



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
December 7th, 2016
8:00 – 9:30 am
Portland Building Room B – 2nd Floor**

Board members present: Judy BlueHorse Skelton (Chair), Kendal Clawson, Aubre Dickson, Kathy Fong Stephens, Patricia Frobes, Jenny Glass, Ian Jaquiss, Jim Owens, Gladys Ruiz, Christa Stout, Paddy Tillett, Jeff Anderson, Meryl Redisch

Board members absent: Tonya Booker (excused) Dion Jordan (excused), Ty Schwoeffermann, Sue Van Brocklin

PP&R Staff present: Mike Abbaté, Trang Lam, James Allison, Eileen Argentina, Art Hendricks, Kia Selley, Jennifer Yocom, Jenn Cairo, Pooja Bhatt

**Call to order,
Welcome and
Introductions**

The meeting was called to order at 8.06 a.m. Chair Judy BlueHorse Skelton welcomed everyone to the meeting and invited Pat Frobes to give her report on her visit to the Mt. Scott Park.

Pat stated that in addition to visiting Mt Scoot she went to the groundbreaking remodel out at the Rosewood initiative. Jenny Glass has created an amazing program with dancing classes, educational support, entrepreneurial training, and have raised money to do big renovation in the space. Pat invited members to visit the website.

The other location Pat visited with Eileen Argentina was Mt Scott Community Center, to visit the Africa house teen night which is part of the Mayor's 2 million dollar targeted funding for at risk youth. It is run by Africa House which is part of the international refugee immigrant center for Oregon. It serves African refugees from all over the continent. They provide a teen youth night on Saturday. Parks provide facility and staff, free of charge and then Africa house gets a small grant that pays for their staff and food. There are 6-20-year old playing sports. They pick them up by going around collecting kids. There is a roller skating rink in the facility. There is a teen lounge which serves and a tutoring center during the week. It's a safe place for them to be young and have fun. Cynthia Castro sent out an email earlier in the year inviting the board to visits the program. Pat recommended that the board go visit the program and suggested adding to agenda early in the new year to have Eileen report in to the board what is being done at the community centers regarding this program. **Overview of the teen program** (proposed Agenda Item)

**Commissioner's
office update**

Pooja shared that Commissioner Fritz conveyed her deep gratitude to the board for participating in the BAC process. She wants to commend staff for the process developed this year as oppose to last year and having it more inclusive to underrepresented communities with the listening sessions. The listening session

provided insightful feedback and the Commissioner was very pleased. On December 12th is the public meeting at Rice School – 6:30 – 8:30 p.m.

Mike indicated one of the new things this year is having two public meetings. One prior to developing the packages and one after the packages have been developed. Mike reminded the Board of the two upcoming Budget meetings. Public Meeting #1 on December 12th, at Rice School and Community Listening Session #2 on December 15th at Floyd Light Middle School. BAC #3 meeting at East Portland Community Center. The second public meeting is January 4th, at Mt Scott. The Board will receive an update on the BAC meeting dates.

Mike shared that the BAC meeting on the 19th will be the first pass at actual packages for reduction and to get feedback from the BAC. What PP&R will be presenting is about 7% of budget cuts, but what will be submitted is 5%, so that there is a broader range for the BAC to look at and ask questions.

Jenny asked if there is the opportunity to have a call in line for those members who are unable to attend in person.

Public Testimony There was no Public Testimony.

Approval of the Minutes Motioned to approve the minutes by Jim Owens seconded by Patricia Frobes. Carried. The October 2016 minutes were approved. Motioned to approve the minutes by Paddy Tillett seconded by Patricia Frobes. Carried. The November 2016 minutes were approved.

Director's Update Mike reminded the Board the Kia Selley was leaving PP&R in a couple of weeks. He acknowledged the tremendous job she did at the Bureau. Kia has been with PP&R a little over 4 years and had been at PDC and the City of Gresham, she is a very talented manager. There are a number of things she has lead in the Asset and Development group that are complicated. It also included the facilities department out at Mt Tabor. One thing of note was that PP&R passed a bond measure which is made up of two categories the information/strategy and then all the technical details. Kia and her group were responsible for that. She was responsible for hiring staff and we have a tremendous team of people working on the bond and that is no small accomplishment since it is the first bond passed in over 20 years. This is off to a great start with great people and Kia is to be credited with that.

