

**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**
March 1st, 2017
8:00 – 10:00 am
Lovejoy Room, City Hall

Board members present: Judy BlueHorse, Tony Booker, Kendall Clawson, Aubré Dickson, Kathy Fong Stephens, Patricia Frobos, Ian Jaquiss, Gladys Ruiz, Sue Van Brocklin, Jeff Anderson.

Board members absent: Jenny Glass, Dion Jordan (excused), Jim Owens (excused), Ty Schwoeffermann, Christa Stout, Paddy Tillett (excused), Meryl Redisch

Public members: Kathleen Cheney – Portland State University – Student; Catherine Thompson M.D., Tom Cunningham.

PP&R Staff present: Mike Abbaté, Trang Lam, James Allison, Eileen Argentina, Ramiro Villalvazo, Jennifer Yocom, Jenn Cairo, Jeff Shaffer,

**Call to order,
Welcome and
Introductions** Judy welcomed everyone to the meeting.

**Approval of the
Minutes** Motioned to approve the minutes by Kendall Clawson seconded by Kathy Fong Stephens. Carried. The February 2017 minutes were approved.

**Commissioner's
office update** Out of town

Public Testimony There were two public testimony

Catherine Thompson, MD – Forest Park users would like to have the City and Parks Bureau make Forest Park safe again, by erecting signs and enforcing laws that restrict cyclists to trails that are 8 feet wide.

Catherine has lived in Portland for over 30 years. Talking about Forest Park. She hikes, bikes and do national studies at Forest Park. She shared two photos of wildlife in Forest Park, because of the restoration done. Thank the Board that the restoration has been successful. A petition which has been signed by over 11,000 to make Forest Park safe again. There is unlawful cycling on pedestrian only trails. Over 400 comments were also received with the signatures. The concern is equity. Only 11% of users are cyclists and 90% of the users are pedestrian. They are a minority. The distress from cyclists will drive away users from the park. 1/3 of the trails are already open to cycling. But with good enforcement and signage, the park can be shared.



Tom Cunningham – The proposed entrance and Nature Center on Highway 30 (St Helens Road) and equity.

Born and raised in Portland. Love for Forest Park and keeping it intact and preserved for his grand children. He is concerned about the proposed entrance and center for Forest Park. He attended the St John’s open house and shared his concerns. He noted that equity is PP&R 2020 guiding principle, and quoted PP&R 202 Vision “All of Portland’s residents have access to, feel safe and welcome in, and are equitably served by Portland’s parks, open spaces, natural areas, recreation facilities and programs.” Tom noted that the facility would not work for Seniors and ADA. It is located on Highway 30 and in ODOT in a 2015 study showed that 27,000 cars pass that site on any day, over a 1,000 an hour or 19 a minute. It is not safe because of traffic, pollution, noise, heavy trucks, and not connected to Forest Park. It rises up 600 feet from the proposed site, and right now it is a muddy sloughy stream. Concerned about the money that would be spent. It needs to be sited in a better place, where it could be nestled into the woods. He wanted to point out that the vision does not match the plan and doesn’t continue to implement the recommendation of the vision of Forest Park Natural Resources

Kathy Fong asked for an update on the public testimony. Mike stated that public comments is captured in the minutes and the minutes placed on the website.

Mike shared that the address is on St Helens road and where Highway 30 comes together. The Bureau looked for a piece of property that has good access to the park. It is an industrial site. It is outside of Forest Park. It called for a welcome center and gateway entry to the park. It is does connect to Forest Park. The design team is working on how you build into the grain of the location to connect the park.

Judy shared that the plan will give a gradual access and there were three plans presented. These include an educational building to minimize the sound from traffic, however the outdoor classroom is not practical because of how loud it is. She noted it is accessibly challenging.

Equity is certainly an issue on that site. There is a bus drop off site but it was a concern about taking children to the proposed site.

Kendall is concerned about ADA and equity and how we balance it with practical projects. She noted that we needed to pay attention to intentions as opposed to impact. It will be something to add into the equity conversations. Kendall asked what was expected regarding if or how to communicate back to the presenter.

Mike shared that there are many access points to Forest park by the neighborhood. Build an accessible trail at the center that makes it.

Kathy shared that responses have been provided to previous public testimony.

Mike said that the communications committee can provide a response to the



public.

Kendall asked about process if the public testifies. Is the role of the board a listening one and advice? To advise the bureau, commission and council about PP&R.

Judy stated that Forest Park is ongoing and information gathering input.

Tonya stated that it is helpful to have testimony, and not sure if the Board can make a commitment or make a motion to make some basic response. Having the meeting elsewhere would encourage more people to attend. It informs the lenses on the perspective we can share as a Board. And understanding our role as advisory to the PP&R.

Mike stated if there is consensus from the Parks Board to get back with persons who testify then it is the Board's decision (communication committee) to prepare a response.

Kathy shared in the past there was a quick acknowledgment to the public testimonies.

Judy said that the board may have to consider building in additional time in the agenda to discuss issues brought to the Board by public testimony.

Tonya suggested having some built in time to discuss further.

Gladys said part of that time of having the Board's expertise into the discussion.

Aubre shared that he serves on another committee, the comments get reflected in the minutes. The information shared is to be taken into consideration on what advice the board provides or guide positions.

