has been operating for more than 50 years and has been slated for closing a number of times. He noted residents' concerns over the years regarding toxic gases, explosions, and the height of the landfill. He said the county is in need of a better solution.

Councilmember Lee said he appreciated Mr. Dunn's representation on behalf of Bellevue residents and businesses. Mr. Lee noted that the Coal Creek Culvert Replacement project affects property owners in Newport Shores. Mr. Lee opined that the region needs to be more proactive in looking at alternative solid waste disposal solutions.

Mr. Lee thanked Councilmember Dunn for his work related to human trafficking. Mr. Lee said the issue overlaps the City's cross-cultural programming and community outreach. He acknowledged the importance of King County and the cities working together.

Councilmember Stokes said he appreciated Councilmember Dunn's work and attention to Bellevue, even though only a portion of Bellevue is in his district. Mr. Stokes encouraged the County's support of a regional aquatic center on the Eastside. He endorsed both the flood control and fish habitat objectives of the Willowmoor project. He believes a higher cost alternative is justified to meet multiple goals. Mr. Stokes said it is important to actively explore solid waste disposal options, including waste-to-energy technology.

Councilmember Zahn thanked Mr. Dunn for his support of Bellevue and noted that the community continues to grow with new residents and businesses. Ms. Zahn expressed support for County funding to address homelessness. She said mobility and transit are key priorities for Bellevue as well, and she encouraged travel options for the last mile of connections to transit.

Ms. Zahn said she appreciated Councilmember Dunn's leadership when she served on the King County Flood Control District Advisory Committee. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Mr. Dunn noted his involvement with the addiction recovery community. Councilmember Zahn expressed concern that there are not adequate access points to services for certain underserved populations.

Deputy Mayor Robinson thanked Councilmember Dunn and the King County Council for their generosity to Bellevue. She noted that she serves on the Mental Illness and Drug Dependency Advisory Committee. She observed that there is a lack of awareness on the Eastside regarding the services provided by the County to address addiction and mental health issues. Ms. Robinson said she will continue to advocate with the King County Council for funding for social services associated with the men's homeless shelter in Bellevue. Ms. Robinson commented that combining flood control with ecological restoration is essential for the Willowmoor project.

Councilmember Dunn said that he and Councilmember Balducci will sponsor two ordinances regarding the next emergency medical services (EMS) levy slated for the November ballot. The

rate of 26.5 cents per \$1,000 assessed valuation (AV) is reduced from the current levy rate of 33.5 cents per \$1,000 AV. The County parks levy will be on the August ballot.

(a) Update on Cross-Cultural Programming Public Outreach Study

City Manager Brad Miyake recalled that funding for the Cross-Cultural Programming Public Outreach Study, published in October 2018, was initially approved in the 2017-2018 budget.

Nathan McCommon, Deputy City Manager, introduced Cherry Cayabyab of KAYA Strategik, the consultant for the study. Mr. McCommon said staff is seeking Council direction regarding whether to pursue the recommendations of the study, including Phase 2 of the Council's process. He said the City's 1993 diversity action plan focused primarily on civic engagement and economic development. The Cultural Compass arts and culture strategic vision was published in 2004, and the Diversity Advantage plan was adopted in 2014. Phase 2 of the current process will study whether meeting and performance spaces can adequately serve cross-cultural programming needs.

Ms. Cayabyab noted that KAYA Strategik is an equitable strategies firm focused on diversity, inclusion, and equity. The Phase 1 process involved public outreach to explore existing cross-cultural programming and local resources. The consultant researched the best practices of regional, national, and international organizations and conducted an analysis of the feedback received from the public. Public engagement activities included a public forum, survey, focus groups, cultural liaisons, and the Bellevue Diversity Advisory Network (BDAN). The survey was provided in six languages and focused on existing services and programs as well as on the types of spaces available for public meetings and gatherings. The cultural liaisons and BDAN were critical in the outreach process and provided translation assistance.

As examples of other models, Ms. Cayabyab said there is a cross-cultural hub in Melbourne, Australia, that provides cross-cultural, coordinated planning and activities. San Francisco has a cooperative network of neighborhood cultural centers. A multicultural center is nearing construction in south Seattle, and the University of Washington has an ethnic cultural center.

Ms. Cayabyab said that Bellevue residents provided positive feedback regarding the City's current services and programs including festivals, film screenings, and the Cultural Conversations program. Individuals complimented the programs at Crossroads Community Center and the North Bellevue Community Center. Ms. Cayabyab said that people in Bellevue want to share their culture and would like more opportunities for community-led activities. She noted feedback indicating an interest in more family focused events and more weekend and evening events. Some of the challenges related to cross-cultural programming are costs, public awareness of the programs, and available meeting/gathering spaces.

The recommendations of the Phase 1 study are to: 1) evaluate access and inclusion in existing City programs, 2) strengthen the marketing of City programs, 3) explore partnerships to form community-led program models, 4) implement Phase 2 to analyze the capacity of prospective spaces to serve programming needs, and 5) strengthen the use of community liaisons.

