



# PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

## MEETING SUMMARY

PROJECT: Spring Garden Park PAC #1

DATE: July 16 2015

TIME: 5:30 PM to 8:00 PM

LOCATION: Multnomah Arts Center, 7866 SW Capitol Hwy.

- **Meeting Goals:** Clarify role of the committee
- Develop “Governing Principles” or measures of success
  - Start with goals identified in previous process – are they still relevant? Is something missing? Edits?
- Discuss Master Plan elements and potential Schematic Design elements
- Clarify expectations on where public feedback is needed and where it is not necessary
- Plan for first open house/community gathering on August 4, 2015

**Attendees:** Michael Barton, Sara Childers, Terri Preeg Riggsby, Ray O’Dell, Candy Wells, Kathy Fong-Stephens, Lee Braymen-Cleary, Brian Stevenson, Ken Klein, Lori Howell, Amelia Howell

**Staff:** Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Community Engagement Manager, PP &R; Elise Scolnick, Community Engagement Coordinator, PP&R, Travis Ruybal, Landscape Architect / Project Manager

### I. Introductions and Welcome

- a. Elise Scolnick, Community Engagement Coordinator, gave an introduction to the park planning process. The group introduced themselves with an ice breaker and the facilitator reviewed the agenda and purpose of the meeting.
- b. The PAC members went around the table to tell each other why they were there, serving on the PAC.

- Environmental interest
- Kids and nature play, connection to nature
- Living adjacent to park
- Dog walkers, sharing space important
- Contribute skills to the community
- Representing Friends of Spring Garden Park
- Like to play in the park

#### Administration

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Amanda Fritz, Commissioner  
Mike Abbaté, Director

- c. Ground rules, as listed in the PAC Roles handout, were reviewed. One additional ground rule was added—to finish meetings on time.
- d. **The following Ground Rules were agreed upon by consensus:**
  - **Arrive on time and be prepared for the meeting topics.**
  - **Follow the topics and time set by the agenda.**
  - **Listen carefully and speak honestly.**
  - **Respect the views and opinions of others.**
  - **Keep an open mind.**
  - **Critique issues, not people or organizations.**
  - **Allow everyone the opportunity to speak once before speaking twice.**
  - **Use discussion to clarify information, not advocate for positions.**
  - **Consider the needs and concerns of the local community and the larger city.**
  - **Finish meetings on time.**

In addition, the PAC members agreed on how they will interact with the broader community. They agreed to:

- **Represent the project to the community through the group's consensus decisions, not through their own opinions.**
- e. **Refrain from discussing PAC concerns via electronic communication between each other or the public. If there are questions or concerns of interest, they should be discussed with the PAC at a meeting, or sent to staff for general distribution to the group.**

## **II. What to Expect**

- a. Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong went through the PAC's and City's roles as they pertain to the park planning process.
- b. Decision-making protocol was established with the use of the consensus process. A demonstration of that process helped the PAC members understand how it would work. **The group agreed to use the consensus process in their decision-making** throughout their tenure on the committee.

## **III. Overview of Master Plan:**

Travis Ruybal, gave an overview of the Spring Garden Park Master Plan and the process used to develop it. He showed maps of the site and gave the PAC updated information regarding potential

improvements to the park and to the adjacent right-of-way. Different types of improvements will impact the budget. PAC members were then asked “what makes a great park?” The following comments were shared:

<b>Feature</b>	<b>Park(s)</b>
Slides, playground and hills	Dickinson Park
Swings	Holly Farm Park
Water Features, nature play area	Westmoreland Park and Gresham (name?) Park
Frisbee golf course for older kids	Blue Lake Park has one of these
Wide pathways, natural play area and water feature, good sight lines through the park and use of space	K <sup>h</sup> unamokwst Park
Shady areas, picnic tables, seating and dog amenities	Various parks

Project Parameters were discussed.

**Budget:** The budget is \$3.4M, increased from \$1.5 by Commissioner Fritz’s office and City Council. Much of the increase will go towards right-of-way improvements.

**Site constraints:** include the springs/daylighted creek area that is currently fenced off. Also, topographical constraints such as the steep slope will impact how the site improvements are laid out. Pathways need to be in compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), so some slope grading will need to take place.

**Timeframe:** The current timeline for construction is fall/winter 2016 with an opening in spring 2017. However, site construction during winter may be problematic. Travis noted that unforeseen weather or site conditions may impact the actual opening date. There will be regular communication updates as the project moves forward.

Program elements were presented to the PAC. Some elements will be required, others optional. ADA compliance is required. Playground, pathways, loo, dog off leash area (DOLA), seating areas, and other amenities are all elements to be considered in the park design.

**IV. PAC Vision and Goals**

Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong led the PAC through a visualization exercise to see what the finished park would look like in the mind’s eye. The purpose of this exercise was to help refine the existing goals and concept in the Master Plan.

- Kids playing

- Drinking fountain
- Accessible space for all, beyond the ADA minimum
- Covered space or structure for play, gazebo, sails or other
- Living elements in the park, nature play area
- Interpretive areas
- Native plantings supporting wildlife
- Trees that are viable and support the environment
- A deck built into the slope that's accessible and multipurpose
- A calming ambiance, relaxing

Next, the PAC did a review of the 2003 Master Plan goals and concepts, checking in on whether they are still relevant or need to be updated. The PAC members added the following **bolded** goals to the existing ones in the Master Plan:

- Maintain and enhance the existing character of the park, with its broad, open areas, while meeting the long-term recreational needs of area residents;
- Provide recreational opportunities with facilities that are consistent with those found in other neighborhood parks, where appropriate;
- Protect and restore the natural resource areas, providing access where appropriate, but ensuring that protection of the resource values is a priority in these areas; and
- Use the park as an educational resource for children and adults.
- **Create opportunities for more inclusive access.**
- **Create a place where people feel safe, secure and comfortable.**

## V. Project Schedule

- Elise Scolnick reviewed the schedule and what to expect for the meetings and community gatherings/open houses. A schedule was provided to PAC members at the meeting.
- August 4, 2015 the first Community Gathering/Open House will take place at Spring Garden Park for National Night Out. Time is 6-8 PM. PAC members were asked to attend, but are not required to do so. There will be an opportunity for the public to weigh in on the Master Plan and concepts, as well as share their visions for the park. The goal of the open house is to set project program elements so that schematic designs can be created.

**VI. Public Comment:** At the end of the meeting PAC members were asked to share what they most appreciated about the meeting. Most appreciated that they were heard, the meeting was kept on track and on time.

**Next Meeting:** Next PAC meeting is **Thursday, August 24, 2015 [5:30-7:30pm]** at **Fire Station 18, 8720 SW 30<sup>th</sup> Avenue.**