



PORTLAND PARKS BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

October 3, 2012

7:30 – 9:30 a.m.

Lovejoy Room, City Hall

Board members present: Julie Vigeland, Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Dion Jordan, Mike Alexander, Christa Thoeresz, Sue Van Brocklin, Mary Anne Cassin, Nick Hardigg, Mauricio Villarreal, Jim Owens, Linda Robinson, Tricia Tillman, Andy Nelson, Bob Sallinger

Board members absent: Kathy Fong Stephens, Shelli Romero

Staff present: Mike Abbaté, Todd Lofgren, Warren Jimenez, Deborah Lev, Eileen Argentina, Mat Sinclair, Kia Selley, Jeff Shaffer, Margaret Evans

Call to order The meeting was called to order by Chair Julie Vigeland at 7:30 a.m.

Approval of the minutes The minutes of the September 19 meeting were approved as written.

Nominating Committee The nominating committee has proposed that Jim Owens join the Board to fill the vacancy left by Katie Breene. They had met with Jim earlier this year when he was interviewed for one of the previous Board vacancies. Board members received Jim's application and bio in their Board mailing for today's meeting. The nominating committee recommends that Jim's name be sent to the Mayor for appointment. All Board members voted in favor of the recommendation. Documents will now be submitted to the Mayor for appointment.

Park of the Month The park of the month for October was Holly Farm. Coincidentally, Mauricio Villarreal designed the park when the Parks Foundation did their first project there. This was a great opportunity for the Foundation and PP&R to work together. Linda Robinson said she attended the grand opening and mentioned the hardscape in the park for gatherings. Holly Farm also is the site of the first skate spot in a PP&R park. Nick Hardigg said the Trust for Public Land also played a large role in the funding, with a contribution from the Furman family and additional in-kind donations and assistance.

Projects *Ad Hoc* Committee Linda stated there was nothing new to report. Board members have received notices of some volunteer opportunities.

New Board Member New Board member Jim Owens arrived and everyone introduced themselves and talked a little about their background.

Communications *Ad Hoc* Committee Sue Van Brocklin said there was nothing new to report.

Westmoreland CAC

Mauricio had nothing new to report.

Werbin CAC

Mike Alexander reported that the Werbin CAC had their final open house and approved one of the proposed designs. It will be going to the local community advisory group this weekend. He said it looks like there's no major redesign required, and the CAC is on track for moving it into a final conception project, with completion scheduled for 2014. Mike said he believes the Bureau will be able to come in on budget based on the design features.

As an FYI for the new Board members, Julie explained that Board members are assigned as liaisons to some Parks project advisory committees.

Sullivan's Gulch CAC

Mary Anne Cassin reported on the Sullivan's Gulch CAC. Their final report has gone to the City Council and was accepted. She said there's a lot of support for the project from the community. Right now it's a concept plan with an alignment that will work and the Council now needs to find the money to fund it.

Ad Hoc Project

Christa mentioned a project that the Timbers are doing in partnership with the City which will get the Timbers organization involved and volunteering with the community. They have organized projects with 35 different non-profits. She said there's no other team in any sport is doing anything like this. Both staff and players will be involved. Christa said the project is scheduled for next Monday; people can still sign up at a cost of \$30 and she said several parks are on the list.

Julie commented that it would be nice to do a project together as a Board.

Parks Foundation Report

The Foundation Board has asked Kathy Fong Stephens to join their board and she has accepted. Nick Hardigg said the Foundation's summer outreach effort, which was in attendance at 60 concerts this past summer, helped them connect with many new people and add additional names to the Foundation's database. Anyone who donated at least \$10 to the Foundation received a 25% discount coupon from Columbia Sportswear. As the coupon was a real success, it was also sent to volunteers and Parks Friends groups. If the coupon is used, 10% of the purchase price goes to the Foundation for their outreach effort. Nick commented that volunteers are a huge leverage of public dollars, and PP&R is the most community-engaged parks system that he's seen. Staff tracked 500,000 volunteer hours last year. Nick also highlighted an October 16 volunteer effort at the downtown historic squares which will result in the planting of 20,000 crocus bulbs. *(This was subsequently postponed until a later date.)*

Other Business

Mat Sinclair distributed PP&R's new Discover brochure that has recently been updated. The brochure has a map on one side, with the other side showing park amenities and other fun facts about Parks.

Mike Alexander asked if there are any plans to create an app with this information on it. Mat commented that that is something Parks is looking into.

Candidate Forum

The following candidates for City Council are scheduled for today's meeting: Steve Novick at 8:00, Amanda Fritz at 8:30, and Mary Nolan at 9:00. The plan is the same as was used for the Mayoral candidates. The candidates have been given the same questions, and will be asked to address questions for 10 minutes, with 10 minutes for follow up.

Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned at 8:00 for the candidate forum.