



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

July 1, 2015

8:00 – 9:30 a.m.

Lovejoy Room, City Hall

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- Board members present:** Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Tonya Booker, Kendall Clawson, Liz Field, Kathy Fong Stephens, Patricia Frobles, Dion Jordan, Tony Magliano, Andy Nelson, Jim Owens, Linda Robinson, Sue Van Brocklin, Julie Vigeland
- Board members absent:** Ian Jaquiss, Meryl Redisch, Gladys Ruiz, Christa Thoeresz, Mauricio Villarreal
- PP&R Staff present:** Mike Abbaté, Margaret Evans, Art Hendricks, Warren Jimenez, Jeff Shaffer
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Call to order Judy called meeting to order at 8:05

Park of the Month Park of the month for May was Marshall Park. Patricia Frobles reported that Marshall Park is in the west hills. It is a great example of what volunteers and neighbors can do when invested and committed to a park. The park was donated by the Marshall family, and equipment was put in in 1960. In 2010, the equipment was deteriorated and unsafe, and was pulled out. The neighborhood organized to raise money, buy equipment, clean up park, and worked in partnership with PP&R. The new improvements are great, and include a natural play area. Tryon Creek runs through the park. Patricia noted that it is a great neighborhood resource, but its ability to be a resource beyond the neighborhood is limited. There is almost no signage. It's tucked away, and took a while to find. There is very little parking, and just one porta potty. Patricia noted that volunteers had just finished a work party when they got there. They had finished pulling ivy, which they will be doing forever. There were lots of kids playing in the creek, and lots of birds. She added that if you can find it, it's a great place to visit.

Jim Owens reported on June's park of the month—Two Plum Park. He noted that Two Plum Park is on NE 7th between Shaver and Mason. It was built on two reclaimed city house blocks with 2001 funding from TPL. It has limited facilities: swingset, eco-friendly lawn. It's in a cool neighborhood, with houses on both sides and two streets on the other two sides. There are nice walkways through the

park. Jim added that it is very cute, and a nice place for solitude with a gorgeous garden. There is a neighborhood mural with Dr. King and other activists. He added that there was nobody there on the day he visited.

South Waterfront Greenway will be July's park of the month. The big opening was last Saturday. Judy will report.

Public Input to Board No public testimony.

Commissioner Fritz Patti Howard reported that there are no updates today.

Linda asked if they decided what parks in east Portland are going to get master plans. Mike Abbaté noted that they selected Mill Park/Midland Park, and 150th and Division, in which everyone within a ½ mile will be newly served. He noted that there is a large Bhutanese population who came out in force for the meetings. Mike added that the property is just east of the Fred Meyers on 148th. It was a strategic property that PP&R had been pursuing for a long time.

Sue noted that in regards to the smokefree parks committee, it was a little frustrating that the Parks Board was not informed about the amendment that went to Council. She said that they feel like Parks staff and the Commissioner's office have opportunity to talk to the Board every month, and it felt like they were blind-sighted.

Patti asked if they felt like they were informed during the process.

Kathy noted that it is an ongoing frustration when they take time to be informed advisors, and then get left out of changes, and decisions. She noted they have put on the work plan list to be more collaborative – and serve as an ongoing resource. Kathy noted that they have felt this before – the Board provides input and then something else fairly major happens and they aren't informed.

Mike Abbaté noted that first of all, the staff could have done a better job of letting the Board know this was in process. He acknowledged that we could have given the Board better notice. He noted that staff were informed of some things, and had to act quickly. What we want the Parks Board to do, he added, is to help advise us on policy. You took a leadership role on advising on the policy. For enforcement, details – Council made it clear that they did not want to criminalize. The amendment is about that detail and implementation. There are many ramifications on a policy on how you implement. We could have done a better job of keeping you in the loop.

Jim Owens noted that part of developing policy is implementation, and that the Board should not be cut off before implementation.

Mike noted that things had to be done very quickly. Warren and Mike and Galina

met with Police. There was a lot of activity within this past month.

Kathy noted that it is still in the realm of policy if you are talking about a different enforcement strategy. She asked why it would be different from how alcohol is enforced.

Mike noted that Council had concerns about how it would be enforced. Council was clear that this was primarily to be an education process. A softer process than enforcement. One of the tools we have is exclusion. If you are in violation of a park rule. We ask you to correct. And if you don't, we can write an exclusion which requires you to leave the park for 30 days. There is a process to appeal. If you do not abide by the exclusion. Criminal penalties can be enforced and the police will get involved. Council did not want that to be a part of this policy. The only people who can enforce is Parks. Mike added that Kathy is right. This is different than other parks rules. That was the decision of the Council. They charged us with ensuring that would be the case. It doesn't renege the ban. But does respond to Council's desire.

