

East Bellevue Community Council
Summary Minutes of Regular Meeting

June 23, 2022
6:30 p.m.

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

PRESENT: Chair Kasner, Vice Chair Dhananjaya, Alternate Vice Chair Epstein and Councilmembers Hummer and Lai

ABSENT: None.

STAFF: None.

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:30 p.m., with Chair Kasner presiding.

2. ROLL CALL/FLAG SALUTE

Deputy City Clerk Karin Roberts called the roll and all Councilmembers were present. Councilmember Epstein led the flag salute.

3. APPROVAL OF AGENDA

Councilmember Hummer moved to approve the agenda. Councilmember Epstein seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

4. COMMUNICATIONS: WRITTEN AND ORAL

Don Marsh said that, as a community activist, he has enjoyed working with the EBCC. He noted his concern regarding the tree canopy, including due to projects by Puget Sound Energy (PSE). He thanked the EBCC for advocating for residents and opposing PSE's Lake Hills transmission line project. He expressed concern regarding the loss of trees on 148th Avenue and expressed opposition to PSE's Energize Eastside project. He thanked EBCC members for their service and encouraged them to continue to advocate for the community.

Heidi Dean, a resident of Newport Hills, thanked everyone who has served on the EBCC over the past many years. She said the purpose of the EBCC was to support and represent the residents and businesses in its jurisdiction. She said she looks forward to working with everyone on behalf of the community.

Warren Halverson, a resident of Bridle Trails, opined that it was wrong for the state legislature to sunset community councils in Washington state. He thanked the EBCC for their work and for their efforts to educate the community about planning and land use issues. He wished EBCC members the best and encouraged them to run for another public office.

Norm Hansen, a resident of Bridle Trails, said he appreciated the EBCC's collaboration with residents and their support of issues related to the Bridle Trails area. He thanked EBCC members and wished them well.

Cheryl Kuhn thanked EBCC members for their service to the residents of the Lake Hills area. As a former City employee, she appreciates members of the public who volunteer their time in service to the community.

Gerry Hughes said he enjoyed serving on the EBCC and he felt they accomplished some good things for the community. He encouraged everyone to continue to advocate on behalf of residents with the City.

5. **REPORTS OF CITY COUNCIL, BOARDS, and COMMISSIONS:** None.

6. **REPORT OF THE CHAIR**

Chair Kasner noted that this is the EBCC's last meeting and invited EBCC members to comment.

Councilmember Hummer said she was encouraged by Mr. Kasner to run for a seat on the EBCC. She said she began going to meetings of the City Council, Boards and Commissions to learn about issues and projects affecting East Bellevue. Ms. Hummer recalled working with the community regarding Land Use Code regulations for the Eastgate shelter. She said the EBCC voted against PSE's power line project because they believed it violated elements of the Comprehensive Plan. She noted her efforts to improve the relationship between the EBCC and the City Council. Ms. Hummer said she will continue to be involved in advocating for neighborhoods. She thanked Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis and Councilmember Robertson, the current and former liaisons to the EBCC, for their support. She also thanked Brian Wendt and Chad Barnes from the City Attorney's Office for their advice and counsel.

Councilmember Epstein said he served on the EBCC for the past two years. He thanked Chair Kasner and Councilmember Hummer for helping him learn about the City and the EBCC's role, and thanked everyone for their support.

Councilmember Lai said he was elected in November 2021. He noted residents' commitment to the community and said there is more that unites than divides everyone. He thanked EBCC members for their efforts to represent residents and businesses and said he looks forward to continued involvement in local issues.

Vice Chair Dhananjaya expressed appreciation to EBCC members and the public for their involvement in local issues. He thanked staff for their presentations and information to help the EBCC. He recalled the EBCC's involvement related to the Puesta del Sol school project. He said it was a pleasure to serve on the EBCC and to engage with elected officials and a number of people across the community. He thanked Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis for his detailed updates to the EBCC.