Mr. McCommon noted that funding is available to move forward with the recommendations if directed to do so by the Council.

Councilmember Lee said the City is doing a good job of reaching out to multicultural communities. However, there are more opportunities for partnerships between the City and other parties. He noted that diversity refers not only to race and ethnicity, but also to differences based on age and other factors. Mr. Lee said the first step is connecting, and the City is in a good position to facilitate connections.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for their work and expressed support for moving forward with Phase 2. He encouraged coordinated efforts with the City's diversity program. He noted Bellevue's Hispanic community and suggested outreach and partnerships related to arts and culture.

Councilmember Zahn said she supports moving forward with Phase 2. She heard that the community likes what the City is doing and would like to see more events and programs. She concurred with the community feedback that people want to share their cultures. She noted the description of Melbourne's multicultural hub providing an active, vibrant, and inclusive space. She said it is important to have spaces to interact and collaborate. Ms. Zahn suggested exploring concepts such as community kitchens, incubators, co-work spaces, and other venues.

Deputy Mayor Robinson thanked staff and everyone involved in the public outreach process. She observed that everyone wants to share, learn, belong, and be relevant. She expressed support for exploring underutilized gathering places of all types in the community, including faith-based buildings. Ms. Cayabyab noted that Seattle has many cultural centers, and the City of Seattle is working to connect those communities and to create multicultural, multipurpose spaces.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis expressed support for staff's recommendations. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Cayabyab said it is helpful when the public can find information on all multicultural and diversity programs and events in one place. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he would like to understand how individuals currently learn about programs and services.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. McCommon said staff anticipates moving forward with the additional work relatively quickly in order for it to inform the next budget cycle.

Councilmember Robertson noted that Councilmember Lee has been a champion of this work. Ms. Robertson encouraged engaging the Jewish community and expressed concern regarding growing antisemitism in this country. She would like to see a partnership to restore the annual Strawberry Festival.

Ms. Robertson said the issue with the evaluation of available facilities is to consider how to incorporate or coordinate that effort with other City work programs. She suggested that every City-owned building is a multicultural center because this is a multicultural community. She agreed that meeting space is difficult to find. She noted an upcoming work program for the

Council to look at parks facilities and financing. Ms. Robertson suggested that a multicultural center could be combined with an aquatic center, community center, or other facility.

Mr. McCommon acknowledged that there are multiple work plans throughout the City. The request for proposal (RFP) will ask the consultant to examine other City programs and initiatives as they relate to studying the potential for a multicultural center.

Mayor Chelminiak noted the Council's support for staff's recommendations and for moving into Phase 2. Responding to Mr. Chelminiak, Mr. McCommon confirmed that the purpose of Phase 2 is to explore available space and the need for programming. Mayor Chelminiak suggested considering space in City facilities, schools, libraries, private spaces, and faith-based facilities.

→ Councilmember Lee moved to proceed with Phase 2 of the work related to cross-cultural programming and facilities. Councilmember Robertson seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 7-0.

(c) Day of Sharing and Caring - Program Update

Mark Heilman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, introduced discussion regarding the annual Day of Sharing and Caring, which began in 2008 with a goal of assisting 15 to 40 homeowners per year. The program assists Bellevue property owners who are unable to maintain their homes due to economic and physical limitations. Since 2008, more than 163 homes have been improved by the program's volunteers.

Carol Ross, Community Relations Coordinator, noted that the homeowners helped through the program have physical, age-related, and/or financial challenges, and most have lived in Bellevue for many years. Volunteers and partner organizations include residents, the faith-based community, graduates of the Bellevue Essentials program, businesses, and other community groups.

Ms. Ross said the City's role is coordinating the memorandum of understanding (MOU) as well as involvement in mailings and marketing, resident outreach, and sharing information regarding the City's minor and major home repair programs. Jubilee REACH's role in the program is to evaluate and select the residents for the home improvement projects, organize volunteer teams, and to coordinate and manage projects. Ms. Ross shared examples of past projects including painting, fence repair, yard work, tree trimming, safety-related improvements, and debris and trash removal.

Randy Eng, Executive Director, Jubilee REACH, described the organization's efforts to build and transform the community. The home improvement projects provide the opportunity to help others, build relationships, and create community. Mr. Eng shared a story demonstrating the steps involved in connecting with residents in need of help and following through with a project. He thanked the Council and City staff for their involvement in the Day of Sharing and Caring.

He noted the list of the previous year's partner organizations which includes numerous faith-based organizations and several businesses.

Mr. Heilman said there were approximately 500 volunteers last year who worked on 34 homes. He expressed appreciation for Jubilee REACH's work in the community.

Mayor Chelminiak thanked Jubilee REACH for their partnership with the City of Bellevue, local businesses, homeowners, and residents. He congratulated them for receiving the Eastside Nonprofit of the Year award from the Bellevue Chamber of Commerce.

At 7:54 p.m., Mayor Chelminiak declared recess to the Regular Session.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

/kaw