Sue noted that for public health purposes, smoking is smoking. It doesn't matter who is smoking what. She noted that in the instance of enforcement of marijuana in public, it was said that state law trumps city law. She has a hard time with that distinction.

Warren Jimenez noted that the distinction exists because there is a distinction. It is illegal for marijuana to be used in public. That is the reason for the distinction. Rangers can enforce state law – they can write an exclusion. It was important to note, and make distinction.

Sue asked then if she is a police officer, she can talk to a person who is smoking marijuana, but not the person who is smoking a cigarette. Mike clarified that she can talk to both, but on compliance, she can require it from the individual smoking marijuana, not the cigarette.

Judy noted that the City may continue to enfold this, and perhaps we should keep the smokefree committee.

Approval of the minutes Julie Vigeland moved to pass the minutes from the July 2015 Parks Board Meeting, Kendall Clawson seconded the motion, and the board unanimously voted to approve the minutes.

Chair/Board Business Parks Foundation Update

Liz Field reported on the Foundation and search committee for a new Executive Director. Julie Vigeland is chair of the committee. Liz noted that the ideal candidate loves parks, natural areas, and recreation; is committed to access and inclusion, is excited about fundraising for parks, and is experienced at fundraising and building partnerships. She noted that the Parks Board's role in getting the word out is possibly how we will identify the next candidate. Word of mouth will bring in the next fabulous director. Julie added that this has gotten out there. She

received 5 phone calls personally. The beginning is good. Personal outreach is going to make the difference. It will be a speedy and efficient process. They are hoping to have someone on board in September, and have a schedule set up for interviews. Jim Owens and Mike Abbaté are on the committee. It closes July 25th.

Judy asked if the Foundation still looks for people to volunteer at the concerts. Liz noted that SFFA is ramping up. They are looking for volunteers and would love to have the Board's support. They are also planning for Parke Diem in the fall, though right now they are focused on summer. She added that they would love your help at the Foundation booth.

Chair Updates

Judy noted that she does not have an update, since she just started officially as Board Chair today.

Reports from committees

Kathy noted that she is updating the list of committees, and will send the Board a draft. She said that she wasn't sure if the smokefree committee was being renewed.

Kathy noted that the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability will need a liaison for the off-road cycling master plan. If you have an interest, please sign up. Kathy wasn't sure about the time commitment.

Mike Abbaté circulated a sign-up sheet for advisory committees – with timeline, and commitments listed. He noted that the off-road cycling master plan is a little different because it is not Parks led. If there is a person who would be interested in being involved, he noted that he and Brett Horner will talk to the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability. Mike noted that the Level of Service Study is also included on the list, which Emily Roth and Sarah Huggins will talk about later in the meeting. This is not a site project; it's an effort. If parks board member or members want to be involved they can sign up. For the site advisory committees, they are fairly intense until we get the master plan, and then the time commitment tapers off once we get into construction documents. The planning efforts like the Level of Service study are a little different and need participation throughout the life of them. The off-road cycling plan will be at least a year.

Kathy noted that there are so many projects, and it is good to have a meaningful liaison for some of these things, though we can't do everything. She said it is also good to participate in interview panels.

Kathy gave highlights and a recap from the Board's retreat in June. At the retreat, the Board talked about how we define success, equitable access for all, and healthy relationships. She noted that some people expressed interest in being more proactive than reactive. They also talked about following up on the smoking ban and other policies we want to be in the loop on. Another topic of discussion was balancing activities for Parke Diem – and thinking about having the Board

work together as a group on a project for Parke Diem. This will help build relationships.

Kathy reported on a couple of business things – ex officio and nominating committee for new members. She noted that Ian Jaquiss's board buddy is Dion Jordan. She also noted that the nominating committee did not bring forward a hard fast recommendation on ex-officio positions. They have decided to keep the 3 ex-officio.

Kathy talked about building relationship and collaboration with the Commissioner.

For those of you who were not on the retreat, Mike noted, we brought a packet. Extra copies are available. The Board visited sites that are bond projects, including Kenton Park, the synthetic fields at Delta Park, St. Johns Community Center and racquet center.

Kathy noted that last year, the work plan subcommittee developed a list of priorities into a work plan list. Some of those priorities included the Bond renewal, and Smokefree parks. As past chair, Kathy noted that she will draft a letter to City Council. For the coming year, Christa Thoerez, Julie Vigeland, and Kathy updated the list. Kathy noted that the updated list includes priorities such as the desire to be more informed on how to be a collaborative advisor to the Commissioner, and to have a discussion this year to determine what some next steps might be. They will bring in a couple of questions for a future Parks Board meeting: How often should the chair and someone else meet with the Commissioner? How should the Board get updates on things? Kathy noted that this draft is for discussion.

