

BRIDLE TRAILS COMMUNITY CLUB

www.bridletrailscommunity.org

March 2009

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BRIDLE TRAILS COMMUNITY CLUB GENERAL MEETING

Date: Thursday, March 19, 2009
Time: 7:00 - 8:00 PM
Refreshments: 8:00 - 8:30 PM
Location: Cherry Crest School

AGENDA

1. Director of Parks Discusses Park Levy Monies
2. 140th Ped/Bike Decision
3. Equestrian Art Update
4. Treasurer's Report/ Club Business
5. Park Foundation
6. Neighborhood Crime/Transient Camps
7. Bel/Red Update
8. News/Announcements
9. Refreshments!

COUNCIL ACTS ON BIKE LANES IN BRIDLE TRAILS

– JIM BINDER

As part of the City's long-range planning process for pedestrian and bicycle transportation, a revised Comprehensive Plan Amendment (CPA) called for adding on-road bike lanes to 140th Ave NE in Bridle Trails. The proposed bike lanes were escalated to high priority as a potential north/south route for bicycles.

This major revision to 140th Ave NE would have increased the road's width by over 10 feet. The significant change to the rural character of our Bridle Trails neighborhood was opposed by the Bridle Trails Community Club (BTCC). It was feared that a wider roadway would further increase traffic speeds and volumes, destroy existing tree canopy, change our neighborhood's rural look and feel, and cost an inordinate sum to build.

On February 17, City Council members voted unanimously on Ordinance # 5861 to remove from the CPA any plan to add on-road bike lanes on 140th Ave NE between NE 24th and NE 60th.

Council also adopted BTCC's recommendation to use the recently completed NE 29th Place connector (with on-road bike lanes) as a route to the Redmond/Overlake employment centers. This will link NE 24th Street (Dunn Lumber) and the existing Hwy 520 bicycle trail (which runs northward toward the Overlake Transit Center). Council Members agreed that the existing multi-purpose path on 140th Ave NE serves pedestrians and bicyclists in a safe and affordable manner.

Thanks to the BTCC members who worked throughout the public process. ***The BTCC thanks City Council Members for listening to our concerns and acting to help preserve the character of our neighborhood.***

TRANSIENT ENCOUNTER

– JILL LUM

In celebration of MLK Day, my daughter and her friend decided to clean up the neighborhood as a day of service. They

trekked along the 520 ped/bike trail cleaning up litter. Shortly into their efforts, they stumbled upon a transient camp with over 150 bags of rubbish piled up in the woods, all well hidden within yards of a neighbor's backyard! Needless to say, they were horrified and quickly realized that this problem was well beyond their scope. Shortly thereafter, the resident transient appeared, returning to his "home."

The police, City of Bellevue, and the State were immediately notified. The State has assumed responsibility for cleanup. The police are checking the camp frequently to make sure it is not reestablished. Also, the police indicated that the identified transient is mentally unstable, can be violent, and should not be approached. Obviously, this innocent day of service could have had a much worse outcome.

What can you do? If you believe there is cause for concern, you should call 911 and report any transient sightings. Officers will respond and investigate. Request that the officer contact you with a follow up.

The BTCC would like to raise awareness on this issue by working with the police to keep our public spaces clean and safe. We would also like to work with the City to address this growing problem with appropriate planning and ordinances. Please consider volunteering your time to work with me on this matter. Contact: Jill Lum at Jill_Lum@msn.com, 882-2301.

PUBLIC ART IN BRIDLE TRAILS

– LORETTA LOPEZ

The City will place equestrian-themed art in Bridle Trails. In a public meeting to be held March 18th at 9:00 AM, the panel will vote on which artist to recommend to the Arts Commission. On April 7th, the Arts Comm'n will hear public comment and vote on whether to endorse the recommendation to the City Council.

Direct any comments, including about the placement of the Public Art to Mary Pat Byrne, City Arts Specialist at 452-4105 or mpbyrne@bellevuewa.gov.

PLAN FOR BEL-RED TRANSFORMATION APPROVED

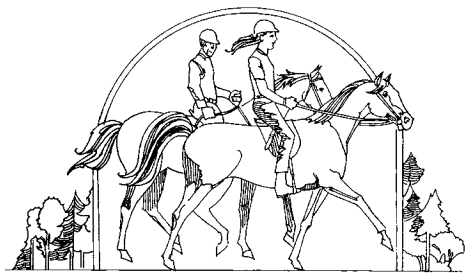
– NORM HANSEN

The Bellevue City Council approved a 30 year development plan for the 900 acre Bel-Red corridor. The plan calls for the corridor to undergo a transition from light industrial to a mixture of retail, office and residential uses. The highest density development would be clustered around two light rail stations planned for the area as part of Sound Transit's East Link line. The line, now in the planning stages, will ultimately connect the employment centers of downtown Bellevue, Seattle and Overlake.

The plan calls for:

- New parks, trails and bike paths to enhance neighborhoods and better connect them to other parts of the city;

continued on back...



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- The day lighting of six streams (by removing culverts) to benefit salmon and other aquatic life;
- Increased open space;
- More affordable housing, with specific targets to serve low- and moderate-income households; and
- 5,000 new housing units blended with new office and commercial space that supports up to 10,000 new jobs, all organized around two high-capacity transit stations by 2030.

