

PORTLAND PARKS BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

May 3, 2017
8:00 – 10:00 am
Room B 2nd Floor
Portland Building

Board members present: Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Ian Jaquiss, Dion Jordan, Jim Owens, Sue Van Brocklin, Jeff Anderson, Jeff Anderson.

Board members absent: Tonya Booker (excused), Kendall Clawson (excused), Aubré Dickson, Kathy Fong Stephens (excused), Patricia Frobes (excused), Jenny Glass, Gladys Ruiz, Christa Stout, Paddy Tillett (excused), Meryl Redisch

PP&R Staff present: Mike Abbaté, Trang Lam, Eileen Argentina, Margaret Evans, Art Hendricks, Ramiro Villalvazo, Jeff Shaffer, Jennifer Yocom,

**Call to order,
Welcome and
Introductions**

Judy BlueHorse Skelton welcomed everyone to the meeting.

The Equity and Diversity retreat would need to be rescheduled and may consider a two-day session.

**Approval of the
Minutes
Commissioner's
office update**

The May meeting minutes were not approved due to the lack of a quorum.

No report.

Public Testimony

No public testimony

**Parks Board
Deliberation on
Public Testimony**

N/A

**Committee &
Foundation Reports**

Land Use

Jim shared that the committee met on April 14th, 2017. Primarily there were informational staff reports on topics the committee has been involved in. Staff brought the committee up to speed on projects. The items discussed include:

Willamette River Swimming Study

Off Road Cycling Master Plan

Green Loop. This will be scheduled at an upcoming Board Meeting and as a result talk about the Lents circle concept.

At the retreat tomorrow the board would talk about on-going land use planning discussion and have the sub-committee be involved. Foundational time to talk



about the next 2-3 years plan for parks board (2020 vision).

Communication

Sue Van Brocklin presented on Oaks Bottoms Wildlife Refuge.

Parks Foundation

Visited Selwood Park with representatives from Columbia Sports Wear. They made a \$1M gift in support of upgrading Selwood Park over a 10-year period. There is a residual of \$150,000 and the foundation is creating an inventory needs to determine what Columbia may be willing to fund.

Footbridge \$2,155,000. Currently doing the initial crowdfunding planning. Looking to early fall to raise final \$100,000 towards the footbridge through an online campaign. Still have about \$150,000 gap.

Still working on the Cully Park funding, have \$113,000 in private gifts of a \$500,000 goal.

3-year plan is being finalized on and 2016 report of the summary of the work done last year.

Nominating Committee

Interviews will be held Monday 15th, May with the seven applicants. Will be taking them to council in June. Recommendations will be presented at the June meeting. Review applications with the Commissioner this week. Two are from the shortlist last year. Bring in June a proposed list of officers.

Director's Update

Mayor's Proposed Budget

Commissioner in charge is the Mayor. He asked that the previous Commissioner in charge be involved in the administrative side of the house. All approval goes to the Mayor's office but goes through the Commissioner's office. Once the council has approved the budget the Mayor will redistribute the bureaus.

Jim Owens asked what is the difference between ongoing general funds discretionary vs one time general funds discretionary. The question is how does the Bureau fund on an ongoing basis. Mike explained that it is a one-time funding for a package.

Jim noted his concern was if there is only a one-time funding then how does the Bureau handle funding on an ongoing basis (staffing etc.)

Mike shared that there was a one-time package in the budget for \$158,000 to create opportunity for people to swim at Poet Beach. One season pilot test. There are significant safety concerns, access concerns. If it is successful it will be within PP&R budget request for next year or something the Mayor signals he wants to



continue.

Dutch Elm disease control – Is it being addressed in any other fashion? It is not being eliminated? Who is responsible for removal of the diseased tree?

Jim noted that the proposed change in the budget may not be a proactive approach to mitigating the spread of the disease.

Mike stated that the program is not being cut what is being re-programmed is whether city staff come in and cut Dutch Elm trees that are infected or the adjacent property owner, like all other trees that are diseased or die.

Pre-school program – Use reserves from 2002 levy to fund and use that to fund it for one year. The Mayor office has asked that by end 2017/18 must implement a full recovery plan for Pre-school. What does a pre-school program look like without General Funds? How much can the fees be raised to make it sustainable. The Mayor is not interested in funding the pre-school program from general funds.

Long-term financial plan – Mike shared that another package is the Option System Development Charges Revenues (SDC). PP&R needs to figure out how to fund maintenance for new parks in the long term. The financial analysis for maintenance plans needs to be submitted with the budget next year.

Judy raised the concern about quality of life with the continuing raising of fees. Look at if we are pricing out a segment of the market when we continue to raise fees, needs to be included in the study.

**Willamette River
Swimming Study &
Poet's Beach**

Possible to email the presentation to Board Members.

Judy asked how much resource does the swimming in the river pull.

Jim – suggest that this issue be an agenda item at the Parks Board meeting.

Sue thinks it is a great idea and that their needs to be other commitments to make the river viable and accessible. It needs to incorporate other partners.

Ian asked if Ross island is a consideration for swimming.

Mike stated that the south reach river planning is going to be looked at, but there is a strong push to keep it focused on habitat.

Planning a Summer Parks Board tour to Poet's Beach and have a conversation in September.

Off Road Biking Plan

July would be when there is a proposal to the city about Off Road Biking

Forest Park site – PP&R is well coordinated with the Portland Off-Road Cycling



Master Plan. There is an opportunity to make the connection to the Forest Park welcome center.

Jim Owen shared that BPS did a great job on the Off Road Biking Plan. The Land use committee will have a detailed review and then bring a recommendation to the Parks Board. Using best management practices to address ecological concerns and conflicts between users is a critical piece to come.

PP&R don't have the capacity to have enough parks staff on the existing trail systems which provides safety. Send out by email and have Parks Board members provide feedback. What is the city doing for the people already here? Recommend outreach to communities traditionally marginalized in programming.

Jim stated that people who have no yard it is an opportunity for them to teach their kids to ride in a dedicated system.

Meeting Adjourned The meeting was adjourned at 10:00 a.m.