

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
CITY COUNCIL

Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

March 22, 2021  
6:00 p.m.

Virtual Meeting  
Bellevue, Washington

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

ABSENT: None.

1. Call to Order

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 p.m., with Mayor Robinson presiding.

Ms. Robinson thanked everyone for participating in the anti-hate rally at Downtown Park over the weekend to show support for the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. The event was attended by more than 1,000 people.

Ms. Robinson commented on the American Rescue Plan that was approved in early March. It provides direct federal funding to cities, and Bellevue is expected to receive \$2.7 million. Half of the money could be available as early as May, and the remaining half would be available to spend next year. She said the funding creates an opportunity for the City to provide additional aid to individuals, families, and businesses that continue to suffer from the impacts of the pandemic.

Ms. Robinson said the state legislature recently approved House Bill 1368, which distributes \$2 billion in assistance from a federal package. She said staff is working with the Washington State Department of Commerce to determine the City's eligibility for grant funds.

Mayor Robinson thanked Bellevue's federal delegation for their tireless work on behalf of residents and the community's needs: Senator Patty Murray, Senator Maria Cantwell, Congressman Adam Smith, and Congresswoman Suzan DelBene. She thanked her fellow Councilmembers for their work advocating on Bellevue's behalf.

2. Roll Call; Flag Salute

City Clerk Charmaine Arredondo called the roll. All Councilmembers were present and participating remotely.

Ms. Berlin's third grade students from St. Louise School led the flag salute.

3. Approval of Agenda

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the agenda, and Councilmember Stokes seconded the motion.

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

4. Oral Communications

(a) Lei Wu thanked the Council for approving \$200,000 in the current budget for the next phase of planning for the cross-cultural center project. She thanked Councilmember Lee for his leadership. She said that many in the community are supportive of project and want to be involved in the planning. She requested that the Council recognize the Friends of Bellevue Cross-Cultural Center as a community group. She said they would like to partner with the City, including in its anti-racism work. She said their efforts are consistent with the collaborative effort of East King County cities in furthering objectives related to diversity and inclusion. She highlighted some of the group's members.

(b) Don Marsh, speaking for Barbara Chevalier, provided an update on the activities of the 300 Trees organization that is working to preserve and expand Bellevue's tree canopy. The group distributed more than 270 free trees during a COVID-safe event held at the East Shore Unitarian Church. Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, Councilmembers Lee, and Councilmember Zahn attended the event. A 50-tree giveaway event will be held this fall for Bellevue College students, faculty, and staff. Ms. Chevalier wrote that the group is expanding its outreach directly to residents in support of expanding existing green spaces and enriching neighborhood blocks. She highlighted a partnership with the Sammamish High School Environmental Club, Bellevue School District, the YMCA, Earth Service Corps, and Propagation Nation. Funding for tree planting efforts comes in part from grants distributed by the Washington Department of Natural Resources and the U.S. Forest Service.

5. Reports of Community Councils, Boards, and Commissions: None.

6. Report of the City Manager

(a) Status Report on Neighborhood Area Planning Program

City Manager Brad Miyake noted that Community Development staff is leading the effort to develop new neighborhood plans for Northwest Bellevue and for Northeast Bellevue. He said this topic was last before the Council on October 12, 2020.

Emil King, Assistant Director, Community Development, said the two neighborhood planning efforts underway in Northwest Bellevue and Northeast Bellevue have engaged the community in working together and trying new forms of outreach. He said the purpose of the effort is to form a vision, goals and policies to guide the future of their neighborhoods.

Elizabeth de Regt, Senior Planner, said staff last discussed this topic with the Council in October. She noted that the neighborhood area planning process is part of the larger Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) process. She described the capacity building strategies used in the community including [www.engagingbellevue.com](http://www.engagingbellevue.com) and the implementation of four cultural outreach assistants of Chinese, Korean, Spanish, and South Asian heritage. The web page provides information regarding the planning processes as well as opportunities for public involvement. A community values survey was conducted last fall and 351 responses were received. A number of virtual meetings have been held to discuss values and to refine the neighborhood visions.

