



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
November 4, 2015
8:00 – 9:30 a.m.
Lovejoy Room, City Hall**

Board members present: Jeff Anderson, Judy Bluehorse Skelton, Tonya Booker, Patricia Frobes, Meryl Redisch, Linda Robinson, Gladys Ruiz, Sue Van Brocklin, Julie Vigeland

Board members absent: Kendall Clawson, Kathy Fong Stephens, Ian Jaquiss, Dion Jordan, Tony Magliano, Andy Nelson, Jim Owens, Christa (Thoeresz) Stout, Mauricio Villarreal

PP&R Staff present: Mike Abbaté, Trang Lam, Jeff Shaffer, Jennifer Yocom

Call to order Judy Bluehorse Skelton called the meeting to order at 8:05.

Park of the Month Kathy Fong Stephens was absent, so she will report on the October park of the month, Kenilworth Park, in December.

November’s park of the month will be Kelly Point Park, and Patricia Frobes will report.

Commissioner’s update Warren Jimenez noted that Patti Howard is out, and there will be no report from the Commissioner’s office this month.

Public Testimony No public testimony.

Approval of the minutes Julie Vigeland moved to approve the September minutes, Patricia Frobes seconded. The Board passed the minutes.

Chair & board business Judy reported that Mauricio Villarreal gives his regrets, misses us all, but has been very busy, professionally. He has been out of state a lot, and has missed a lot of meetings. He will continue to have commitments out of town next year as well, and feels he must resign from the Board.

Mike Abbaté noted that in thinking about the things the bureau is working on, with the bond, someone like Mauricio is really important to have on the Board. He recommended trying to find someone like Mauricio, who is involved in the planning and design process.

Julie Vigeland asked, since it is mid-year, if we have to open it up. Mike said that we may have discretion, and he will talk to Commissioner Fritz about that. Julie added that it seems like there is a valid reason to target that expertise. She recommended asking Mauricio, and Zari Santner for recommendations. Tonya Booker agreed with moving forward instead of waiting.

Mike said that we will pull together the nominating committee.

Megan was asked to send out the ex-officio document.

**Employment
Zoning
Committee** Brett Horner reported for the employment zoning committee, noting that Jim Owens is out of the country. They received feedback from the Planning & Sustainability Commission – Parks Board testimony was well received, and well done.

Judy added that Eric Engstrom sent an e-mail, noting that it would be a good idea for the Parks Board to be at the City Council hearing on November 19th to testify. The e-mail also clarified corrected language in the draft document. She added that she wanted to share the e-mail because we haven't had a detailed update from their office. They are willing to come to a Parks Board meeting to update the Board.

Linda Robinson asked about the typo, noting that what we have been looking at all these years was the opposite of what was intended.

Mike Abbaté said that PP&R staff have been working very closely with the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability (BPS). Last week we had a work session with City Council. Mike was able to articulate the position that the Parks Board, PP&R staff and Commissioner all share the same concerns. The City Council is well aware. They were all there. Brett provided maps with neighborhoods with no parks, but people living there, noting that if you do a zoning change, these people will never get a park. Brett added that the work session went really well. He thinks they will make changes. Whether it's far enough in our direction, he doesn't know. On November 19th, they will be looking at broad overall policy, and not getting into the nitty gritty. Employment zoning will be a small piece of the Comp Plan. It is focused on protecting industrial areas from parks. Historically it has gone the other way. Brett added that the notion that parks is somehow a threat to industrial land is something we want to address.

Judy noted that the main sticking point is a large recreational facility. Brett added that now we can get a 2 acre park, but if we want to go larger than that we have to do a comp plan amendment. Often times, he said, when we have the opportunity to buy land, we don't say we just want 2 acres of your 18 acres.

Linda Robinson noted that when they tried to acquire 2 acres in Gateway, PP&R said they want at least 3 or 4. Brett confirmed that when we are looking at land for a neighborhood park, 3 or 4 acres is really ideal. K^hunamokwst is 2.5, we can work with it, but 3 or 4 is better. Meryl Redisch added that when looking at planting large trees, we look to park land.

