

*The Human Services Commission approved these minutes on January 6, 2015*

CITY OF BELLEVUE  
HUMAN SERVICES COMMISSION  
MINUTES

November 18, 2014  
6:30 p.m.

Bellevue City Hall  
City Council Conference Room 1E-113

COMMISSIONERS PRESENT: Chairperson Perelman, Commissioners Bruels, McEachran, Plaskon, Villar

COMMISSIONERS ABSENT: Commissioners Beighle, Kline

STAFF PRESENT: Alex O'Reilly, Joseph Adriano, Mary Jayne Walker, Department of Parks and Community Services; Gwen Rousseau, Department of Planning and Community Development

GUEST SPEAKERS: None

RECORDING SECRETARY: Gerry Lindsay

1. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:32 p.m. by Chair Perelman who presided.

2. ROLL CALL

Upon the call of the roll, all Commissioners were present with the exception of Commissioner Plaskon, who arrived at 7:16 p.m., and Commissioners Beighle and Kline, both of whom were excused.

3. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

A. October 21, 2014

Commissioner Bruels called attention to the first paragraph on page 2 and revised the sentence to read "That is one reason the Affordable Care Act is not meeting needs as expected, and it is important the Commission keep healthcare on the radar screen in terms of assisting clinics and other organizations."

Commissioner McEachran called attention to the paragraph on page 8 in which he referenced Chinatown and asked that it be changed to read "International District."

A motion to approve the minutes as amended was made by Commissioner Bruels.

The motion was seconded by Commissioner Villar and it carried unanimously.

#### 4. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS

Ms. Christina Wheatley spoke representing Kinderling Center, an organization that serves children aged birth to three who have developmental disabilities, children with a variety of medical challenges, and children who are at risk. She thanked the Commission for generously funding Kinderling Center in the past and moving forward and shared a couple of stories to illustrate how Bellevue funding benefits children in the city. She said her team responds to calls from parents or providers regarding concerns about overall development or behavioral issues. Consultations are held with parents or teachers and provides a variety of strategies that can be used at home or in the classroom. Where necessary, referrals are made to other agencies in the area. Autism spectrum disorders are on the rise and a couple of children in that category come to the attention of the organization weekly. Early intervention matters and growth can be seen in a very short amount of time. The main goals of the program are to promote the development and growth of the child and to support families and providers.

#### 5. STAFF AND COMMISSION REPORTS

Commissioner McEachran said it was good to watch the City Council meeting on November 17 and to see how many of the agencies funded by the Commission had representatives present to thank the Council and the Commission for the allocation decisions made.

Commissioner Villar said she attended the Collective Impact Forum dinner the evening of November 17. The focus was on bringing people from different sectors together to solve community problems.

Human Services Planner Alex O'Reilly reported that the Eastside winter shelters for both men and women opened on November 16. The women's shelter had 26 people the night it opened, including a two-parent family with six children, and a single-parent mom with four kids; all the rest were single women. On the men's side, there were 38 men on the first night and 53 men by the third night. The Mayor, City Councilmembers, City Manager, planning staff and the Human Services Commissioners have are invited to attend the men's shelter on Monday, December 15, to tour the facility and serve a meal.

#### 6. DISCUSSION

##### A. Demographic Update

City demographer Gwen Rousseau said Bellevue's population continues to grow. In 2014 the population reached 134,400. The projected population for 2035 is close to 160,000. The densest areas grew the most. Not surprisingly much of the growth

occurred in the downtown where there has been a lot of new development, but surprisingly the population of the Crossroads area increased substantially without much new development. The Cougar Mountain and Lakemont areas showed population increases as well associated with new development. While the west side of the city gained in population, the east side actually lost population.

About a third of the city's population was born in Washington state. Another third was born in another state, with the largest portion coming from western states, and the final third was born in a foreign country. Of the foreign-born population, about two-thirds are from Asia, primarily China and India. The native-born population actually decreased, so if there had not been an influx of foreign-born the city's overall population likely would have declined. Along with an increase in the foreign-born population came an increase in the percentage of people who speak a language other than English at home. For non English-speakers, the top languages are Chinese and Spanish. The survey data does include percentages of Mandarin and Cantonese dialects for the Chinese speakers.

Ms. Rousseau said in some areas of the city, more than half the residents are speaking a language other than English in their homes. She shared a map with the Commissioners showing the concentrations of people speaking a language other than English. Chinese speakers live throughout the city, mostly in the central part, but there is also a concentration in the area to the south of I-90. The Spanish-speaking population is located primarily in the central part of the city but there are concentrations in Crossroads and West Lake Hills. Korean speakers have a higher concentration south of I-90 and in the Woodridge area. Russian speakers have concentrations in the northeastern portion of the city and in the downtown, Surrey Downs and Woodridge areas.

The Commissioners were informed that the median age of Bellevue residents was 38.5. For males the median age was 36.4 and for women it was 40.4. For both genders, the 25 to 29 age cohort was the largest. The next highest cohort for males was age 30 to 34, while for women the next highest was the 45-49 age group. Not surprisingly, in the 85-plus age group there is a higher percentage of women than men. Most of Bellevue's recent immigrants having lower median ages than Bellevue's white population. The white population had a median age of 45.6. Hispanics had a median age of 28; Asian Indians had a median age of 29; African Americans had a median age of 32; and the Chinese population was closer to the median at 37.5. The white population had a fairly even distribution in terms of age with between 20 and 30 percent in each age category; for all of the other populations, a much smaller percentage include older adults and the largest proportion is in the younger workforce.