Ms. de Regt said staff is interested in learning from the community about the challenges and opportunities residents are facing. Staff will work with residents to identify solutions. Continued topics of discussion include affordability, mobility and access, trees and open space, sustainability, and community connections. Ms. de Regt said the next steps will be to discuss specific policies and detailed elements of the neighborhood plans. Staff will work with the community through April to discuss specific topics and policies. Ms. de Regt highlighted the demographics of the participants in the Zoom-based neighborhood area planning events and the online neighborhood survey. More females participated in events and the survey overall.

Ms. de Regt said staff will return for continued discussion as part of the CPA process this fall.

7. Council Business and New Initiatives: No Discussion.

8. Consent Calendar

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to approve the Consent Calendar, and Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

→ The motion to approve the Consent Calendar carried by a vote of 7-0, and the following items were approved:

(a) Council Minutes

Minutes of March 8, 2021 Regular Meeting

(b) Resolution No. 9908 authorizing the execution of a Professional Engineering Services Agreement with H.W. Lochner, Inc. in the amount of \$439,445.49, plus

all applicable taxes to provide final design services for the 98th Avenue SE and SE 11<sup>th</sup> Street Slope Stabilization Project (CIP Plan No. PW-M-19).

- (c) Ordinance No. 6572: 1) authorizing execution of a grant agreement (and supplements if necessary) with the Washington State Department of Transportation (WSDOT) to accept up to \$641,600 in federal Highway Safety Improvement Program (HSIP) funding to support the design and construction of the 2022 Rectangular Rapid Flashing Beacon Crosswalks Project at four separate locations; 2) amending the 2021-2022 General Capital Investment Program (CIP) Fund to increase the appropriation by \$641,600; and, 3) amending the 2021-2027 CIP Plan to increase the budget for the Traffic Safety Improvements Program (CIP Plan No. PW-R-46) by \$641,600.
- (d) Resolution No. 9909 authorizing the execution of an interagency agreement with the Washington State Department of Enterprise Services (DES) to provide contracting and project management services for building commissioning projects.
- (e) Resolution No. 9910 authorizing execution of an amendment to the Agreement for Professional Services with Pacifica Law Group LLP, outside counsel for the City in the lawsuit of Greensun v. City of Bellevue (KCSC Case No. 14-2-29863-3 SEA), in an amount not to exceed \$860,000, exclusive of any applicable taxes.
- (f) Resolution No. 9911 authorizing execution of a five-year General Services Contract with Northwest Cascade Inc. dba Honey Buckets & North Bay Portables in an amount not to exceed \$350,000, plus all applicable taxes, to supply, service, and maintain portable toilets and hand washing stations at park sites throughout the City.
- (g) Resolution No. 9912 authorizing execution of a General Services Contract with Westgro Corporation in an amount not to exceed \$76,718.24 plus all applicable taxes, including an option to renew for one additional term of two years in an amount not to exceed \$76,718.24, plus all applicable taxes and any State-mandated prevailing wage increase and/or City-approved special or unanticipated market condition that does not exceed the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue) for the most recently completed calendar year.
- (h) Resolution No. 9913 authorizing execution of a General Services contract with Canber Corps in an amount not to exceed \$52,844, plus all applicable taxes, including an option to renew for one additional term of two years in an amount not to exceed \$52,844, plus all applicable taxes and any State-mandated prevailing wage increase and/or City-approved special or unanticipated market condition that does not exceed the Consumer Price Index (CPI-U, Seattle-Tacoma-Bellevue) for the most recently completed calendar year.

- (i) Resolution No. 9914 authorizing execution of a contract with AECOM Technical Services, Inc. in the amount of \$145,000, plus all applicable taxes, for the Cross-Cultural Study Phase 3.
  - (j) Resolution No. 9915 authorizing execution of all documents necessary to implement settlement of the claim brought by Pat Gamroth in the amount of \$125,000.
9. Public Hearing: None.
10. Study Session Items
- (a) Human Services Commission Recommendations for the 2021 Community Development Block Grant COVID 3 (CDBG-CV3) Funding Package

City Manager Miyake said staff is seeking Council direction to prepare a resolution approving the funding recommendations for the use of 2021 Community Development Block Grant COVID 3 (CDBG-CV3) funding.

