

Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)

November 21, 2013

BAC members in attendance:

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|------------------|------------------------|-----------------|
| Amy Lewin | Jim Owens | Mike Alexander |
| Andy Nelson | Joshua Shirley | Nick Hardigg |
| Brenda McSweeney | Judy BlueHorse Skelton | Philip Kalberer |
| Carol Chesarek | Kathy Fong Stephens | Scott Gibson |
| Christa Thoeresz | Linda Robinson | Steve Mullinax |
| Dion Jordan | Mary Ann Cassin | Tim Haberman |
| Gerry Verhoef | Mauricio Villarreal | |

BAC members not in attendance:

Tricia Tillman
Shellie Romero
Mike Alexandar
Bob Sallinger
Sue Van Brocklin
Julie Vigland

Public:

Pat Wagner

Welcome by Parks Director, Mike Abbaté and Commissioner Fritz

Welcome by Resolutions Northwest

Teri Pierson and Sam Petty

Introductions of Budget Advisory Committee

Ground rules & BAC roles

Budget 101

Brief presentation on the City's budget, the General Fund, and Parks' Budget

BAC meetings will determine what the priorities are if there is a chance to add anything back to the budget. It's important to note that items funded with one-time resources are not guaranteed to be funded in the out years.

Commissioner Fritz does not want to limit discussion, and wants to know what the BAC's priorities are for the next 5 years. For FY 2014-15, it's a stabilization budget. For the General Funded Bureaus, there could be between \$2 and \$7 million for ongoing programs, and the same for one-time items. Again, these resources are for all of the Bureaus funded by the General Fund, not just Parks.

Group Discussion

What are the criteria?

Commissioner Fritz emphasized that she would appreciate unfettered feedback, and did not wish to limit the conversation or process by setting citywide priorities. She felt strongly that the BAC should focus on the priorities for Parks, and how the City is going to fund a sustainable parks system. Equity is, however, a priority citywide.

Buckman Pool is off the table for this budget year, that it was funded for two years by residual levy proceeds. The SUN Schools, however, are only funded through the current fiscal year. Commissioner Fritz expressed she would not support cutting the SUN Schools.

Members asked whether they should seek additional funding for the SUN School program. Commissioner Fritz responded by saying perhaps, and that Multnomah County indicated they would not want to the participation fee, and that the program is a great program, even if it turns out to not be a Parks program.

In response to questions regarding OMF, Commissioner Fritz explained that an effort is currently underway to hire an outside consultant to review OMF.

Commissioner Fritz commented that she feels that Parks' core budget is inadequate, and pointed out that it is a good thing that the City has SDCs that can be used to expand the system. More information will be provided at a future meeting regarding capital planning.

Director Mike Abbaté reminded the group that the Parks 2020 Vision outlined goals for the City's park system, and that Parks completes 3-year strategic plans to implement the 2020 Vision. He mentioned these documents would provide helpful background, and also frame where the bureau is going.

For this process, the current existing budget reflects the Bureau's core services, and that extensive processes over the past couple of years have led the Bureau to the place it is at now. After years of reductions, Parks is not being asked to reduce any more. A stabilization budget means for FY 2014-15, Parks will receive its "Current Appropriation Level", which includes funding for the current level of services, plus a small inflationary increase, plus other technical adjustments. But, a "stabilization" budget does not mean more funding beyond the current service levels.

Reviewing the current budget and core services may help facilitate the BAC decision-making and how add packages are prioritized.

Commissioner Fritz and Director Abbaté stated that the approach to the budget should assume no major new revenue source, such as a levy.

Small Group Exercise

Based on the context of this year's budget, what are your key interests, priorities, or needs? Alternatively, what criteria would you use to evaluate proposals? (Try to come up with 3 priorities)

The BAC and Parks staff divided up into six small groups.

Key Priorities

BAC as a whole:

Maintenance

Equity and Access

E205- Phase 2

Strategic/Long term planning – what supports the organization and its work

Community partnerships

Asset management

Front line staff – community relations, recreation

Marketing

Increase numbers of full-time staff from seasonal staff

Parks Grants Programs – neighborhood enhancement projects

Emerging themes:

- Barriers to public/private partnerships
- SUN schools especially in relation to drop out rates, etc

More detail from notes of groups:**Equity**

- Try to expand what we're doing – offer more accessibility, more programs to keep kids safe and off the streets, etc.
- Equity also means quality of facilities and in close proximity.
- Be sure to consider disabled and other access from the beginning. Does not appear Dawson Park improvements are accessible, and it is close to Legacy Emanuel hospital.
- E 205 Phase 2
- Green space and parks in areas with major infill happening in SE Division.
- Services for kids
- Measure neighborhoods for equity – where they are in terms of the 2020 vision, and where the underserved areas are.

