



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Meeting Summary

Beech Public Safety Meeting

May 6, 2015

5:30 - 7:00PM

Location

Shaver Elementary

3701 Northeast 131st Place

In attendance

Fred Colley, Sheila Prein, Gene Prein, Caroline Walker, Arlan Walker, Allan Johnson, Ardyce Johnson, Vickie Ellis, Clare Mershon, Sharon Mershon, Tom Highland, Gloria Highland, Jane Roffey Berry, Carla Romero, L. Orazio, Bret Young

Staff

Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Community Engagement Manager
P. Elise Scolnick, PP&R Community Engagement Coordinator
Louis Guerrero, Parks Maintenance Supervisor
Jeff Milkes, PP&R Zone Manager
David Barrios, PP&R Ranger
Britta Herwig PP&R Project Manager
Sara Hussein, Crime Prevention Coordinator

Summary

The goal for the Public Safety meeting was for neighbors to explore the role they can play to create a safe, vibrant and fun park for everyone. The agenda included:

1. Introduction of staff and their roles
2. Presentation and discussion on Public Safety
3. Brainstorm on what maximizes and minimizes park experiences
4. Responses of Parks staff and the Crime Prevention Coordinator to participant's comments
5. Next steps for organizing the community and resources available

I. Meeting Purpose and Introductions

Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Community Engagement Manager, gave an overview of the meeting purpose and explained where the Parks is in the design process. Ground rules were established so the participants could get the most benefit from the meeting.

Portland Parks & Recreation staff explained their roles in designing and maintaining parks, public safety and community engagement. Crime Prevention Coordinator Sara Hussein gave an overview of her role with the City and neighborhoods.



PP&R had suggested hosting a Public Safety meeting to provide the community with information about available resources and tools. PAC supported this idea as a way to help the community.

II. Brainstorm

Elise Scolnick, Community Engagement Coordinator, led the participants through an exercise to identify those things that people enjoy about parks and what reduces that enjoyment. The group identified the following things that maximize or minimize their park enjoyment:

MAXIMIZES	MINIMIZES
A comfortable place to walk	Aggressive people
People respecting each other	Access to play areas such as basketball courts, etc. and how to ensure everyone has an opportunity to use them
Park events	Darkness, unlit spaces
Cleanliness, no trash	Driving through a park (where not allowed)
Walking in the evening, sundown	Noise
A place to sit	Parking area impacts such as illegal, inappropriate behavior
Informational area, kiosks	Not knowing who are the responsible parties for safety
Friendliness	Lack of structured activities
Children and families together	Camping, hiding areas
Respecting neighbors and their property	Loitering
Community outreach on events and neighborhood happenings	

III. Staff Responses

Sara Hussein, Crime Prevention Coordinator explained the services her office could provide, such as training on forming neighborhood foot patrols and organizing assistance. She also explained the different response parties and how to contact them.

- 911 – Police, Fire, Medical Emergency only (if life, property at immediate risk)
- (503) 823-3333 – City non-emergency number (if damage, theft or other incident has already occurred and risk is no longer present)
- (503)823-4000 – City Resource Information and Referral number (Monday-Friday 8 am-5 pm)
- (503)823-1637– Park Rangers (Weekdays 8-5)
- www.parkscanpdx.org (sends email message to Parks Supervisor and Zone Manager)



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- North Precinct Officer Bob Boylan available to meet with Neighborhood Association

Ranger David Barrios gave a presentation on his experience working in parks. He offered a perspective on the role of parks in a community as a place to relieve energy, diffuse tension, and to build community through engagement and teaching. He stressed the need for the community to be actively involved in their park and offered suggestions on how to take advantage of support available.

General discussion on safety again clarified that there are different types of concern for safety some of which can be addressed through design, others have to be addressed through on-going maintenance and management and some through community involvement and action.

IV. Volunteers and Next Steps

Three people volunteered to follow up with Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong on forming a committee to address safety and work with the Crime Prevention office. Volunteers were: LeAnn O, Vickie and Bret. Elizabeth will be in touch with each soon.

Elise Scolnick will email out a summary and the Crime Prevention Resource List to attendees.