

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

Thursday
October 3, 2019
6:30 p.m.

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

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Vanja Knezevic (Chair), Ling Zhuang (Vice Chair), Diann Strom, Negin Khanloo, Neal Hines, Anne Howe,

COUNCIL LIAISON: Jared Nieuwenhuis (absent)

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Lisa Schreiner

OTHERS PRESENT: Lucy Liu, Assistant Director, Stephanie Schwenger, Solid Waste Program Administrator; Doug Lane, Senior Engineer; Laurie Hugdahl, Minutes Taker

1. CALL TO ORDER:

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

2. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

The agenda was approved unanimously (6-0).

3. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

Keith Swenson, 10312 NE 12th Street, Apt B305, Bellevue, former ESC Chair, expressed concern about climate warming. He also discussed concerns related to recycling.

4. COMMUNICATION FROM CITY COUNCIL, COMMUNITY COUNCIL, BOARDS AND COMMMISIONS

None

5. STAFF REPORTS

Assistant Director Lucy Liu explained there was an unexpected disruption to waste management services today due to a labor dispute. She explained how Republic is planning on handling the disruption to services.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

9/5/19 Regular Meeting Minutes

Vice Chair Zhuang had the following revisions:

- Page 5 of 7, 2nd paragraph, 1st sentence: “Commissioner Zhuang expressed her concerns about using a ~~long-term~~ **75-year** planning horizon as City Council’s policy indicates the planning horizon is 20 years (or longer).”
- Page 5 of 7, 2nd paragraph, 3rd sentence: “She suggested it might be more valuable to have a different method **to plan for costs that are expected to occur within 20 years, and every budget cycle moves forward a couple of years so that costs expected to occur within 20 years will be consistently checked.**”
- Page 5 of 7, last paragraph: “Commissioner Zhuang expressed concern about the cost-estimation based on 75 years’ projection. **She indicated that according to the R&R from the bond chart, a large amount of money we reserve now would be spent 45 40 plus years later.**”
- Page 6 of 7, 1st paragraph, 2nd sentence: “She ~~believes~~ **suggests** 20 years would be more prudent . . .”
- Page 6 of 7, 5th paragraph, last sentence. “~~Councilmember Nieuwenhuis~~ **Chair Strom** suggested that Commissioner Zhuang get together with staff outside of the meeting time if she has additional questions.”

Motion made by Commissioner Khanloo, seconded by Commissioner Howe, to amend the minutes as proposed by Commissioner Zhuang. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

Motion made by Commissioner Khanloo, seconded by Commissioner Hines, to approve the minutes as amended. Motion passed unanimously (6-0).

7. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

8. NEW BUSINESS

- **Solid Waste and Recycling Program Overview**

Stephanie Schwenger, Utilities, Solid Waste Program Administrator

Ms. Schwenger provided an overview of the solid waste program and some highlights from the past year. The main city functions are managing the collection contract with Republic and managing outreach, education and technical assistance on waste reduction, waste prevention, recycling and related topics. Ms. Schwenger reviewed services provided by Republic, improvements to Republic’s drop off recycling center, and expansion of multifamily organics recycling.

Highlights from the City's outreach in education include reducing waste in Bellevue schools, a Greener Living class series, and the Recycle Right campaign. Results of Bellevue's approach have yielded a very steady overall recycling rate of about 40%. This has been relatively unchanged since 2014. Overall the single-family recycling rate is much higher (about 67%) than the multifamily/commercial rate (about 22%). This is the area where the City sees the most opportunity in the future.

Next steps:

- The City has redesigned the recycling guides. The new guides will be included in the upcoming edition of Its Your City.
- Regionally the City is launching an awareness bag to keep plastic bags and films out of the recycling cart.
- Multifamily/commercial waste characterization to identify and target materials and generators for waste reduction
- Community input from Environmental Stewardship Initiative Plan Update
- Consider new strategies to advance sustainable waste management.

Commissioner Khanloo expressed concern about oversight of what is happening with mixed paper recycling. Assistant Director Liu explained that these items are being sent to secondary markets including Vietnam, India, Thailand, and Eastern Washington. Republic is continuing to explore options because the China market is still closed.

Commissioner Hines asked about recycling batteries from home. Ms. Schwenger recommended putting them on top of the recycling container, but calling customer service first so the driver can expect it.

