



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
October 7, 2015  
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.  
Lovejoy Room, City Hall**

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**Board members present:** Andy Nelson, Jeff Anderson, Sue Van Brocklin, Patricia Frobos, Dion Jordan, Judy Bluehorse Skelton, Jim Owens, Linda Robinson, Kathy Fong Stephens, Tony Magliano

**Board members absent:** Tonya Booker, Kendall Clawson, Ian Jaquiss, Meryl Redisch, Christa (Thoeresz) Stout, Julie Vigeland, Mauricio Villarreal

**PP&R Staff present:** Margaret Evans, Warren Jimenez, Kia Selley, Jennifer Yocom

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**Call to order** Judy Bluehorse Skelton called the meeting to order at 8:10.

**Park of the Month** Judy reported on the park of the month, Hoyt Arboretum. She said that her students have noticed that they are not all native plants. It's a tree museum of sorts. A tree collection. It's one of the favorite places to go. You'll see children hiding. There is a great trail. Visitors to Portland like to see that nature in the city. They have a great visitor's center, and workshops, including winter tree I.D. They will take you on a walk in the forest, and help you identify deciduous trees. It's a wonderful place. Judy noted that she used to struggle with not having native trees, but it has its roots in botanical gardens, and people being able to see species from around the world. They have a great walk with the Redwoods and Sequoias. Linda noted that the Maple walk will be pretty this time of year. Judy added that Portland was rated 9<sup>th</sup> on the top ten list for fall colors.

October's park of the month will be Kenilworth Park in SE Portland. Judy noted that it is a nice little park near Grout Elementary. Kathy Fong Stephens will visit. She lives near the park.

**Commissioner's update** Warren Jimenez noted that Patti Howard is sick today, and sends her regards. She will update us next time. Linda asked for a status update on Under Armour, and Warren noted he would be happy to update the Board during the Director's update.

**Public Testimony** No public testimony.

**Approval of the minutes** Jim Owens moved to approve the September minutes, Sue seconded. The Board passed the minutes.

**Park Foundation Update** Judy introduced the Portland Park Foundation's new Executive Director, Jeff Anderson. He told the board that he is just beginning day three, and is absorbing a lot of information. He added that he looks forward, very much, to his interaction with this group outside of the confines of meetings, to find out what they would like

the foundation to be doing. He has been at the Oregon Community Foundation for 16 years, managing the community grants program. He was COO, and left during the summer for a variety of reasons. He was looking for something new and interesting to do, and feels he has found that here. He is a long time park user, adding that his children worked at the Portland pools for years. With his family, he has attended many concerts, and spent lots of time enjoying the beauty of the parks. That's something he feels very hands on about.

Parks Board members introduced themselves to Jeff Anderson.

This is a big weekend for the Parks Foundation. Jeff noted that there are upwards of 500 signed up at this point to help out at Parke Diem. Jeff added that he will be out there, and will use it as a learning opportunity as much as anything.

Judy added that if you haven't signed up, it's not too late, you can just show up. You have the full list. She noted that the many members of the Board will be going out to the Children's Arboretum on Friday if you'd like to join. She will be bringing some of her PSU students. Linda Robinson noted that she will be at Gateway Green on Saturday. Judy added that Commissioner Fritz will be at Whitaker Ponds on Friday.

**Chair & board  
business**

Judy asked committees to report. Sue Van Brocklin noted that the Communications Committee will be meeting in October, and they are looking for another member. They would love for anyone interested to join them on the 23<sup>rd</sup>.

Jim Owens reported on the Employment Zoning Proposal, as part of City's Comp Plan. He noted that at the last meeting, there were concerns that a number of us had. There are concerns raised by the Urban Forestry Commission, Portland Audubon, and others. Jim noted that they met as a subcommittee, and learned that there had been some positive changes made in response to some of these concerns, but not positive enough. The subcommittee is working on a draft, and the Board will see that soon. The goal is for the Board to have something to present at the Planning Commission public hearing on the 27<sup>th</sup>.

