



Minutes

The Parks Committee of the City of Bellevue, Idaho, met for a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 10:00 AM in the Bellevue City Hall Meeting Room, located at 115 E. Pine St, Bellevue, Idaho 83313.

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Fletcher called the meeting to order at 10:10 AM.

ROLL CALL

COMMITTEE MEMBERS

Kristin Fletcher, Parks Committee Chair – Present
Christina Van Der Meulen, Committee Member – Absent
Tom Bergin, Committee Member – Present
Mark Sindell, Committee Member – Present

STAFF

Carter Bullock, Committee Secretary – Present

VISITORS

Chad Stoesz, Wood River Land Trust (“WRLT”)
Melanie Dahl, Friends of the Howard Preserve (“Friends”)

1. NOTICE OF AGENDA COMPLIANCE (PER IDAHO CODE §74-204): ACTION ITEM

MOTION: Committee Member Bergin moved that the notice for the March 18, 2026, meeting was completed in accordance with Idaho Code Section §74-204, it was seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

2. CALL FOR CONFLICT (AS OUTLINED IN IDAHO CODE §74-404): ACTION ITEM

Chair Fletcher indicated that she is a member of the Friends of the Howard Preserve (“Friends”), as the Howard Preserve (“Preserve”) would be relevant to an item on the agenda and a representative of the Friends was present. Throughout the meeting she identified whenever a conflict could be perceived and indicated when she may be talking as a member of the Friends. No vote recusal was necessary.

None of the other members of the Committee indicated a potential conflict.

3. COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES

Secretary Bullock provided an update that the City had received a \$10,000 grant from the Keystone Concept and Blaine County to undertake a community-wide tree inventory. **Action Item: Chair Fletcher indicated that she would send Secretary Bullock an existing brochure on heirloom trees in Bellevue.**

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Secretary Bullock then went on to state that Committee Member Van Der Meulen had been officially reappointed to the Committee in the most recent Common Council Meeting.

4. **PUBLIC COMMENT: FOR ITEMS OF CONCERN NOT ON THE AGENDA – (COMMENTS ARE LIMITED TO 3-5 MINUTES)**

None provided.

7. **WORK SESSIONS: ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Howard Preserve Management Plan Update: Brian Parker, Community Development Director (*Item moved up in the agenda by a motion from Committee Member Bergin, receipt of a second, and a unanimous Committee vote.*) (As Brian Parker was absent, Secretary Bullock presented this item.)

Secretary Bullock identified that the Committee had the entirety of the current Howard Preserve Management Plan (“HPMP”) in their packet for discussion. Chair Fletcher inquired as to the broad strokes of the draft changes so far to the HPMP, and Mr. Stoesz gave an overview. He explained that most of the changes so far have been slight, and that the section appearing in most need of change is the management of events in the Preserve. He explained that the plan could benefit from more correlation with the language of the conservation easement on the property, and that the timeline of events in the document should be updated. He went on to illustrate that a working document exists which the major stakeholders have been able to provide comments on. Secretary Bullock explained that the historical context in the HPMP should be expanded and updated. Mr. Stoesz stated he would add Ms. Dahl to the working document so she could add to and edit the historical context section of the document.

Mr. Stoesz further explained that the prior HPMP’s regulations for events were seldom used because few organized events have occurred in the preserve. Chair Fletcher inquired of Secretary Bullock as to the status of event permits in the Preserve. Secretary Bullock explained that the Common Council had elected to halt all event permitting in the Preserve for ninety (90) days and delete related fees from the fee schedule until the updated HPMP could be updated, or a first draft provided.

The Committee and interested parties discussed the nature of this interim pause on event permitting and the context thereof. Mr. Stoesz opined that the prior fees and event applications for the Preserve were essentially identical to those for any other Bellevue park, and that they should reflect the Preserve’s distinct purposes.

Following a question on Preserve acreage by Chair Fletcher, Mr. Stoesz explained that it is slightly larger than reflected in the prior plan, and substantially larger than when it was first inaugurated. Ms. Dahl then requested that the HPMP’s description of the Friends be changed. The Committee went on to deliberate over which City-owned land counts as part of the Preserve and explored the status and designation of various parcels, rights-of-way, and vacated rights-of-way. The Committee then explored a handful of potential acquisition aspirations and plans.

Chair Fletcher advised that the Committee begin at the start of the HPMP and work its way through each section to provide edits. First the Committee scrutinized sections 1.1-1.4. The Committee considered public access as a value and stated that it should be explored and considered to a greater extent. Committee Member Bergin stated that elm trees should likely be considered an invasive weed.