Mike asked the Board if they want to address that specific policy at the November 19th hearing, and if they prefer to provide written or verbal testimony. He noted that we can arrange for opportunity to testify. Linda asked if they will be taking public testimony as well. Brett said yes, and Mike added that it will be long.

Judy noted that Planning & Sustainability may recognize Parks as a sister organization that should be given priority. She has made that request, but hasn't

heard back. She noted that it can be a deterrent, to have to be there at 3:00 or 4:00 to sign up, and wait for hours. Having a confirmed time would be helpful.

Julie Vigeland noted that she is not going to be spokesman, but for those who are, it will be important that they are coordinated. Judy noted that two or more of the subcommittee (Judy Bluehorse Skelton, Meryl Redisch, Kathy Fong Stephens and Jim Owens) plan to be there. If we could be on the testimony agenda that would be nice.

**Equity
Subcommittee**

Tonya Booker reported for the Equity Subcommittee. They have been meeting monthly, continuing to talk about ways we can ensure that we are bringing up an equity focus. They want to highlight that in presentations we would like to ask questions about fairness and inclusion. They have looked at their own equity work on committees they are on, looking at organizations, and encouraging a deeper level of involvement. Dion Jordan has been very passionate about it, though he wasn't at the last meeting. Tonya added that Art Hendricks has given them updates on the Equity Roadmap internally. She added that they will review as sounding board in January and February. The committee will not be meeting in November or December. In January, they will meet on the east side. They will look to Tabor, Montavilla, or East Portland Community Center, and Art will coordinate.

Gladys Ruiz added that they discussed the Budget Advisory Committee and whether the space is welcoming for our community partners. They want to avoid tokenism, and be more effective in that process.

Julie Vigeland noted that she did some document archaeology, and found the document that was created in 2011 or 12 on guidelines for presentations to the Board. For anybody who presents to us, she noted the hardest thing is always to make sure that document is given to whoever is presenting. Mike said that if it is staff, he can share those. We can look and see if there are presentations falling short. He added that we need to leave time for interaction. Julie added that it should be equal amount of time. Mike said that we can put this issue on an upcoming agenda, and ask staff and board to read presentation guidelines, and talk about it.

Meryl Redisch asked if it is too short notice to review presentations two weeks in advance. Mike said that sometimes staff might be working on their presentation the night before.

Mike said that we can ensure that people who are presenting automatically get the guidelines. We will send out guidelines for the December meeting.

Linda added that before the guidelines were created, people came in, gave presentation and left. There wasn't even time for Q/A before. Gladys noted that part of that is putting it on us. Our job as Board is to ask those questions. As liaisons, we should be asking those questions. Tonya added that it is a priority for the Board and the Bureau; it is what we see as our role.

Mike said that Megan will send the guidelines, and add to the agenda for December.

**Communications
Subcommittee**

Sue Van Brocklin reported that the communications subcommittee (Christa Stout, Jennifer Yocom, and spirit of Julie Vigeland) met. They talked about off-site meetings. If there was a wish list to make board more visible, and support the Bureau. One idea was profiles of Board members in the news. Sue noted that there was a lovely, charming profile of Dion Jordan near father's day. They think Judy will be perfect next. Jennifer will work with her staff on that concept. Sue added that we have a great group of people on the Board.

They also discussed speaking engagements. In the past, they have been ad hoc. Judy Bluehorse Skelton spoke at a Colwood event. Mike Alexander did Dawson Park, and Linda Robinson did a Summer Free For All event. The subcommittee talked about making these speaking engagements for Board members more intentional.

They discussed a marketing plan. Jennifer and her staff could use the Communications Subcommittee as a sounding board. They discussed opinion pieces, and letters to the editor around the Renew Forest Park Initiative.