Mike stated that one of the way PP&R have weighed in on issues is to write letters. PP&R staff give background to update the Board, and at the end of the process the Board prepares a letter giving advice.

Trang suggested that after presentations have the board discuss further for more detailed discussion to provide more information to understand better.

**Committee &
Foundation Reports**

Land Use – No update

Communication – No update

Parks Foundation

First day for Kamla Hurst recently joined as the Interim Development & Program Officer. She served as the development director of Oregon Humanities for nearly



seven years. Kamla has also served as development director for the University of Washington's performing arts center, On the Boards, in Seattle and as an assistant director of development for the University of Chicago's Humanities Division. She serves on the board of Boom Arts, whose mission is to imagine new social and political possibilities through live performance. Kamla received her bachelor's degree in English from Lewis and Clark and pursued interdisciplinary graduate studies at the University of Chicago.

Currently working on the Foot bridge closely with Parks and Recreation on a lot of details, City council and other bureaus on structure etc.

Jeff shared updated fundraising figures on the various projects.

Nominating Committee

Sue Van Brocklin is terming out after two terms, and will have a park bench located in a park of choice in her name.

Kendall is the chair of the Nominating Committee. There is one vacancy on the Board. Nomination will be open from March 6th – 31st, 2017. The Nomination schedule lays out the nominating process.

Director's Update

City is in process of evaluating the budget. The next step is when the budget is presented to Council. Tuesday, March 14th from 10:30 a.m. – 11:45. Judy and Mike will be presenting. With the change in the political structure - a new Mayor and Commissioner. It will be important to see Parks Board Members present to show your sacrifice and volunteerism to PP&R.

A survey will be sent out to the Board for selecting a priority list and lay out the agenda for the coming years, please select the most important to least important topic.

City off road riding plan is generating concern. Forest Park has had this key issue for years. Parks is a stakeholder but also other bureaus. Parks is not leading for the city. It is looking at where can people do offsite racing. Where are all the places we could have for off road cycling. It is not a single thing. There are places for mountain bikes in Forest Park. Riders are looking for areas where mountain bikes can ride on narrow trails through the woods or natural area of some kind. Currently there are few facilities for off road cycling. There are different opinions on where to place these trails and how they impact natural resources.

Classic issue about natural resources, do you exclude or include mountain bikes use forest park in inappropriate way and places.

Kathy what can the parks board do. When people take the time we communicate back to them and say look for the minutes or discussion the board had on the issue.

Sue noted that signage may be inadequate.



**Equity & Long Range
Planning Retreats**

Mike noted that the signs get defaced and torn down.

Kendall stated that it has a lot to do with the Boards process. How we structure the board and how it does things.

Judy thanked Art for the list of facilitators he provided to be considered for the retreat. The board agreed that the 8:30 – 3:00 timeframe was necessary. It is not a check the box kind of training. Judy asked for a team to take on the planning of the retreat.

Gladys wants to find out what the Board wants to learn. How does the board work as an inclusive team? Have a pre-survey to learn what is desired.

Ian said having a discussion on intention and impact at the equity retreat.

Gladys have a different learning style what does it take an inclusive culture/community so that everyone is heard in small groups?

Judy suggested the Portland State University native gathering space as the venue. She will look into getting the space.

Patricia suggested that cooking may be great team building exercise for the board.

Kendall shared that she agrees with the suggestion of the board building its capacity as a board and offered her space if its needed.

Gladys wanted the board to be realistic about the outcome of the retreat.

Sue noted that one of the things the Board needs to learn is how to have equity in everything and what are the tips of how to achieve that.

Patricia she would like to talk to the facilitators to see how their training will work

Tonya shared that the people of color were the ones pushing the issue on equity. But that the board does further work in having everyone be a part. It is a good first step and developing relationships that we become comfortable doing the training. Relationship and comfort level will be important and that the equity lenses be infused in everything.

Kendall offered Cliff Jones as a facilitator. He is good at setting a direction for the training.

Jeff wanted it be clear on what the board members will be getting out of the retreat and why is the board going through the process and the outcomes expected.

Kathy noted that the board changes and how will that be taken into consideration.



Art shared that being clear about the outcomes for the day is important. There is some pre work that would be required of the board to understand who and what.

Pat shared she is interested in greater personal awareness and more of a sense of a real team building within the group and have more than that and having a common culture around knowing each board member better.

Long Range Planning Retreat

Mike – there were a number of questions about PP&R and this retreat will help PP&R looking forward to it long range planning.

Pat volunteered to be on the planning committee.

Tonya Booker - Power of Parks Visit – Peninsula Park - Northwest

Tonya visited Peninsula Park and shared that the North Portland, Piedmont Neighborhood, Rose Garden (1913) is one of the highlights. She remembers the smell of roses washing through the neighborhood and the Gazebo, softball baseball as a youth growing up. The community center has a pool and programs for all ages. There is a surge in enrollment for resources. There is a 71-year-old basketball drop in. The National night out in August usually has free food and fun activities.

Pat noted that the Rose Garden is perfect example for the partnership with parks. Sharing the cost of repairing the bricks and using volunteer hours reduces the cost of maintenance. Emmanuel Tillman Mische first superintendent of the parks was a visionary and hopefully have a park named after him.

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