The east side of Bellevue has a larger number of older adults and central Bellevue has fewer. Interestingly, the Cougar Mountain and Lakemont areas had the highest growth in the number of old adults during the past decade. The northwestern and West Lake Hills areas saw declines in the numbers of older adults. In terms of

children, Cougar Mountain and Lakemont have the largest concentrations of children, followed by Crossroads. However, in terms of the change in the number of children, Cougar Mountain and Lakemont saw reductions, as did East Bellevue, while Crossroads showed gains. The downtown and Crossroads had the fastest rates of growth in terms of children. There are an estimated 800 children currently living in the downtown.

Older adults are not surprisingly more likely to have a disability. Overall about eight percent of Bellevue's residents have disabilities. About four percent have an ambulatory disability.

Married couples without children still represent the largest cohort of Bellevue's households, but that share has been declining over the decades. Single person households have decreased, and married couples with children have gone up and down over the years.

The Commissioners were shown data regarding the number of cost-burdened households persons in each census tract. Cost-burdened households are defined as paying 30 percent or more of their income for housing. Citywide about a third of the city's households fall into that category.

Ms. Rousseau said the median value of owner-occupied housing in Bellevue was close to \$521,000 in 2011 through 2013. Some housing units were reported to be less than \$150,000, but overall about a third of the housing units were reported to be valued at between \$300,000 and \$500,000, and the rest were \$500,000 and up. There is a lot of housing in the 80 to 100 percent of area median income bracket, but there is a big deficit in the categories below 80 percent of area median income categories.

With regard to where growth is projected to occur in the future, the largest capacity exists largely in the downtown and in the Bel-Red corridor. The downtown is expected to take about half of the new growth and Bel-Red about a third. Redevelopment throughout the rest of the city is expected to account for an additional seven percent, leaving the balance to occur in Eastgate and Factoria.

Ms. O'Reilly asked if the individual housing units could be anything from one-bedroom apartments to multi-bedroom homes. Ms. Rousseau explained that growth projections begin with population projections from the State Office of Financial Management. Separate projections are made for each County, and the individual Counties are left to determine the population target they expect to accommodate. The cities within each County then distribute the County's numbers amongst themselves. Certain assumptions are made regarding household size. It is generally thought that household size will decline in the future, but to what degree is anyone's guess.

Ms. Rousseau said the projections for jobs does not include construction resource

jobs, which can be as high as 14,000. About 22 percent of Bellevue's workforce lives in the city. Of those that work in Bellevue but do not live in Bellevue, the majority commute from Seattle. About 40 percent of Bellevue's residents who work, work in Bellevue. Large percentages work in Seattle and Redmond. Future jobs are projected to be primarily in the downtown and the Bel-Red corridor.

A Regional Coalition for Housing (ARCH) has calculated that there are about 1.4 jobs per housing unit. The increase in the number of jobs in Bellevue since 1980 has created a demand for more housing and has generated increases in housing prices. With the projected future growth, it does not appear that housing affordability will get much better. There are currently about 58,600 housing units in the city and the projection is that by 2025 there will be an increase of about 15,000 new units. During that same period, however, the number of jobs are expected to increase by a far greater percentage.

Commissioner Bruels said it is clear that a major cause of homelessness is the cost of housing, and that drives home the critical role organizations like ARCH are providing.

Ms. Rousseau said people who work in Bellevue spend about a third more time traveling to work than those who live in Bellevue. Those who work in Bellevue earn somewhat less than Bellevue residents who work. Bellevue residents are more likely to work in management, business, science and arts occupations.

Ms. Rousseau informed the Commissioners that the work done by the Puget Sound Regional Council relative to opportunity mapping done as part of its Growing Transit Communities work ties into the need to supply a diversity of housing opportunities. The opportunity index looks at factors such as quality education, neighborhood safety, access to food, access to jobs, and mobility indicators. The data was compiled into a single index and mapped by census tract. While there is a desire to see everyone have equal opportunities, the resulting map shows that is not the case in reality.

The Commissioners were shown a map of per capita income by census tract using 2008 to 2012 data. They also were shown a map indicating educational attainment by census tract which showed a clear difference between south King County and north King County. Another map indicated a Gini index of income inequality.

Ms. O'Reilly commented that Bellevue still has a relatively low number of residents living at or below the poverty level compared to other parts of King County but asked if the numbers are increasing. Ms. Rousseau said she did not have that information in hand but could get it.

Commissioner McEachran said he heard recently that the school district is considering developing a school in the downtown. Ms. Rousseau said she was recently speaking with the district's demographer along with developer John Su. Mr.

Su made the suggestion that a development community would probably favor developing a school on the upper floors of a highrise in the downtown if the city were to exempt the square footage used for the school from the floor area ratio calculation.

7. OLD BUSINESS

Ms. O'Reilly reminded the Commissioners of the December 2 holiday get-together with the Parks and Community Services Board. She said the event will be held at the Mercer Slough Interpretive Center and it will be catered. The Commissioners were asked to RSVP to staff by November 24.

Ms. O'Reilly called attention to a letter from the chair of the Bellevue Network on Aging that had been included in the Commission packet. She said the letter was directed to the Council in support of the recommendations from the Human Services Commission.

8. NEW BUSINESS

Ms. O'Reilly asked the Commissioners to contribute to the list of 2014 Commission accomplishments that was included in the packet. Commissioner McEachran said the Commission was strongly represented during the Downtown Transportation Plan process, and former Commissioner Jan Stout participated in the Downtown Livability Initiative study. Commissioner Bruels observed that the Commissioners had made several site visits and received presentations from human services organizations regarding human services issues. Commissioner Plaskon highlighted the joint meeting with the human services commissions from other jurisdictions.

9. PETITIONS AND COMMUNICATIONS - None

10. ADJOURNMENT

Chair Perelman adjourned the meeting at 7:50 p.m.

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Secretary of the Human Services Commission

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Date

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Chairperson of the Human Services Commission

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Date