Kia brought a rigorous work planning process. We have over 100 projects in the pipeline in planning design and construction. Having to prioritize that and keeping staff working and projects moving ahead on those 100 projects is a big undertaking. Kia did an amazing job in developing a process and a way of communicating with our Commissioner and Director, so that decisions can be made on what to take off the list when new things come up.

Mt Tabor yard has recently under gone a major reorganization under Kia's leadership. Josh Green is the new leader. That group is in good shape.

Lots of great things happening and wanted to acknowledge Kia for all of them.

Ramiro Villalvazo will be taking over from Kia. He visited on Monday and Tuesday this week and he will be starting end of January 2017.

**Parks Foundation
Update**

Jeff shared that there are two major campaigns currently ongoing. The footbridge over Burnside goal of \$2.5M currently has upwards of \$1.9M in commitments. Have begun project implementation to build the bridge and is work with the PP&R team as well as PBOT and BDS staff to actually build the bridge. There will be some activity in the next few months. Actual construction will not be for about a year. Mid 2018 is the projected opening.

The Foundation is working with Verde to raise some of the funds needed to open Cully Park. They hope to have some announcements on that.

The Foundation is hiring an Administrative Office who is interested in our Parks, with good financial skills, and system oriented as a full partner with the team.

December is fundraising month. Please think about making a gift to the foundation. Jeff indicated that he appreciated the support Parks City staff with \$9,000 worth in pledges.

Judy asked if there was a timeline for getting the money raised for Cully.

Jeff stated that they are hoping for mid-2017. For Cully it is early in the year around February.

Mike stated that Commissioner Fritz announced a total 4.9M for Leach Gardens for their Master Plan. The Master Plan is going to make Leach a world renowned garden. Leach is raising 1.6 million. Announced a major investment of \$5.3 M for Errol Heights Park which is located in South East Portland. This location is very high parks deficient area. It is a beautiful piece of property with some natural area. Both are high priority for the Commissioner. This area has been waiting for investment for many years

**Chair/Board
Business**

Judy thanked Sheryl Juber in aquatics in Parks. She comes to all the Native American Community Advisory Council Parks meetings. This is the 10th year of the Native American family day and market at Mt Scott. Performance by Cedar Rose a trio woman group. There were a lot of families who turned out. Want to thank Mt Scott staff.

Judy stated the Board has discussed in the past the value of extending the monthly meeting to 10:00 a.m. It will allow more time to get through agendas, and talk about PP&R projects. It is also an opportunity for the board to network and get to know each other and collaborated on park or community related issues.

Mike noted that the last three months we have had to bump things down the road.

Jim stated that the more substantive policy discussion runs out of time and on a regular basis we have to cut short the items on the agenda. He supported increasing by half an hour.

Patricia said that she supports the additional half hour. She wants us to be more disciplined and focus on the important items. Her suggestion is to extend the time and get disciplined and re-prioritizing what is on the agenda.

Aubre added opening up for a conference call as an opportunity for those who are unable to attend in person.

Gladys stated that personal interaction is needed. She noted that the Board agreed to integrating Diversity and Inclusion into the board meetings but it has not been done. This would be an opportunity for the Board members to talk together and give more time to process.

Judy asked if we should start the new time.

It was agreed that the new time from 8:00- 10:00 a.m. give more time for interactions and general comments and integration of equity.

Gladys asked that we highlight the new time in the minutes before changing.

Jim asked that the conference call number be placed on the agenda so if others cannot attend it is available.

Aubre noted that weather is another consideration regarding attendance.

Christa asked for a calendar of events listing all the information.

Reports were received from the following standing committees:

Equity – No update

Communications – No update.

Kathy Fong Stephens asked about disbanding the Equity Committee. She noted one of the things suggested and in speaking with the members of the sub-committee and Tonya who is the chair of the committee. We will look at integrating equity into meeting.

Gladys noted that members of the equity committee are all serving on similar sub-committee on other boards and recognizes the importance of focusing on equity but didn't want it to be the job certain individuals. The feedback from the Board was to have a presenter or activity. It is on the board to ask those questions put it through the equity and inclusion lenses.

Mike stated that there have been conversations about training for the group on equity training. PP&R will respond to the Board questions but the staff should not be driving this.

Gladys stated that the biggest piece was the majority of the people on the sub-committee were People of Color.