Workforce

- Job training opportunities
- Convert year round work by seasonals to FT positions where appropriate
- Employee development – worry about not sustaining staff growth

Maintenance

- Maintenance (cleaning) and addressing backlog
- Central service maintenance facilities (and others) – one time investments (capital)
- Maintenance & the labor it takes to maintain property & growth on a sustainable basis
- Park maintenance and major maintenance

Marketing/Communication/Community

- \$0.5 million with foundation partnership basic amenities (build bond support)
- Maybe do neighborhood enhancement grants through PP&R
- Creating more information and ease for public and community to move public space, private space into real park space
- What are the opportunities for public and private interaction, understanding the fees and the money that can be raised, e.g. Community Partners, corp.
- Community partnerships
- Community engagement – what do they still need to meet 2020 vision
- Organizational, volunteer coordinator

Strategic Planning/Organizational Development

- What does Director need to lead the bureau and serve the City best? Be proactive and not just reactive to what everyone else needs (though might be an expensive tool to track/manage)
- How do we keep and maintain the best park system, now and for the future? In areas of design and service, ADA in parks, and getting parks into areas without parks! Like Sumner.

Deficiencies

- SW – access to restroom, water fountains

Planning/Natural Areas/Programs

- Play areas – new, refurbished
- Events and classes
- Trails, connections
- Natural areas

What information is still needed?

BAC as a whole:

To be provided:

- Lessons from last year – In all the reductions over the last 5 years, were mistakes made, or were there unintended outcomes? – Managers provide information at next meeting
- Bureau's needs around asset management and planning – asset management plan and list of properties without plans
- Impacts of shifting demographics – time lag between planning and implementation; maybe need to re-measure neighborhood needs – Parks deficiencies maps, asset distribution maps
- Costs of delaying maintenance – CIP list
- Evaluation criteria – from last year
- Monitoring progress – 2009 2020 Vision evaluation
- More detail around maintenance cuts and what's about to fall apart – 5 year CIP list

Long term (needs time to prepare)

- Models from other communities
- Presentation from BPS?
- Interagency cooperation
- Detail on planning cuts and recoup strategies
- Update on SUN Schools
- Would like to see a list of ongoing items that have been funded with one-time funding, and understand how one-time items get converted to ongoing items.

Themes from groups:

- More information from front line staff regarding their experiences after all the budget reductions, and hear how their programs are functioning.
- Would like to see staffing levels in more detail than on the pie chart – for example, direct service staff versus administration staff, etc
- Would like to see park statistics, such as how many community centers, developed parks. Maps regarding populations, level of service, proximity to services, parks classifications
- What does management need to figure out a longer term solution (e.g. 5+ years?) and to create a more stable park system long term? (sustainable)
- More info on SUN schools system structure and upcoming decisions. Also on status of funding
- Finer grain view of budget; links to budget detail, with narrative, examples, and major object groups plus FTE counts, seasonals, etc
- What our debt service burden is and what are benefits of paying it off?
- Of the one-time funding, what is realistic to grab of the funding that is coming.
- Recreation – what programs offer more revenue generation?

Comments received

- Equity: High income neighborhoods also have loneliest residents. It is important to respect their needs in considering equity issues.

The next BAC meeting is scheduled for December 5, 2013, in the Portland Building.

Questions asked –

1. Where are SDCs [system development charges]? (**Answer:** presentation focused on General Fund, SDCs in separate fund)
2. Where is funding for acquisitions? (**Answer:** in capital program, and largely funded by SDCs)
3. Looks like gap is increasing more rapidly over time. What was the gap in past years? (FY 13-14 = \$6.1 m) (**Answer:** Gap has increased over time, to reach a cumulative number of \$6.1 million. Subsequent slides detailed reductions.)
4. What was happening with the budget prior to 2009? (more info needed)
5. What is a pass-through? (**Answer:** when Parks either does work for another Bureau and receives payment, [revenue] or when Parks pays another entity to perform one of its responsibilities [expense]).
6. The reductions are a percentage of what? (**Answer:** of the individual program, what it was in FY 2008-09)

Clarifications on pass-throughs