



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES  
May 4, 2016  
8:00 – 9:30 am  
Lovejoy Room, City Hall**

**Board members present:** Jeff Judy Bluehorse Skelton, Tonya Booker, Kendall Clawson, Kathy Fong Stephens, Ian Jaquiss, Dion Jordan, Tony Magliano, Andy Nelson, Meryl Redisch, Linda Robinson, Gladys Ruiz, Christa Stout, Sue Van Brocklin, Julie Vigeland

**Board members absent:** Anderson, Patricia Frobes, Jim Owens

**PP&R Staff present:** Mike Abbaté, James Allison, Margaret Evans, Art Hendricks, Trang Lam, Kia Selley, Jennifer Yocom

**Call to order** Judy Bluehorse Skelton called the meeting to order at 8:06

Judy noted that she could hear the Osprey this morning a little after 5am. She lives near Oaks Bottom. The Eagles and the Osprey are flying overhead and reminding us that they are thriving in the city.

Judy noted that we are moving things around on the agenda. She said she wanted to acknowledge Julie Vigeland, Linda Robinson and Andy Nelson, who are rotating off the Board after fulfilling their 2 year terms, 6 years each. Julie Vigeland reminded Judy that both she and Linda were first appointed to fill unexpired terms, and served 7 years each.

Judy said that at the retreat in June, the Board will officially honor your service and dedication, but that she wanted to say a few words. She said that it has meant so much to her, Linda you've been out in the field, advocating, you are a real inspiration. We never stop, and there is always work to do. For Julie, the invitation and reassurance that this is something we can do and this is an opportunity to really participate and bring new generations into this room. I appreciate your gentle twisting. For Andy, Judy said that she will miss his leadership.

Andy Nelson will miss the retreat in June because he will be hiking with the Boys and Girls club. Andy said that serving with Linda and Julie was an honor. He added that he learned so much from them. He said, I've lived in Portland for 20 years, I've learned so much about my city from being on this Board. It has fueled my work every day, and my interest for doing more for this town. This has been a wonderful opportunity.

Mike Abbaté said that we have started a new tradition to honor members who serve 2 consecutive terms with a bench. Andy will get a bench at Grant Park, Linda, at a fitting place, the new Gateway Discovery Park, and Julie will have a bench either in the Park Blocks, or Council Crest. We are so happy and honored by your service. It's meant a lot. Mike noted that Julie was the chair when he was hired, and she has remained an incredible support for him personally. She has stepped on to

the Foundation board, and has taken on a huge role there. Mike said to Linda that he hopes she has seen the effect of her great work. There have been a lot of changes, and a lot of investment in East Portland. We are seeing the shovels move. Among other things, Mike said, Andy introduced him to Costellos on Broadway. He said that he appreciates Andy's friendship and support. All three of you have been great supporters of the people who do the work every day. That doesn't mean that you didn't have hard questions, but you were a great support to us. We'll continue to see you... In the parks.

**Park of the Month** Judy noted that Dion Jordan had a brilliant idea. Dion said that each month, Park of the Month comes up, then we get an awkward silence, someone volunteers, life comes up, and it doesn't happen. It's still a great idea. Dion suggested that we start with a list. Each month, someone can talk about a park they visited that month.

Gladys Ruiz said that she likes the list idea, sign up and then go, or maybe a combination. Dion added that it will give people the opportunity to share their park experiences. There may be more enthusiasm than a homework assignment. Meryl Redisch asked that the list include natural areas and trails. I had an amazing experience walking from Council Crest through the Markham Trail. I saw a pileated woodpecker, bark was flying.

Mike asked if the Board would like us to develop a list, or would you like to develop a list. Gladys said that it would be great to work from a list, and then leave a couple of blank spaces

Mike noted that we also have a map, the parks map, you can look at the 200 + options.

**Commissioner's Update** Pooja Bhatt thanked the outgoing board members. She noted that the Mayor's proposed budget came out this week, and included \$1 million of ongoing, full funding of rec arbitration. She noted that the budget process has been pretty intense, and the Commissioner is looking forward to public input. May 14<sup>th</sup> is the next public hearing. Linda asked if some of the one-time funding is contingent on the Mayor's business fee tax. Mike said that it's not divided up. It would impact ongoing.

