

MINUTES

Bellevue Parks Committee

May 21, 2025

Present: Kristin Fletcher, Tom Bergin, Shelly Shoemaker, Christina Van Der Meulen

Call to Order: 10:02am

- a. Roll Call: FK, TB, CV, and other SS
1. Notice of Agenda Compliance
 - a. Motion to accept: KF: second, TB; all in favor – yes
2. Call for conflict
 - a. No Conflicts
3. Public Comment
 - a. No public comment
4. Consent Agenda
 - a. Approved 2/28/25
 - b. Approved 4/24/25; time start at 10:12am
 - c. KF – Move w/corrections noted: CV – 2nd. All in favor – yes
5. Old Business
 - a. Update on Blue Cross Foundation Grant to the City of Bellevue; currently taking place in City Hall. No new information.
 - i. CV – problems with survey, TB mentioned problems too. No other reported problems. 67 people surveyed. KF requested survey questions.
 - ii. Weekly update: Communications with Public Resources: rebranding City of Bellevue – logo (separate from grant). In the gathering stage; too early for Parks Committee to be involved.
 - iii. The grant was applied for Memorial Park, but could go in different direction, depending on survey. \$85K – health related.
 - iv. BC meets bi-weekly at 10am on Wednesdays. Parks Committee Regular Meeting schedule: CV 9am is scheduled, change to 11am? TB: flexible. KF: meeting at noon in Hailey. 3rd Wednesday in July, 7/16 @ 11am.
6. New Business
 - a. Future role and responsibilities of the Bellevue Committee (Discussion)

- i. FK: 7 years appointed on Committee. Given freedom and choose highest needs; O'Donnell Park – use/abuse: restore lawn, address weeds, P/U dog poop, porta-potty. Memorial Park – took a survey: Skate Park, improve basketball courts, replace stage, replant with drought tolerant plants.
 - 1. Presented to City Council; originally accepted but never ratified. Then Covid and nothing happened.
 - a. John Kurz worked with Doug Brown (BURA) bought new picnic tables and benches, dog poop stations, and wood chips for the playground.
 - 2. Presented to CC again – people were surprised. Five Mayors, Four Public Works Directors and many City employees.
 - a. Reached out to Diane Shay, called by Mayor Christina; deeply committed to restoring Bellevue. TB appointed to Committee to form a quorum.
 - 3. Parks Committee never notified of the BC Grant. KF requested a liaison. City not wanting “too many cooks in the kitchen”. Parks Committee can be active later.
- ii. Future role – how money is spent on the Parks by the Parks Committee; mayor want Committee to be engaged and active with planning. The Grant is a perfect role. TB: participate in the budgeting process – this is what the park needs. Set aside money to beautify the parks; trees.
 - 1. Special budget meeting. Wednesday, May 28 at 7:30am.
 - a. BURA, Diane Shay, is wanting to beautify Bellevue, good time to get on their radar for activities.
 - 2. Special meeting with Mayor Christina – very active in rebuilding staff with standard operating procedures and consistency. Rules and Roles Discussion. Wednesday, May 28 at 8:30am.

Kristin Gearhart, Director of Bellevue Public Library made mention of the 80th Anniversary of WWII; a wreath and banner over Labor Day on the Memorial would be nice.