



## Minutes

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The Parks Committee of the City of Bellevue, Idaho, met for a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, November 19, 2025 at 10:30 AM in the City of Bellevue Public Library, located at 117 E. Pine St, Bellevue, Idaho 83313.

### CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fletcher called the Meeting to order at 10:50 A.M.

### ROLL CALL

Kristin Fletcher, Parks Committee Chair - Present

Christina Van Der Meulen, Committee Member – Present (left at 11:30 A.M.)

Tom Bergin, Committee Member – Present

### Staff Present:

Carter Bullock, Planner (11:02 A.M.)

### 1. NOTICE OF AGENDA COMPLIANCE - ACTION ITEM

**Motion:** Committee Member Bergin motioned that the notice for the November 19 2025, Regular Meeting was completed in accordance with Idaho Code, Section §74-204, Committee Member Van Der Meulen seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

### 2. CALL FOR CONFLICT:

No conflicts or *ex parte* communications were identified.

### 3. PUBLIC COMMENT:

None provided.

### 4. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Minutes of August 20, 2025 and October 15, 2025 – ACTION ITEM

**Motion:** Committee Member Bergin motioned to approve the minutes for the August 20, 2025 and October 15, 2025 meetings, Committee Member Van Der Meulen seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

### 5. OLD BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

- a. Park Improvement Recommendations Document for City Council

The Committee discussed creating a document summarizing recommendations for O'Donnell and Memorial Parks to the Common Council. These recommendations would highlight suggested improvements, including tree planting and potential kiosk locations.

Committee Member Bergin remarked that he had looked at the agenda regarding this, but had not assembled such a document. After some discussion, the Committee decided that such a document should be put before the Common Council in January of 2026. Committee Member Bergin affirmed that the document would recommend general repairs and improvements, and Council Member Van Der Meulen recommended that it be finalized in December 2025.

Committee Member Bergin cautioned against conducting quorum business over email, after which Chair Fletcher advised creating a google doc (**ACTION ITEM: Tom Bergin**) where comments and feedback could be shared as the document is drafted.

b. Adopt a Tree Program Research

Committee Member Bergin presented examples of peer-community Adopt a Tree and/or Adopt a Park programs. The Committee then discussed these examples and various approaches to similar policies, including the potential for “monument” trees which memorialize late citizens. Chair Fletcher advised against unplanned and unguided memorial trees. The Committee discussed how the City of Bellevue might maintain trees donated to the City, and at which point in a tree’s lifespan the City would become responsible for upkeep. The Committee did not generally support city maintenance of donated/adopted trees during the first year of their lives. Instead, the Committee agreed that adoptees of trees would be responsible during this period.

The Committee went on to discuss park adoption programs more broadly, pointing to cities where landscaping companies or other interested parties seeking promotion might maintain and/or establish plantings in sections of a park. The Committee specifically discussed the unofficial, non-City owned park adjacent to the Old City Hall/Museum, and how trees and landscaping might be better maintained there.

To close this discussion, the Committee briefly discussed implementation, including assembling a formal recommendation for the Council for presentation to the Common Council. This was recommended to occur by January 2026.

c. Donation of Trees from Sun Valley Garden Center

The Committee briefly discussed the potential for partnering with Sun Valley Garden Center to seek donations. According to the Committee, Diane Shay, President of the Bellevue Common Council, discussed as much with the Sun Valley Garden Center, when such conversation shifted towards the issue of the nearby car dealership development. The Committee decided to ask Diane to further investigate the potential for a donation.

d. 2018 Flooding in O’Donnell Park

Chair Fletcher discussed the 2018 flooding in O’Donnell Park and sought an opportunity to show a video of the event to Mr. Bullock. Mr. Bullock affirmed his desire to watch the video, and opined that the Committee should find ways to apply this past experience to a future-focused action item. Chair Fletcher and Committee Member Van Der Meulen then discussed potential mitigative measures, including within the channel established by the Strahorn development, or within the City-owned property at the terminus of this channel.

e. Discussion regarding prospective new Parks Committee Members

Mark Sindell, a Bellevue resident and prospective Parks Committee member, joined the entire meeting by phone and occasionally voiced thoughts, at the behest of the Committee. The Committee appeared generally supportive of Mr. Sindell sending the Mayor a letter of interest and potentially joining the Committee.