Jim noted that one of the things brought up by Audubon is that this plan is looking at industrial zoning, and it is doing it independently of other zoning projects. It's not looking at how industrial zoning would fit with environmental zoning, residential, or other uses. It's being done in a vacuum. So we are making decisions about how we zone for industrial uses without considering the effects on parks, open spaces, natural areas, residential uses, etc. So that is an issue that Audubon has raised, and Jim thinks we should also raise. He noted that the Planning Bureau has agreed that 2 acre parks or less could be allowed in these employment zones as an outright use. Currently, city parks can be used anywhere as an outright use. Initially this zoning plan prohibited parks, period. It has moved to allow parks of less than 2 acres *if* it is a trailhead, river access, or local community parks. But no general community use parks would be allowed. If the bureau wanted to propose a general community park of any size, or a local community park of more than 2 acres, it would require a Comp Plan amendment, which is about a \$50,000 process. This bureau would have to pay another City bureau \$50,000 to consider whether we want a public park. Jim added that the whole concept rankles him. He added that originally there was a

proposal for an \$8 per square foot mitigation fee for a park. So, if you did have a park in an employment zone, you would have to pay the city \$8 per square foot for that park. Jim noted that the only mitigation program we have in the city right now is for effects on open space and parks. So if you are doing commercial, residential or industrial that has an adverse effect on parks, you have to mitigate. Right now, you have to mitigate by providing equivalent land somewhere. That is proposed to go away. It has had such a negative reaction that planning staff is proposing to get rid of this. Why is this important? This is 20 % of the City's land base, all of the City's waterfront, and Columbia Slough. Rather Draconian. Jim added that he did have an opportunity to meet with Corky Collier, of Columbia Corridor. He noted that the industrial interests think they've given up way too much, and are not going to move too much on this.

Warren Jimenez noted that he and Brett Horner have met with East Multnomah Soil and Water Conservation district, they've expressed serious concerns. He ran into Tony DeFalco from Verde and flagged this issue for him. Warren thinks there are opportunities, and there are other partners who we can bring in.

Linda Robinson noted that she sits on the Columbia Slough Watershed Council. The biggest issue they have raised is that the overlay goes over the Columbia Slough entirely, including all the environmental zone buffers. The coding doesn't say that those areas are exempt from the overlay. Linda added that her understanding is that there are a number of properties that Parks owns that are not carved out, including a significant piece at big four corners. She said that there should be another process, other than a comp plan change; another way to appeal. There may be an existing natural area that is larger than 2 acres, that doesn't make sense for industrial use. There should be a way to make those appeals. There are portions of the Slough that don't have any buffer. Linda added that the Environmental Zone should be updated, and it should be updated before this industrial overlay is finalized. The review they have been trying to do needs to be done.

Kathy Fong Stephens asked Jim for a timeline. Jim said we will have to get this out right away for the subcommittee, and then distribute to the whole board, and ask for electronic action. October 27<sup>th</sup> is the planning and sustainability commission.

Judy asked Warren if Verde and east Multnomah County will have letters, and be there on the 27<sup>th</sup>. Warren said we will need to help get them up to speed, but suspects they will want to be there to support.

**Equity Subcommittee**

Dion Jordan reported for the Equity Subcommittee, noting that Tonya Booker couldn't be here. The subcommittee met earlier, and they are working to find a time and location for regular meetings that works for everyone. They discussed ways that they can help keep awareness around equity work in our Board meetings. For all presentations to the Board, they want to make sure equity is considered and addressed. How are issues of equity being addressed in each project? Does it meet the goals? They want to make sure those questions are at the forefront.

Linda Robinson noted that there is definitely an equity issue that needs to be addressed in terms of this industrial overlay, in terms of who lives in those areas, and who will be most affected.

**Quarterly Off Site  
Board Meetings**

Judy Bluehorse Skelton noted that they are looking at the Board's seasonal calendar, and looking to add quarterly meetings where we can meet out in the community at a community center.

Linda Robinson said that the first board meeting she went to was out at East Portland Community Center. That was years ago, and they haven't done it since.

Sue Van Brocklin asked if the communications committee should look at this, and come up with a recommendation. Judy noted that they need to consider access, and evening hours. It is critical we get the word out to the community. For example, we have a 2 minute public comment piece, but she is not sure a lot of people know that.

**Ex-officio** Andy Nelson reported that he will come back to the Board on July 1<sup>st</sup> with recommendations on the ex-officio members. It's a slower process, but good to keep on the agenda.

**Bond Update**

Dion reported on the Bond Oversight Committee. Dion is chairing the board, working alongside Mary Anne. Dion noted that the committee also includes Don Grotting from David Douglas Schools; Karen Loper, former PP&R Volunteer Coordinator and Outreach and Communications Manager; Jonath Colon, Hispanic Metropolitan Chamber; and Zari Santner, former PP&R Director. They held their first meeting a couple of months ago, which was mainly an introduction. They will be meeting again this coming Friday, and will be talking about mission and goals, and how they want to move forward. They will discuss the metrics they will use to measure work, and prepare for presentation for City Council. He is excited about the energy around it.

