



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

April 5<sup>th</sup>, 2017

8:00 – 10:00 am

Lovejoy Room, City Hall

**Board members present:** Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Aubré Dickson, Kathy Fong Stephens, Patricia Frobes, Jenny Glass, Ian Jaquiss, Dion Jordan, Jim Owens, Gladys Ruiz, Paddy Tillett, Sue Van Brocklin, Jeff Anderson, Meryl Redisch.

**Board members absent:** Tonya Booker (excused), Kendall Clawson (excused), Ty Schwoeffermann, Christa Stout.

**PP&R Staff present:** Mike Abbaté, Trang Lam, James Allison, Eileen Argentina, Jennifer Yocom, Ramiro Villalvazo, Pooja Bhatt

**Call to order,  
Welcome and  
Introductions**

Judy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Approval of the  
Minutes**

Motion to approve the minutes by Pat Frobes seconded by Gladys Ruiz. Carried. The March 2017 minutes were approved.

**Commissioner's  
office update**

Pooja Bhatt provided an update for the Commissioner's Office.

Mayor proposed budget comes out later in April. Two community meetings are hosted by the City Budget office for April 11<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup>. The Board is invited to attend.

The bond is a priority for the Commissioner. Phase 1I has about \$20M left to be spent. Commissioner Fritz is looking forward to the Board's input and the BAC to help finalize what that second phase of potential list of projects would look like. Two public and town hall meetings and other outreach seeking input where held. Want to focus on the aging parks infrastructure.

There will be a budget debrief with the whole BAC and also include the bond discussion. It was suggested to use the May parks board meeting to hold this meeting. Take an hour from the May board's meeting to have a debrief on the budget.

The rest of the BAC will be invited to the meeting if the discussion on the budget is combined with the Parks Board regular meeting.

**Public Testimony** There was no public testimony.



**Parks Board  
Deliberation on  
Public Testimony** No discussion.

**Committee &  
Foundation Reports** **Land Use**

Jim Owen - Proposing a Land Use sub-committee meeting Friday April 14<sup>th</sup>, 2017 at 9:30 a.m. All Board members are invited. The purpose is to get a status report on some of the projects involved in, like the employment zoning process and retail in central city parks.

Off road cycling master plan process has been on the way for a year. Jim is the Parks Board representative. It has been a challenges process. It is not a mountain biking plan; it is an off road cycling plan designed to access how to better accommodate children cyclists etc. Looking at identifying criteria, potential locations and the Advisory Committee has been going through a screening exercise mostly focusing on Forest Park to date. In the next couple of months there will be real recommendations that will be brought to the board to discuss.

There are a number of planning project to get updates on. The Green Loop, a proposal for Lents. The sub-committee will be used as a screening of some of these topics on what information to bring forward to the board. The committee also wants to address some other topics such as drones in parks.

#### **Equity Training April 28<sup>th</sup>**

Dion shared discussions of the planning committee. The committee suggested that the focus be on personal rather than policy. It was important for board members' awareness, thoughts and how better serve on the board. At a later time do more policy retreat.

#### **Communication**

Sue Van Brocklin presented a poster from Multnomah County, which they presented two weeks before at a CDC conference in Austin Texas on tobacco prevention and used Portland Parks as their case study (the smoke free initiative in the City of Portland). Parks Board became involved in 2013, sought assistance from Multnomah County and it was passed by City Council in 2015. Sue noted that things Parks do is used as best practices for other cities around the country.

Pat Frobos asked for an update on how enforcement has gone?

Trang Lam shared that the first year has been an educational approach to smoke free parks. Most people have been compliant. It is more of a cultural shift and doing it in a way for it to be more sustainable.

#### **Parks Foundation**



Strategic Plan – the Board has been working on the 3-year plan, and adopted on March 27<sup>th</sup> an internal version and they are working on a version that will be shared with the public by the end of year meeting on May 22<sup>nd</sup>. The focus was articulating the priorities: twin goals in mobilizing financial support.

Footbridge – Total is now passed \$2.1M. Another local fund raiser brought in \$18,500. Beginning ground work on the final phase of the campaign which will be a crowdfunding effort in the fall. There is a \$300,000 gap. There are a number of proposals pending.

Cully Park – Governor Brown visited the park and announced an additional \$100,000 from the state. Mike and Commissioner spoke at event. Partner agencies turned up for the event including Metro Councilor Chase and Commissioner Fish. Foundation has raised \$113,000 towards the goal of \$500,000. Some additional SDCs is being considered.

Board elected two new members: Jack Jewsbury from Portland Timbers, Pamela Witherspoon Legacy Health.

**Director's Update** The following new employees were introduced to the Board:

Todd Lofgren Property and Investment Manager  
Kellie Torres – Development Manager and  
Jessie Bond – Partnerships and Relationships in the community.

Willamette River swimming study is a priority for the Mayor. It was announced at the Mayor's State of the City address. A meeting was held for them to come up with a budget package for the project.

Parks will have minimal involvement as per the Mayor.

Gladys Ruiz – Want to have a conversation about the long range planning on swimming in the river. She noted that East Portland is not close to the river and how is the City going to address that equity question.

Parks Rangers were not recommended for funding.

**Review Parks Board Survey re: Topics** Parks have been involved with the green loop and the Willamette river loop.

PSU administration convened a meeting and soliciting input from the PSU community, to provide input on green loop.

Meryl Redisch – Asked about the green loop may be a private-public partnership regarding funding.

Jenny Glass – Geography equity how these issues are played out east of I-205. How is it accessible for people east of I-205.



Patricia Frobes – The Board needs to be more disciplined about the topics to focus on.

Land use sub-committee will have to meet on a regular basis so that the issues may be addressed.

Aubre – Know the prioritization of the City/Mayor in addressing the items on the list in the short run.

Kathy – Can be handled as liaison when they give feedback. Can be handled at ad hoc meeting.

Gladys - Homelessness – how does HSE overlap with it. Dealing with existing facilities where there are safety concerns and risks.

May 4<sup>th</sup> meeting: What is the next big look at Parks in the next 10 – 20 years and look at the 2020 vision how it worked.

Send documents in advance to the board before the long range planning retreat.

Do we need any ad hoc committees to look at the list topics? The group has the ability to come up with policy recommendation on homelessness. Big budget impacts on Parks and that the Board be ready to respond to those issues.

Judy Pat Sue Meryl Kathy volunteered to be on the Homeless sub-committee.

Meryl – Some of the topics do translate into the long term vision for Parks.

Teens program is not covered currently. It was suggested that periodic updates be brought to the Board.

Kathy suggested – renters as being a demographic for Board membership.

**Project of the  
Month: Forest Park  
Gateway**

Britta Herwig presented on Forest Park Gateway.

**Meeting Adjourned**

The meeting was adjourned at 9:40 a.m.