Michael Shiosaki, Director of the Parks and Community Services Department, recalled that the federal CARES (Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security) Act approved in March 2020 included \$5 billion in CDBG-CV funds: 1) \$2 billion allocated to entitlement cities based on the regular CDBG formula, 2) \$1 billion allocated to the states, and 3) \$2 billion allocated to entitlement cities based on a formula related to coronavirus impacts.

Mr. Shiosaki recalled that the City Council allocated CDBG-CV1 funds to homeless shelter services in May 2020. The CDBG-CV2 funds have not yet been allocated. The Human Services Commission will be developing recommendations for the use of CV2 funds during its April 6 meeting. The City has been allocated \$897,287 in CDBG-CV3 funds.

Dee Dee Catalano, Grant Coordinator, said that a CDBG-CV3 project must be an eligible activity that meets a national objective. The projects must explicitly prevent, prepare for, or respond to the coronavirus. CDBG funds must avoid the duplication of benefits which occurs when a project receives funding from multiple sources, including CDBG-CV funds. The duplication of benefits is defined by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

Based on the data collected by human services staff, probation services staff, the City's wraparound services coordinators, service providers, and legal staff, the Human Services Commission selected three areas with the highest need: 1) rental assistance, 2) food assistance, and 3) behavioral and mental health services and substance use disorder treatment. Ms. Catalano said there are significant concerns regarding the potential that many people will face eviction when the eviction moratorium ends. She said the Washington State Department of Commerce estimates that tenants in the state have accrued \$100 million per month in owed rent since the moratorium began in March 2020. She described the increased demand for mental and behavioral health services during the pandemic.

Ms. Catalano said a request for proposals (RFP) from providers of rental assistance, food assistance, and behavioral and mental health services was issued on January 11, 2021. Fifteen applications totaling \$2,187,666 were received to compete for the \$897,287 in grant funding. The Human Services Commission reviewed the applications and approved their preliminary funding recommendations on February 17. The commission held a public hearing on March 2 to solicit comments regarding the preliminary recommendations. Ms. Catalano said the Human Services Commission approved its final funding recommendations following the public hearing.

Michelle Kline, Chair of the Human Services Commission, highlighted the criteria used by the commission to evaluate the providers' applications: 1) agency serves a population that is disproportionately affected by the COVID-19 pandemic, 2) agency has demonstrated the capacity to manage CDBG funds, and 3) agency has demonstrated the capacity to disburse funding in a timely manner. Of the eight applications recommended for funding, five agencies focus on assisting the Black, Indigenous and People of Color (BIPOC) community.

Ms. Kline noted that the commission's funding recommendations and rationale are included as Attachment B in the meeting packet. The commission recommends that the majority of the funds be allocated to rental assistance agencies to address the enormous backlog of unpaid rent in the community: Centro Cultural Mexicano, Hopelink, India Association of Western Washington, and YMCA of Greater Seattle. Food assistance funding is recommended to Congregations for the Homeless (CFH) and YMCA of Greater Seattle. Behavioral health grants are recommended for CFH and the India Association of Western Washington.

Ms. Kline thanked Councilmembers for their support of all Bellevue residents. She requested Council direction to prepare a resolution for future action to approve the funding recommendations.

Mayor Robinson thanked Ms. Kline for presenting the commission's recommendations.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, liaison to the Human Services Commission, thanked staff and Chair Kline for their great work and information. He acknowledged that the need for rental assistance, food assistance, and behavioral and mental health services is significant and urgent. Mr. Nieuwenhuis thanked staff and the commission for their outreach to diverse and underserved populations. He said the funding grants will directly assist the public including individuals experiencing homelessness, individuals in need of mental health services, and people in need of food and rental assistance. Mr. Nieuwenhuis thanked the Human Services Commissioners for all of their hard work and recommendations.

Councilmember Stokes thanked staff and the commission for their hard work and thorough review process. He observed that the recommendations provide a good balance of services to a broad range of the community, including the BIPOC community and other underserved populations. He commended staff, the community, and service providers for their partnerships.

