

CITY OF BELLEVUE
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Extended Study Session

June 24, 2019
6:00 p.m.

Council Conference Room
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: Mayor Chelminiak and Councilmember Robertson

1. Executive Session

The meeting was called to order at 6:10 p.m., with Deputy Mayor Robinson presiding. There was no Executive Session.

2. Approval of Agenda

Councilmember Zahn indicated that the artist to be recognized by the City would be joining the meeting later.

→ Councilmember Stokes moved to approve the agenda, amended to move the artwork item to the end of Agenda Item 4(a). Councilmember Zahn seconded the motion.

→ The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

3. Oral Communications: None.

4. Study Session Items

(a) Council Business and New Initiatives

(1) Board and Commission Appointments

Deputy Mayor Robinson introduced discussion regarding Board and Commission appointments. She noted her recommendations for appointment to the Human Services Commission.

- Councilmember Stokes moved to appoint Someireh Amirfaiz to the Human Services Commission, and Councilmember Zahn seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.
- Councilmember Stokes moved to appoint Ted Mansfield to the Human Services Commission, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

Deputy Mayor Robinson introduced discussion regarding three appointments to the Transportation Commission.

- Councilmember Lee moved to appoint Lisa Leitner to the Transportation Commission, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.
- Councilmember Lee moved to appoint Albert Ting to the Transportation Commission, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.
- Councilmember Lee moved to appoint John Carlson to the Transportation Commission, and Councilmember Nieuwenhuis seconded the motion.

Responding to Councilmember Stokes, Mr. Lee confirmed that Mr. Carlson is nominated to serve a partial term expiring on May 31, 2020.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Robinson, Mr. Lee said Mr. Carlson previously served two terms on the Planning Commission.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Robinson, City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo said that Mr. Carlson, if appointed, would be eligible to serve two terms beyond the partial term that expires at the end of May 2020.

Councilmember Zahn recalled discussion during the Council retreat about providing opportunities for new individuals to serve on Boards and Commissions. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Ms. Arredondo said she did not believe there have been other instances of an individual serving consecutively on two Boards or Commissions.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Councilmember Lee said there were 18 applicants and 10 individuals were interviewed.

Responding to Deputy Mayor Robinson, Mr. Lee said the Transportation Commission Chair and staff participated in the interviews. The Vice Chair was not able to participate in all of the interviews and therefore did not rate all of the applicants.

Councilmember Stokes said there is an increasing number of individuals who are interested in serving on Boards and Commissions. He concurred with Councilmember Zahn's comment that the Council has discussed an interest in providing opportunities for new people to serve. Mr. Stokes commended Mr. Carlson's service. However, he noted that another Transportation Commission member lives near Mr. Carlson and this is an opportunity to select someone from a different area of Bellevue.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis noted that the interviews followed the normal process and Councilmember Lee, as the Council's liaison to the Transportation Commission, made his recommendation to appoint three individuals, including Mr. Carlson. Mr. Nieuwenhuis said he did not see a reason to not appoint Mr. Carlson to the Commission.

Councilmember Stokes reiterated the Council's interest in providing opportunities for new people to serve on Boards and Commissions.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said she felt conflicted because she knows that Mr. Carlson did a good job on the Planning Commission. She commended him for his interest in continuing to serve as a volunteer beyond the eight years he already served on the Planning Commission. However, she supports providing opportunities for new people from different areas of the community.

Councilmember Lee expressed concern that one proposed appointment is under scrutiny. He assured the Council that he was diligent in carefully reviewing all of the candidates' qualifications before he made his decision.

Councilmember Zahn said this is an opportunity to consider the appropriate longevity of service for Board and Commission members. She noted that the City typically receives numerous applications for open positions.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis noted that 10 applicants were interviewed and vetted. He expressed support for Councilmember Lee's process and nomination.

Councilmember Stokes noted that the process requires a final decision by the Council, and this is not the first time that a nomination has been debated.

Councilmember Lee concurred with the objective of providing opportunities for new individuals to serve on Boards and Commissions. He suggested that Councilmembers should trust and support each other regarding their recommended appointments. He said there was an extensive review of the applicants, and he believes that Mr. Carlson is the best person to serve at this time.

→ The motion to appoint John Carlson to the Transportation Commission failed by a vote of 2-3, with Councilmembers Lee and Nieuwenhuis in favor.

Deputy Mayor Robinson encouraged Councilmember Lee to come back with another recommendation in the near future. Ms. Robinson suggested that Mr. Lee review the recommendations of staff, the Commission Chair, and the Vice Chair.