Warren noted, as a reminder, that when City Council referred issues to the ballot, it established an oversight committee. That committee was a 5 member oversight committee. Each City Council member could appoint a member to the oversight committee. As a result, the folks Dion mentioned were the folks appointed by the Council. He noted that he just wanted to remind everyone of the process.

Mary Anne Cassin noted that the oversight committee's job is to go to City Council every year and tell them how they think we are doing on the bond. Mary Anne added that she has had a long history with parks. She was with PP&R for 22 years, on the Parks Board in between. She thought she was retired, but she's back, and very happy to be here.

Mary Anne gave an overview of the history of bonds, noting that bonds have been essential. Unfortunately, she said, there is an uneven history of how bonds were passed. As the city grew, it was very dependent on bonds and levies to grow the system. There was a long period where there was very little bond money, and very little development. That was when the city was growing to the east, and there wasn't any bond money to do anything. There was a gap between the 50s and the late 80s, where no bonds or levies were passed.

The emphasis on this bond, Mary Anne noted, is that it is focused on urgent repairs,

with the exception of east Portland. The emphasis is repair and replacement. 7 focus areas – this is how we are tracking the expenditures. Playgrounds is a big area of emphasis. We have ceilings or floors in terms of how we are spending. Pools – at least 5 million. Trails – at least 5 million, protecting workers – (ceiling) no more than 5 million. Pioneer Square – up to 10 million. The square has a 20 year membrane that has been in place for 30 years. It's a complicated project. Accessibility – up to 5 million. The entrance to the rose garden is a focus. The whole promenade will become accessible. A huge focus is restrooms and urgent repairs to buildings.

As of 2 weeks ago, Mary Anne noted, we are fully staffed. The bond team includes 4 ½ project managers. We have a procurement specialist, community relations specialist, and one part time bond manager. All first issue projects are assigned. Even if it is a year away, they know it is coming. 24 projects are underway. The furthest along is Grant Pool – we have a deadline to get that up and running by next summer.

RFP's are out for on call services. In contrast to the last bond, the management is internal, but we will be contracting out a lot of the work.

Within the team, we are looking at lessons learned from the last bond measure. Professional audit as part, and City Council will be extra level of scrutiny. It is a \$68 million dollar bond. Only \$48 million are named at this time. Second issue \$20 million will involve public input as part of the budget process. That will include a list of urgent needs.

Judy asked about the second phase, and what community engagement will look like. She asked if those projects have already been identified. Mary Anne said that there is an existing project list, and staff does a ranking. It will go through the budget advisory process, and will be on the same timeline. Judy noted that the Board will be taking a look at that at BAC, but wondered if there is another layer in taking it out to the community? She added that when we went through the Budget Advisory process, there were things that we didn't put our dots on, but someone said, "these will get done whether you put dots on them or not." She said she realized there was already identified projects that will get done, so she is asking will those projects be identified by Parks, or will the community have a chance to identify their needs.

Warren said that part of what we need to reinforce between now and when that next list is generated is going out to the communities, and asking them what they are seeing, so that we can get those things on that capital projects list. We are collecting a list. There is a process that we go through annually. There is a lot of criteria, which was established with your feedback. That will be the starting point for us to generate a list that will be a lot more than \$20 million, and we will take that list to BAC to make those decisions.

Linda Robinson asked which year that will happen, and Warren said that it will be 2017. Mary Anne added that we are hoping to have more than \$20 million.

Kia Selley added that when we bring that list, we identify which projects are really critical that could lead to closures, programmatic cuts, or safety failures. We will go

through those and identify those that are really, really critical. Judy said that would be good.

Kathy Fong Stephens asked if there are other projects where the bond will cover most, but there may be a little more needed. If folks wanted a fully accessible playground for example.

Mary Anne said that priorities are being jointly developed. As far as hard capital dollars. Kia noted that there aren't extra resources at this time, but certainly there will be more they want to do, and could be a phase 2, if they were able to fundraise.

Tony Magliano asked about criteria we are looking at when determining priority for the projects on this list. Obviously safety and severity of needs, he said, but also neighborhoods served in terms of equity. He added that he can't remember how those things are weighted.