**Quarterly Off Site
Board Meetings**

Judy noted that they have discussed holding meetings in different places, and at different times, as a way to give the community access to the Board. This used to be done all the time. Julie Vigeland added that it was about two times a year. Judy noted that with this group, some people have small children, some teach at night, the group has signed on for Wednesday mornings once a month, and she wonders if it will be possible to meet off-site. They would like to try one of these in the next six months, call it a pilot, and then ask: How did time of day work? How did going out to location work? How did getting word out to community work? Did people come to give testimony?

Mike added that they were thinking about doing it 3 times a year. The tour in June would be one off site. Then we would do one in February, and one in October. The key question, he asked, is are you interested in doing things off site? Is there a time of day that works? We could try in February at Colwood. They have a great meeting room, and it could be a place to start. Megan can send out a doodle poll to see if there is a day or time that works that first week of February. Sue noted that it will be a lot of effort and work for staff.

Tonya Booker noted that in timing for places, February may not be the best time to see Colwood. She added that going out to sites is linked to the goal of looking at the programming piece. She suggested going to a center where they can see a program. Mike asked if the Board would like to take a time before or after to have a tour of the site, noting that it will become a longer time commitment. He suggested that the meeting start at 4, and have everyone arrive at 3 for tour.

Linda Robinson asked if they should schedule time for local community to speak. Mike noted that we already have built into our agenda public testimony.

Patricia Frobbs noted that we will need to be clear about what we are trying to achieve. Dictates place, time, and that we want to get community out. We may want to allow more than 10 minutes. If we really want to reach out, there may be different requirements for childcare.

Julie noted that as part of the doodle, they may want to ask if individuals can do it at all, as well as asking for preferred start time. Sue noted that late afternoon, early evening might work best. Tonya asked if it would work to pick the facility first. Mike gave a list of potential sites: Colwood Golf Course, East Portland Community Center, Multnomah Arts Center (MAC), Mt. Scott Community Center, Matt Dishman Community Center, Charles Jordan Community Center, and the Community Music Center (CMC). Julie said that the Board has never met at MAC or CMC. Mike recommended the Community Music Center. He said they would be interested in having the Board come, they have some amazing programs, and they are looking at expanding, particularly into east Portland. They are full. The CMC operates through a partnership with Community Music Center, Inc. They provide scholarships. This would be an opportunity for them to speak to the Board. Mike will talk to the center director, Gregory Dubay.

**Native American
Community
Advisory Council
Update**

Judy Bluehorse Skelton reported that she is honored to invite members of the Native American Community Advisory Council. Today, she noted, there will be a proclamation at Council for Native American Heritage Month. Last month, Indigenous Peoples' Day was recognized in Council Chambers. It's a really exciting time. We have members of the community here. Judy introduced Elizabeth Kennedy Wong, noting that she and Karen Guillen-Chapman are with the Council every month. The Council meets every third Wednesday, from 11 to 1 pm. She added that they do meet at different locations, and find this to be a great way to further engagement of the Native community. The community advises on programming, policy, naming of parks. Judy noted that Shawna Zierdt has put together highlight real.

The Council members introduced themselves:

Shawna Zierdt, Cow Creek Band of Umpqua Tribe of Indians;

Katy Holland, who works with the Confederated Tribes of Siletz in the area office in Portland, and is also an enrolled member. She noted that her daughter used parks throughout her life. She wants to encourage native youth to participate in active recreation, teams, sports. She noted that they have two gardens. Parks has given scholarships for those gardens. She added that they give this food out to their elders, and those in need.

Sherry Scott, Umatilla Tribe, Bow and Arrow Club, and her grand-daughter Viviana. Shawna added that this year was the 45th annual Bow and Arrow event, the Delta Park Pow Wow. They are the oldest native club, and the Delta Park Pow Wow is the oldest event.

Shawn presented a slide show. She noted that they have been working on the planning for an upcoming Cully park inter-tribal gathering. They are also assisting the Bureau with park naming. They celebrated K^hunamokwst Park at the grand opening celebration. Other projects include native art selection and installation at South Waterfront greenway, the upcoming Annual Native Family Day at Mt. Scott Community Center, and the second annual salmon celebration at Westmoreland park. November is Native American Heritage Month. Shawna noted their monthly meetings are a time for to take a pause, gather, and reflect on their work. She

welcomed everyone to come to the Pow Wow. Sherry Scott added that everything is free, and Shawna noted that culturally we do not charge for events. Everything is free.

