



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 6, 2013
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
Lovejoy Room, City Hall**

Board members present: Mike Alexander, Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Mary Anne Cassin, Nick Hardigg, Dion Jordan, Andy Nelson, Linda Robinson, Shelli Romero, Tricia Tillman, Sue Van Brocklin, Mauricio Villarreal

Board members absent: Tony Magliano, Jim Owens, Meryl Redisch, Bob Sallinger, Kathy Fong Stephens, Christa Thoeresz, Julie Vigeland

Staff present: Mike Abbaté, Eileen Argentina, Warren Jimenez, Jeff Shaffer, Jennifer Yocom

Call to order Andy Nelson, Chair, called the meeting to order.

Park of the Month Andy noted that last month's park was Piccolo Park, and asked for observations. He also said that this month will be St. Johns Park and Tennis Center. He noted that he had been there on the tour, along with a few other Board members. Dion Jordan commented that he took his daughters to Piccolo, and they had a nice time. His 8-year old daughter gave the park a B+. When asked what would have made it an A, she said, "pony rides."

Eileen Argentina asked if they had a chance to see the afterschool tennis program at St. Johns during the tour. Andy said yes, and that it was great to see that the young man working at the front desk had gone through the program.

Approval of the minutes Mary Ann Cassin noted that a statement was attributed to her on page 4 in the October meeting minutes, but she was not at the meeting. (The minutes were updated.) Tricia Tillman moved to approve the minutes. Mike Alexander seconded the motion. Shelli Romero noted that she was absent. The minutes were passed.

Parks Foundation Update Nick Hardigg reported that \$123,880 had been raised for Gateway Green. They met and exceeded their goal. It was noted that Linda Robinson was drinking Diet Coke; Linda laughed and commented that she has been drinking Diet Coke for years. It was noted that Coke contributed \$25,000 to the Gateway Green. Nick said that Coca Cola had wanted to do something in East Portland, and that when they made the \$25,000 and 2 to 1 match announcement there was a peak in giving. Linda commented that the timing of the announcement was really good. The match was announced in a way that made people really feel like their contributions mattered.

Sue Van Brocklin noted that the Alex Rovello effort at Berkeley Park had also been a success. More than \$50,000 was raised at the event. Jennifer Yocom

noted that they are currently more than half way to their goal of \$175,000. Nick added that he entered more than \$10,000 in credit cards with a line waiting.

Chair Update Andy reported that the Urban Forestry Commission will give an update at the December 3rd meeting. He asked about the Equity Group, and Jennifer Yocom noted that they will meet on November 14th, and anticipate presenting in December as well. Andy commented that good work was put into that policy; goals were set and it will be good to see how we're doing.

Nick commented that Parke Diem was really fun, and so many people in this room contributed. He noted that PP&R had the lion's share with 25 projects (out of 73 projects), 1400 people volunteered, and they had great sponsorship. Nike donated 1000 shirts, and they gave out Parklandia stickers. They focused on messaging on Parks legacy at risk. The event was not just about volunteering, but engaging and letting friends groups know how important they are, and raise awareness of Parks needs. Nick noted that Mike Abbaté went to many sites and spoke. Jennifer Yocom was out. Commissioner Fritz went out. He said he is looking forward to next year, and helping to make volunteering Portland feel more engaged with Parks. He noted that it is a great sign that in its inaugural year, 1400 people come out and volunteered.

Andy noted that what was different with this event, was that it went mainstream. He noted that friends groups have always been involved. Nick agreed that new people are joining friends groups in communities where we didn't have reach before, and we are expanding.

Public Meeting Law Andy introduced Harry Auerbach, Chief Deputy City Attorney. He noted that they asked Harry to come today to talk about public meeting law. Harry commented that he is deeply impressed by the work that the Parks Board does, and that Nick's group (Parks Foundation) does. He noted that he remembers when the Board and Foundation were created, and just hearing the conversation this morning, he is blown away with how successful you have been. He noted that his small part was writing the code for the board.

