



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
January 4, 2017
8:00 – 10:00 am
Portland Building Room B – 2nd Floor**

Board members present: Judy BlueHorse Skelton (Chair), Dion Jordan, Aubre Dickson, Patricia Frobes, Jenny Glass, Jim Owens, Gladys Ruiz, Sue Van Brocklin, Paddy Tillett, Meryl Redisch

Board members absent: Jeff Anderson, Tonya Booker (excused), Kendal Clawson (excused), Kathy Fong Stephens (excused), Ian Jaquiss, Ty Schwoeffermann, Christa Stout,

PP&R Staff present: Mike Abbaté, Trang Lam, James Allison, Eileen Argentina, Brett Horner, Jennifer Yocom, Jenn Cairo, Pooja Bhatt

Call to order, Welcome and Introductions Judy welcomed everyone to the meeting and shared again the reason for extending the meeting to 10:00 a.m. to allow the board to get through its business and allow board members to get to know each other's expertise they bring to the board. She noted it is an equity and inclusion issue not knowing the board members.

Commissioner's office update Pooja updated on behalf of the Commissioner. She shared that Mayor Wheeler reassigned Parks and Recreation to Commissioner Fritz. She noted Commissioner Fritz prioritize the bonds second list and will be looking for feedback from the board.

Public Testimony There was no Public Testimony.

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

Director's Update Mike shared there is a public meeting at Mt Scott tonight. The community will have an opportunity to comment on the specific packages put out for budget cuts. The last BAC meeting is January 12th, 2017 in PDX building Room B starting at 6:00 p.m. Also invited were three specific community groups to attend the public meeting. Trang stated that the budget process incorporated listening sessions of which two were planned, the second session was called off because of the weather. However, PP&R still wanted to hear from these communities. So we decide to invite them to this meeting at Mt Scott to make up for the missed meeting. There will be staff available to facilitate with translation and guiding the process. The Board was invited to come early to the meeting since the community member are arriving earlier.

Retail in Parks Jim Owen presented a letter of support for Central City Plan – Commercial Uses in Parks, to the Planning & Sustainability Commission, from the Parks Board to review and approve. The letter was discussed and changes proposed to the letter by the Board. One of the main changes proposed was that the letter needed to reflect the importance the Board places on Equity and Inclusion. The final letter reflected in



order of importance and wording by providing a definition of equitable – “Commercial activity must be equitable for all park users, and create a broad spectrum of public benefits, evaluated by stakeholders”.

**Board Members:
Passion, Expertise
and Hopes for
Board**

Jenny Glass: My back yard was a park, active and positive use of parks is part of her life. Noted that from 162nd and Stark, those opportunities are not available for kids. They are playing in parking lots or ride their bikes to the pool.

Paddy Tillett: Stated the importance of maintaining the green. He is a city dweller and architect who practices urban design. The city is most successful in bringing and keeping those values together. Use of description is deciding what is important. The importance of the parks bureau is more important now. It is our responsibility to reflect those in parks and green spaces. 29% of the city is covered canopy. He hopes that we can carry forward the principles of the 2020 plan and be strategic.

Sue Van Brocklin: Lived at Mt Tabor and there they would go play in park in Portland. They learned to swim at Buckwood and Sellwood pools. She is an urban wildlife person in SW Portland. She is passionate about urban wildlife and connection to green spaces. She noted that Kathy Fong Stephens is an informed advisor and advocates in representing the views of this board to the rest of the city. Working with Commissioner Fritz in making the parks smoke free are things the Board can own.

Aubré Dickson: Grew up in Portland across from a park. Spent a lot of time in recreation and the opportunities that it brings to the community as a surrogate day care for inner city youth. How do we create greater enthusiasm for families to connect? He noted he is still trying to find his space and voice on the board. He wants to be more involved in 2017, and be a part of a great room of folks who are committed to parks. Noted how much the park system is a part of Portland residence.

Gladys Ruiz: Grew up in New York and did not make the connection until becoming a Park Ranger. Parks are places to de-stress. This first thing on moving to Portland was connecting with the Parks & Recreation here. She signed up for a tree pruning class for the forestry program and learned the types of trees. Teaching kids about parks. Racial equity and racial justice was a way to connect young people to parks and green spaces. She notices the disparity on the east side. Stronger and more connected green spaces at Powell Butte was the one she connected with. Seeing that the parks has an investment in young people and it is tied to science and learning and providing a career for young people and utilize parks in a more creative way.

Meryl Redisch: Grew up in Queens and became a Park Ranger. How a city invest in parks shows how much it values its residence and how much it cares about its natural resources and shows itself to visitors. There is a lot still to do. Open spaces of democracy. Should be open for everyone and welcoming for everyone regardless of where people are personally or professionally. Advocacy and proactive. Goals and visions are great but unless you advocate for the policy and track and make sure they are being followed and the people responsible are held accountable it



means nothing. Would like to see the board working more together.

Jim Owens: Likes being a city architect. Influencing policy that and know how you affect public policy. Had a career with the city helping influence public policy and how they manage the growth. Managed development groups of public policy, land use and environmental area. How the systems and vibrant parks are an integral part of making the city work for everyone. Managed commercial uses for the Virgin Island National park for a few years. He has had the opportunity to be involved in park planning and what makes a city work. He wants to give back to the city he has lived and learned in.

Parks Board Work Plan

Mike stated that the work plan came from the Chair and Mike's discussion. It should be looked at as a place to start, more of a tool, than creating a work plan for the board. If the board is willing to work outside the board meetings to sort through the process that could be considered.

Meryl suggested having capacity building training and have a sub-committee formed. Aubre suggested that the board revisit the 20/20 plan and have a retreat to review. Gladys stated it will help to fill in the work plan to add things that are missing.

Mike stated that there are a lot of things to talk about as a board, but the idea of doing a retreat will require a focus.

Judy suggested doing a poll on should the board have a retreat on a strategic long range planning and when.

Jenny asked when does the public process start for the next long range planning. Mike stated it has not yet started and yet to be decided. The plan is to have a big robust public involvement.

It was proposed to have a full day training with the morning focused on equity training and afternoon focused on long range planning. Jim suggested two half days. There was concern that with a full day attendance will be lacking. Dion suggested having the equity training separate from the long range planning.

Gladys suggested that the equity training be longer than half a day and more time dedicated to that training. She wants to advocate for more time. Dion suggested the equity training be held from 8:00 – 3:00 p.m. It was suggested providing all the options to the board.

Aubre suggested that we prioritize the training up front and then provide the training electronically.

Meryl asked if the equity and inclusion training may be open to inviting the commission to participate.

Jenny suggested having a small work group work on the Parks Bond 2nd list. It will be something to put in February after the presentation.



Pat wanted to highlight youth and youth use in the park and homelessness. She wanted to know how much of the educational part of the strategic plan can get accomplished and a workshop around strategic planning may be something to consider. If this is considered the material be sent out in advance so that board members are prepared.

Jim stated parks bond is part of a larger whole about parks funding and the board need to understand how the pieces fit together with an overview on how the different funding sources overlap.

Other areas to be considered is Public Safety, Transportation, better articulate how the SBC works.

**Meeting
Adjourned**

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

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