

Bellevue Neighborhoods Conference - 2016

The Public Process

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Key governance milestones in Bellevue

- 1953 ~ incorporated as Third Class City under **Council/Manager Plan**
- 1970 ~ elected to become Non-charter Optional Municipal Code City (*RCW Chapter 35A*)
 - Council elected at large
 - Councilmembers serve 4-year staggered terms
 - Selection of Mayor/Deputy Mayor from among the body of Council
- 1980s ~ “Blue Ribbon Panel” evaluated form of government and reconfirmed Council/Manager plan
- 2003 ~ voter initiative to develop City Charter and potentially change form of government failed

Major forms of local government

Council/Manager

- 1912 – Born out of turn-of-the century government reform movement
- Business model focused on efficiency and effectiveness
- Professional manager oversees day-to-day business of government

Mayor/Council

- Political model with separation of powers between executive (chief elected official) and legislative (elected governing body) branches
- Most similar to national form of government
- Mayor oversees day-to-day business of government

Notable characteristics of two forms

Mayor/Council

- Local examples include **Seattle, Redmond**
- Majority of cities less than 5,000 and over 500,000
(*Public Management, 2008*)

Council/Manager

- Local examples include **Tacoma, Kirkland**
- Majority of cities with populations between 10,000 and 250,000
- 61% of cities receiving Aaa bond rating in 2009
- 73% of cities receiving All-America City Award between 2008 and 2012
- “Nearly 10% more efficient” than strong mayor cities
(*IBM Global Business Services Study, 2011*)

Council service under Council/Manager plan

- “Part-time” Council
- Elected at large
- Non-partisan
- Salaries set by ordinance and cannot be changed without members having stood for re-election
- Focus:
 - Setting vision for the community
 - Policy development
 - General oversight of government
 - Budget
 - Representing interests of constituents

Role of the Mayor in Council/Manager form

- Facilitate effective Council meetings
- Ensure everyone has a chance to be heard
- Work to build consensus and help resolve conflicts
- Mobilize support for the City
- Speak for the City; represent Council consensus or majority
- Represent City positions to other governments/agencies
- Act as liaison between Council and City Manager
- Appoint Board and Commission members (with concurrence of Council) and Council liaisons
- Perform ceremonial roles

Role of the Deputy Mayor

- Perform the duties and responsibilities of the Mayor in Mayor's absence
- Chair Council meetings in Mayor's absence
- Perform ceremonial role
- During meetings, assure motions are made to keep the meeting flowing

Role of the Council

- Establish Vision for the community
- Anticipate needs and focus issues
- Set priorities
- Establish broad policy guidance
- Define the standard of excellence and service levels
- Appoint City Manager
- Adopt the Budget and Comprehensive Plan
- Monitor performance of the City and make adjustments
- Pass laws (*ordinances*)
- Express opinions/ provide authorizations (*resolutions*)
- Represent City regionally and nationally (both informally and through service on boards)
- Use political leadership to shape state and federal agendas
- Serve as ambassadors for the City and as a conduit between the City and others
- Conduct public hearings, take citizen input, and educate the public
- Ceremonial roles



Role of City Manager

- Plan for the future
- Work with Council to focus and articulate their goals and to establish/achieve their Vision
- Define issues; analyze options; make recommendations
- Execute Council policy direction
- Develop/recommend the City's operating and capital budgets
- Develop implementation plans and strategies
- Hire and develop staff
- Identify change opportunities
- Inspire and lead the organization
- Champion the City's Core Values
- Initiate ideas for productivity improvements and efficiencies
- Resolve issues brought by citizens
- Set the "tone" for the City organization (*values, ethics, etc.*)

Council-appointed Boards & Commissions

- Planning Commission
- Parks and Community Services Board
- Environmental Services Commission
- Human Services Commission
- Arts Commission
- Transportation Commission
- Library Board*

http://www.bellevuewa.gov/boards_commissions.htm

Role of Boards and Commissions

- **Advise/inform City Council**
- Serve as ambassadors of the City in the community
- Provide detailed study and recommendations on important issues/policies (legwork for Council)
- Provide additional eyes and ears for Council on important issues
- Hold public hearings
- Channel public input into Board/Commission recommendations
- Make funding recommendations to Council
- Serve as a clearing house for ideas

General powers/duties of Boards and Commissions

- Hold public hearings and provide additional opportunity for public involvement on major issues
- Study issues, conduct analyses, and prepare reports/recommendations
- Budgetary (*to extent applicable to particular group*)
 - CIP project prioritization
 - Long- and short-term funding programs (*Transportation*)
 - Funding requests (*Arts and Human Services*)
 - Annual budget, rates, and rate assistance programs (*Environmental Services*)
- **Advisory only** – no powers or duties relating to:
 - Administrative operations or regional issues
 - Quasi-judicial matters
 - Final decisions.