(2) Presentation of Painting to the City of Bellevue

Councilmember Zahn introduced Zuolie Deng, the artist who provided the pig on display in City Hall to celebrate the Chinese Year of the Pig. Mr. Deng presented the City with a scroll he painted commemorating Bellevue's recognition of the Chinese Year of the Pig and commented on the symbolism reflected in the artwork.

(b) 2019 Bellevue Family 4th Celebration

City Manager Brad Miyake said the 2019 Bellevue Family 4th is a partnership of the City, the Bellevue Downtown Association (BDA), and many generous contributors and donors.

Shelley Brittingham, Assistant Director, Parks and Community Services Department, said this is the 28th year of the celebration, which will again be held in the Downtown Park and is the largest Independence Day event on the Eastside. She introduced Cindy Shelton, the Program Manager at Northwest Arts Center who manages, coordinates, and produces the 4th of July event.

Ms. Shelton said the City is thrilled to continue working with the BDA for this event. She said the Bellevue Collection is an essential partner and the fireworks are launched from the top of Bellevue Square. Additional major sponsors include PACCAR, Sound Transit, Puget Sound Energy, and the Bellevue Club. Ms. Shelton said the event brings 60,000 visitors to the Downtown, and activities for families will be provided beginning in the afternoon. The International High School jazz choir will perform the national anthem and the fireworks show is accompanied by the Bellevue Youth Symphony Orchestra.

Councilmember Zahn expressed enthusiasm for the event and reminded the public that individual fireworks are illegal in Bellevue.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked everyone for their work and support of this family oriented event. He said he appreciates that nonprofit organizations will have the opportunity to provide information about their agencies at the event. He said this is Bellevue's signature event, and he invited everyone to participate.

Councilmember Stokes praised the event and the friendly, cooperative attitude of the attendees. He said the celebrations gets better every year.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said that producing the event takes a tremendous effort and is a gift to the community. Responding to Ms. Robinson, Ms. Shelton said the music accompanying the fireworks is not covered by a radio station. However, Ms. Shelton said the event team continues to look for opportunities to partner with a radio station.

(c) Welcome to City Hall Program Report

City Manager Brad Miyake introduced discussion regarding the new outreach program known as Welcome to City Hall, which is designed to welcome new residents to Bellevue.

Julie Ellenhorn, Community Relations Coordinator, said the first program event was held on May 17. She said the initial program was designed primarily for the growing Chinese-speaking community of more than 18,000 individuals in Bellevue.

Mark Heilman, Neighborhood Outreach Manager, noted staff's efforts to implement the Council's priority of increasing multilingual programming. He said information was provided in both English and Mandarin during the May 17 event to welcome new residents and to share information about local government. He thanked staff and volunteers for their hard work.

Ms. Ellenhorn said the May 17 event attracted 85 residents, and approximately 80 percent were native Chinese speakers of all ages. She summarized the day's activities, including a welcome address by Deputy Mayor Robinson. She noted that all of the Councilmembers participated in the event, which included a tour of City Hall to learn about the different departments and their services and resources.

Mr. Heilman said the feedback from the participants was positive and attendees were appreciative of the event and the availability of information in their native language.

Ms. Ellenhorn noted that staff, many multilingual volunteers, and professional interpreters were critical to the success of the event. She said staff plans to continue to provide similar events targeting populations who speak other languages.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis complimented staff and said that he was pleasantly surprised by how many people attended the May 17 event. He supports efforts to better serve every member of the community. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis regarding the next target population, Mr. Heilman said staff is considering the size of specific language/cultural populations as well as those that might be less connected to City Hall and the community. Mr. Nieuwenhuis suggested a program for Russian-speaking residents. Mr. Heilman concurred and said that Spanish is a priority as well. He said the information was also provided in English during the May 17 event.

Councilmember Stokes said it was a great day and it was interesting to talk to people before and after the event. He said people were complimentary about the City Hall building. He thanked Ying Carlson, Community Service Supervisor, for her hard work and effective facilitation of the event.

Councilmember Lee thanked everyone for their hard work and endorsed the importance of working to address language and cultural barriers. He looks forward to cross-cultural events in the future for residents to learn more about each other and their cultural heritage.

Councilmember Zahn noted the importance of providing connection and a sense of belonging. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Ms. Ellenhorn said the day's activities were not filmed this first time because individuals from certain cultures are not comfortable with being filmed. Ms. Zahn suggested that perhaps the speakers, but not the participants, could be filmed so that others in the community could view it at their convenience.