Commissioner Zhuang asked about reducing the source of plastic bags. Assistant Director Liu explained that the City will be considering many different policy considerations and bringing those back to the Commission for consideration.

Commissioner Khanloo asked if there were adult educational efforts in addition to the school efforts. Ms. Schwenger noted there are educational programs in all sectors. One of the areas they are looking to improve outreach is with the diverse communities. The City is also looking at how they can build a more community approach to move the bar more. Commissioner Khanloo also commented that the citizens she has spoken to are very supportive of raising the bar with regards to recycling with a goal of zero waste.

Commissioner Strom thanked staff for the information. She also recommended raising the goals for recycling numbers. She recommended

having a bin at the drop off center for plastic bags and plastic film. She also recommended extending service hours past 5 p.m. at the drop off center.

Chair Knezevic agreed that it is a struggle to get multifamily residents to recycle. She wondered about engaging property managers throughout the city. Ms. Schwenger explained there are a lot of resources for in-state property owners and managers, but many owners are out of state. She commented that most of the outreach efforts have been with the property owners and managers and not with the residents or tenants. Chair Knezevic stated she has been hearing concerns about pickup times. Ms. Schwenger explained the contract limits pickups to between midnight and 5 a.m.

- **Water Distribution System Seismic Vulnerability Assessment Existing Vulnerabilities and Post Event Immediate Impacts**

Doug Lane, Senior Engineer

Mr. Lane gave an overview of the project and the status of the assessment. The City has completed the vulnerabilities evaluation and is working on estimating economic impacts. Following this they will recommend mitigation actions. This should be completed by the end of the year. Post-Earthquake Level of Service Development is in process and will be discussed again next year.

Mr. Lane briefly reviewed the restoration sequence following a seismic event. The first three days would primarily involve triage. He explained that Bellevue won't be able to start repairs until the water supply is available from Seattle Public Utilities, which could likely be three weeks.

Two modes of pipe failure were estimated – wave propagation (ground velocity) and ground deformation (liquefaction). Vertical facility fragility estimates were also considered. Monte Carlo Simulations is a model which ran thousands of events to get an idea of most likely outcomes of Seattle Fault Event and Cascadia Subduction Zone events.

Commissioner Howe asked if there is a way to mitigate pipe breakages. Mr. Lane stated that there are some suppliers of earthquake resistant pipes. Commissioner Howe suggested targeting some locations that appear to be especially vulnerable to breakages with some of this earthquake resistant pipes. Mr. Lane concurred.

Critical customer impact studies show that most facilities that are being relied upon as shelters would be impacted. These include hospitals, high

schools, and community colleges. An estimate of restoration time and economic impacts are currently underway.

Revising engineering standards is something that can be done now, especially requiring earthquake-resistant pipes in areas that have liquefiable soils. Over time this will build resiliency. Staff will continue to consider logical “low hanging fruit” in the upcoming budget, develop the Emergency Water Supply Master Plan and evaluate opportunities for Hazard Mitigation grants.

Commissioner Zhuang asked how the triage would be conducted. And wondered if there would be a better way than HAM radio to communicate with the community about the situation. Mr. Lane discussed options that are being considered. Commissioner Howe commented that the fire department and a lot of city staff are part of a first responder network. They will be collecting information and communicating with the EOC so that appropriate dispatch will happen.

Commissioner Khanloo commented that a lot of people don’t know what to do in the event of an emergency and better communications needs to occur.

Commissioner Strom asked if other departments are also having this same discussion regarding resiliency. Mr. Lane wasn’t sure, but indicated he would follow up with that. Most of the conversations he has had have been with WSDOT and other regional organizations. Fire and the Emergency Operations Center are definitely considering this.

Commissioner Strom commented that some of the schools that are indicated as shelters seem to be on the list of highly impacted facilities.

Commissioner Howe asked if the prioritization of capital projects might be impacted by the results of this resiliency study. Mr. Lane explained that this could become another criteria that will be considered for capital projects.

9. ORAL AND WRITTEN COMMUNICATIONS

None

10. REVIEW OF ESC CALENDAR/COUNCIL CALENDAR

Assistant Director Liu reviewed the ESC and Council calendars.

11. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:26 p.m.