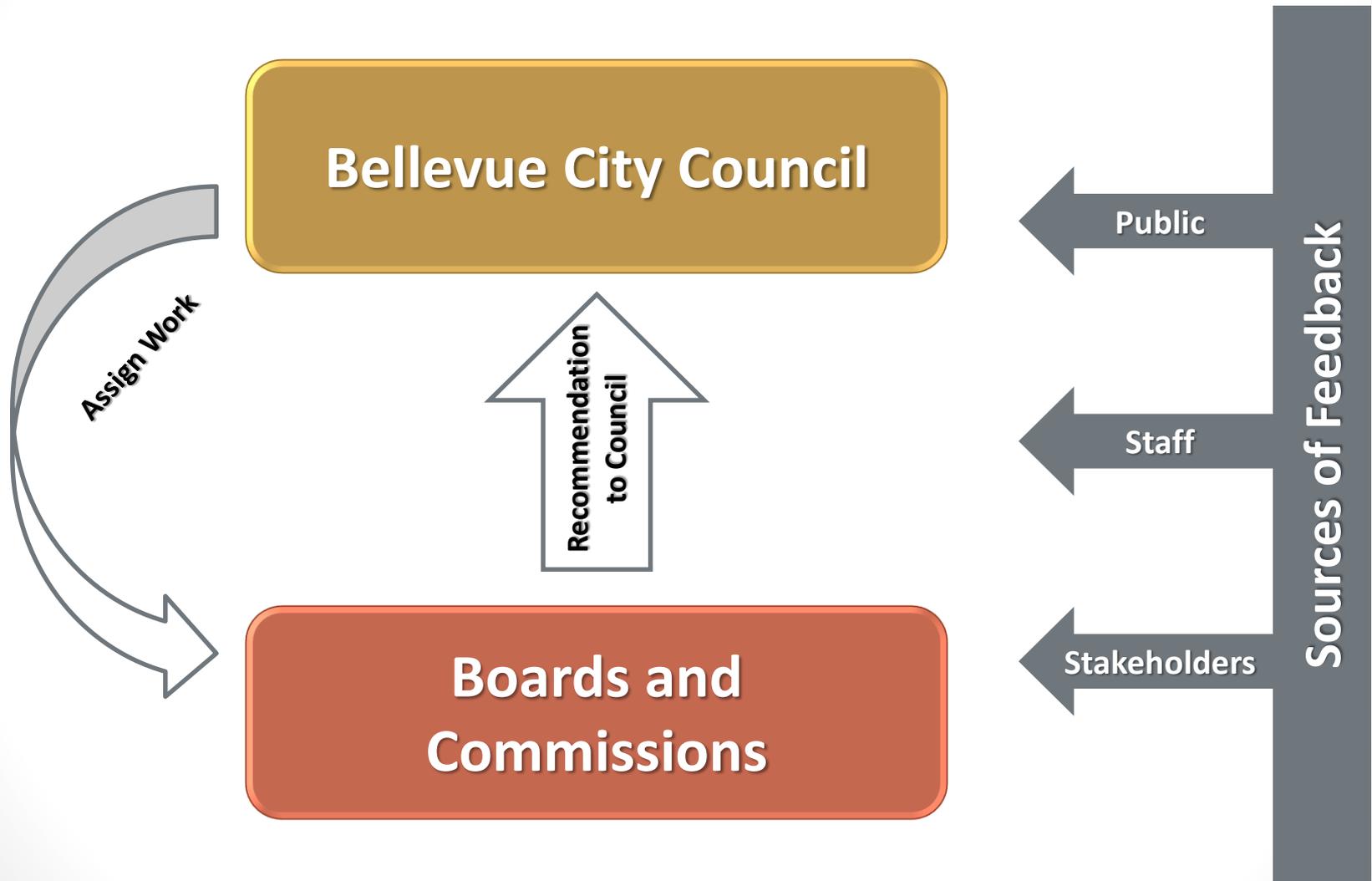
Membership

- 7 members
- 4-year terms, expiring May 31
- Term limits
- Appointed by the Mayor with concurrence of Council
- Residency (*for ESC, service area*)
- Serve without compensation
- Appointed without regard to political affiliation
- For Human Services and Arts, additional restrictions are in place relating to membership on recipient Boards
- The Council often seeks both a geographic and skill/knowledge balance within a board or commission

East Bellevue Community Council

- Established in 1969 in accordance with RCW 35.14, as a condition of annexation of the Lake Hills area to the City of Bellevue
- EBCC has approval/disapproval authority over the adoption by the City Council of any ordinance or resolution applying to land, buildings or structures within the jurisdictional boundaries, to include:
 - Land use codes;
 - Comprehensive Plan Amendments;
 - Conditional Use Permits;
 - Zoning;
 - Subdivision Ordinances;
 - Subdivision Plats; and
 - Planned Unit Developments
- EBCC as a body must stand for voter approved continuance every years
- Individual councilmembers must stand for re-election every 4 years

How policies/decisions are made



Types of Council Meetings

- Extended Study Session
 - 2nd and 4th Mondays from 6 pm to 10 pm
- Study Session
 - 1st and 3rd Mondays from 6 pm to 8 pm
- Regular Session
 - 1st and 3rd Mondays from 8 pm to 10 pm

Providing Input to the City Council

- Oral Communications
 - 1st and 3rd Mondays during Regular Session at 8 pm
 - 2nd and 4th Mondays during Extended Study Session at 6 pm
 - 30 minutes total
 - Preference given to people speaking to agenda items or who have not spoken to Council in the last quarter
 - Maximum of 3 speakers allowed to speak in favor or against any specific topic
 - Continued communications
- Written Communications (council@bellevuewa.gov)
- Public Hearings
 - No total time limit
 - No limit on number speaking for or against
 - 3 minute time limit per speaker

QUESTIONS?