**Public Testimony** James Krier is a drone photographer, who has photographed various states, including Hawaii, Texas and Oregon. He has experience going out to the national forests, and other places. When he was shooting a video in Hawaii, 3 people gave him emails, asking him to send the video when he was done shooting.

James wants to dispell negative myths regarding the use of drone photography. News coverage. News see local, state, county can make rules on drones. The FAA released fact sheet, in particular no fly zone, local governments don't have authority to do that. People use drone photography for journalism. Dozens of examples. California nature conservancy using them for a science project. Some believe they are dangerous. In reality, not one person has ever died in a drone incident. I won't defend people for using them irresponsibly but compared to other recreation activities, it's one of the safest. James noted that some will say that if someone is using a flying camera, they are trying to spy on people. There are many other

cameras in public, the type of images from drones come from the air, they are not the type of video used for voyeurism.

James thinks the National Forest policy is a great model. If you break an FAA rule, you are breaking a park rule.

Kathy asked if the input from the debrief on the Budget Advisory Committee is going to the commissioner, and will the staff review. There was not a formal letter. Judy noted that the debrief was in response to a number of board members wanting to weigh in and not wait until retreat.

**Approval of the minutes** Andy Nelson moved to pass the April minutes, Gladys Ruiz seconded. The Board passed unanimously.

**Director Update** Mike noted that already touched briefly on the Mayor's proposed budget. The Budget is still in process. This is a bit unique in that it balances with a new tax that will require the Council to approve. There is a certain amount of uncertainty. The budget the Mayor put on the table is good for Parks. Our increase is around 7%. The findings of rec arbitrator – will increase our permanent employees by 100. All of those will be in recreation. To put in perspective, during the leanest cut year, we were down to 415 permanent. We are now at 480, add 100, and we will be at 580 permanent positions.

Meryl Redisch asked if the new positions will be supervisory, and other. Mike said that they will be 100 percent represented positions, primarily people who work in community centers. There have been conversations around preschool, and how preschool programs are funded. Preschool was operating in the black, generated enough revenue, but with rec arbitration ruling, we needed \$750,000. That funding is in Mayor's proposed budget. One position was cut, the Asst. Director's executive assistant was cut.

Other budget notes, take a look at preschool, and do a sliding scale. If we are trying to be budget neutral, we are going to have to raise it on the other level. Buckman pool will stay open, Sellwood Community Center will remain open. We got 1/2 what we asked for ADA improvements. We got some money for scholarship program. We need to do some work with scholarships. Right now we are doing scholarships by deferring fees, rather than having a budget. We asked for money to fund a person, as well as Mt. Scott Community Center roof, and solar panels on Southwest Community Center.

Add packages that were not funded included RxPlay, Summer Free for All, two packages. One was a cut to eliminate movies and concerts, and that was not taken. There was also an ask for covering SFFA gap funding. That was not given, so next year we will have to downsize, without new donors or combination of donors. Dutch Elm was funded.

On recruitments, Mike noted that we had 96 applicants for Deputy Director, from all over the country. Diverse, geographically, ethnically, age range. This is an important hire. Warren Jimenez is helping with evaluations. Hopefully we will have

announcement within the month. Warren is here through June 10<sup>th</sup>. By then, we will have an adopted budget, and Mike hopes to have someone on board. He said that he is pretty encouraged by the range of applicants.

Meryl Redisch asked if PP&R helps with relocation expenses. Mike said that decision is made on a case by case basis, and is part of negotiations. It is not common.

Finally, Mike noted, on retreat, we have a great day planned. We have a chance to go to Ross Island. Meet at Fire Station 21, on east side of Hawthorne Bridge. We will take a boat out to Ross Island, and there will be work to do, so wear your work clothes. We are then coming back to Fire Station 21. There is a great meeting room. We will talk about equity, and the work plan.

**Parks Foundation** Judy noted that Jeff Anderson is not here, and Julie Vigeland will give the report for the Parks Foundation. Julie noted that the Foundation has moved. We are at Crown Plaza, in offices that are huge and accessible for people to see us where we are. We were up in an attic at Walker Macy. Kathy Fong Stephens added that you had to be her height to go visit.