Mr. Bullock affirmed the process by which Committee Members of all Citizen’s Committees are selected. The Mayor is to appoint a potential member, after which the Common Council may confirm them. Interested applicants are interviewed by Staff and the Mayor to confirm that their values and ethic align with the City’s goals.

Mr. Sindell commented on his interest in the Committee, and advocated for the Committee to choose firm and actionable goals for 2026. Commenting on this, Chair Fletcher indicated a desire to complete the Committee’s current slate of action items in order to turn to further goals in the new year.

Finally, Mr. Bullock mentioned the potential for up to two new Committee members, and that multiple interested individuals ought apply.

## 6. NEW BUSINESS – ACTION ITEMS

### a. Community Project(s) for Memorial Park

The Committee inquired of Mr. Bullock as to the reasoning behind the City's preference for about \$100,000 in grant funds. The Mayor & Staff opted previously to recommend a project that would resurface and restripe the basketball courts in Memorial Park to add multi-use play capacity including pickleball. Chair Fletcher reiterated that, in her mind, the most prescient project for the Committee should be the restoration and development of the stage/bandstand. Chair Fletcher also stated that the community's desires for benches, seating, and tables – as expressed in the Community Project survey results – should be prioritized. Mr. Bullock explained that the Mayor and Staff recommended court resurfacing for pickleball due to oft-mentioned community preference in Parks-related surveys, overlap with previous recommendations from across committees, and because this project would be more likely to fall within the limits of the available funds.

### b. Pickleball Noise Research Discussion

The Committee inquired as to the prospective issue of excessive noise resulting from pickleball, to which Mr. Bullock explained his initial research into noise mitigation. Mr. Bullock informed the Committee of a recent call he had with the president of the Elkhorn Owner's Association, which has faced criticism for reasons of pickleball noise. Mr. Bullock was informed of the noise reductions that have come with sound barriers and other solutions, like cushioned rackets provided to pickleball players without charge. Mr. Bullock reported that adding quality sound barrier and mitigation could cost between \$10,000 and \$25,000. The Committee then discussed whether vegetation could function as an effective screen for noise and add beautification.

### c. Discussion regarding City Admin/Parks Committee Communications

Chair Fletcher expressed difficulties in communicating with Staff, the Mayor, and Council, and achieving Committee goals. She explained that due to substantial Staff & Elected Official turnover, the Committee has had a degree of autonomy. This has been especially crucial for the Committee to accomplish its original mission of recommending process changes and projects for O'Donnell Park and Memorial Park. Chair Fletcher indicated that current City practice has increasingly not allowed meaningful participation by the Committee. Mr. Bullock agreed to reach out to the Chair in the future to discuss potential agenda items and parks-related projects and acknowledged that the Committee can expect closer coordination with the City in the future. Staff and the Mayor may consult with the Committee to bring agenda items to bear. Staff may be more involved in drafting reports, memos, doing relevant research, and more. Mrs. Shoemaker will remain the Staff liaison to the Committee, but Mr. Bullock may be increasingly involved due to having more time for in-depth work to support the Committee's goals. Mr. Bullock expressed willingness to prepare meeting packets and do minutes for the Committee.

Mr. Sindell inquired as to how the Committee plans to move forward overall. Chair Fletcher reiterated that the Committee will explore long-term goals with Staff after the new year begins. Committee Member Bergin implored Mr. Sindell to submit a letter of intent due to his relevant expertise.

### d. January Meeting Date

Chair Fletcher indicated a desire to hold a December meeting to wrap up the current slate of agenda items. Committee Member Bergin agreed. Chair Fletcher stated that she will email the committee to determine a workable timeline.

## 7. ADJOURNMENT - ACTION ITEM

**Motion:** Committee Member Bergin voted to adjourn the meeting, Chair Fletcher seconded, all voted in favor, and the meeting was adjourned at 11:55 P.M.

*Kristin Fletcher*

Kristin Fletcher, Parks Committee Chair

*Shelly Shoemaker*

Shelly Shoemaker, Secretary