



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
February 1, 2017
8:00 – 10:00 am
Matt Dishman Community Center**

Board members present:

Board members absent:

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 asked everyone to introduce themselves. Quick announcements. Talked about scheduling two retreats on E&E and Long term plan Strategic Plan. Asked members to put in the dates they are available. Welcome Ramiro and thank him for attending the installation of the River Guardian on the Willamette River. Joe Cantrell was invited to photograph the day and Judy will send it out to everyone.

**Commissioner's
office update**

Pooja updated on behalf of the Commissioner

Earlier this week the bureau submitted the requested budget. Thanks the Board and BAC for participating in the process. Difficult decisions had to be made to meet the 5% requested cuts. Not supportive of any cuts taken to the bureau after many years of cuts. It makes an impact of good paying quality jobs and services to the community. Please attend the upcoming meetings in April. Late May the Mayor sends in his budget and June the Council votes on the budget.

Anything in particular you would like to hear from the Commissioner's office going forward?

Kendall would like to hear more about what she is thinking long game. Not getting much information in the monthly meetings and reacting to things. A little bit more dialogue in areas of where the Board can be more involved in supporting her achieve her vision.

Jim conversation in City Hall about the budget from the Commissioner especially pet projects that the Board may

Judy asked about inviting Mayor Wheeler to the meeting

Gladys to talk about at the board retreat what we want to ask Commissioner Fritz.

Why you said yes to serving on the board.

Kendall Oregon and Portland has amazing outdoor space and to live in a city that



does not feel like a city. And being allowed to participate in a Board that impacts decisions is a wonderful opportunity and how it plays.

Kathy grew up in Portland, wild in the parks doing all types of outdoorsy things and my passion is making sure that people who do not know what the parks is about and have them participate in parks as much as possible and get the word out. One of the session at the BAC they just didn't know about the parks. Communications is great and it is not only on parks to do the outreach but helping get the work out and part of the future to sustain the future of park.

Judy said using the expertise that sits around the table is also part of being on the Board.

Jim: Land Use Report: Retail in City Parks. Was presented a week Equity is a driving factor, we weren't seeing a precedent city wide but just central city. Any proposal goes through and extensive process and community involvement. The Committee endorsed the proposal.

Communications Committee has not met recently.

Parks Foundation (Jeff): rapping up 2016 which is Jim's first full 1.33 million in gift 720,000 for the footbridge 400,000 pledges. Metro made a second commitment of 100,000. The steering committee is intaking events to boast the fund,

65,000 from Timbers to Cully Park towards the 500,000 goal.

Charles Jordan circle now have 50 donors members, have doubled the amount from mid years.

Jessica is the Administrative Office at Foundation. Announcement for a development office is out please share to work with great development people

Jennifer making visits for Summer Free for all and our sponsors are recommitting.

Kelly Torres is out new development officer.

Retreat Schedule- Mike

Friday is the choice

Equity there are three days with 11 persons.

There are a couple of key dates selected. We will give it another day or two and send out a reminder for other members to select dates. Should send an outlook invite to members on the day.

Gladys stated we have extended the meeting and wanted to know if we can pause to connect. Concerned about filling up the agenda and no opportunity for a pause.



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| | <p>Judy asked if the pause can be planned in advance.</p> <p>Gladys suggested that the board have a check in time as a line item in the agenda. Judy noted that we can put in that check in time in the future. Opportunity to partner, collaborate etc.</p> |
| Public Testimony | <p>There was no Public Testimony.</p> |
| Board Members Sharing: Passion; Expertise & Hopes for the Board | |
| Approval of the Minutes | <p>Motioned to approve the minutes by seconded. Carried. The January 2017 minutes were approved.</p> |
| Director's Update | <p>What was heard as priority about future agendas. Did we capture the key issues you want to engage in over the last meeting.</p> <p>Long Range Planning. Looking Equity and Inclusion is High build capacity on the board and a retreat. Decided on 8-3</p> <p>Conversation on parks level of service. Foundational for the next 20-year plan. What are the specifics of the types of facilities.</p> <p>Parks Bond - Role on the Parks Advisory Committee. Strengthen relationship with the commissioner. Inviting Mayor Wheeler to come to the meeting. Homelessness update will be given by Vicente.</p> <p>Working as liaisons.</p> <p>Comprehensive Plan Review (City Long Range Planning) Youth and how they are being engaged by PP&R Facilities.</p> <p>Stable funding of parks General Parks, Fees, Partnerships. Proposed when Judy and Dion meet focus on these items and you can create committees, or what more information you want.</p> <p>Judy stated committee to look at any of Do we need to have a healthiness working group.</p> <p>Working of issues that need more time that would not be done at the 1.5 hour at these meetings.</p> <p>Jim – Land Use – Liasion to Parks Foundation, Off Road cycling committee, SBC</p> |



committee, CIP Advisory

150th Division Park – Gladys
Paddy Washington Park Master Plan and Land Use
Parks Bond Committee – Dion
Urban Forestry