Shawna showed images of the inter-tribal gathering garden at Cully Park, and the celebration at K^hunamokwst. She noted that PP&R comes to them, and asks what would they like to have as a presence? This is an opportunity to invite people from their community to come and have a presence at these events. They are opportunities to share. She added that they had a community craft table at the event, and gathered culturally important plant materials.

Judy added that they have an expanded relationship with Metro, and other land based organizations. She is really excited about PP&R's program of Ecological Sustainable Landscapes. They are meeting with Emily Roth and Sarah Huggins, looking at old parks that need tweaking with grass growing, native plants, and cultural significance.

Judy added that the K^hunamokwst opening event was a great day. Shawna noted that her daughter gifted the Mayor salmon. She added that it was a great opportunity to bring their children in; she appreciated the space to have her daughter come in and have a role in our community.

It is exciting to have indigenous art represented in our park space. Judy noted that Lillian Pitt is moved by being in proximity to Ross Island. This artwork is going to be incredible. Designed as Guardian of the River.

Native American family day is coming up. Judy welcomed the Parks Board to join the Council at Mt. Scott Community Center on November 28th. This is the third year for the event, with hands on activities for youth. Last year, they did bracelets. There will be demonstrations, dancing, and a marketplace for local people who make jewelry, and dolls. They are able to come in and sell. The Community Center is open for free swimming and free skating. We have a ton of kids come in and take part. The Bow and Arrow club provides fried bread and other things for the event.

Judy introduced Sheryl Juber, who has been with PP&R Aquatics for 23 years. Sheryl noted that when they started the event, many people hadn't been to our community centers. They come and see that there are activities they would like to do. Work with great people, in the community. Judy noted that they are so grateful to have Sheryl there.

Judy talked about the Salmon Celebration at Sunday Parkways. This is an incredible partnership with PBOT. Mayor Hales got a salmon t-shirt. Judy encouraged everyone to go out to Westmoreland Park, noting that the salmon are out spawning. On Sept. 27th, for the Salmon Celebration at Parkways, the salmon weren't there. They waited until October. Judy noted that it was one of the biggest attendance yet with Sunday parkways. A lot of Siletz were there doing bracelets, cultural programming.

Shawna added that all of their events are dense with cultural awareness, and cross cultural sharing. They want to help demystify some of the stereotypes around our

culture. They open with a blessing, and honor the people who come and share their knowledge. They planned for 9 months. There are a lot of rich conversations happening around the table.

Judy added that when we talk about equity and outreach, what does that look like being in trenches? Strengthening relationships with people and place. It is more than coming to make a presentation, these are our family and friends. A lot of our knowledge has been disconnected, especially in an urban sphere. We are able to connect with our family. Images of restoration, part of a larger conversation, as people come, how do we greet them?

Shawna showed slides from Oaks Bottom, noting that they are educating the community on native plants, and looking at reconnecting with the land. Shawna added that this is also a way to share employment opportunities.

Judy invited the Parks Board members to join the Native American Community Advisory Council tonight 11/4 at the Student Native American Center for traditional food from 5:00 to 8:00. There will be presentations on indigenous land management practices, and community building. She also reminded the Board of the Council reading scheduled for today.

Mike added that the Bureau is so much richer because of the time and energy you spend.

**PP&R/School
District
Collaborations**

Trang Lam gave a summary of PP&R's relationships with the school districts in the Portland area. She noted that the Bureau has two ways of working with School Districts, through programming or facilities. With programming, partnerships include using facilities as well but focused on the programming.

With Riverdale, she noted, we don't have any programs, or agreements to share facilities. We work with education services district, funding for preschool, mainly for special needs students. With Centennial, David Douglas, and Parkrose School Districts, our main work is through programming. We have programming agreements with Portland Public Schools as well. In some of these districts, we as Parks don't operate in the program itself. At Centennial and David Douglas, we operate the Sun Program. In Portland Public, we operate eight programs. In addition to working with Sun programs, we bring in other programs and help connect students with other services. We don't operate sun schools in Reynolds, but we help connect with other services.

