



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
July 6, 2016
8:00 – 9:30 am
The Portland Building, 2nd Floor, Room B**

Board members present: Jeff Anderson, Ian Jaquiss, Aubré Dickson, Paddy Tillett, Dion Jordan, Jim Owens, Tonya Booker, Kathy Fong Stephens, Ty Schwoeffermann, Christa Stout, Jeff Anderson

Board members absent: Patricia Frobos, Jenny glass, Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Kendall Clawson, Meryl Redisch, Gladys Ruiz, Sue van Brocklin, Tony Magliano

PP&R Staff present: Mike Abbaté, James Allison, Margaret Evans, Art Hendricks, Trang Lam, Pooja Bhatt, Galina Burley, Jen Cairo, Kia Selley, Eileen Argentina, Jeff Shaffer, Jenifer Yocom, Art Hendricks, Rachel Felice, Brian Aptekar, Georgia West

Call to order Dion Jordan called the meeting to order at 8:08 am. Dion asked everyone in attendance to introduce themselves. Each one of those present shared their names, their professional affiliation and board members shared the numbers of years to which they have been in service on the Parks Board.

Mike Abbaté announced that the meeting that day would have a different format with a time to meet and greet the Portland Parks & Recreation staff at the end. This is an opportunity to understand Parks and learn about the issues in each of the Bureau's divisions.

Approval of the Minute Dion moved to pass the May minutes saying that there were enough members at 8:11 am to do so. Kathy Fong Stephens seconded the motion, and the Board passed the minutes unanimously.

Public Testimony Mike Abbaté mentioned that one person (Diego Gioseffi – King NA Board Member) had signed up via email to give testimony, but he was not present at the meeting at that time. Mike said that a PP&R staff member was waiting at City Hall to escort people to the new location for this month's meeting (in the Portland Building).

Director's Update Mike Abbaté briefly introduced Trang Lam, the new Deputy Director, replacing Warren Jimenez who left the Bureau for a position at The Trust for Public Land.

Mike discussed a briefing document for the mayoral transition team. He suggested that the board members should read it between now and the next board meeting. It was prepared for the mayor and covered the topics he requested, like Parks 20/20 vision, the strategic plan, the budget on the last few years, a section on partnerships and labor with details of how many people are employed in each section, the vision issues and challenges. Mike is available to answer board members' questions that may arise.

Water and Lead Testing

Mike talked about PP&R issues for the next 6-12 months, as a chance to let board members know what is on the horizon. A current issue is related to lead in water, a problem also for the School District. Mike announced that a press release will come out today about positive tests in one of the PP&R buildings. Today, PP&R does not have a protocol to test water in its buildings, like schools. Over the years, PP&R tested 12 sites after explicit request from the public. Of those until recently, Multnomah Arts Center (from now on, MAC) had positive tests. In 2011, MAC tested with elevated levels of lead, in 2012 PP&R retested to figure out where was the problem, and PP&R followed up with closing sinks. In 2013, additional tests also returned with elevated levels. Mike asked the team about the previous testing protocol. MAC is a former elementary school that PP&R now operates as an art center.

Mike said that PP&R also tested Fulton Park Community Center (hereafter Fulton Center) and the Portland Children's Museum (hereafter PCM), as these fit into 2 or more of the testing criteria: 1) repeated exposure of kids and pregnant women, 2) plumbing work done between 1970-1985, time when lead was used to bind tubes, and 3) any site that had previous tests positive. Fulton Center hosts a YMCA day care. Out of caution, PP&R did "flushing" at those sites. Two weeks ago, PP&R released the results to the public; 180 tests in 4 facilities, 17 tests came back with elevated levels of lead in water. Fulton Center, which was at risk, had no elevated results. PP&R received PCM after OMSI moved to its new location. Although PP&R was not responsible for its construction, PP&R oversees the maintenance of the building.

A measure of precaution that PP&R has adopted in PCM (after EPA recommendations) is to run water in the morning (*i.e.*, flushing). PP&R is working with specialists to help identify the problem and the best way to address it. Mike announced that PP&R is also now working on testing all facilities that meet at least one of the criteria, specifically all the community centers with pre-school or serve youth. During the summer, PP&R will test all facilities (23 facilities to be tested). A big question that the Bureau is debating is should we test all locations? Periodically? The future protocol will be informed by the results to come from the tests.