Patricia Homelessness group Cap Improvement Plan, Communications

Kathy Homelessness, Land Use, Spring Garden Park Committee
Jennu – 150th Master planning, East Portland Parks Coalitions,
Kendall – Pioneer Courthouse Square renovation. Board Development,
Sue – Communications Committee, would like to join the homeless committee

Judy suggested possibly making homelessness group into a formal committee:
Gladys and Meryl

Judy stated that we can include equity and inclusion in all aspects of the committees.

Mike stated that it is the boards wanting to create the capacity of this equity retreat. There will be no staff at that session. A small group who will be involved in the planning of the retreat. Selecting a facilitation

Dion, Pat, Judy,

Meryl – What are the things we want to know from Commissioner – what is happening with Multnomah County, is there anything we should be aware of at the state and county level on homelessness. What is the county doing around policy and services. Parks in general. Can that information inform us how we do things around.

Mike Joint Forces on Homelessness is funded by City and County. 50 Bills in the system that affects homelessness.

If there are people interested in getting more information on the legislature, please let me know. Send out the bills on Monday of the bills that have parks interest. With recommendations to office of Government Relations.

If Parks have an interest does not mean the city will take the position. Council make decision on the position the city will take.

Conservation funding and Setting up and office.

Jenny: Parks Foundation the relationship on how both entities set priority and how the relationship works. Jeff stated there is an intertwine.

Jeff suggested it will be a good retreat topic. In the long-range planning retreat.



Kendal: Helpful of things you know how that may require us to testify and pacing it out throughout the session and have board members lobby legislature and testify.

Equity and actualization if there are ways we can be thinking of what is up for grab and how it impacts, Who benefits and who does not. Putting in a space of practice.

Mike: Multi step process. Look at all bills and decide what we want to way in. Do PP&R want to have a position on it. If the City does not want to have a position. The OGR office reaches out to PP&R and asked if we want to testify.

Kendall: retreat topic Legislative. If the city decides no can the Board be used to lobby the issue on things that matter to PP&R? There is a lot on programs now.

Kathy: Helpful to know who is sponsoring the bill, who is proposing. Lobbying restrictions on Board members.

Mike: stated that the City can take a positon but Board Members can lobby as private citizens.

Jim: At the legislative. couple of weeks the bills will be thinned out by the committee and that list may be better to looks.

Mike: Interest in state legislative issues. Will send it out next week with the bureau's thought. Then sent to the OGR and seeks consensus on what position the city will have.

Sue: Wants the homelessness report moved before the Bond presentation.

Judy said that committee is on time and asked if members want to switch

**Bond Update and
Phase 2 Project
List**

Lauren McGuire made a presentation on the Bond Program.

Bond Phase I 33 projects identified and are on their way. 5 behind schedule.

7.4

Exceeding the city goals to utilize M/VV/ESB and working on ways to increase those.

Criteria not mentioned in 2016 is equity. Looking at safety risk first, what is the nearest park and what is the level of service. We wanted to ensure the ones chosen.

As we got into the assessment the lead issue came into the front. It created a list in the city where we have to replace playground equipment. Looking at accessibility. Peninsula pool will cost 3.5 million.



More listening session with immigrant and refugees committee so they understand the process of how the bond issue works.

Mike – First outside group that is hearing about the outreach for the Bond 2 project. Looking for feedback from the Board if the approach makes sense and any questions.

Jenny – Outreach Community members give feedback and never hear back. What is the planned process to provide feedback to community?

Mai taking notes at the coalition meetings on what will be heard. If there are questions on why something is not on the list staff will be responsible to respond to the community and document.

Lauren – There will be a community meeting inviting people to provide that feedback.

It is a starting point for the conversation on what is priority going forward for 230M repairs.

Gladys – Having a better understanding of process and having a key of the acronyms used.

Jennifer -the presentation will be more visual with maps to help the audience understand.

Katy – Coincide with capital improvement priority list. March 17, BAC meeting has been scheduled. Not it is March 2017.

