



**Neighborhood Leadership Gathering
February 26, 2013
Meeting Summary**

On February 26, the Neighborhood Outreach team hosted a Neighborhood Leadership Gathering which assembled over 84 neighborhood leaders, invited to share their priorities for their neighborhoods. We had great representation from neighborhoods across Bellevue, the East Bellevue Community Council, neighborhood associations, community clubs and the libraries. Mayor Conrad Lee and Councilmembers Claudia Balducci and John Stokes all expressed gratitude for the hard work and the time these leaders spent volunteering on behalf of their neighborhoods.

The Neighborhood Leadership Gathering had a three-fold purpose: to introduce new Neighborhood Outreach staff to our neighborhood leaders, to obtain a better assessment of where our neighborhood leaders spend their time, and to ascertain a list of neighborhood priorities for 2013. In addition, we sought to connect neighborhood leaders with each other, with their Neighborhood Liaisons, and with upcoming events, Neighborhood Forums and programs.

Neighborhood leaders connect with our Neighborhood Outreach team around a variety of different priorities. At the gathering, a short presentation on categories for neighborhood engagement was provided. The categories included Community Development, Neighborhood Improvement, Character and Identity, Education and Awareness, and Advocacy. Neighborhood leaders were asked to assess where they spend their time. The submitted forms indicated that neighborhood leaders allocated their volunteer work in the following areas:

- 24% Neighborhood Improvement (investment in physical betterment of neighborhood)
- 24% Advocacy (engagement in public discourse, City Initiatives)
- 19% Education & Awareness (effective neighborhood communication)
- 18% Community Development (neighbors connecting with neighbors)
- 15% Character and Identity (preserving unique attributes, leadership development)

During this gathering, neighborhood leaders also shared their priorities and concerns. While each neighborhood has its own unique challenges, a number of shared concerns were raised:

- Crime prevention, increases in home theft.
- Website support (for their local neighborhood association websites).
- Improved communication to obtain information from the City.
- Residential impacts of local transportation projects (widening of 120th, Sammamish Parkway, Coal Creek Parkway)

Written comments highlighted requests from leaders to help improve the ability of neighbors to connect with each other with investments in public gathering spaces, community parks and local commercial centers. There was also concern about how to help neighborhoods revitalize their neighborhood associations, engage a younger generation in neighborhood leadership and find

successful ways to communicate and engage cross-culturally with their neighbors. And there was a general desire to have these types of Leadership Gatherings more frequently – to help neighborhood leaders learn from each other.

Neighborhood Outreach has posted a complete summary of the Neighborhood Leadership Gathering minutes on the web. We are also providing follow-up meetings with neighborhood leaders by our Neighborhood Outreach staff by liaison area in the month of April. Another Neighborhood Leadership Gathering is planned for the fall.

The following priorities were submitted by neighborhood leaders for their respective neighborhood areas:

Bridle Trails Neighborhood Area

- Maintaining housing low density (existing zoning and density)
- Neighborhood character: density, housing - maintain current (No ADU)
- Electrical power reliability especially during storms
- Water tower location and impact in bridle trails
- Electrical substation location impacts
- Minimizing transportation impacts
- Sound Transit impacts
- Traffic - transportation (East link Light Rail)
- Developing new parks in Bridle Trails
- Maintain Bridle State Park - no taking of the Park land for infrastructure expansion
- Group home process
- Residential issues: Preserving our character and lifestyle

Cougar Mountain Neighborhood Area

- Sidewalk
- Traffic calming (2)
- Traffic - parking problems
- Landscaping and parks - drainage
- Help with views and tree maintenance
- Developing 3rd place gathering places within the neighborhood (ie. Island cleanup re-vegetation and sitting stones)
- Cleanup 2 neighborhood entrances including paint for fences
- Community/victory style gardens or patches with extra production going to the food bank
- Additional community gathering - progressive dinner, picnics, work projects
- Emergency preparedness
- Leadership development
- Website