Additionally, the City Council Planning Principles include **neighborhood protection in Bridle Trails** and other surrounding neighborhoods. This means assessing the impacts of growth in the Bel-Red area and identifying and mitigating potential adverse impacts for the surrounding neighborhoods. Additionally, the Plan's objectives on neighborhood impact are to have land use be sensitive to surrounding neighborhoods and to address transportation spill-over impacts.

For more info., see: www.bellevuewa.gov/bel-red-subarea-plan.htm. Or, contact Paul Inghram, Comp. Planning Mgr, 452-4070 or pinghram@bellevuewa.gov.

PATRICK FORAN TO DISCUSS BT PARK LEVY MONIES

– ELLEN KERR

The BTCC has invited Patrick Foran, City of Bellevue Director of Parks to discuss spending Park Levy monies in BT. We met several times with Patrick to outline goals, partnering with the City for distribution of funds. We are interested in your ideas, suggestions, and committee membership. Please attend the BTCC meeting or call Ellen Kerr 861-0611 or Norm Hansen 861-7333 with questions.

BRIDLE TRAILS PARK FOUNDATION

– ALICE PRINCE

Our State Parks Dept. faces a \$10 million shortfall in the budget and may close 13 State Parks. If it weren't for your support and the Foundation's ability to pay for Bridle Trails, our park would be on that closure list again. We hope you will continue to support the Foundation's mission to keep Bridle Trails open and safe.

Join us April 18th at 9:00 AM to volunteer for Earth Day. Jim Erckmann will send groups into the Park to remove non-native plants. We will serve lunch to

all volunteers at 1:00 PM. RSVP to Jim at 827-6595.

The Party in the Park will be held on Sat., June 27th, beginning at 10 AM. BTCC has been a long time supporter of Party in the Park. This year, more parking will be available because the fun runs will start earlier (7:00 - 8:15 AM). Instead of a pancake breakfast, we'll serve hamburgers and hotdogs for lunch. Also, we'll have an extra hour of pony riding.

Volunteers needed: The Foundation needs a lot of volunteers to staff the party. Please call Jami Wallace at 869-4912 to volunteer an hour or 2 of your time. The BTCC will also need volunteers. Help us bring people and donations into the Park to keep it open.

We also need sponsors to advertise on our runners' t-shirts, on our sponsor board, and over the PA system in exchange for a mere \$300 donation. Ads will be seen or heard by more than 2,500 people! Contact Alice or Donald Prince at 883-8501.

CRIME REPORT

– RANI SAMPSON

If you live on a private road and would like to grant the police the power to eject trespassers from your street on your behalf, your Homeowner's Association ("HOA") must approve a "Trespass Authorization Letter" and post proper signage. Have your HOA representative contact Officer Mangione at vmangione@bellevuewa.gov or Detective Chiu at mchiu@bellevuewa.gov.

Neighbors report that the driver of an old, maroon (or dark red), Toyota sedan has been "casing" residences. If you notice any suspicious activity near a car matching this description, then call 911. Remember to use caution before opening your door to strangers.

Check our website for safety tips and a link to the City's crime map.

OUR WEBSITE

– NANCY BENNETT

The BTCC makes it easy for you to keep track of the City's plans for your neighborhood. Click on the heading, "Topics of Local Interest" to learn more about the N.E.P. that funds the Public Art we will soon see in Bridle Trails. In the same area on the website, you will find a link to the City's plans for spending the Parks Levy money. Also, if you can't locate your hard copy of the BTCC Newsletter, you can always find it on the website. www.bridletrailscommunity.org

TREASURER'S REPORT

– JILL LUM

Annual dues renewal notices were sent out in February. The preliminary budget for 2009 is awaiting Board approval. Proposed expenditures are aligned with the BTCC goals of promoting neighborhood communication in the form of newsletters, meetings, and the BTCC website. In addition, it is proposed that funds be earmarked for hosting a community event to promote awareness of neighborhood issues and grow membership in the BTCC.

CITY BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS

– LORETTA LOPEZ

Be a voice for Bridle Trails. Consider applying for a position on one of the City's Boards or Commissions. We especially need representation on 2 Commissions: Transportation and Planning. The BTCC can facilitate your Council appointment to a Board or Commission. For more info., contact a BTCC Board member and visit the City's website: www.ci.bellevue.wa.us/boards_commissions.htm.

IMPORTANT DATES

- **March 18 at 9:00 AM**, City's Art Selection Panel meets in room 1E-109 (see article)
- **April 7 at 4:00 PM**, Bellevue Arts Commission meets in room 1E-109. (see article)
- **April 7 at 6:30 PM**, East Bellevue Community Council discusses proposed Neighborhood Character Phase 2 code changes
- **April 18 at 9:00 AM**, Volunteer for Earth Day in the Park. (see article)
- **June 27** Bridle Trails Party in the Park and Fun Run
- **June TBD** BTCC First Annual Neighborhood Gathering

BTCC MEETINGS

- **March 19 at 7:00**, BTCC General Meeting at Cherry Crest School
- **April 16 at 7:30**, BTCC Board and Advisory Board Meeting at Cherry Crest School
- **May 21 at 7:00**, BTCC General Meeting at Cherry Crest School