Sue Van Brocklin noted that the communications committee hasn't had an assignment for a while. They would be happy to have a new one – Julie Vigeland, Christa Thoeresz, Sue Van Brocklin, and Patricia Frobos are on the communications committee. Kathy added that it is one of our two standing committees.

Tonya Booker talked about the idea of how much the Parks Board wants to be visible and known. She said that she was not sure where that would go. She noted that the Board talked about having meetings in other locations where they could see programming (e.g. meet at a community center). Sue noted that an assignment is to recommend a new framework for internal communications and also visibility and external communications.

Warren noted that the Board was key in moving forward the bond renewal. As we start doing work, going out there and talking about successes could be really important. Sue noted that was something that the communications committee did before the bond was referred – in advance, they were able to write letters to the editor, and they were advised on what they could do as a board and as individuals. She noted that they were active then. Andy added that this was tethered to Jennifer Yocom's work. Kathy added that Jennifer is the staff advisory

to the communications committee.

Jim asked about the BAC process, and ongoing updates on the budget. Judy noted that we have a meeting set for the evening of July 27th. Warren Jimenez added that at this July meeting, they will give a recap on what happened with budget. They will also talk about the budget process in preparation for the upcoming year. Judy noted that what you are suggesting is that it is an ongoing process. Kathy will add the BAC process to the list.

Kendall Clawson noted that she is willing to join the equity committee. Around that, she noted that she is curious about adding in a leadership component to ensure that staffing has adequate representation in leadership/management roles. Art noted that we can certainly add that, and let folks know that we are embarking on an equity assessment, in which we will be asking staff a number of questions.

Julie noted that for the new year, we may have different scheduling times. The group has been meeting on the last Wednesday of the month.

Kathy noted that the rest of board would like to know when those equity committee meetings are. The rest of the board might be interested in attending. In addition to ongoing things, structure what are the major areas and focus on those to get traction.

Julie noted that when we had the original equity committee. There was the committee, people are interested, and want to come. Once we have set meetings, we will make sure everyone has those times.

Kendall asked about monitoring programs and services. Mike suggested adding Recreation Revolution as a topic.

Kendall noted that she is compelled by Julie's comment about interest of the larger group. She wondered if there might be interest in taking a different pathway, and incorporating the equity discussion into the larger Board meetings. Take risk as a group – equity is something we all want to be engaged in. She noted that most of the people of color on this Board, are on that committee. There is commitment by all of us, and we want to thread through all of our work. She suggested possibly finding space in the general meeting instead of relegating to a smaller group. Send message to group, that work is thread through every committee meeting.

Kathy said that she agrees, but unless we also have the standing committee, the work part doesn't move forward. In May 2014 we did an equity statement. Equity is seen as a foundation. She added that the committee is definitely reporting at every meeting. She would like to have both.

Judy noted that what she heard Kendall say is that we would have the standing committee, but also bring issues for discussion to the meetings.

Tonya noted that there are issues addressed by the subcommittee that she would like the larger Board to see. Talk about having subcommittee, and then ensuring

everyone is getting information on how the Bureau is moving forward with implementation, and how the Board can advise on that.

Andy added that he joined the Board because he was concerned with who has access to services. He noted that beyond informing us (the Board), how do we articulate, and how do we broadcast that work to our own networks.

Linda noted that when we first formed the equity committee, all the Board members, except one or two who couldn't attend, were on the committee. Julie asked if we can send out the equity affirmation statement again.

Kendall noted that she is looking for something more concrete. She clarified that what she is asking is the Board's commitment to measurable outcomes in terms of equity. More than the ethereal, the statement, she is interested in pushing as a Council, to push for measurable outcomes. She noted that she gets that it's happening already, but wants to push us to do more than just talk about it as a large body. Each person can go home, and make a significant change in the lives of people of color.

Mike Abbaté noted that it might be helpful for an upcoming meeting for Art to give an update because there are many things going on. He added that Art could give overview on everything, and the Board could decide to get behind some of those things to help move them forward.

Art agreed that they could hone in on one or two and look toward measurable outcomes.

Level of Service Study Brett Horner reported that a Level of Service Study is something we have wanted to do for many years – planning our service. This is a key part of our strategic plan. This effort will inform the Bureau going forward, and provide key information to our asset management program. It will involve the public, and will involve you in setting these levels of service. What we want, and what we can reasonably afford to build, and maintain

Sarah Huggins noted that we have a diverse parks system with a wide range of park experiences. PP&R has nature focused park experiences as well as people focused and heavily programmed assets. The system plan – will look at the overall planning framework. Services delivery strategy and system plan – level of service is integral to asset management. This will be used to balance costs, level of services, and risk we are willing to accept in delivering. She noted that there are multiple pieces that inform the system plan.