Kia said that we do have an equity score. We will circulate that criteria list to the Parks Board again. Warren added that what we strive for in generating that list, is part of the geographic equity piece. There is a bit more discretion there, and we strive to move that forward. Mary Anne added that even when deciding which targets to move forward first, we looked at geography.

Judy asked if there will be an opportunity to buy new bricks for the PCS project, and Mary Anne said yes. Judy asked if we have a recycling process for the bricks, and Mary Anne said we will likely not have many come out as whole bricks.

Andy Nelson asked about communication process. Jennifer Yocom said that we had a massive thank you after the bond passed. We are putting information in guides, and messaging about projects done in various efforts. One message we want to carry through is that this work is not done, it will not be a final solution. You will see broad citywide messaging about the bond.

Gladys Ruiz asked if there is a way we can get talking points because we are out in the community, and a lot of people are asking about that.

Mary Anne said yes, and would appreciate that.

Warren noted that we are still using bond.org

#### **Director's Update**

- **BAC**

Warren noted that Mike is on vacation, so he asked him to update the Board on a couple of things. You should have seen a message from Megan for tentative dates for the budget process. We will be checking in with Commissioner Fritz, and finalizing those dates as soon as we possibly can. We want to get on people's calendars and find that space to have those conversations

- **Equity Roadmap/Equity Dialogues**

Warren reported on the Bureau's Equity Roadmap and Equity Dialogues. He noted that the Office of Equity and Human rights (OEHR), last year, created a process for city bureaus to go through to establish a 5 year plan. Part is a baseline assessment for all bureaus to complete. Currently, parks is doing that baseline assessment. We are doing some self-assessment on how we are doing on the equity front. The tool

is comprehensive, talks about programs and services, as well as perceptions on how we are doing internally. Art Hendricks has talked about this. We feel like it is a good process for assessment. We have four groups: Planning & Assets which Kia leads; Recreation which Eileen leads; City Nature – Astrid and Jenn have stepped up to lead since Deb's retirement; and the Director's office. Warren noted that for the Director's group, he has delivered a survey to ask how we are doing. We are creating an action plan based on assessment on how we move our equity agenda forward.

We are currently going through equity dialogues, which includes a couple of different groups. One is SMT (Senior Management Team), one is DEC (Diversity & Equity Committee), and our FEST (Fostering Equity Support Team). Those three groups have been coming together for the past 2 months, talking about how we are doing internally on the equity front. From his perspective, Warren noted, it has been a really good opportunity for those groups to gain understanding, and awareness of the issues and impacts on our employees, and the work we are doing as a Bureau to build strength between those groups. We hired two really good facilitators to help us through those conversations. It has been a series of conversations, and also included a tour that talked about affordability of housing and gentrification. It has been a great opportunity to build and strengthen those relationships. With that, comes vulnerability, and hard conversations to have. Everyone has come to the table genuine, willing to share experiences. It has been a powerful process to date. This is a start of something. The next piece, in terms of our 5<sup>th</sup> meeting, will be where do we go from here. One of his hopes, Warren said, is that there will be that one thing we can work on together that will make an impact in this area.

Judy asked if Warren will be able to follow up with Board after that 5<sup>th</sup> meeting if you are able to identify something.

Jim Owens asked about going out and meeting in community, and thanked Parks for integrating that into the Budget process. He asked about the sequence in getting that feedback earlier, as opposed to doing it after it has already been honed. As a Board, he added, he would like to talk about what we would like to do in advance. He added that would be more productive for us.

Warren noted that we attempted to do that last year in the Parks Board meeting. We tried to get that early feedback. We are trying to get that earlier feedback on what is important to you guys because the more you can provide to us earlier, the better we can do in getting our thinking around it. Warren thinks it's a great idea, but wants to be realistic in our constraints. This is more about waiting for Council direction on what is the budget charge for each bureau. We may get this at the end of October or early November – hopefully we get that sooner, hopefully we get it soon enough to get to all of you early in the process.

Andy Nelson asked about the equity process, noting that it sounds like a good process. What are we solving for? May be multiple things.

Warren said that part of the reason to start the process is that we heard from members of FEST it would be good to strengthen understanding between SMT,

DEC, FOST our experiences to date with the Bureau. Part of that is going about this piece with equity to gain understanding from our employees of color, as well as build a closer relationship. That was the intention, to get at some of those issues. As you go through conversation, he added, you have to be open to where that conversation leads you. Warren noted that he thinks this upcoming 5<sup>th</sup> meeting will be important. His hope is that we've gained that understanding, and will look to identify the one thing we should be focusing on to positively impact our folks.