Harry said that Mike Abbaté had asked him to talk about electronic communications and how those impact public meetings. He noted that the Board is governed by state law with the idea that deliberations should be held in a public setting so there are no secrets. He said that they must comply with the letter and spirit of the law because the group, by code, is charged with making recommendations to the city on policy. By definition, he noted, you are a public body. As such, you must comply with Public Meetings Law. He noted that although the law includes advisory groups, it wasn't written specifically for advisory groups, so it is not as clear with respect to what you do. As electronic technology has emerged, Public Meetings Law has not kept up as precisely as we would like, but, he noted, a provision written on electronic technology (telephone meetings and Skyping) applies to e-mail. The law states that any time a quorum (more than half) of the group meets to deliberate, they must do so in a way that is open to the public, and all persons must be allowed to attend. You don't have to allow them to talk, he said, but you must allow

them to be there. So, Harry noted, any time a quorum, more than half of you, are simultaneously meeting, typically in a room like this, but not always, you must make that meeting public. How does this apply, and what happens when everyone is communicating by e-mail? In real time communicating (replying all), that is a meeting. He noted that the Board can reply all when they are not deliberating (ie. checking schedules), but if you say, what do you think we should do about x, or here's what I heard about so and so, what do you think, etc., this falls under Public Meetings Law. As a general rule, he noted, you don't want to communicate all at the same time. If you do that, you need to make a place where everyone can come in and watch. He warned the Board to be very careful about e-mail, and noted that there are sanctions for violations of Public Meetings Law.

Shelli Romero asked if the group can wordsmith a document or letter by e-mail. Harry said that he hasn't seen that come up where anyone has challenged, but he noted that it might be safer to have the responses go to staff, and then circulate. Shelli commented that typically we would reply all. Harry said that *reply all* is a dangerous thing and cautioned the group to avoid it whenever possible. Jeff Shaffer suggested a communications subcommittee that could do wordsmithing, and asked Harry if that would be okay as long as the group represented less than half of the Board. Harry responded that technically subcommittees of the larger body would not be subject to Public Meetings Law. He noted that you can have a wordsmithing committee, and they can do that work, and then pass on and deliberate in the public meeting. Mike Abbaté asked for clarity on when a subcommittee is meeting to come up with recommendations to make to the whole board, and whether the subcommittee's meetings are subject to Public Meetings Law. Harry responded that a group meeting to make recommendations is by definition a public body, but the communications subcommittee without a quorum would not fall under Public Meetings Law.

Shelli asked if the Parks Board agendas are sent to the public. Harry noted that agendas are posted on the PP&R website, and we notify anyone in the press that has asked. Shelli asked if Public Meetings Law would extend to our roles as budget advisory. Yes, the BAC is subject to Public Meetings Law because it is advisory to city.

Andy asked for clarification, is it okay to use e-mail as long as it's just two or three people discussing things? Harry confirmed that this is correct, if you have less than half, that's not a quorum. Tim Crail noted that those e-mails would still be subject to a public records request, and Harry confirmed this. He noted that anything you write down in the scope of your service is public record. At some point, he noted, we can talk about your obligation to preserve and produce. Harry referred to a retention schedule for correspondence. He noted that it depends on the nature of communications. There is no retention schedule for e-mails like do you want to meet for coffee? But substantial messaging must be retained. He noted that if anyone has questions about this, or any other matter, to feel free to call or e-mail him, and he would be happy to give you best advice he can.

**Public Comment
Policy**

Andy noted that they removed the bylaw revision from the agenda for this meeting. He will meet with Commissioner Fritz to discuss the proposed revision because it may affect the code. He noted that changing code is quite different than changing bylaws. The proposed change came in response to a public hearing request. Since we don't do public hearings, he noted, we need to decide how we seek and take input from the public.

Andy said that while the Board will not discuss the bylaw revision this month, the group will talk about public input. He noted that last month we had a good breakthrough in terms of process. He noted that the proposed new Public Comment Policy will include three ways for individuals or groups to get information in front of us. First, we will take 10 minutes right after approval of minutes. The Chair will call the meeting to order, and let everyone know the timing for the comment period. Andy noted that Megan might have a sign up sheet. If we have one person, he said, the limit will be two minutes. If we have 10 people, the limit will be one minute. We will not have public hearings or extended comment periods, unless a group wants to present. He noted that the Chair would receive those requests, bring them to the Board, deliberate, decide yes or no, if it's yes, put on agenda, if it's no, we are interested but let the group know there are other ways to get the information to us. Then, we let the group know that there is an easy e-mail and make sure there is a pathway for that. Hopefully, he noted, that reflects the conversation.