Councilmember Zahn noted that the next events will be held in the spring of 2020. She asked whether there is an opportunity to partner during Welcoming Week, which will be held September 13-22 this year. Mr. Heilman concurred with the idea but noted that with other activities this fall, it would be more realistic to be able to partner during Welcoming Week in 2020.

Ms. Zahn said she likes the concept of targeting not only the larger cultural populations, but to reach out to groups of any size that are especially disconnected from local government and the community. She concurred with Councilmember Lee's suggestion for cross-cultural events.

Deputy Mayor Robinson thanked staff for including the Council in the May 2017 event. She noted that, despite cultural and language differences, everyone cited the same reasons for coming to Bellevue, which is schools, jobs, and the overall quality of life.

- (d) Resolution No. 9628 approving the King County 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan.

Joyce Nichols, Director of Intergovernmental Relations, said staff is requesting Council action on Resolution No. 9628 approving the King County 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan. She recalled that the topic was last discussed with the Council on February 25. The three key elements of the plan are priorities for Bellevue: 1) disposal system options after the Cedar Hills Landfill is closed, 2) a potential new transfer station in northeast King County, and 3) recycling goals.

Ms. Nichols said the King County Council amended the plan presented in February in response to issues raised by the public. The County Council adopted the plan on April 24 and transmitted copies to the cities. Bellevue received its copy in late May, which initiated the 120-day review period ending September 16, 2019. Ms. Nichols said cities may approve the plan, reject the plan, or take no action. She said staff recommends approval of the plan.

Pat McLaughlin, Director of the King County Solid Waste Division (Department of Natural Resources and Parks), thanked City staff for their work on the plan, which was last updated in 2001. The regional solid waste system covers 2,132 square miles and 1.5 million residents. The 37 cities and unincorporated King County generated 931,000 tons of garbage in 2017.

Mr. McLaughlin described the three key policy recommendations related to disposal, transfer services, and recycling. He said Bellevue's recycling rate is the best in King County at 65 percent and more than twice the national average. The county's overall recycling rate is 54 percent.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that the new Factoria transfer station in Bellevue includes the busiest hazard waste collection point in the county. He said the new station provides faster service times, expanded recycling services, and advanced environmental controls. The 2019 Solid Waste Management Plan reflects the County's plans to continue to modernize its facilities and to build a new station in northeast King County.

Mr. McLaughlin said the region has been able to manage its waste locally since 1965. However, the Cedar Hills Landfill will reach its capacity within the next 10 years. The plan's analysis of future disposal options indicated that maximizing the capacity of the existing landfill is in the best interest of the regional system. The proposed plan provides the time needed to study disposal options beyond the closure of the landfill, including waste-to-energy technology, waste export by rail, and other emerging technologies.

Amendments by the Regional Policy Committee and the King County Council to strengthen the plan address buffers, bird management, top lift best practices, the heights of certain areas in the landfill, work plan for post-landfill disposal, county road mitigation, and an annual groundwater monitoring report to the County Council. The landfill gas is collected and refined on site into renewable energy.

Mr. McLaughlin noted that final State approval of the plan is anticipated in October 2019. He thanked the City for its work on the plan.

Responding to Councilmember Lee, Mr. McLaughlin said that Arcadis, a consultant with expertise in the area of converting waste to energy, will analyze disposal options and provide a report in October. That analysis will help to inform the next steps for pursuing disposal options. In further response to Mr. Lee, Mr. McLaughlin said there are two advisory committees that meet every month. Ms. Nichols noted that the City participates in the monthly meetings.

Councilmember Zahn commended the community for being a leader in recycling, noting it would be good to make recycled items cleaner.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis expressed support for the plan. Noting Bellevue's high recycling rates, he questioned the barriers for cities with lower recycling rates. Mr. McLaughlin said that cities with more multifamily housing tend to have lower recycling rates. He acknowledged that there are opportunities for enhanced education and outreach.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Mr. McLaughlin said he believes it is possible to implement waste-to-energy technology by 2040.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said she was grateful for the work of the County and the City to eliminate the expansion of the Factoria transfer station. She is interested in finding ways to increase recycling rates by partnering with the community. She said students are interested in volunteering to help recycling.

Responding to Ms. Robinson, Mr. McLaughlin opined that it is possible for cities to ban items such as styrofoam. He said another option is to provide special collection events for certain items. He concurred with the suggestion to involve students and noted that he will send information on the County's Green Schools Program to the Council.

Councilmember Stokes observed that the development of the 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Management Plan is a strong example of government entities working together. He expressed support for the plan and said there are options for the future.

