



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

November 7, 2017

3:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Moda Center

Fremont Room

Board members present: Aubre Dickson, Patricia Frobes, Jenny Glass, Jim Owens, Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Kathy Fong Stephens, and Christa Stout.

Board members absent: Jeff Anderson, Paul Agrimis, Ian Jaquiss, Gladys Ruiz, Paddy Tillett, Joseph O’Leary, Meryl Redisch, and Tonya Booker.

PP&R Staff present: Mike Abbaté, Amy Archer-Masters, Margaret Evans, Anthony LeBron, Art Hendricks, Ramiro Villalvazo, Jason Smith, Jennifer Yocom and Tanya Holmes.

Commissioner’s Office: Cristina Nieves

Call to order, Welcome and Introductions Pat called the meeting to order at 3:15 p.m. Mike introduced his new Executive Assistant, Tanya Holmes.

Public Testimony Dr. Catherine Thompson spoke about the Forest Park Single Track Cycling Pilot Project. The project was a collaborative effort by Forest Park Conservancy, PP&R and PUMP and the group was to jointly maintain the cycling track. The project was intended to be a model of single track cycling in Forest Park; but the soft trail has eroded over time. Dr. Thompson requested priority be given to the maintenance of the current trail before more trails are established.

Chris Rotvik spoke on behalf the President of the North-West Trail Alliance (NWTa). He extended a thank you to PP&R for building Gateway Green. His presentation focused on the same Forest Park trail that Dr. Thompson mentioned, noting that PP&R withdrew NWTa’s authority to maintain the trail five years ago. Mr. Rotvik assessed the trail in the Spring of this year and noticed significant erosion which could be remedied with regular trail maintenance. The NWTa is currently engaged with the Forest Park Conservancy to put together a joint work party to address the trail. The next step is to put together a trail walk that includes staff from PP&R, the lead person from Forest Park Conservancy and staff from NWTa to determine the maintenance needs of the trail. He also mentioned that according to monitoring by PP&R more than 99% of cycling activity in the Park is on sanctioned trails and more than 94% of the cyclist stay on the trail

and don't continue onto Wildwood trail.

Pat thanked the guests for their input and noted that as the topic is of great interest, many people have spent a lot of time and energy working with the Off-Road Cycling Advisory Committee and participating in other public processes. Pat noted that the Land Use Sub-committee has reviewed drafts of the Off-Road Cycling Plan involved and has a liaison to the Off-Road Cycling Advisory Committee. The Parks Board will be reviewing the final draft of the Off-Road Cycling Plan in the next few months.

Additional Information Pat proposed changing the next meeting from January 2nd to January 9th, due to the holidays. In February, which is a Committee month, Mayor Ted Wheeler is tentatively scheduled to attend the Board meeting. Pat asked each of the Committees to identify questions/issues the respective Committee would like the Mayor to address.

2017-20 Strategic Plan & Parks Board Involvement Pat addressed the final draft of the 2017 – 20 Strategic Plan. She stated that the Plan is a living document and Board comments and questions are still relevant as the staff implements the plan.

Mike expressed his appreciation for the feedback the Board provided on earlier drafts of the plan. Based on the Board's feedback, the staff stepped back and evaluated the draft plan in the context of other key Bureau priorities, including the 5-Year Equity Plan and Commissioner Fritz's priorities. Thanks to Jason's leadership, Art's help and Trang's facilitation, key elements from the 5-Year Racial Equity plan and the Commissioner's priorities were incorporated into the Strategic Plan. The staff then evaluated 50 proposed initiatives and prioritized 35 that are both ambitious and achievable.

Jason discussed the layout of the plan. The plan is broken into 4 focus areas each of which has desired outcomes to be achieved by 2020. Each of the 35 initiatives are tied to one of the 4 focus areas. A project manager has been identified for each of the initiatives.

Judy added that she would like to see the Plan address the importance of partnerships to achieving the plan's objectives, highlighting those areas or issues, such as forest assessment, in which partnerships can be most effective.

Jim expressed congratulations in keeping the plan short and focused. He expressed concern that the plans that are to achieve financial stability are not explicitly addressed.

Kathy added that Mike's letter to the public regarding the Strategic Plan should mention how PP&R partners with the Portland Parks Foundation.

Pat asked about performance measures. Jason mentioned that there are several layers that will be used to determine performance, including metrics that will be developed in the next 6 months and reviewed by the Parks Board.

Jim asked about initiatives regarding full cost recovery for preschool. Mike mentioned that there is no general fund subsidy for the pre-school program, but staff is developing a plan that will take into account participants' ability to pay. Jim also noted that the golf program could become more financially stable if assets that aren't working were sold.

Christa compliment the staff on the good work that went into producing the plan. Pat echoed Christa by stating that this is really good work to integrate into the budget advisory process and link resources as we move forward.

Budget Advisory Process Amy Archers Masters, the new Finance, Property and Technology Manager, will be heading the budget process. She comes to PP&R from the Office of Neighborhood Involvement. Anthony LeBron is the new Finance Supervisor that oversees the budget and Financial Analysis monitoring and will be working on the process along with Amy.

Amy and Anthony head the Budget Advisory Committee. There will be five Community meetings. There will be two meetings in November, which will form the foundation for the December meeting where decisions are made. There will be a public meeting in January, along with a final meeting in January to finalize decisions. Kirsten Greene has been enlisted to help facilitate the process.

Mike mentioned that budget guidance from the Mayor's office is expected next week.

Pat added that after the budget process is complete, the Parks Board will start the planning process for next year and work with the Financial Stability Committee to further refine and improve the process.

Director's Update Mike and Jeff Anderson, from the Portland Parks Foundation, presented at Council last week regarding the Wildwood Trail bridge. 500K of City funds will be allotted to the Portland Parks Foundation for the construction of the bridge. Portland Parks Foundation raised 2.5M for the project. In the current fiscal year, if there are adequate funds, PP&R will contribute 75K to help offset Foundation operating costs. There will be some ongoing investment by the City to help with future operating costs.

Meeting Adjourned The Board meeting was adjourned at 3:50 pm