Mike shared important facts: 1) Multnomah County has done 15,000 blood tests among which 188 returned positive for lead in the blood. Of those, zero are connected to drinking water. 188 positive results are associated with lead-based paint. PP&R is following that with surveys, specifically related to paint on playground. PP&R team is working on protocols. Mike A. stated that he and Commissioner Fritz want to get rid of lead-based paint in the parks system, which implies that we might have to get rid of some pieces of playground equipment.

Mike stated that the Bureau never had a health and safety environment specialist in the bureau and will bring on board a health consultant to draft a plan. This issue is taking a lot of our resources now and for the next 6 months.

Kathy Fong Stephens inquired about the budget for this extra expenses. Mike will have to put together a program and is discussing with Commissioner Fritz. The

budget for fixtures can be as low as \$200-500. So far, the Bureau and the Commissioner's office have been talking about a bump for fall 2016, or next year. A lot will depend on the results that will come in soon, and for now, the Bureau is absorbing and allocating what it has now.

PP&R New Positions Mike said that 150 positions need to be filled next year. Every Monday, a hand full of permanent positions are available at the NEOGOV website. A lot are recreation, but a lot will be for manager and executive assistance. The Bureau's staff right now is very much stretched to meet all the deadlines, and this is a busy time of the year (summer), and it limits our capacity to take on new projects.

MAC's new exhibit and Arts, Culture, Special Events Manager Opening Mike invited all the board members to go visit the new exhibit at the Multnomah Arts Center (MAC). The new exhibit gallery was donated from local architects and firms. Michael Walsh, the director at MAC, will be please to take the board members on a tour of our facility.

Mike said that in the next 12 months, PP&R is focused on its reorganization with four major items in the agenda: 1) elevate the Urban Forestry; 2) focus on equity; 3) combined land stewardship team; and 4) hyper focus on recreation programs and service delivery. PP&R has a unique niche on the arts interface. Places like MAC are amazing opportunities to engage youngsters in the arts. Before, PP&R had a geographic zone focus and now has switched to function focus, giving an opportunity to grow with the creating of new departments. In addition to facilities like MAC, PP&R has programs like Summer Free for All, the activation at Holladay Park, and the construction of the Gateway Discovery Park & Plaza. These activities are part of the new position Arts, Culture, & Special Events Manager. We received 436 nationwide applications, and we will have a selection in the next month.

Washington Park Construction Mike said that in the next 12 months, construction at Washington Park may cause some traffic issues and PP&R are working on alternative ways to visit that area. As for last week, the area received an unprecedented number of visitors, and the pattern may cause issues for the construction plans. With that in mind, PP&R developed a new master plan to encourage exploration using public transportation services. Mike encouraged the board members to try visiting the area by public transportation and to report on their experience so adjustments to the master plan can be done: sometime this summer please, go to the Zoo by max, take the shuttle to go around Rose Garden (that will celebrate 100 years next year) and Washington Park. PP&R is working to get dedicated parking for visitors for next summer.

Teen's Program Mike reported that last year PP&R received \$2 million to enhance the Teen's program, which includes 5 community centers, and as many as 1,000 teens on this program on one Saturday. Mike invited the board members to experience a teen night, and Eileen Argentina will send an invitation. Eileen pointed out that the teen nights are 50-100 tens on Friday nights.

SDC Implementation Jim Owens talked about System Development Charge (SDC) implementation, that it began this year, and although it is a challenge, also is a model for the nation. City Council passed an updated SDC Methodology last year. There was a lawsuit that said it was flawed. The judge looked and found a place that was a weak point. We fixed that. July 1 was the day to implement the updated SDC methodology.

The Home Building Association will likely appeal.

Jim asked how the board members could assist with the mayoral transition. Mike responded that he had met with the new mayor and talked about the board. Ted Wheeler was especially interested in PP&R's posture on partnerships but said nothing about his plans to change the bureau assignments.

**Meet & Greet
PP&R Managers** For the last 30 minutes of the meeting, Mike invited the board members to circle around the tables and meet the managers.

**Committee
Opportunities** Mike talked about the hand out with the list of needed service and liaison opportunities for Parks Board members. He asked the members to revise the list and volunteer to the ones that they find interesting.

**Meeting
Adjourned** Mike adjourned the meeting at 9:30 am