Lauren – The list was similar to the Bond list was feedback from staff and community and then evaluated. Capital improvement is money that is begged for. Bond is specifically to the bond wording.

Have heard about play equipment that has been removed from the parks. If found they are removed or fenced off.

10 pieces of play equipment replaced this spring.

Ramiro – is impressed. And how they work. They have a lot of input and moving parts and impressed about what is going on. This is just a snapshot of what this group is doing. Trying to do right for the bond initiative.

Meryl - Capital improvement – any other big opportunities around to collaboration. Looking at next phase that foundation will be willing to look at and keep the Board informed how that goes.

Jeff – Strategic plan process part of which is reviewing criteria used to select projects and work with PP&R to identify which projects need supporting and is



**Homelessness in
Parks Update**

attractive to donors.

Mike thanked the team for the presentation. The pool was just redone and if you would like to walk around please do.

Vincente projects over the last 6-8 months.

Policy that the Mayor safe sleeping to use sidewalks and parks for safe sleeping. Instead of leaving they stayed. Midland Park came on the board with dozens encampments for the neighborhoods. The rangers got engaged, the hard enforcement is not the sustainable solutions is not the best way. Excluding them from parks is the best thing for houseless people. Looked at how we engaged the populations properly to get some benefits from our organization with resources that can move them along in a respectful dignified manner.

Midland park we showed a presence in the parks, we won't work together with other agencies.

Homelessness in parks is a national issue. Homeless population increase. Economy turn 2007. Portland is ahead of the curve of how we are handling this issues.

500 people living in the Springwater trail. Engaged with other agencies October 2016, moved off 280 people off the trail. Boots on the ground, PP&R, group who engaged the populations. Level 4 camp – Elaborate structure in the natural area nailed to tress two levels with stove etc. Being able to reconnect with families, shelters, housing for

It took 30 days in phases. Not one person felt disrespected, engaged them in a humane way helped them moved to a more sustainable area.

Gateway green property. Most of the people moved there. 60-80 structures. Worked with the same group to engage campers and transition them to resources.

December/January with the snow storms Jupiter PP&R was creative in how it responded to save lives. Activated the CC as warming centers. Provide the facility but not the services because our staff are not trained. Mt Scott and Charles Jordan. 60-80 individuals who stayed overnight. Had Joint Office of Homelessness provided support overnight.

Houselessness community. Looking long term on how to service this community. Have agencies who serve the community engage ahead before PP&R Rangers get involved.

Masters

Engage all people 7 principles. Get from Vicente. Use Forest Park as a kick off for Leave no Trail project.

Meryl – Collaborative with Metro and State parks. How work together. State Parks see a little but not. Metro does not currently collaborate.



The rangers do training. Neighbors like Tualatin have an exclusion clause from their parks. It is a regional issue but the tools we have varies from jurisdiction to jurisdiction. There is a lot of coordination between Metro and City that PP&R manage and we treat it the same as our parks.

Skid Row 8 – 10 people living in a square mile in LA. We can do work now where we can make an impact to prevent our areas from becoming overwhelmed. There is dual patrol of our natural area. BES pays for those. 4 Rangers patrolling the Eastside along the trail: Gateway park to not allow them to become overrun as they did in the past. There are resources out there.

Meryl – legislative concept should be spoken in Salem.

Gladys – Dealing with the symptom. Conversation around gentrification and other issues that may trigger these issues. Looking at how these are impacting the homelessness.

Mike: Mayor and Council major issue is housing. Many conversation and planning session with bureau and planning.

Not build a park because it increases the property value and impacts the community. Housing policy, investment. Inclusionary policy that requires the city to include affordable housing in development.

Pat – Anything in parks or city can those who get them job ready.

Mike – Denver had done some hiring of this community to help with the clean etc. and it is a good idea.

Eileen - Civilian Conservation Corp. Paid for a supervisor and it was a good experience for PP&R and can be considered.

Kendall – CCC is a good model. Wrap around services about substance abuse and mental issues. Do you feel you are getting that level of support?

Vincente -Stay in PP&R lane and then pass along. Training on indicators to look at and who to engage when these are observed in the population. It does needs to be passed along.

Judy thanked Vicente

Pooja noted that the work Vicente is doing is very humane and professional with a very complex problem. Commissioner Fritz is aware of the complex nature, if they are sleeping without a structure they are not priority but if they are building structures in natural areas then they need to be addressed. With the new Mayor the city will discuss what it will do to address homelessness. Waiting to see what



**Parks Board Work
Plan**

**Meeting
Adjourned**

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

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