Shelli Romero commented that it looks good to her. She suggested that on #3 as we move forward on budget advisory, let's make it explicit how people can contact us. She noted that she and Linda (Robinson) were contacted on Sun schools last year. She asked if time will be set aside in the budget advisory committee process to make sure we publicize better, and make sure people know how they can send feedback (specific e-mail). Andy noted that this is a good point, and now will likely be a time when people will have most to say

Mike Alexander noted that he was not here for the last meeting, but read the great discussion in the minutes from last month. He expressed concern that when you say 10 minutes or 2 minutes, he anticipates times when groups will push against that. He is interest in how the Bureau handles that, and how we will enforce the time limit. What if we have 30 folks? Do you have discretion as Chair? Is there an opportunity to better serve by expanding, or do we stay at 10 minutes and someone will be here to make sure it doesn't go over? Mike Abbaté commented that there will be times when you have 30 people, saying the same thing 30 times. He recommended that individual times be enforced, and give the Chair discretion, if we want to expand, or schedule some in advance to the next meeting. Andy said that he is open, but also wants to protect Parks Board time from the rogue presenters. He suggested that as Chair, he could relax or extend timing as needed.

Sue Van Brocklin commented that she was sorry she missed this conversation. She noted that she served for 8 years on the Trimet Board, and that in her final years on the Board, taking public comment was an awful experience. She noted that there was a lack of civility, bad language and threats to the Boards' security. She noted that Portland Police had to come. She suggested that if the

Parks Board is opening a public comment period, we need rules of civility and language. Any kind of bad behaviors, yelling threats, it will end. At Trimet, she noted, the Board just had to sit there and take it. It was very uncomfortable and distasteful. Linda Robinson asked if there is a distinction because it was a citizen forum, and not advisory? Sue said that once you open it, she strongly recommends some kind of language regarding rules. Linda asked how Andy Nelson came up with 2 minutes, instead of 1 or 3. Sue commented that 2 is plenty. Andy said that it is not a science, depends on the body, but two minutes seemed like enough time. He noted that he is flexible.

Dion Jordan asked if we will have any kind of screening process. He noted that we could get anything coming in, and it might not be relevant, and it will be 2 minutes wasted. Andy agreed that it could get messy. We open ourselves up to whatever. Linda commented that she was thinking about the kinds of things people say at the beginning of Council. Andy noted that democracy is messy, and we are walking into it. Warren Jimenez noted that the framework should be that it is Parks related. Mike Abbaté added that we could have a sign up sheet, with brief summary of topic. Mary Ann Cassin noted that she wants to back up Sue, and likes the idea of a sign up sheet and the ability to say this doesn't look relevant, as well as the need to cutoff individuals or groups that are not following the guidelines. She noted that we should have rules of engagement.

Nick Hardigg noted that contentious comments will come forward, as well as insightful comments, and he worries that in 2 minutes, we won't be able to discuss it. I think what we are proposing, is that you can make a presentation, but we are unable to allow discussion. Andy said that it will be similar to Council. Linda noted that at Council, sometimes they ask questions. Shelli Romero commented that they ask questions usually when there is a decision in front of them. Andy noted that whatever we decide, it will get tested, may go sideways, but this was something we want to. He noted that we may need to revise, as we go along. Nick commented that we might want to clarify that there is no expectation of discussion. Mike Abbaté suggested that he and Andy and Harry Auerbach sit down and draft the proposed public input, and include rules of civility, and expectation of comment. He noted that City Council holds 3 minutes for 5 people, and only 5 people are allowed. He noted that we can get advice on where to be flexible. Mike Alexander asked if there was a way for us to put together a form on our website for people to request time, and we indicate that we will take 5 people. He noted that when it is your time, it's your time, and we set aside time. He suggested that we handle it democratically, if you get on the list, we will work through, and everyone gets the same time. Andy asked for clarification, so instead of showing up and signing up, you need to sign up online and go through an approval process? Mike Alexander noted that he is not as interested in approving, for example, someone can say they want to talk about dogs, and come in with a picture of a cat – but everyone gets their 2 minutes. When it's your time, you can come in and we will listen for 120 seconds. Tricia noted that this might not work for someone with a timely issue. She noted that there should be a way for those timely issues to get in front of us. Andy said we will talk about it, and we want to get it right, or as close as we can. Look for an update on this next month.