Christa Stout asked how is Equity going to be integrated into the parks discussion?

Judy said it is still to be determined how it will be integrated. The first example was the homelessness issue and what we can do within the parks boards.

Mike said it is rolled into the Board work plan and what should be prioritize.

Kathy said the work plan was done two years ago. She proposed some markers to be included in the work plan. What were priority as the parks board goes forward? If we are specific, we will ignore other things. The sub-committee would review and then guide the board. The items on the work plan are some things that have been identified for focus and achievable, as long as the board is diligent about its work plan. This will help direct and guide what the parks do going forward.

Judy said they may think about restructuring.

Kendall asked who is the Board as a body and what is being accomplished? She noted that the board know the issue of equity is important but we are compartmentalizing it and in danger of tokenizing the people of color as being responsible for equity. Focus on what equity is about, equality and fairness. When the board looks at homelessness and access we need to look at who is being impacted. Who we are together and how we are putting it out there. We have to decide who am I who am I with you.

Jenny suggested that operationalizing that the board is a policy and advocacy. Asking the question who is impacted and who is being left out and who is benefiting. Putting retail in parks and the equity of that program and who is being impacted or benefiting and what we need to do to follow-up and be a true advisory board.

**Parks Board Work
Plan
Discussion/Vote**

Strengthen Collaboration

Jim suggested adding the Parks Foundation to the list.

Parks 2020 vision and 5-year Strategic Plan.

Gladys asked that diverse community be defined. (Elderly, youth) so that it can be tracked.

Update of the Strategic Plan has been bumped in the past. Looking at the next large long term plan for the city. But currently preparing. Looking at PP&R long term planning. Having regular discussion about that effort is important.

Pat asked that Strategic Plan be a foundation for 2017 and not bumped, so that it be a priority throughout the year.

Trang asked that the update will be the first thing before planning for long range planning.

Kathy stated members need get their heads around “informed advisors and advocates”. As informed advisors what are our priorities as advocates and decide on that. Is it a priority, who is impacted and what is the parks board role on this. If it goes nowhere then there is no purpose for discussing.

Aubre said that there is a lot of information, but it is critical that the important things are covered. If we have time here is some information that may come up but setting priorities is what should drive the agenda and keeps the board focused.

Advocacy

Meryl don't see the board as strong as a policy advocacy board. It would be a good way to make an impact. Have the goals and strategies that are deemed important and having board members testifying. Because those are the things that affect the whole community. She noted that the city is building streets and building. BDS and PBOT and if members do not advocate for them incorporating the board ideas, we would not get as far.

Jeff noted the lack of clarity of the Strategic Plan. Look at the Bureau's own strategic plan and it needs to serve the city's Strategic Plan.

Mike stated the Mayor elect is thinking of the river as another big park and he is interested about swimming in the river. It will change PP&R perspective of how we look at the river. This issue will come up in the near future.

Kendall stated that keeping in mind there is some outcome, what is our role in this with regard to presentations or agenda items? What role in advocating?

Jim stated that one of the challenges is we may not be lobbied as a group. But some of us as have been lobbied or contacted with concerns.

Kendall and Aubre noted that they have never been approached or lobbied as Parks Board members.

It was noted that maybe people don't know who is on the board.

Gladys stated there is no process on what should be brought to the parks board.

Judy suggested having another meeting to discuss the Work plan or 2 retreats as a priority.

Christa asked if the stuff the board is meeting on is timely, can the board meet quarterly for 3-4 hours, or twice a year work on strategy.

Mike stated it may be information overload and the board may lose the connectivity to PP&R.

Aubre said that if someone has been lobbied then the board be updated by email. Use the same opportunity to share the information between meetings.

Jim and Paddy has been involved with retail in parks. Mike asked that a proposal be sent out in the next few days to the Board and ask if they want to have more discussion. In January propose a communication of the board.

Jim said that the subcommittee will be willing to address why the item is before the parks board.

It was noted that lots of issues are reactive. Make an attempt to address the equity issues and then more background as to how the position statement came to be so that people can read the whole story then circulate and schedule a sub-committee and come back in January.

Urban Forestry Program Jenn Cairo presented on Urban Forestry Program.

Willamette River Swim study Deferred

Meeting Adjourned The meeting was adjourned at 9:30 a.m.

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