Andy said that is helpful, and part of good equity work is looking at who gets to enjoy park services and programs. Historically people of color haven't enjoyed at the same rate. He added that he thinks that is why people join the Parks Board too. We have great facilities, great programs, but it's important to identify who is using them and benefitting.

Warren noted that this process has been more internal. They are focusing on our internal work, so that we can better provide those services.

Gladys Ruiz noted that she commends the Bureau for going through this process. She asked if there a plan for supporting those folks? There is always a need to diversify the workforce. She asked about the Fostering Equity Support Team – what is that? An affinity group?

Warren said that is a good comparison, it is an affinity group of employees of color in the spirit of supporting each other. Gladys asked in SMT, and DEC, are you looking at how you can support them? Gladys added that in her experience, you talk, and it brings up more, and asked about a process to tackle retribution.

Warren noted that the space is to allow honest conversations. They let folks know the space is safe. He added that our hope is that people know from a leadership perspective, we are committed to that. If we don't have ability to have those honest conversations, we don't have the ability to grow as a Bureau. Warren added that he is acknowledging that hearing some of these things, are going to be difficult to hear. His hope is that they can hear them in a way that is compassionate, yet honest.

Kia Selley added that things she has heard from her team, will require her to work more with the Bureau of Human Resources (BHR) to bring resolutions. There were things that have been identified for her that she can quickly nip in the bud. Particularly for our staff of color, she added, we as managers are going to need to earn their trust, by implementing some of those actions.

Judy commented that these will be long term conversations, and it is exciting that Parks is recognizing this is more than a quick workshop. She added that the Bureau is doing the work as a nation that we haven't done. Puts pressure on smaller organizations to do. She added that Mayor Hales will be reading a proclamation for Indigenous Peoples' day. She noted that recently they had graduate students, and educators meeting on sustainability at Brentwood Darlington park. She asked them to talk about sense of place. She mentioned that the Doctrine of Discovery impacted a lot of what happened in America, and that 25 graduate students didn't know what that was. The Doctrine of Discovery, she said was from 1493 from the pope – it's still on books. It came after Columbus's visit, and said that anyone you

encounter who is not Christian, they do not have access to ownership of the land, and are not considered human. That is still on the books. Judy asked, how do we educate each other about laws that are still out there that continue to impact people?

Warren added that it comes out of a commitment to our mission. It comes from a place of really caring for what we do. That is the thread. He noted that it is a big group, 30 of us. People have participated in a way that is really honest. You are right. It is a start. Consider how you sustain that. Warren added that he can only speak for himself, he is also a participant.

Jennifer Yocom added that the fair housing tour they did, made that history real – history of redlining, displacement, hate crimes, internment. She noted that it really made an impact on people

Dion Jordan said he heard it was a real eye opener for people.

Kathy Fong Stephens noted that there is a large focus on communities of color in our work. She added that it is more than filling the parks with demographics of people of color. It is also about economics. She noted that it is important to have representation on the board, people who are not just diverse racially, or ethnically, but people who are in apartments. She said that areas of communities of color can be easily identifiable. But there are issues of generational poverty. Work is not done.

Dion asked about the diversity of FEST, and DEC – are those mostly managers? Warren said that FEST is made up mostly with frontline folks. DEC is more of a mix, there are some managers, but primarily people coming from the field, or recreation.

- **Under Armour** Linda asked for insights on Under Armour.

Warren noted that at the time when the City announced the partnership with Under Armour, they had expressed interest in investing in the parks. The City leadership talked about that publicly initially. With that comes the complexity of a historic partner with Nike. City Council has had a lot of conversations with Nike, our long term partner, as well as Under Armour, a new partner to our City. It got complicated, and led to our Parks Commissioner, and the Bureau, deciding to allow the partnership to move forward.

Linda said that her understanding was that the Mayor was trying to force the agreement to be approved by City Council.

Warren said that the Parks Commissioner has the ability to execute this agreement. That is what we decided to do. The permit has been signed.

Jim noted that a lot of you have noticed Director Park has been under construction. It's a fascinating situation. Private money, matches public money, and then the public gets tagged with failing infrastructure. He added that we may want to look at what is the ongoing private responsibility when it becomes a public facility.

**Meeting adjourned** Judy announced that Council will read the declaration of Indigenous People's Day today. Metro will be having a big announcement. Multnomah County is having a reading tomorrow.

Judy adjourned the meeting at 9:30.