



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

July 5th, 2017

8:00 – 10:00 am

**Room B 2nd Floor,
Portland Building**

Board members present: Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Patricia Frobes, Jenny Glass, Jim Owens, Paddy Tillett, Joseph O’Leary, Michelle Dedeo, Paul Agrimis, Meryl Redisch, Kendall Clawson, Kathy Fong Stephens.

Board members absent: Aubré Dickson, Ian Jaquiss, Tonya Booker, Gladys Ruiz, Christa Stout, Jeff Anderson.

PP&R Staff present: Mike Abbaté, Eileen Argentina, Art Hendricks, Jennifer Yocom, Ramiro Villalvazo, Cristina Nieves, Brett Horner, Art Hendricks, Katie Dunham, Emily Roth, Jason Smith, Trang Lam, Margaret Evans.

Call to order, Pat welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Welcome and Introductions Pat stated that it’s currently a consequential time for the Bureau as Mike and his staff were in the process of preparing the 2017-2019 Strategic Plan. This will define the work of Parks Board and the priorities for the next three years. It will also be the foundation for the next 2030-2040 long-term vision. The Board will be a pivotal part of both the strategic planning process and the long-term visioning process; providing feedback and input, reaching out to the community and ensuring there is a broad community participation.

Pat mentioned that historically the Board had met monthly at a specific time and place, and the committees (*i.e.*, communication, land use, and nominating) had met at other times, as needed. Pat reported that she, Kendall, and Mike were proposing the creation of four new committees:

- Policy Committee which in the near term would consist of two sub-committees;
- Infrastructure Committee focused on capital improvement projects, new parks, and related topics looking at specific projects;
- Community Development Committee focused on public outreach, particularly to underserved populations, and relationships with partners, friend groups, and volunteers; and
- Financial Stability Committee focused on the annual budget, bond issues, cost recovery, and similar issues.

It was proposed that the Board meet every other month and the committees meet on the alternate months at the same time and place at which the Board meets. The Board would focus primarily on higher level strategic issues and how the specific policies and projects impact the Bureau’s strategy, and vice versa. The committees work would inform what the Board does on the strategic level. The goal is to increase engagement without increasing the meeting time. Pat will reach out to Board members to get feedback on the proposal.

Jim asked if an issue comes up that needs Board action, do we take care of the issue through emails or at another time, during a month the Board is not meeting?

Pat replied that if all sub-committees are meeting at the same time, then the a quorum of the Board would be available to address urgent issues.

Meryl asked “Will there be staff communicating with these committees?”

Mike replied that staff will be in attendance. Staff will not be available to take minutes for committee meetings.

Kathy asked: “Will equity and inclusion issues be discussed individually?”

Pat replied yes. The goal is to integrate the core values of equity and inclusion into very discussion.

**Public Testimony
Invited**

There was no public testimony.

**PP&R Overview and
2017-2020
Strategic Plan**

Mike presented an overview of PP&R and the Parks Board. He presented numbers related to size of the Bureau (e.g., land area, budget size, employment, and volunteer program), a brief history of its directors, information on its Friends and Partners, and major issues currently faced by the Bureau.

Mike brought up the discussion about Parks Board role and opened it for questions. He mentioned that the Board’s duties include advocacy, support of policy, budget input.

The conversation focused on the new committees and Pat said she would send a description of what the roles and responsibilities of the new committees.

Board member asked: “Is there an opportunity to add advocacy, for example, as a component of policy?”

Mike replied yes. So far there is a skeletal frame work of each committee, but the committee members would help define what is it that they do.

Kathy asked if Commissioner Fritz could join the Board and the committees on the monthly meeting, which will give Commissioner the opportunity to share her ideas with the Board and committees.

Pat said she and Kendall would be communicating with the Commissioner regarding attendance at Board meetings. Mike said the Commissioner would like to participate but Wednesday mornings would not work due to City Council preparation. Mike suggested a doodle poll for consult on Board Meeting changes.

Jim asked: “Does the Budget Advisory Committee need to be a separate process?”