Julie reported that Metro has committed \$100,000 to our foot bridge project. We are at \$930,000, almost to \$1 million of 2.5 million goal. Making progress. Celebrating 15 year anniversary, history of partnerships, stabilizing the operating support of the Foundation. Bringing on new members, increased size to 15. We were down to 5. Work in progress, but all good news.

**Reports from Committees** Judy noted that the equity subcommittee met last week. We are looking to have an hour for conversation on equity, inclusion, diversity, and engagement. Reaffirming consensus on Board that we are not off in a separate place. We didn't want to feel squeezed, or short of time, so we are setting aside an hour for engagement on that at the retreat. She said that they also talked about setting aside time in September for a separate conversation with the full board, or a separate retreat.

Mike Abbaté said that in addition, we will have a report on the strategic plan. Judy added that an ongoing discussion is about being prepared for the budget. How to stay prepared, keep the community engaged, and not have that deadline pressure every winter.

Andy reported that he was on the Colwood RFP. It was great to dive into what is happening at Colwood. Recently renovated, almost like a neighborhood park with a golf course. Also soccer golf, foot golf. Andy said they looked at vendors, and their ability to engage the neighborhood. That process is done, and they are waiting for it to be posted to neighbors.

Judy asked about ex officio board members, noting that we've talked about moving that conversation forward. We have 3 ex officio members.

Andy said that we have a recommendation, the nominating committee has that recommendation, and you can have that for July 1.

Meryl asked if there is an update on Broadmoor. Mike Abbaté noted that there has

been a lot of opposition. Kia Selley said that at this point, we do not know if status has been changed from being rezoned.

Julie Vigeland noted that she did a report on RxPlay last time, and was concerned that it was not funded in the Mayor's proposed budget.

Warren Jimenez noted that there are things that we want to continue advocating for. Julie noted that it would be really sad if that program was cut. Mike added that we had a terrific presentation to Council with the results, and there was a lot of support there.

Julie Vigeland noted that she has been on the project advisory committee for Pioneer Courthouse Square (PCS). She added that this is something we should all be conversant about. Because she is rotating off, she noted that she cannot be the Parks Board representative. There is one more meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup>. They've asked her to stay on as a public person, but we need someone from the Parks Board there.

SRG has done a looking down, looking into, looking around what makes up PCS. Good news (always fearful of bad news) is that they found usable electric capacity. Will bring up through the columns, instead of cords coming across during events. Plaza rehabilitation – funding issue. Answers regarding some of the more surface things will depend on what happens underneath. The progress at this point, by June they will be 30% done going and seeing what they need, PP&R review, by August, bid review process, by Sept. 100% documentation due. From January – March 2018, they will be working on the project.

Bricks will be in different places, but everything will be replicated, it will look exactly like it did before. Once it gets ripped out, people are going to panic. It appears the water intrusion issues are not as bad as they thought. The guts of HVAC are good. Updates, but not as much as they thought. The waterproof membrane is key to the whole project. How long it will last, once they know that they will know how much money they have for other parts of the project. ADA will be in main right of way. Columns, fixing so much underneath, depending on budget, they can hopefully repair some of the cracks. That is an area they may not be able to address. The meeting will be 1 ½ hour next time because of restrooms. Restrooms are a place where a lot of homeless people shower, and wash their clothes, and there has been drug use. Redesign to prevent this use. Restrooms will be unisex. How those are designed is in process. They are going to have sinks separate from toilet stalls so they can have an eye through glass on what's going on. Apprehension from people who work there. Have it be used, but a place where they feel safe to be.

Julie reported that all of the trees on Broadway are going to have to be replaced. Linda Robinson asked if they are in poor health. Julie said yes. They are not affecting the membrane. Julie noted that it's fascinating, and something we want to keep monitoring. We should be informed.

Judy asked if we can put out an invitation to the board list serve and get involvement on that. Mike said yes, the key is the meeting on July 27<sup>th</sup> – it will be

the last meeting. There will be open houses, opening celebration. It is not a huge commitment.

Kathy asked if we can extend Julie's contract, we can have committee members who are not on the Board.

Mike noted that the challenge is reporting back to the full board.

Mike said there will need to be a liaison to that project from the parks board.

