



PORTLAND PARKS BOARD

MEETING MINUTES

December 5, 2017 | 3:00 – 5:00 pm

City Hall | Council Chambers

Board members present: Aubre Dickson, Patricia Frobes, Joseph O’ Leary, Jim Owens, Judy BlueHorse Skelton, Kathy Fong Stephens, Gladys Ruiz, Paddy Tillett, Meryl Redisch and Jeff Anderson.

Board members absent: Paul Agrimis, Tonya Booker, Kendall Clawson, Jenny Glass, Ian Jaquiss and Christa Stout.

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

Commissioner’s Office: Commissioner Fritz and Cristina Nieves

Call to order, Welcome and Introductions Pat Frobes called the meeting to order at 3:10 p.m.

Approval of the Minutes Approval of the September, October and November minutes was moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

Public Testimony Pat welcomed the members of the public in attendance at the meeting. She reminded everyone that the Board allocates a total of ten minutes to public testimony from a total of 5 individuals on a first come, first served basis. She noted that those who were not able to testify today would have a chance to sign up to do so at future meetings.

The first speaker was Marcy Houle. She stated that, in considering off road cycling in Forest Park, neither the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability nor the Bureau of Parks was appropriately considering the ordinances that govern Forest Park. She also mentioned that she has been subjected to verbal abuse for speaking against single-track cycling in Forest Park.

Pat stated that no one should have to endure abuse for expressing his or her views, and expressed condolences to Marcy for any verbal abuse she has suffered.

The second speaker was Mike Lindberg. He was a City Commissioner for 17





years, a Parks Commissioner for 8 years and a Director of Planning and Development for the City.

He referred to an article he had written for the Oregonian, stating that Forest Park is a sanctuary for hikers. Mountain biking makes the park unsafe for families who are hiking and threatens the park eco system. Mr. Lindberg urged the City to preserve Forest Park as a place where citizens of Portland can find refuge, something that is important not only for current citizens, but for the 400,000 additional citizens projected to be in Portland by 2025.

Paul Majkut spoke about Forest Park animals that have been in the Park for centuries. He asked that mountain bikes not be allowed on the soft surfaces of the Park. He argued that mountain biking tears up habitat, destroys wildlife, and causes injuries to people. He asked that another area be developed for mountain bikes to preserve Forest Park for future generations.

Patrick Mullaley described incidents he has witnessed in which pedestrians had to scramble to get out of the way of cyclists in Forest Park, particularly on the Wildwood Trail. He urged the Parks Bureau to enforce the rules and regulations governing mountain biking in the Park.

Will Atchison was the last presenter. He is a longtime user of Forest Park and resident of Portland. He runs, hikes, mountain bikes and walks his dog in Forest Park. He referenced his handout describing several surveys of citizen's outdoor recreation priorities. Mr. Atchison referred to a statewide survey done in 2015 in which increased soft surface mountain biking trails ranked 17th on the list of outdoor recreation priorities, far below increasing hiking trails and other priorities.

Pat thanked all of those who testified, saying she appreciates the time they have put into sharing their views and that their contributions help to make our City work effectively.

Pat mentioned that the purpose of today's discussion is to give the entire Board background on the issues covered by the Off-Road Cycling Plan and the process by which the plan has been developed. Additionally, to give Board members the opportunity to ask questions so that the Board can be as informed as possible when the full plan is considered at a future meeting.

**Off-Road Cycling
Tutorial**

Jim Owens reminded the Board that he is the Board liaison to the Off-Road Cycling Advisory Committee. He noted that normally a recreational use master plan for a park would be prepared by the Parks Bureau, but in this case, at the direction of the Mayor, the Off-Road Cycling Master Plan is being prepared by the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS). BPS established





the Advisory Committee to work with the Bureau in the development of the plan. Jim also noted that, although a great deal of the Board's discussion so far has involved Forest Park, the Master Plan covers the entire City and affects more than Forest Park.

Mike introduced Michelle Kunec-North and Tom Armstrong from BPS. Michelle presented an overview of the current draft of the Off-Road Cycling Master Plan and the process by which it was developed.

The planning process is 2 years in the making based on direction from the Council to take a Citywide look at off-road cycling needs. The Council recognized that off-road cycling would best be addressed from a City-wide perspective, considering the City's needs and best practices for meeting those needs.

The purpose of the process was to create a plan for a city-wide system of sustainable trails and bike parks for a variety of users – children, families, mountain bikers and others. In developing the plan BPS has worked extensively with PP&R, PBOT, the Water Bureau and Metro. The draft plan focuses on City owned properties only. There are 42 miles of service roads for bikes on City owned properties. There are 2 bike parks (Venture Track in East Portland and Seal Park across from the Charles Jordan Community Center.) One in eight residents has ridden a bike off-road in Portland in the past year, more people than participated in other sports.

Michelle handed out a map that noted where proposed bike trails would be located and mentioned that many trails, including Wildwood, would not be open to bikers.

Judy observed that many of the proposed trails are in Forest Park and asked if people would need to drive from Mt. Butte to Forest Park, noting that a person shouldn't need a car to ride a trail bike. Michelle mentioned that users could ride on ride-use corridors and neighborhood greenways to access bike trails.

Michelle stated that through the community engagement process employed by BPS, the Bureau has received over 4,000 good comments on the draft and or issues covered by the plan.

Kathy asked how it was determined to limit the plan to City-owned properties and wondered whether there might be opportunities to partner with other public property owners to increase biking opportunities. Michelle stated that BPS had worked with Metro, ODOT and local schools in developing the plan.





Gladys and Judy asked about the potential budgetary impact of the draft plan. Mike stated that when a new project is approved by the Council, the Council allocates money to maintain the project. Michelle added that there would also be money allocated to enforcement of the regulations governing the use of biking trails.

Pat mentioned that the Board's assessment of the Off-Road Cycling Plan should consider the Parks Bureau's Strategic objectives, 5-Year Equity Plan and the 2020 Vision.

Committee Reports Pat asked the chairs of the Houselessness and Land Use Committees to give a brief summary of the work that they have been doing and asked Judy to give a summary of the recent BAC meetings.

Kathy stated that the Houselessness Committee was waiting to get data about the impact of houseless people living in natural areas and developed parks. The Committee is also looking at employee safety and how efforts to assure employee safety can be expanded to include the general public. Kathy noted that Park usage by the public is diminishing due to safety concerns.

Jim reported that the Infrastructure and Land Use Committees have combined given that much of the committees' work overlaps. Jim indicated that the combined committee is considering several long-range master plans, including the Forest Park Master Plan, and the plan for development of the Post Office site. In addition, in the spring, the Committee will consider the use of drones in parks.

Judy mentioned that she participated in a well-attended Budget Advisory Committee last week. The Committee has questioned why we are being asked to cut 5% of the budget given that the City's finances have recovered well from the recession. Jim noted that the consensus from the BAC is that there is nothing to cut.

Director's Update Mike stated that the Gabriel Park playground project is about to get underway to be redone to make it a fully accessible play area. They are looking for a Parks Board member to be a liaison. There will be 3-4 meetings over the next 5 months as that Advisory Committee gets started. Mike asked for volunteers.

Additional Information Pat reminded the Board that the next meeting will take place on January 9th, which is the 2nd Tuesday, as opposed to the first Tuesday, of the month - the usual meeting date.





Meeting Adjourned The Board meeting was adjourned at 4:00 pm

Sub-Committees The Community Development, Houselessness, and Financial Stability Committees convened after the adjournment of the Board meeting.