Pat mentioned that it requires additional time and it’s hard for most members to show up for all four or five meetings. It made the participation inconsistent and not as influential as it might be otherwise.

Mike reminded everyone, especially the new members, that the Board members are public bodies, which mean any kind of meeting of this body is a public meeting; it must be notified and requires invitation. He advised caution on communication with each other. For example, sending one-on-one emails are fine; however sending/discussing any ideas to the whole Board members would make the conversation a meeting and it will be subjected to disclosure.

Meryl mentioned that Parks should have a recognition or award to kids or community members in honor of Dorothea Lensch (Parks Director from 1937-1972) to foster support for women in leadership positions. Mike mentioned that Parks maybe should have a community center named after her.

Brett Horner talked about the process to develop a new long range vision for the Bureau. There is a lot of work that staff will put together before starting consultations with the public (possibly in two years from now). The current Parks 2020 Vision document is available at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/40182> The new Strategic Plan is a two-three year that will support the Vision 2030.

Jason Smith briefly talked about the planning stage for the Strategic Plan. Just recently Parks Leadership teams completed meetings with a consultant to find ways to improve organization effectiveness. Detailed information will be provided on the Aug 2017 Parks Board meeting.

Trang Lam highlighted that developing the Strategic Plan will help stay focus during the budget process providing guidance to the development of budget packages.

Director's Update Poet's Beach will open next week for swimming and we are taking Parks Board members on a tour on Aug 25th, 3-5pm, the most popular option from the Doodle Poll. We will meet on Southwater Front Park.

Approval of the Minutes of June 7th Meeting A few point corrections to the minutes from Paddy Tillett, Jim Owens. Motion to approve the June 2017 minutes as corrected by Patricia Frobes seconded by Jenny Glass. Carried.

Washington Park Master Plan Emily Roth, the project manager to the Washington Park Master Plan Update presented to the Board information on the nature of the project, its concepts, and its status.

Information on the Washington Park Master Plan Update is available to the public at <https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/70954>

Current tensions around the master plan update are:

- Parking: should we build a parking garage or focus on multi-modal transportation;
- Natural area presentation: can we active natural areas with appropriate activities such as nature play spots and picnic areas;
- Recreation Activities: should sport fields and archery stay in the park.

Paddy commented that parking demands change over time. There are indications that the demand may diminish in the future, and the capital that

goes into parking structures is enormous and would decrease investment in other programs. Paddy proposed resisting the parking increase request. Emily added that in 2012, to build a 840-spaces parking garage would cost \$50 million.

Kathy asked how the seismic areas map inform the planning and design for activities.

Emily mentioned that the map informs mainly about construction of buildings and how that could increase the cost to have them follow safety standards.

Paul supported Paddy's argument to not build a parking garage. He asked about the activation of the natural areas, is there a safety issue?

Emily responded no. She mentioned that the activation would go along with the creation of the trail so it's not only a transportation corridor and a place for natural area enjoyment, making it another park feature.

Meryl supported the argument to not build a parking garage.

Jim mentioned that to be successful on connecting youth with outdoors, the park might need to have recreation activities. He argued that it is critical to have recreation activities in Washington Park.

Jenny supported the argument to not build a parking garage. She argued that MAX has done a great work on branding the Zoo destination and there is a missed opportunity to get more people to other areas of the park on MAX, and use MAX as branding tool for the whole park.

Kendall said there is an opportunity to think about collaboration with Uber. For instance, for every Uber ride to Washington Park, Uber could donate \$1 for the Parks Foundation. Benefits to Uber could be negotiated on the lines of maybe specific privileged stops.

Pat asked how Parks is planning to pay for the implementation of the master plan?

Emily answered that they are just now getting to cost estimating and financing and there is a good start from the parking revenue to implement projects.

Mike summarized that:

- there was broad consensus on not building more parking nor a parking structure;
- There is Broad consensus on building bench, picnic tables along the trail is appropriate;
- Jim voiced that there is a need for recreation activities in this park.

Pat mentioned that it would be nice to have Paddy report back to the Board after the Champions Committee.

Paddy mentioned that the value of recreation in Washington Park is to compliment the arrangement of all the other playing fields.

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