### **Nominating Committee**

Kendall reported for the nominating committee. First, she thanked members of the committee. It was a really great process. Pat Frobes, Andy Nelson, Jim Owens and Kendall were board reps. Mike, Art Hendricks and Pooja Bhatt joined. Kendall noted it was a gluttony of riches, pretty wonderful. We have such an interesting group of people, wrestle with our choices, we had so many great people. They held eight interviews, on two interview days, spent a little time hearing about who they were. What their interests are, how they care about parks. Wished we could get someone further out east. We landed on 4 folks – Aubré Dickson, Jenny Glass, Ty Schwoeffermann, and Paddy Tillett.

Paddy gives us an amazing skillset around design. He could steal our kittens, and in his fabulous accent, we would have let him take them. Fabulous guy, will be a real delight.

Aubré was also wonderful. He works for Key Bank, so we are getting that business representation. Key Bank gives him time to serve, so we won't have to worry about conflict. In addition, he is a father of younger children. His perspective was really great in terms of how he uses the parks.

Jenny Glass is phenomenal, both where she lives and where she works (Exec. Director of Rosewood Initiative). She's younger, lots of energy. She did gentle call outs, but areas where we could be more thoughtful on communities we are not connecting with.

Ty Schwoeffermann – his spirit, grew up in Portland in Sellwood. One of our questions is: what are your favorite parks? – he started with it. Growing up, Oaks Bottom was dumping ground, and he participated in the clean up. He is also a younger person, so his perspective is great for older folks. Deeply cares about parks, energy great.

We are really excited about the four of them. Happy to answer questions.

Motion to move slate of candidates forward for approval.

Julie noted that Paddy Tillett is also on the steering committee for bridge project.

Julie noted that she was curious, and asked if all of these people self-selected. Mike Abbaté noted that Ty was recommended a couple of years ago from Mike Alexander, he had been interested. We brought forward people who had been previously nominated, as well as some who we reached out to this year.

Kathy asked who will fill Mauricio's partial term, and what about Christa? Mike said that Christa is in middle of term, she is taking time off, but we are allowing her to come back. Who should finish the term for Mauricio? That would be a potential 7 year slot.

Andy Nelson asked if we have thought about leadership succession. Linda Robinson said she thinks Jenny Glass is a great choice. She is so busy, but for someone representing east, that is one of the best decisions you can make. She has really deep civic engagement experience.

Kendall made a motion to submit all four candidates with Ty Schwoeffermann to fill the one year position, making him eligible for 2 additional terms. Meryl Redisch seconded, and the Board approved.

Mike said that we will submit recommendation to Commissioner, she will take it forward to Council, and we will invite those people to join the retreat in June.

Kendall made a motion to invite Judy Bluehorse Skelton and Dion Jordan to continue roles as chair and vice chair for one more year. Kathy Fong Stephens seconded. Unanimously passed.

Julie Vigeland said that it is so fun to look at this leadership. She gave Kathy a cold call, she had been recommended. She was our chair last year, she gave Judy a cold call because Warren recommended her. She gave Dion a cold call. It shows you that this really works – leadership that we have brought on. Meryl Redisch added that it comes from you Julie, Judy agreed that it really does come from Julie.

**Drones** Mike noted that he had mentioned, and as our testimony has affirmed, drones are a real issue for local, State, National Parks, even private property. The instigation for Mike was going to a session at NRPA, someone pulled off wrist watch and unfolded it into a drone, and said by the way this will be the number one gift at Christmas, and there will be millions of these flying around. Some of it is anticipation, some is already happening. Mike noted that he is bringing this issue to the Board, kind of like smoking, to see if this is an issue we should spend some time on. He said he hopes there will be Parks Board members who will step up and spend some time on it.

Mike introduced Trang Lam, Property Business Development Manager, Harry Auerbach, City Attorney, and Brett Horner, Planning Manager to give an overview of where we are on drone policy in parks.

Harry Auerbach noted that he has been advising parks for many years now. What Mike is looking for is your input on whether we should make an effort to regulate drones in parks. Hard part of that is that we have an ordinance on the book, makes it unlawful for people to operate remote control devices in the parks, it's been on the books for 30 years. Harry recalled that the first George Bush was vice president at the time, and urged us not to.