Currently, she noted, we are looking at developed parks, and natural areas. We have plans that discuss trails, river access, urban forestry, enterprise (golf, motorsports), and community gardens. We know that we have many gardens that are not part of our parks – may be in schools, or other areas, and will be taking a closer look at those. She noted that they are looking at all of these things to build a level of service plan.

The goal is having every house within ½ mile. But within parks and recreation, this includes a lot of different services – proximity to a playground, or a spray play. Looking at a map – typical service areas. We are moving from the analysis of someone served or unserved to *how well* are they served. They may be close to a natural area, but can they walk to a playground, or a spray play? We can start overlaying areas to see how some are much more diversely served. This will provide us more information on how our system should grow. Sarah noted that they are developing a series of maps to inventory what we have. What is the current level of service that we are providing? Look at existing level, technical reports, think about what ideal service would be. Trust for Public Land (TPL) has looked at a range of cities and service, and we can look at how ours compares.

They can look at cost on average per year to provide a playground. They will look at the big picture, including the cost to operate and manage. If a playground lasts on average 15 years, they can look at relative costs for features in parks. Sarah noted that this will be an ongoing project. The initial steps include the inventory of current level of service (LOS), existing LOS guidance, and cost of service. We have good focus group and surveys to work with. There will be a Rec needs survey coming up, and they are working with Art Hendricks to get participation from underserved communities. Sarah noted that they will get a sense of what the needs are, and then look at scenarios. What would level of service possibilities be for providing playground, or nature experience – within ½ mile, or mile. What would the costs be to provide that service?

She noted that the first step is to determine what we mean by developed park – two distinctions proposed – interim access with soft surface paths and benches – a place to walk, place to sit, informal park access. But we are not calling it full service unless it has built features, including sports field, playground, spray play, etc. Focus areas for developed park: flex turf areas, restrooms, play areas, spray play, fountains, courts, skateparks, sports fields, picnic, dogs, community gardens, plazas.

Emily Roth noted that in natural areas, the lens will be a little different – use Mt. Tabor park as a hybrid experience, Maricara natural area – one mile walking trail. Full experience would be 612 acres at Powell Butte nature park. A lot of different experiences. Oaks Bottom another step with viewing areas. Range of experiences.

Every natural area – variety of ecosystem service, clean water, air, wildlife, research. Looking first for habitat reserve, within that transition zone, trail connections, other areas are compatible recreation zone. Trails and other areas. Work first on preservation and then work outwards. Once we have criteria developed. First three: inventory, existing LOS guidance, cost. Next year – we will start looking at community needs, scenario discussions, and recommendations.

Linda noted that we have several hybrid parks, and asked where they would fall. Sarah noted that they will show up in both. It will show up on our playground map, as well as our natural area map.

Jim noted that for the SDC program, we just did a whole change in moving away from LOS, to capacity for improvements. Will there be a conflict?

Emily noted that is the idea here, before LOS was ½ mile. When you start layering, you can look at true experience and capacity of that. If one area of city doesn't offer nature – opportunity to look at specific areas to develop nature patch, or spray play, or playground. Brett Horner added that both have level of service built in. For SDC – now based on cost per person, or resident instead of geographic distinction. He added that SDC is just one source of funding. They are interrelated.

Director's Update Mike Abbaté noted that he will be at Council at 9:30 today to talk about Summer Free For All (SFFA). There will be public comments, and it may be 9:40 before we get started.

Deb Lev has announced retirement. This leaves a big hole on senior leadership team. In interim, Deb's direct reports Astrid Dragoy, natural areas manager, and Jenn Cairo, Urban Forester, will report directly to Mike.

Mike noted that Board members will receive invitations to Sponsor Night, and he really encourages you to come.

Mike reminded the Board of the BAC meeting on July 27th. An e-mail RSVP reminder will come for that. There will be dinner.

If people are interested in the LOS study, we can have more than one Board member participate – some for playgrounds, and some for natural areas.

Art Hendricks noted that there is currently a display in City Hall that highlights the history of the ADA movement, and struggles for people with disabilities. Please go down and check it out.

Meeting adjourned Judy gave a thank you gift to Kathy from the board for her work as chair. She thanked Kathy for being that voice, keeping us on time, and keeping conversations going. She thanked her for her leadership.

Kathy thanked everyone.

Judy noted she has trouble closing circles.

Dion adjourned meeting