Budget Process Update

Mike Abbaté noted that the first Budget Advisory Committee meeting (the new member orientation) was last night. He noted that Jim Owens was there. The next meetings will be November 21st, December 5th, December 12th and January 16th, and all meetings will be at 5:30 pm. He noted that we will provide dinner, but we don't want to waste food, so please reply to the meeting wizard sent by Megan. The first 30 minutes, he noted, will be for eating and sharing the agenda. There is a public meeting just on Parks budget on Jan. 8th. Time and location to be determined. We will be at the 1900 Building at 1900 SW 4th on the 21st, all other meetings will be in the Portland Building, 2nd floor, Conference room B. He said to look for those emails from Megan.

Andy Nelson asked if we have always had four meetings. Mike answered that last year we had three. This year, five. Last night was orientation. Warren Jimenez noted that our goal is to get on your calendars and do the work we need to do. It is easier to cancel one if we don't need them all then to schedule new meetings.

Mike asked Warren to recap last night's BAC orientation, or city budget 101 for those joining BAC. Warren noted that we had a nice turnout. We had four new members. Jim Owens came, as well as Gerry Verhoef from COPEA (our labor partners). He noted that it was a good meeting. The intent was to take a broad look at the city budget and work down to the Parks budget, to provide background on the budget process. He noted that they reviewed the Vision 2020, Strategic Plan, and current adopted budget. They reviewed the notice from Mayor Hales, referencing the stabilization year we are going into as a city. He said that the folks that attended had lots of good questions. Jeff Shaffer was there. Jeff noted that it was a good 101, and nice to have the ability to share. Last year we hit the ground running. The intent here was to lay the groundwork. Warren noted that the information shared at the Parks Board meeting in August was similar. He noted that we will send Power Point slides to you so that everyone has those documents.

Andy asked how many members will be on the BAC this year. Warren noted that we have invited 10 others from neighborhood associations and community groups. We've so far had five responses. Mike Abbaté noted that members include the full Parks Board, 3 labor partners, plus the 10 neighborhood/community group members. We had 4 or 5 new. He estimated that the number will be somewhere around 25. Mike noted that once we decided to expand the BAC, it was clear to us to have a facilitator that was not Parks staff. Terri Pierson of Resolutions Northwest will facilitate. This will allow Jennifer Yocom and Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong to be active listeners and provide feedback and not be responsible for facilitating.

Andy asked if the goal is not so that everyone agrees, what's the end game? Mike noted that the goal hasn't changed. The BAC will make their recommendation to the Director and Commissioner on budget and goals for each year. Process how we get there – it would be great to have consensus. He said we will not have a list of cut packages like we've had in past years. The BAC in the past has had to weigh and prioritize those cut packages. The Mayor

has said that we will not have cut packages, but very limited add package. Andy noted that it would be best if the group could vote and go with whatever comes out with most. Linda Robinson agreed that they didn't really have consensus last year. Andy noted that last year, we had the vote, and then we had people who didn't agree. It was mixed. He noted that it would be good to clarify this year. He felt that last year, the BAC ended without solidarity and power. The recommendation was made, and then other voices were coming in saying they didn't agree. Mary Ann Cassin noted that the sheer number of people seems daunting to her. She said that she has been in similarly large groups in which if you even said one thing it was a lot, and you wonder why you spend so much time. Andy commented that it is a bit of congress, that's where the facilitator comes in. He said that if we agree to be on BAC and agree on recommendation, then that's what we go with.

Mike Abbaté distributed a handout and noted that Council had a budget work session yesterday – with appropriation level as the beginning conversation. He said that the City Council expects new revenue, and additional ongoing (about 5 million additional for the general fund next year, maybe another 5 million one time fund). He note that the Mayor made it clear he doesn't want to see the one time fund go to things that repeat each year. They are talking about paying down debt, and putting us in a better fiscal position as a city. Mike noted that he wanted to pass along something that was helpful - additional add packages on ongoing basis -- areas of interest. This slide (in handout) was Council's identified focus areas. He noted it was a much shorter list for talking about additional funding. The goal, he said, was to narrow down further to 3 to 5 things. He noted that the conversation started yesterday with things that align well with Parks – equity and inclusion, active transportation, healthier people, and there are a lot of places that Parks and Recreation plug into these established priorities. He noted that the way the process has been mapped out, Council is to take this list, narrow down 3 to 5 priorities. Hopefully that will come to us as soon as possible, maybe in concert with a forecast that comes at the end of November where they give us the likely fiscal situation looking ahead. Mike noted if we do add packages, here's the add package we propose, here's the metric, here's how we move the needle. We need to describe how we measure success.