Downtown Neighborhood Area

- Outsized houses blocking sun and invading yard privacy of existing older smaller homes
- Don't allow gated developments as they don't promote the greater neighborhood
- Help with plan for the addition of 800-1000 new residents in Old Bellevue over the next 5 years
- Transparency from the City -along with communication about ongoing projects
- Parking
- Garbage cleanliness
- Pedestrian Safety
- Sidewalks make neighborhoods work and bring people face to face
- Increase Parking for Old Bellevue
- More parking
- Reduce speed limit on NE 1st street - south side of DT Bellevue Park...it is being used as a freeway from Bellevue Way to Medina
- Preserve green space in residential area of downtown Bellevue, making it attractive for outdoor activities for adults specially who reside in the surrounding area.
- Working with our neighbors to develop a plan for the future of Ashwood Park.
- Improve representation with Parks
- Reduction in noise pollution
- Beauty - especially for vacant lots and abandoned buildings
- Reduction in animal (dog) waste and litter in Parks/roads
- Street garbage
- We want to encourage our neighbors to spend time outdoors as a way to improve our health and give us opportunities to socialize.
- Communication between businesses and residents
- Neighborhood websites
- Old Bellevue neighborhood and district branding
- Farmers Market
- Community gardens
- Farmers Market in Old Bellevue
- Keep tabs on possible drug deals in vicinity of Downtown library
- Security & Crime prevention

Eastgate/Factoria Neighborhood Area

- Ensure that our neighborhood remains a residential area of single family homes
- We will work to keep apartments north of Newport Way period.
- Our concern is safety around Newport Way - a heavily travelled street, without sidewalks, bike paths and crosswalks
- Build a sidewalk on 130th Ave SE. There's more pedestrian traffic on that street than in nearly any neighborhood I've lived in. Every school day I have to walk in the street, not on the shoulder because of vegetation, to get my children to their bus stop.

- Look into traffic concerns near Factoria Blvd & Newport Way
- Puesta del Sol vehicle traffic mornings and evenings is very heavy
- Environmental - maintaining green space in concrete neighborhood
- Maintain/control vegetation on City of Bellevue land bordering the streets
- Hunger - supporting food banks for kids in Bellevue schools
- Food production - giving food for the local food bank (Hopelink) and neighbors
- Advocacy - sharing meaningful movies to raise awareness and engage dialogue with neighbors about important issues such as immigration, local food, clean water, dirty coal
- Youth focus - learn more about youth issues and what solutions we can share and connect with Newport High School eg. gun violence, drugs - providing projects for service hours
- Apartments - how to connect with our mobile neighbors - folks who may not have the typical suburban lifestyle - no deep roots.
- Maintaining a neighborhood phone directory
- Annual Block Party is well attended
- We'd like there to be businesses in Factoria that reflect and serve the people in our neighborhood.

East Lake Hills/Sammamish Neighborhood Area

- Lake issues - area improvements: Outlet channel maintenance, beaver reduction, lily pad increase
- Concern about density changes
- Continue growth and development of safe and efficient Pedestrian/bike routes
- Safe walking routes for schools,
- Fast traffic through neighborhoods and calming
- Improve/maintain parks
- Develop more opportunities for volunteerism
- Establish or revitalize a neighborhood association
- Concern about theft, break-ins, vandalism - path from Crossroads to Eastgate
- Increase communication on crime
- Complete redevelopment of our Lake Hills Shopping Center
- Preserve views
- Shoreline management plan development
- Be involved in reconstruction of Sammamish Parkway
- Westlake Sammamish parkway improvement
- Crime prevention
- Website development and communication

Newport Hills Neighborhood Area

- Development of Kimberlee Park III
- Newport Hills Shopping Center
- Unkempt homes
- Coal Creek exit
- Enhancing connections with Factoria and Newport High
- Improvement of neighborhood park
- Creating a community park
- Improve the streetscape of our business center
- Improve Water quality of Coal Creek
- Neighborhood esprit (supporting excellent spirit, compassion, support that is part of Kimberlee Park character)
- Improvement of neighborhood entrance
- Get more people involved in Community Club
- Communication with all in neighborhood
- Creating a 3rd space for furthering communication between neighbors
- Engaging the teenagers in our neighborhood in a meaningful way
- Community building starting at the individual block level
- Clean up 119th Ave to encourage patronage at shopping center
- Create central gathering places and events for the community
- Increase communication between NHCC and the community and increase community participation in events and leadership/volunteerism
- Revitalizing the Neighborhood Shopping Center