Councilmember Lee said he always respects the challenging work of the Human Services Commission. He noted that the need for funding always exceeds the available resources. He

expressed support for the City's increased emphasis on community capacity building in recent years. He thanked the service providers for their assistance and support to the community.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked the Human Services Commission and staff for their work. He said he was glad to see the participation of probation services staff as well. He thanked Bellevue's federal legislative delegation for their efforts in securing funding for cities and local governments.

Councilmember Robertson expressed support for the recommendations and thanked commissioners for their work and commitment. She said the recommendations are consistent with the Council's goal to help the people most profoundly affected by the pandemic.

Councilmember Zahn noted her appreciation for the tough decisions faced by the commission. Responding to Ms. Zahn, Ms. Catalano confirmed that Solid Ground contacted her last fall because they were unable to expend their CDBG allocation within the required time period. The funds were transferred to LifeWire and they were able to use the funds in a timely manner.

Ms. Zahn stated her understanding that HERO (Hope, Empowerment, Relationships, and Opportunity) House does not meet the decision criteria. However, she would like to be able to provide funding to them in the future. She said the agency provides critical mental health services in the community.

Mayor Robinson thanked Chair Kline and the commissioners for their rigorous review process. Ms. Robinson expressed support for the proposed funding allocations. Responding to Ms. Robinson, Ms. Catalano said she would follow up with information regarding the estimated percentage of households at risk of eviction.

→ Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis moved to direct staff to prepare a resolution approving the funding plan for the 2021 CDBG-CV3 funds in the amount of \$897,207, for adoption at a future meeting as a consent calendar item. Councilmember Lee seconded the motion.

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

(b) Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) Quarterly Update

City Manager Miyake introduced staff's update regarding the Environmental Stewardship Initiative (ESI) program. He said this is the first quarterly update since the Council adopted the updated Environmental Stewardship Plan on December 14, 2020. The purpose of tonight's agenda item is to provide an overview of the 2021 ESI work plan, including an outline of the ESI enhanced engagement approach.

Emil King, Assistant Director, Community Development Department, said the Environmental Stewardship Plan is a five-year strategic plan that will be implemented based on available resources. He said the enhanced engagement framework to be highlighted tonight engages a broader set of interested residents and members of the business community in accomplishing the

2021 actions. Mr. King thanked the Council for its strong support of environmental stewardship in municipal operations and throughout the community.

Jennifer Ewing, Environmental Stewardship Program Manager, recalled the Council's interest in quarterly updates and acknowledged the additional funding in the budget for both enhanced engagement and for implementing early win items. She said the Council also previously expressed an interest in maintaining regional partnerships and leading by example in environmental stewardship actions related to the City's operations.

Ms. Ewing highlighted key actions in the 2021 work plan related to climate vulnerability assessment, sustainable land use planning (e.g., BelRed and Wilburton areas, Great Neighborhoods implementation), Clean Buildings Act support, updates to the home energy retrofit program, multifamily recycling outreach, the Green Fleet strategy, City facilities energy efficiency, and tree planting programs. She said the City applied for Washington State Department of Commerce grant funds and a decision is anticipated by the end of April. Ms. Ewing said the City is working with the 300 Trees organization to coordinate their efforts to plant and give away trees. She said staff is incorporating an equity lens as it develops its tree planting program and efforts to enhance the tree canopy.

Ms. Ewing recalled that the Council expressed a desire that staff continue to engage with the community, including residents and stakeholder groups, to support the implementation of the plan. She described the creation of a sustainability leaders group comprised of representatives from large employers in Bellevue, business groups, Bellevue School District, Bellevue College, and others. The enhanced engagement process will solicit input on opportunities to use an equity lens and to support public outreach and education.

The ESI enhanced engagement approach designates a stakeholder group of businesses, property managers, developers, nonprofit organizations, business groups, and environmental organizations. The residents group includes representatives of single-family and multifamily housing, faith-based and cultural groups, schools, and home owner associations. Ms. Ewing said ad hoc committees are anticipated to address special topics including trees, residential energy, commercial energy, and climate resiliency.