Tricia Tillman asked about the numbers in parentheses (on handout). Is there any role we can play as body or as individuals to inform Council on our priorities for narrowing this? She noted that we are constantly talking about deferred maintenance, this is not sexy, but so important. She commented that we don't want to get sideways. Claudio Campuzano noted that we asked Council before the work session, if they were to hone in, where would they focus, and the numbers in parentheses represent those areas.

**Native American
Community
Advisory Council
Update**

Andy welcomed the Native American Community Advisory Council, and noted that we are excited to have you here.

Judy Bluehorse Skelton thanked everyone for the opportunity to share what's going on. She noted that they have been meeting monthly for nearly 3 years now. They continue to increase, and welcome more opportunities. She noted that it is important to recognize as part of Native American Heritage month, this time of year is really important, not just as time of harvest, every season has time for thanks, but also recognizing place, land and inform how we live here. How do we live here in a good way? She noted that BPS is looking 40 years out; that's good, but not far enough. She noted the importance of looking into the future, and noted Portland State University's work in environmental sustainability moving forward. Some of the pillars that they are looking at, she noted are how to live here in a good way. Parks strikes to the heart, in all communities, as representing one connection to place. Physical health, but also mental, emotional and spiritual health.

The members of the Native American Community Advisory Council introduced themselves.

Judy noted that they don't have everyone here that comes, but know that no one person speaks for all, and that is certainly true for the Native Community. It was asked if anyone knows how many numbers are represented here in Portland. Over 250 different tribes. It was asked how many tribes are federally recognized in the United States. 560 different tribes, which doesn't include state recognized, or tribes that are not federally recognized. Judy noted that at meetings, the Council works on their history and shared goals. They have been gardening, reindigenizing the urban landscape. Some exciting things were reported with the intertribal garden. They have been developing initial signage with an OMSI Native Science grant, both inclusive of people who have lived here, travelled through the region, and tribal groups represented here today. Before they do that, they need to figure out a few things, like who is responsible for maintaining. The community can cultivate and harvest. It was noted that they want to do it right the first time. They have a working group, looking out to the future and what that looks like. They are looking at Fiscal sponsorship, possibly with the Parks Foundation. There will be an event on November 23rd, north slope restoration area (at Cully Park). It was noted that weeds are popping back up, doing some mulching, reaching out. There will be a seed scattering ceremony, wildflower, they will drink forest tea, and have a delicious lunch. Judy noted that she will be passing out an invitation. The event is open to the public, Saturday, 11/23, land blessing at 10:00 am, seed scattering at 11:00 am, followed by lunch.

Judy noted that plans for the 20,000 square foot piece on the larger Cully park can be found on the "Let Us Build Cully Park" website. They are planting the north slope with 3 acres of culturally significant plants. They have been working with a landscape architect, and Verde. It's the tribal garden that they can most easily implement. Excited about that kicking off. Nick Hardigg noted that the Foundation might be meeting with you about a Friends Group model.

Sheryl Juber announced that the 3rd annual Native Family Fun Day is coming up at Mt. Scott. There will be food, vendors, free swimming.

The revitalization of historical canoe journeys in the Pacific Northwest was discussed. The Youth and Elders Council has prioritized formalizing an urban canoe journey. What does that look like? Multi tribal folks, different canoe cultures, great learning process for the community, and deterrent for our young people to embrace, learning culture and significance. It is still in the development stage, but will involve the Columbia Slough watershed. Connect with building curriculum, wealth of environmental resources, stewardship enhance in partnership with Parks.

It was noted that Grand Ronde and Warms Springs are the only tribes in Portland with active canoe families. They are organizing with state parks, places in Portland actively look for public access to canoe family, visit homelands and songs and dances.

It was noted that there are 280 different tribes. There are diverse voices in 280 tribes. It was noted that there should be a protocol for voices to be heard, and if there is disagreement, there is time to reach consensus. We can't move quickly, we need to truly support the process.

In announcements, Judy noted that the improvements at Westmoreland Park will be coming soon, with an unimpeded salmon run. It is exciting, and she encouraged everyone to check it out. It was also noted that there will be Moccasin Making at Montavilla Community Center.

Eileen Argentina commented that she appreciates all the resources, and time the committee has been spending. Thank you very much for all the work you do.

Andy agreed, and said thank you for all the work you do, and for being our partner.

Adjourn

Andy Nelson adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am.