Chair Fletcher asked Mr. Stoesz how the relationship of the managing partners and the Common Council will work. Mr. Stoesz explained that the WRLT’s role in the Preserve is fairly unique, as it is a non-landowning managing partner which also enforces the conservation easement. He went on to clarify for the Committee how the easement is structured, was granted, and functions.

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The Committee then discussed the description of the relevant irrigation districts. The Committee seemed to concur that the irrigation districts should be highlighted and that these districts should be included in substantial decisions as a major stakeholder. Mr. Stoesz agreed that the HPMP should spell out the rights of the irrigation districts.

Secretary Bullock brought the Committee's attention to the description of the City's role as a partner and wondered whether the Committee may like to have an expanded role. Committee Member Bergin stated that the Committee acting as the primary "face" of the City or a recommending body for discussions with the managing partners could be appropriate.

Mr. Stoesz summarized the draft changes to the description of the Friends and the WRLT to the Committee. The Committee found the proposed changes and roles appropriate.

The Committee went on to walk through each of the future management priorities in the existing HPMP. The Committee first discussed the priority of enforcing parking in the handicapped parking space at the Preserve's north entrance. The Committee generally concluded that no substantial issue exists but future improvements here should be made. Mr. Bullock turned the Committee's attention to the handicapped access road and fire turnaround which extend from the north access point and into the Preserve, opining that it may be completely unnecessary. Committee Member Sindell asserted that the degradation of the area within the fire turnaround loop is illustrative of larger degradation below the Elm Street access to the Preserve. He advocated that the management priorities address what isn't working currently. Secretary Bullock concurred and added that good plans tend to include a list of large deficiencies, from which recommended actions and capital improvements should stem. Chair Fletcher summarized that she was hearing a need for identification of a "tiered system of areas that need improvement."

Coming back to the discussion of the degrading area below the Elm Street access, Chair Fletcher communicated that a pile of wood chips there is being stored for eventual path repair and use. Committee Member Sindell and Secretary Bullock concluded that the Preserve should not be used as a work or storage area when the City's Public Works Shop is immediately nearby, and Committee Member Sindell again emphasized restoring the entrance and interface areas of the Preserve.

Secretary Bullock advocated separating management priorities from identified capital improvement needs. Stemming from this thought, Committee Member Sindell focused on a large pile of rock just below Oak Street in the Preserve as an issue requiring particular mitigation and prioritization. He then asked the Committee its opinion on additional benches and picnic tables being added to the Preserve. The Committee appeared to concur on the need for more of these amenities. Ms. Dahl added, regarding the large pile of rock below Oak Street, that it was once planned to be used for river improvements but was abandoned.

The Committee turned to another management priority in the plan: to improve general communication between the managing partners. Chair Fletcher advised finding a different place for this goal. Secretary Bullock suggested placing it at the head of 1.4.

As Committee Member Sindell then needed to leave the meeting, which would end the convening of a quorum, the Committee deliberated on next steps. The Committee resolved to end the meeting and allow all remaining to continue discussing the HPMP in an informal manner without a quorum and without taking any action.

6. APPROVAL OF MINUTES: ACTION ITEMS

- a. March 4, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes (Not discussed – to be addressed in future meeting.)

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7. **NEW BUSINESS: ACTION ITEMS**

- a. Adoption of Bylaws & Election of Committee Chair: Secretary Bullock (Not discussed – to be addressed in future meeting.)

8. **WORK SESSIONS: ACTION ITEMS**

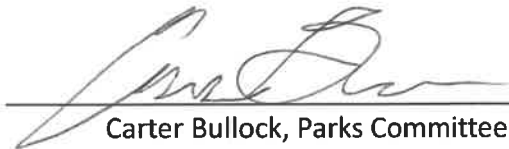
- a. Parks Committee Scope, Name, and Purpose: Secretary Bullock (Not discussed – to be addressed in future meeting.)
- b. 2026 Strategic Planning: Secretary Bullock (Not discussed – to be addressed in future meeting.)

9. **ADJOURNMENT: ACTION ITEM**

MOTION: At 11:10 AM Committee Member Bergin moved to the meeting, it was seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.



Kristin Fletcher, Parks Committee Chair



Carter Bullock, Parks Committee Secretary

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Memorandum

To: Bellevue Parks Committee

From: Carter Bullock, Planner

Re: Adoption of Bylaws & Election of Committee Officers

Date: April 15, 2026

Background

Bellevue City Code Section 7-4-3(C)(6) requires the Committee to annually adopt bylaws and elect Committee officers. As this has not occurred for many years, the time is ripe to renew this policy.

Recommendation and Next Steps

It is recommended to adopt the suggested 2026 Bylaws with any necessary amendments; it is also recommended to elect a Chair, Vice-Chair, and Secretary.

Enclosures

1. Suggested 2026 Bylaws