

**Bellevue Civic Association Spring Meeting**  
May 21, 2019 – Holton Elementary School

*The meeting began at approximately 6:40 pm.*

- I. President, David Lydiard, called the meeting to order. Approximately 30 people were in attendance.
- II. The minutes of our March 5, 2019 meeting were approved.
- III. Matt Howells, Treasurer, reported our banking account at \$19,073.87.

**IV. Speakers:**

- a. **Lt. Robert Fleming, RPD Neighborhood Crime Report** - Lt. Fleming reported the 4<sup>th</sup> Precinct won the RPD Precinct of the Year Award for 2018. Crimes in Bellevue for the January to April 2019 period include 3 car break-ins and 1 stolen car. No violent crimes have been reported in this period. The RPD has a new campaign for cutting down on property crimes called "LOVE IT – then – LOCK IT – or LOSE IT". Handbills with information on this campaign were distributed. Lt. Fleming encouraged the membership to use Ring technology as a crime deterrent. With the Neighbor App and a Ring camera you are able capture photos and video of people at your front door. A speed trap was set up on Bellevue Ave. for a few days in February and the RPD has a new officer being trained as a Motors Officer. This position is used for traffic enforcement and to deter speeding and pan-handling.
- b. **Anita Adkins, Westminster Canterbury** – Ms. Adkins provided an update on the ground breaking ceremony that will be held on 5/21 for the new Spiritual Enrichment Center on the WC campus. The building will be located in front of the theatre. Construction is expected to start in June and will complete in 14 months. Westminster Canterbury is a continuing care facility with approximately 850 residents that provides options for Independent Living, Assisted Living, Memory Care, and Nursing Home care.
- c. **Norm Brown, Urban Forestry Arborist** - Mr. Brown provided a handout summary of the Top 10 Benefits for Trees for our reference and addressed upcoming work in Bellevue. There are several tree removals slated for Bellevue by a city contractor that has until July 1 to complete work. Members were reminded that we cannot plant any trees between the sidewalk and the street without a permit. There are strict specifications on the types of trees that can be planted in these areas. Future size of the tree and spacing between trees has to be assessed by an arborist. Mr. Brown will send David Lydiard an inventory of trees in Bellevue that was conducted between 2013 and 2015. This is an interactive map that identifies trees by type and location. Mr. Brown asked the membership to report all dead trees in the neighborhood so they can be removed and replaced in November. Gator bags can be removed with the newly planted tree trunks reach a 2 inch diameter. Be careful if you fill or remove a Gator bag --- black widow spiders frequently nest in these bags. We were encouraged to provide trees with 5 gallons of water weekly and to water slowly. Members expressed concern that the recent street paving in the neighborhood is killing our trees. Many trees are in distress with large segments of dead leaves. Mr. Brown assured us the trees would revive next year but that the asphalt work has caused this temporary distress. Members also asked about the several dead trees on the Holton School property and learned that the city does not care for or remove trees on school property. In closing David Lydiard presented Mr. Brown, who is retiring in June, with a certificate of appreciation from

the BCA. We are most appreciative of all the support he has given Bellevue as an Urban Forestry Arborist.

- d. **Chris Hilbert, City Councilman, 3<sup>rd</sup> District** – Mr. Hilbert reported that the city budget has been approved without raising the real estate tax rate that meets school and road funding needs, expands GRTC and the Eviction Program. A 50 cent per pack cigarette tax was passed to help balance the budget. Road paving in Bellevue is expected to be complete by the end of the year. Members expressed concerns that the roads are not being milled and just slurry of asphalt is being applied which is not adequate. Mr. Hilbert will investigate why the roads are not being milled and paved properly.

### III. Committee Updates

- a. **Membership Update:** Joyce Foster reported that membership is currently at 238 members.
- b. **Garden Walk:** Jo Murphy reported that our 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Garden Walk held on May 5<sup>th</sup> was a big success in spite of the rain! This year featured 12 Gardens, 12 Artists, and 2 Art Studios. The Garden Walk needs a Chair Person to lead the planning for next year. If no volunteer can be found, the committee may scale back the 2020 Garden Walk or cancel it. A decision on a path forward will be made by September 2019. For planning purposes the date for next year's event is April 20, 2020; 1 – 5 PM and will feature gardens on the Northside of Bellevue. Jo also reported that the committee is working on a celebration for Garden Walk participants and committee members of the past 30 years. A date for this event has not been selected but is targeted for September.
- c. **Newsletter Editor:** Joe Sanderson / Justin Vaughn. No report.
- d. **Sandwich Signs:** Paul Quel. No report.
- e. **Security Patrol:** Jerry DeVoss. No report.
- f. **Volunteers Needed:** David Lydiard asked for volunteers to fill open positions:
  - Volunteer Coordinator
  - Hospitality Coordinator
  - Beautify Bellevue
  - Newsletter Distribution Coordinator
- h. **Real Estate Update:** David Lydiard reported there are 12 pending sales currently and that 10 houses sold in February with an average of 7 days on the market.

### IV. New Business

- a. A potential project for creating a hardscape patio area with a bench at the corner of Fauquier and Bellevue was discussed. David provided two estimates (\$3500 & \$5200) obtained from two contractors. The membership was open to this idea and suggested a low wall for seating and 2-3 benches so that walkers could have a gathering/rest area. David will ask the contractors to amend their estimates and work with the city to see if permission can be granted for the project. Findings will be presented at the next membership meeting.
- b. A second potential project for building a sand volley ball court with picnic table in the Holton Elementary School's common area, adjacent to the Claremont alley, was presented. The board has submitted a proposal for this idea to the school board administration to determine if this project can move forward and be presented to the BCA membership for approval. The school board had not responded by the date of our membership meeting.

### V. Community Announcements – none.

VI. **Membership Drawing**

- a. We closed out the meeting with a random drawing of member names for a gift certificate to a Bellevue restaurant. Paul Quel won the drawing.

*The meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.*

Our next meeting is scheduled for August 20, 2019. The location of the Membership Meeting has not been finalized and will be communicated by social media and with the sandwich signs. The Annual Raffle will be held as a separate event in September (date has not been finalized).

*Respectfully submitted by,  
Margaret Hutchison, Secretary*