



Minutes

The Parks Committee of the City of Bellevue, Idaho, met for a Regular Meeting on Wednesday, March 4, 2026 at 10:00 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 10:07 AM.

ROLL CALL

Kristin Fletcher, Parks Committee Chair - Present

Tom Bergin, Committee Member – Present

Mark Sindell, Committee Member – Present

Staff Present: Carter Bullock, Committee Liaison, Planner

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

MOTION: Committee Member Bergin moved that the notice for the March 4, 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 Idaho Native Plant Society and the Friends of the Howard Preserve. However, because neither of those roles had an immediate and substantial stake in any of the agenda items, she did not indicate a need to recuse herself from any action.

Neither of the other members of the Committee indicated a potential conflict.

3. COMMITTEE & LIAISON UPDATES

Committee Member Bergin did not have any updates.

Mr. Bullock indicated that he would be presenting a right-of-way management presentation and workshop to the Common Council on March 9, 2026. This workshop would revolve around trees and landscaping in the City right-of-way, and analyze which encroachments should be allowed. Committee Member Sindell suggested that he may have future comments related to street trees in the right-of-way. **Action Item: Mr. Bullock requested that Committee Member Sindell share these comments on street trees outside of the meeting or when appropriate when draft code text results from the Council and Staff's work.**

Committee Member Sindell shared that the Bellevue Urban Renewal Agency's planning and design work for the "Dead End Rights-of-Way" had kicked off with an initial stakeholder meeting.

Chair Fletcher provided a contact for future reference on tree-related work: Linda Reese. Committee Member Sindell indicated that he had worked with her before on a Hailey street tree project.

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

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None provided.

5. **APPROVAL OF MINUTES: ACTION ITEM**

- a. November 19, 2025 Regular Meeting Minutes: Carter Bullock, Planner
- b. February 18, 2026 Regular Meeting Minutes: Carter Bullock, Planner

Chair Fletcher indicated a desire for a number of minor revisions to the February 18, 2026 minutes. Mr. Bullock assented to make these changes.

MOTION: Committee Member Bergin moved to approve the November 19, 2025 and February 18, 2026 Regular Meeting minutes as amended, it was seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

6. **OLD BUSINESS: ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED FROM FEBRUARY 18, 2026)**

- a. Community Project Draft Plan Discussion: Carter Bullock, Planner

Mr. Bullock presented a draft plan for the Community Project to the Committee for recommendations and thoughts in advance of the Council doing the same at their next meeting (March 9, 2026).

Mr. Bullock first discussed the funding amount received from Blue Cross Foundation for Health, which consists of about \$87,000. He then walked the Committee through the draft project plan, stopping for questions as they arose. The community's priorities, as identified by prior City and Committee surveys, were discussed first. Mr. Bullock explained that a want for new multi-use play space, and especially pickleball, was a "throughline."

Mr. Bullock then presented the suggested project design, which features repaved courts, replaced fencing, relocated gates, new interior fencing, and one (1) existing basketball court being replaced with three (3) new pickleball courts. Committee Member Sindell supported the change in gate locations, inquired about sound mitigation, and received clarification that existing trees would remain in place. Committee Member Bergin suggested some landscaping between the courts and the pavilion be incorporated. Chair Fletcher inquired about the center interior fencing, which Mr. Bullock responded would likely be four (4) to six (6) ft. black vinyl-coated chain link. The Committee then discussed the benches on the side of the remaining basketball court and whether there would be adequate spacing. These benches would likely be the existing benches. Committee Member Sindell then elaborated on the potential sound and visual mitigation options.

Chair Fletcher explained her reservations concerning the design of the project, including her prediction that tight spacing could impact spacing, playability, and lead to overcrowding. She advocated for one (1) pickleball court being planned instead. She also questioned the use of the pavilion for pickleball seating and asserted that vegetation and sound mitigation should be planned on the north side of the courts.

Committee Member Sindell asked Mr. Bullock to explain the rationale behind the suggested design. Mr. Bullock said that the spacing and potential for conflict wouldn't allow for two (2) north-south courts and that the three (3) courts had been requested by the Mayor and other Staff.

Moving on to refencing, Committee Member Bergin asked about the sponsorship requirement laid out by the Sawtooth Wood Products bid. Mr. Bullock explained that the sponsorship sign would likely need to be prominent and that the \$22,000 price accounted for the sponsorship discount.

In response to a question from Chair Fletcher on basketball court sizing, Mr. Bullock responded that regulation sizes aren't typically applied to casual, recreational basketball courts.

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Mr. Bullock presented multiple options for sound mitigation and the Committee discussed these. He explained that options for fence-hanging, impermanent sound mitigation products are more cost-effective but opaque, while the Pickleglass product is permanent and transparent but substantially more costly.

Regarding these options, Chair Fletcher stated that the Echo Barrier sounds great but is "ugly as sin" and would look like a wall. She indicated that any of the opaque options could encourage unsafe behavior by reducing visibility. She and Committee Member Sindell stated support for the Pickleglass on these grounds. Mr. Bullock explained that he has discussed the Pickleglass with the Wood River Pickleball Alliance, who may be exploring whether a member could make a donation to allow the City to purchase this product. Committee Member Sindell advocated for Echo Barrier as a backup option. Committee Member Bergin concurred with the other Committee members.