- Councilmember Stokes moved to adopt Resolution No. 9628 approving the King County 2019 Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan. Councilmember Zahn seconded the motion.
- The motion carried by a vote of 5-0.

(e) Legislative Update

Responding to Deputy Mayor Robinson, Ms. Nichols said the state legislative update in the meeting packet includes a briefing on the impacts of Initiative 976. It was first presented to the legislature during the recent session that ended in April. The state legislature's options are to approve, amend, or reject the initiative. The legislature took no action and the initiative automatically goes onto the November ballot.

Ms. Nichols said the initiative proposes to: 1) limit motor vehicle license tab fees to \$30 annually, 2) repeal or reduce certain motor vehicle weight fees, 3) repeal the authority of transportation benefit districts, 4) implement a fee for electric vehicles, 5) repeal the tax on motor vehicle retail sales, and 6) require the local motor vehicle excise tax (MVET) to be calculated using the Kelley Blue Book to determine the base value of vehicles. It would also conditionally repeal the Sound Transit MVET and require the retirement or refinancing of related Sound Transit bonds.

Responding to Councilmember Zahn, Ms. Nichols said the State Office of Financial Management and the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) will produce information regarding the anticipated impacts of the potential loss in funding. In further response, Ms. Nichols said the City Council took a formal position on the Sound Transit 3 ballot measure.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis asked for more information on Referendum 88.

(f) Update on Bellevue Smart Plan Accomplishments related to the Plan's Connectivity Element

City Manager Miyake introduced discussion regarding the Connectivity Element of the Bellevue Smart Plan.

Sabra Schneider, Chief Information Officer, recalled that the Council approved the Bellevue Smart Plan in 2017. She noted the theme of improving outcomes for residents with livability, sustainability, and resiliency as key factors across the six Smart City elements: Connectivity, Transportation, Public Safety, Water, Buildings, and Energy. Tonight's presentation focuses on the Connectivity element. The plan's principle strategies focus on proactive and adaptive technologies, data, partnerships, and leveraging regional relationships.

Chelo Picardal, Chief Technology Officer, said that the Highland Village Apartments are the second King County Housing Authority property in Bellevue to receive Wi-Fi infrastructure. Wi-Fi was provided to the Spiritwood Apartments one year earlier. The City continues to expand

Wi-Fi service to many of its parks and community centers, including the recently added Surrey Downs Park and South Bellevue Community Center's challenge course and zipline attraction.

Ms. Picardal described the new small cell wireless technology coming to Bellevue. Master license agreements have been signed with AT&T, Verizon Wireless, and Crown Castle (T-Mobile, Sprint). The Council adopted code changes earlier in the year to be consistent with the Federal Communications Commission's (FCC) recent actions related to small cell wireless facilities.

Ms. Picardal said the City is a partner in the Community Connectivity Consortium (C3), which includes school districts, public safety agencies, higher education, medical facilities, and local governments.

Ms. Schneider noted that the smart water meter pilot program will begin this fall. She said the Bellevue Smart Plan will be updated later this year.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff for the update.

Councilmember Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for their work and said he looks forward to the implementation of the smart water meter technology. He expressed support for addressing digital equity and providing Wi-Fi for residents of Bellevue's affordable housing communities. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Picardal confirmed that the City monitors the usage of its public Wi-Fi for security concerns.

Councilmember Zahn recalled that Bellevue received the Digital City Award at last year's National League of Cities (NLC) conference. She expressed support for the C3 partnership. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Ms. Schneider said that certain jurisdictions and other entities would not have a direct benefit in joining the C3 group because they are not connected to the infrastructure ring around the lake. Ms. Zahn requested follow-up information regarding the City's plan for the future deployment of public Wi-Fi infrastructure. She expressed support for the attention to the issue of digital equity.

Councilmember Lee said the accomplishments reflect the City's longtime priorities related to technology and digital equity investments. Responding to Mr. Lee, Ms. Picardal said the City has data regarding the number of people using public Wi-Fi in the Downtown. Mr. Lee said it would be interesting to know the level of usage at the two apartment complexes.

Deputy Mayor Robinson said the Council recently attended the Eastside Leadership Conference, during which a representative of another city described their smart city program. She said she is proud of Bellevue's accomplishments and leadership. Responding to Ms. Robinson, Ms. Schneider said staff is discussing additional customer service elements that could be incorporated into the Bellevue Smart plan.

5. Council Discussion of Upcoming Items: None.

6. Continued Oral Communications: None.

At 8:43 p.m., Deputy Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC
City Clerk

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