Ms. Ewing described early wins over the past several months. Puget Sound Energy (PSE) initiated the operation of its Green Direct Skookumchuck wind farm and Lund Hill solar farm. Those sources will provide approximately 70 percent of City operations' energy usage. Ms. Ewing said the City is planning a tree giveaway project in coordination with the Bellevue School District and 300 Trees. The City received a King Conservation Member Jurisdiction Grant to support the tree giveaway effort. Ms. Ewing said the City applied for funding for electric vehicle charging at the Bellevue Service Center as part of a PSE pilot program. She said the City was recently awarded a Certificate of Distinction for Performance Management by the International City-County Management Association (ICMA). She noted that the City's environmental stewardship program was featured in the award application.

Ms. Ewing said staff will continue to provide quarterly updates, work through the launch of the Sustainable Bellevue Partnership, and continue to develop programs including commercial and residential building energy efficiency support and tree giveaway efforts.

Mayor Robinson thanked staff for the update.

Councilmember Barksdale thanked staff for their work and partnership efforts. He said he has not seen the full list of watershed stakeholders. However, he encouraged exploring the flood control district, Native American tribes, and Trout Unlimited for potential partnerships. He encouraged working with stakeholders to help determine what data they need in order to take on some of the creative actions in the community. He encouraged working with student groups. He recalled a past effort by community members to develop an app that would encourage environmentally sustainable behaviors and practices.

Councilmember Robertson thanked staff for the presentation and for their extensive public engagement efforts.

Councilmember Stokes expressed support for all of staff's activities and partnerships. He said he is pleased to see that the City is coordinating efforts with 300 Trees to focus on the tree canopy. He said he receives emails from individuals who are concerned about the removal of significant trees in the community. He noted his involvement with the Water Resource Inventory Area 8 (WRIA 8) Salmon Recovery Council and suggested that more can be done in coordination with their efforts.

Councilmember Lee encouraged exploring ways to develop in Bellevue without losing trees. He commented on the importance of partnerships. Responding to Mr. Lee, Ms. Ewing said the intent of the Sustainable Bellevue Partnership is to bring together organizations that have similar missions and goals to create a common set of goals and actions.

Councilmember Zahn thanked staff for the update and the early wins work. She said that, as the economy reopens, this is an opportunity to reimagine a new normal and implement new programs and objectives. She expressed support for the items listed on the work plan. She encouraged staff to maintain an equity lens in implementing the home energy retrofit program. She observed that if individuals are required to pay for enhancements before they are reimbursed, that may create a barrier for some households.

Ms. Zahn encouraged staff to connect with the Bellevue Youth Link Board and the Bellevue School District's sustainability programs. She encouraged exploring ways to make the community engagement fun and suggested perhaps establishing an environmental stewardship mascot.

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis expressed support for staff's work and congratulated the City on the receipt of the ICMA award. Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Ewing said the ESI dashboard will be updated next quarter. Mr. Nieuwenhuis thanked staff for their community outreach and expressed appreciation for all of the City's partners.

Responding to Mr. Nieuwenhuis, Ms. Ewing said she would follow up with information regarding construction site recycling. Mayor Robinson noted her interest in the information as well, including construction site recycling for both commercial and residential properties.

Responding to Mayor Robinson, Ms. Ewing said staff has been working with PSE to add electric vehicle charging stations at City Hall and at the Bellevue Service Center. She said the Utilities Department and Transportation Department have different pilot programs at this time as well.

Mayor Robinson said she frequently hears concerns from residents regarding the guidelines for removing trees as part of any type of development. Ms. Ewing confirmed that the Environmental Stewardship Plan includes a review of the City's tree codes.

Ms. Robinson concurred with Councilmember Barksdale's suggestion about working with school and youth environmental groups.

(c) Regional Issues *[Written update only.]*

11. Land Use: None.
12. Other Ordinances, Resolutions, and Motions: None.
13. Unfinished Business: None.
14. New Business: None.
15. Executive Session: None.
16. Adjournment

At 7:24 p.m., Mayor Robinson declared the meeting adjourned.

Charmaine Arredondo, CMC  
City Clerk

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