Northeast Bellevue Neighborhood Area

- Crime: Home theft

Somerset Neighborhood Area

- Property values and views
- Setting up a community council as a legal entity
- Traffic
- Maintaining public areas of the neighborhood
- Street maintenance - foliage intruding onto sidewalks and roadways
- Neighbor outreach - connecting neighbors building better links/connections
- Stronger engagement with youth and ethnic minorities;
- Community block parties
- Gathering spaces - third places
- Finding out how to welcome neighbors who seem to have an introverted culture
- Crime awareness
- Expand emergency preparedness - block watch groups

West Bellevue Neighborhood Area

- Protecting us from Sound transit
- East Link Advocacy
- Preserve Neighborhood character and historical homes
- Limit densification
- No up-zoning
- Facilitate residential revitalization and upgrades
- Protecting the original city plan of a 'wedding cake' approach to develop the city
- Protecting our neighborhoods from sub-dividing lots
- Protecting property rights
- Marking of storm drains on private property - drains into lake
- Upkeep of properties
- Cut through traffic increase
- Freeway noise
- No transit oriented development
- Better marking of crosswalks (especially along Main street)
- Update sidewalks on 101st SE
- Slow traffic on 101st SE between Main street and 8th
- City maintaining ROW
- Concern about quality of water running through Meydenbauer Creek to Bay; noxious weeds in/along shoreline of Meydenbauer Bay
- Protecting Meydenbauer Bay
- Sustain Surrey Downs Park and renew it
- Keeping current on the plans of the Meydenbauer Park
- Group homes
- School relations
- Neighborhood website help - maybe City hosts it?
- Neighborhood meeting space
- Neighborhood awareness and involvement (communication & action)
- Neighborhood meeting and social event attendance.
- Sign designating Meydenbauer neighborhood
- More cross-neighborhood collaboration;
- New neighborhood communication tools actual neighborhood improvement
- Committees to address topics of interest and concern (increasing petty crime, safety)
- Property security from crime & trespassers

West Lake Hills Area

- Cooperation between city and neighborhood needs, fear that Bellevue City Council really sees neighborhoods other than downtown as low priority
- Infrastructure redevelopment
- Proper land use for the future,
- Comprehensive Plan update plans
- Common sense applications of building codes requiring some flexibility
- Concern about run-down abandoned houses
- Fix the broken car legislation
- Overhead wiring looking like "Mumbai"
- Improve physical appearance - sidewalks 55+ years old
- More dog parks elsewhere- not just one in our neighborhood
- Lack of identity and gateways leads to lack of pride, less permanence
- Neighbors don't know each other
- Establish communication system
- Establish communication and needs of Robinswood with "City of Bellevue"
- Improve communication with local businesses, non-profits and local schools
- Neighborhood landscape
- More Picnics and Block Parties
- Community Development - more members and more web site development
- Conifer Crest Block Parties
- Explore teen curfews
- Reduce vandalism and the unsafe feel that is increasing
- Drug usage in schools especially Sammamish spilling over to the rest of the neighborhoods, fear of future drug gangs, connections with 'burglary'

Wilburton Neighborhood Area

- Light rail
- Staying in close contact with City Staff and leaders on the NE 4th, NE 6th and 120th projects from NE 4th and 120th and 116th to 120th and from 120th NORTH to NE 12th and beyond!
- The expansion of 120th Ave to 5 lanes and the ability to get out of our community
- NOISE
- Keeping the lake healthy and the traffic caused by a 5 lane road
- Prevent increased traffic in Wilburton from Spring district and Bel-Red development
- Prevent NE 4th new traffic 116th-120th from entering Wilburton on NE 5th
- Be sure 120th Ave is straightened at NE 8th before NE 4th is connected across RR tracks,
- Concern about the threat of pollution to Lake Bellevue
- Wilburton community picnic, but why do we need to pay to use our parks for picnic shelter?
- Control crime and break-ins

Woodridge Neighborhood Area

- Community character and improve our investment (neighborhood improvement)
- Developing a Woodridge website to inform our residents of issues,
- Attract new and younger residents who have moved to Woodridge but don't get involved or attend community meetings
- Input about new Woodridge sign
- Future landscaping projects and how the City design will influence the attractiveness of our community
- Security - both physical and IT technology