We have a collaborative agreement with PPS, Development of Joint Use, mainly because that is the largest system. We have traditionally shared resources with them. Four years ago, we put this in place. They check in every 2 or 3 months. PP&R works with districts on projects, facilities, things that come up that benefit both.

For David Douglas, we permit fields within their school districts. We have one permit, which includes all the hours, and they are responsible for issuing smaller permits to their community programs. We give them full reign over certain fields.

We are working on joint uses for facilities. If they are wanting to build schools, we are looking at areas where we have property, and having conversations around how we can work together and both benefit.

Don Grotting at David Douglas is one of 5 community members on the bond project, looking at bond expenditures.

We have a similar relationship with Parkrose School District around development. Beech Park is within the district, and right next door to a school. We worked with Parkrose to get easements. Safety issues are really important when working with schools.

We have one community garden at Helensview school. No formal agreement with this school district, but collaborate as needed.

We have a collaborative agreement with PPS for use of tennis courts, facilities, fields, even our playgrounds that are near a school. The school district has a bond, as they are master planning, or updating, they bring PP&R to the table around planning. Most recent – Roosevelt high school, needed more stem, school space vs. tennis courts. We might not be able to build tennis courts, what would that look like. We know well in advance, their needs. We sit down with facilities director, equity director, and walk through needs and goals. PPS is going through athletic programming changes. They are moving middle school students to PIL; grooming middle school students. We are walking through needs for facilities that schools and parks both have. The collaborative agreement is a very broad framework. It really doesn't tie us into restrictions, but says we continue talking and updating each other.

Judy Bluehorse Skelton said this information is really informative, and that it would be great to have a part two with more time. Tonya Booker agreed, and asked if we could have a follow up discussion.

Trang said that she can send out the matrix, and that if the Board can form questions for follow up, that would be really helpful.

Tonya asked if there is any resource sharing in terms of finances. Trang said that for PPS, we have hours where we charge the School District less for our facilities, or they charge us less. There are financial benefits, but they are not sending us money, and we are not sending them money.

Director's Update

Mike reported that today is the last day of ORPA, a statewide parks and recreation organization, here in Portland. This conference is the biggest meeting ORPA has, and we offered to host this year. Many of our staff who are not here, are giving presentations today. It has been a great thing. There was an awards luncheon and PP&R was recognized: best public/private partnerships – Holladay park; volunteer of the year – Chuck Paige; who works on Springwater Trail picking up trash for years and years; K^hunamokwst park for planning and community engagement. Legislative advocacy for Mitch Greenlick. Representative Greenlick has Long been an advocate for Forest Park.

Mike distributed a draft of the 2016-17 Budget calendar. He asked the Board to please look at the BAC meetings 1 – 4, as well as the public hearings, and put those dates in their calendars. The first meeting is December 8th from 4:00 – 8:00. The will start with a little budget 101, and then go into the values that the BAC want to drive the process. Mike encouraged Board members to come to this meeting, as it will set the foundation. Mike recognized PP&R Finance Manager Jeff Shaffer, and Ryan Kinsella from the City Budget Office, who he called our budget watchdog on this process. Mike noted that he predicts a challenging year. According to projections, we will not have a tremendous amount of ongoing revenue. Council has agreed on tentative direction. He added that he believes we will be asked to put together cut packages between 5 and 10 %. He thinks that is where we will be.

Mike noted that he would like help with an issue – drones in parks. Drones may be the number one Christmas gift. The price for some drones has gone down to \$100 – \$200. We have a policy that prohibits remote control devices, but we have already seen a tremendous increase on this. Mike noted that the Parks Board could jump into this as an issue, and give us some advice.

Judy asked about this issue with state parks, and the possibility of creating a policy around that. Mike noted that he plans to have an initial conversation with team in January.

Judy adjourned the meeting at 9:30.