The Committee then explored whether spending \$50,000 on Pickleglass could be a political liability. Chair Fletcher acknowledged this possibility and emphasized the need for clear and emphatic communication. Committee Member Bergin the cost reduction for refencing that would be associated with the Pickleglass addition. Chair Fletcher warned that too much non-permeable fencing surrounding the courts could reduce wind cooling and amplify summer heat.

The Committee discussed the effects and cost of having or lacking sound mitigation on the north side of the play courts. Chair Fletcher wondered if sound may reverberate and be especially severe within the pavilion. She advocated for Pickleglass on the east of the courts and another product on the north. She also expanded on the amount of maintenance that may be needed for the new landscaping in this location specifically. The Committee appeared to arrive on a consensus that both landscaping and some sound mitigation would be necessary here.

Chair Fletcher suggested that the design could feature six (6) foot fencing instead of eight (8), especially on the east and north sides. She then emphasized again that she would not support three (3) pickleball courts. Fewer courts, she argued, would allow for easier management and provide space for seating.

Committee Member Bergin discussed with Mr. Bullock whether the court layout could be changed to north-south, potentially with two (2) staggered courts. Mr. Bullock explained that issues of conflicts would still likely arise. Committee Member Bergin then inquired about the noise level of one (1) versus multiple pickleball games occurring concurrently, and whether there would be a substantial difference. Mr. Bullock and Chair Fletcher concurred that noise levels may not rise but the constancy of noise would.

Mr. Bullock urged the Committee to consider a formal recommendation to Council. In response, Mr. Sindell summarized the Committee's recommendations to that point.

Committee Member Bergin inquired about, aside from sound mitigation, the cost of building the pickleball courts. Mr. Bullock explained that most of the costs would result from resurfacing, explained the need for this, and went over the received bids. He suggested that one of the court-specific contractors be selected.

Mr. Bullock then presented the costs for permanent versus impermanent net solutions and stated that the impermanent nets would be cheaper and allow for flexibility. The Committee appeared supportive of impermanent nets as a solution.

The presentation and discussion turned to landscaping next. The Committee went over the suggested species in the project plan and some information on species therein was corrected. Mr. Bullock explained that the County and other partners may be coordinating on a native plant garden initiative

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but that his information was limited. Committee Member Sindell explained that thuja occidentalis would not do well in Bellevue's climate and that arborvitae would be decimated by deer. Many additional species were suggested by the Committee for selection, including the "Moonglow" juniper cultivar, feather reed grass, penstemons, yarrows, blue flax, Walker's Lot cat mint, and any native pollinator species. Pollinators have the ability to attract native bees and push out stinging bees and wasps. Committee Member Sindell advocated for a simple garden of about five (5) species that are "bulletproof" and waterwise. **Action Item: Committee Member Sindell committed to composing a planting plan and/or summary list of potential species and distributing it to the Committee and Mr. Bullock. Alternatively, this list could be brought to a future Committee meeting.**

Mr. Bullock wondered aloud about whether the Committee could do a planting event. Committee Member Sindell echoed this idea. He advocated that the Committee – along with any willing volunteers – do the physical planting. Mr. Bullock posited that the Public Works/City Assets team could do soil prep and drip irrigation installation, while a local nursery could donate the plants. Mr. Bullock also requested any clarifying information on how much the landscaping could cost. **Action Item: Chair Fletcher suggested contacting all local nurseries to gauge interest in plant donations.**

Moving toward policies and management, Chair Fletcher indicated disapproval of the possibility for organized events at the play courts. She and Committee Member Bergin deliberated over the level of compliance overall with any court rules. He concurred that organized events could pose an issue but advocated that private lessons could be valuable. Chair Fletcher and Committee Member Sindell disagreed.

The Committee went on to agree that a nightly drive-by or visit by a Bellevue Marshal could greatly improve nighttime behavior at the play courts.

Following this, the Committee discussed whether to make official recommendations to the Council. Mr. Bullock summarized the Committee's recommendations to that point, which were:

- That Pickleglass is the preference of the Committee,
- That sound and visual barriers on the north side of the courts should be included,
- That two (2) pickleball courts should be planned instead of three (3),
- That landscaping should be native, low-consumption, and low maintenance,
- That temporary pickleball nets be used,
- That the fencing be shortened to six (6) feet, and
- That no organized events occur.

MOTION: Committee Member Sindell moved that a summary of the Committee's recommendations be represented to the Common Council, it was seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.

7. **NEW BUSINESS: ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED FROM FEBRUARY 18, 2026)**

- a. Adoption of Bylaws & Election of Committee Chair: Carter Bullock, Planner
This agenda item was continued to the next meeting.

8. **WORK SESSIONS: ACTION ITEMS (CONTINUED FROM FEBRUARY 18, 2026)**

- a. Parks Committee Scope, Name, and Purpose: Carter Bullock, Planner
This agenda item was continued to the next meeting.
- b. 2026 Strategic Planning: Carter Bullock, Planner
This agenda item was continued to the next meeting.

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9. **ADJOURNMENT: ACTION ITEM**

MOTION: At 11:46 AM Committee Member Bergin moved to continue the remainder of the agenda items (following 6a) to the next meeting and adjourn the meeting, it was seconded, all voted in favor, and the motion carried.



Kristin Fletcher, Parks Committee Chair



Carter Bullock, Parks Committee Staff Liaison

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