Councilmember Hummer noted that Councilmember Dhananjaya accompanied her to many meetings with City staff and members of the City Council. Responding to Ms. Hummer, Chair Kasner confirmed that a total of 35 individuals served on the EBCC.

Chair Kasner said that he and Ross Gooding joined the EBCC in April 2006 after two members resigned. Mr. Kasner said he is the longest serving, living EBCC member. Noting that Jim Bell served 18 years, Ken Seal served 20 years, and Jim Keeffe served 25 years, Mr. Kasner said he believed that Bill Halgren served the most years.

Mr. Kasner recalled working with City Councilmembers Balducci and Robertson to receive sidewalks and roads adjacent to the Bellevue College campus. Mr. Kasner commented regarding the Odle Middle School reconstruction, Puesta del Sol school project, Lake Hills Village planning and the Newport Way sidewalks and improvements. He said the EBCC recently approved a landmark tree resolution in an effort to protect large trees.

Mr. Kasner said 160 individuals signed up to testify to the state legislature regarding the bill to sunset the community councils. He said nine people were allowed to speak and eight of those were elected officials. He expressed concern about the lack of community input. He encouraged everyone to support the Lake Hills Neighborhood Association and reiterated his concern about the loss of trees in the community.

Chair Hummer said the City Council recently discussed a Land Use Code Amendment (LUCA) to remove references to the EBCC from the Land Use Code and to modify definitions and regulations to be consistent citywide. She thanked members of the City Council for their kind words regarding the EBCC. Ms. Hummer read the names of everyone who served on the EBCC over several decades and thanked them for their efforts. She recalled that in November 2021, 82 percent of the voters within the EBCC jurisdiction voted to continue the EBCC.

7. **DEPARTMENT REPORTS**: None.
8. **PUBLIC/COURTESY HEARINGS**: None.
9. **RESOLUTIONS**: None.
10. **COMMITTEE REPORTS**: None.
11. **UNFINISHED BUSINESS**: None.
12. **NEW BUSINESS**

- (a) Recognition of the East Bellevue Community Council

Deputy Mayor Nieuwenhuis, a Lake Hills resident, said the EBCC was often the first opportunity for residents to learn about issues and projects impacting their community. He thanked EBCC members for their commitment and dedication and for providing an important perspective regarding the neighborhoods. He thanked everyone who has served on the EBCC since its inception.

13. CONTINUED COMMUNICATIONS

Councilmember Hummer said she has enjoyed meeting and working with members of the community. She said she hopes that neighborhood associations citywide will remain strong in consistently advocating for residents.

Councilmember Epstein thanked City staff for their presentations to the EBCC.

Councilmember Lai encouraged everyone to stay engaged with the community to keep democracy alive and healthy.

Vice Chair Dhananjaya thanked everyone who he worked with in his role as an EBCC member. He said he looks forward to continued relationships and collaborations with the City and the community.

Chair Kasner recalled that the EBCC denied provisions of the Homeless Services Uses LUCA approved by the City Council. He said the EBCC was concerned that the use of a development agreement would preclude the requirement for a good neighbor agreement. The EBCC instead chose to preserve the conditional use permit (CUP) process for the Eastgate shelter. Mr. Kasner expressed concern about development, especially in downtown Bellevue. He recalled working with the community, the City and developers to redevelop the Kelsey Creek shopping center and Lake Hills Village.

City staff presented gifts to the EBCC members.

14. EXECUTIVE SESSION: None.

15. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

(a) Summary Regular Meeting Minutes June 7, 2022

Councilmember Hummer moved to approve the minutes of the June 7, 2022 Regular Meeting. Vice Chair Dhananjaya seconded the motion, which carried by a vote of 5-0.

16. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Kasner thanked the Deputy City Clerks who have supported the EBCC over the years.

The meeting was adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.

Karin Roberts, CMC
Deputy City Clerk

/kaw