Harry added that drones are not specified, but they are included.

Harry noted that recently, the Oregon legislature got in drone business. Primarily to limit how law enforcement could use them.

Harry noted that some people use for recreation (model airplane), some use for delivery of packages, more pervasively, potential to be used for reconnaissance or spying. Google uses for mapping, some law enforcement uses for surveillance. They can be abused by people who have nefarious purposes. Do we have issues in our parks? User conflicts the way current remote control seem to do, noise, or invasion of privacy. When legislature passed its regulations, they included broad preemption, appears likely in order for us to do anything we would need relief from preemption. Congress of U.S. is considering legislation to regulate drones. Harry noted that the last bill he saw was a robust preemption provision. We have expressed view that cities with respect to parks, have interest in regulating usage because of impacts to users. We would like to limit people taking off or landing in parks, flying below a certain threshold in the parks.

Mike Abbaté asked if it is fair to say that we have code prohibition, and a state statute that prevents local governments from regulating them.

Harry said on face of it, we could not apply our current ordinance to drones. If we saw someone flying a drone in our park, and we issued them an exclusion, there is a good chance they would beat the charge.

Trang added that the rules for us, like the Forest Service, everyone has to follow FAA rules, flight restriction areas, natural areas, the National Park Service has an interim policy now that takes a look at launching, landing, operating unmanned aircraft in the National Parks area. It has to be approved by the superintendent. There is some room. It is about the landing, launching, operating. What we couldn't do is regulate if someone is standing in a private property launching, flying over our park, and landing outside our park.

Meryl Redisch asked for the National Park Service, is that around wildlife and birds. Is it just people oriented, or disturbance to wildlife?

Trang said it is mainly for administrative usage. NPS we are allowing us to use for scientific study, for fires, for law enforcement, but we want to have a process for recreation use.

Judy noted that there is an expectation of national monuments and parks, respectful quiet. She asked if anyone has been under a drone flying overhead. They are not quiet.

Andy Nelson asked if essentially the problem is safety, or is it nuisance. For me, Andy added, I need to get my head around what the problem is that we are trying to address (similar to smoking).

Harry said one option is that we don't need to do anything.

Brett Horner noted that we haven't gotten many complaints yet, but we expect that there will be. Concerns will be noise, peace and safety, disturbing wildlife.

Linda Robinson asked if you regulate, it can be a useful tool, we are scheduling for one over gateway green so we can use it in the video. There is potential for abuse.

Mike noted that we want to understand the potential impact, what is the problem, there are certain administrative uses allowed, we could also permit for it.

Meryl Redisch asked if it can generate any kind of revenue.

Mike said that it could, but wouldn't expect that to be the motivator. That would potentially act as a disincentive to getting a permit

Kathy noted that parks isn't an island. Can you launch across the street? Now we have drones that are an innovative subset of remote control aircraft. 30 years ago, we look at and enforce the code we have had on the books for 30 years.

Harry said that we can still use the regulations for standard remote control aircraft. The Oregon legislature has probably precluded us from applying that to Drones. We would have to go to Oregon State Legislature and get that preemption removed.

Harry said that in the short session, they changed their definition. Used to be defined according to FAA statute, it's a subspecies.

Gladys Ruiz noted that she is curious about the process. How do you decide what to bring to us? Is this one of many things? If there are others, I would prefer to work on something other than drones.

Mike noted that things come up all the time, if they seem like a significant policy discussion, we bring it to the Board. Geocaching, for example, no hard rule. The Board has expressed desire to be involved in policy. What are the bigger issues that are on the horizon? Mike added that the Board might say, sounds interesting, but we don't want to spend much time on it.

Judy asked the Board if we want to continue getting updated, or convene a subcommittee.

Julie added if there is interest, like smoking. There were people on the Board who were very interested in a smoking policy.

Tony Magliano noted that Portland Public Schools did an administrative directive, by permission on school property, we can't enforce over 400 feet going over property. We can regulate launching, or landing. As long as someone is above 400 feet. We can report if they are flying under.

Mike noted that the Board seems interested, but not something they want to jump into. They would like updates.

**Meeting  
Adjourned**

Judy adjourned the meeting at 10:39 am.

