



**PORTLAND
PARKS & RECREATION**

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

**Budget Advisory Committee
Meeting #1
November 13, 2017**

5:30 – 9:00 p.m.
Colwood Golf Center
7313 NE Columbia Blvd. | Portland, OR

Draft Meeting Summary

BAC Committee Members Attending

| Portland Parks Board | | Affiliation | Neighborhood Reps | Affiliation |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
| Ian Jaquiss | OHSU | | Angela Moos | NPNS |
| Tonya Booker | PCC | | Carol Chesarak | NWNW |
| Community Reps | | Affiliation | Sami Faile | SWNI |
| Jenny Lee | Coalition for Communities of Color | | Natalie Rush | EPNO |
| Kolini Futsitua | Tongan community | | Angela Moos | NPNS |
| Guest | Arlene Kimura | | | |

| Commissioner's Office | |
|---------------------------|-------------|
| Commissioner Amanda Fritz | Pooja Bhatt |

| PP&R Staff | | Facilitators |
|------------------------|------------------|----------------------|
| Mike Abbaté | Eileen Argentina | Kirstin Greene |
| Trang Lam | Jennifer Yocom | Alex Cousins |
| Amy Archer-Masters | Anny Hsiao | |
| Art Hendricks | James Allison | Budget Office |
| Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong | Jamal Fox | Ryan Kinsella |
| Chris Silke | Sabrina Neal | |
| Anthony LeBron | | OEHR |
| Ramiro Villalvazo | | Judith Mowry |
| | | |

Welcome and introductions

Director Abbaté opened the meeting welcome to:

BAC,
Senior Management Team, and;
Parks staff

Director Abbaté thanked everyone for their volunteer time for this important effort and welcomed everyone to Colwood Golf Center

BAC members introduced themselves, their affiliation, what inspired them to serve on the committee, and their first memory of a park (location or experience).

Commissioner Amanda Fritz - This is her 5th year as Commissioner working with Parks. The city is trying to be more inclusive in our budgeting process. We will all learn together in this. Parks really are facilities with community engagement and staff. These are your parks.

BAC Role

BAC members were chosen to represent the diversity of Portland

BAC Groundrules

- Actively listen; open minds
- Use your insights to inform the budget process
- Local perspective but keep the entire city in mind
- Operate in consensus (we will try to avoid voting)
- Review packets in advance
- Arrive on time
- Ensure others understand the meaning of your comments
- Focus on the issues and not the people
- Leave the room to take calls or tend to other tasks
- Ask for clarity if needed
- Declare conflicts of interest and recuse yourself when necessary
- Be solutions oriented

Commissioner and Director Updates

Commissioner Fritz welcomed the committee. We will try to use your time wisely. The economy is still good, and the Bureau has had money to work with, but we still need to advocate for parks in the city's budgeting process. We still need to make cuts even though we have budget to work with. Parks are just as vital as other city services and we must remind the Council of that. We are looking for advocates to

champion priorities and adequate funding. Commissioner Fritz noted that she wants as many fulltime parks positions as possible and a diverse work force.

Director Mike Abbaté

Park Mission

The mission of Portland Parks & Recreation is to help Portlanders play - providing the safe places, facilities, and programs which promote physical, mental, and social activity. We get people, especially kids, outside, active, and connected to the community. As we do this, there will be an increase in the wellness of our residents and the livability of our city. We accomplish this through:

- *Establishing, safeguarding and restoring the parks, natural areas, public places, and urban forest of the city, ensuring that these are accessible to all;*
- *Developing and maintaining excellent facilities and places for public recreation and community building;*
- *Providing dynamic recreation programs and services that promote health and well-being for all;*
- *Partnering with the community we serve.*

Director Abbaté - Parks gets people and youth outside and connected to their community. We establish new and safeguard existing natural areas and facilities. We also take care of our facilities – repairs and maintenance. Recreation programs cover a wide array of health and wellness services. He noted the culture of partnership – with the Parks Foundation, IRCO, and others.

Our budget process last year provided the feedback for the Requested Budget. We look to improve our process every year. The Bureau adopted a 5-year racial equity plan, which is opening up access for underserved communities. Some data we are providing you is technical and quantitative and some is qualitative. Ask us if you need more information than we have provided.

State of the Bureau Overview

- 11,700 acres of park under our portfolio (Forest Park is less than half)
- 19 community centers
- 13 pools
- 1.2 million trees, including 230,000 inventoried street trees
- World's largest forested park plus world's smallest park.
- Portland International Raceway (diverse physical assets)

Parks are about people as much as places - 35,000 swim lessons per year, 320,000 people attended to summer concerts and movies.

The Bureau saw a 2% cut last year based on the BAC input. There were also significant wins – the park ranger program was expanded. This year we got funding for 6 rangers east of the Willamette River. Pioneer Square just received \$10 million funding for an overhaul that includes new rest rooms, plumbing, lots of stuff you can't see. There is also a new program – Health Safety and the Environment – which is addressing lead in drinking water fountains, lead paint, radon, asbestos – new funding for 2 staff for that program. Parks for New Portlanders is another new program – it engages with new community members, refugees and immigrants who may not always participant in parks programs. The Bureau is building new parks in underserved areas using SDC funds – Luuwit View Park in Argay

neighborhood is one example. New development is required to pay a fee to help fund new park facilities and the money can only be put toward new facilities.

We are facing clear challenges such as homelessness, houselessness. Making progress – sheltering more people but many are still on the street. Tent camping in parks has become a safety issue. Funding to repair older parks is limited. Bad weather can affect fees (such as golf) as well as tree maintenance needs from wind, etc.

Despite our challenges, Portlanders love their parks. 90% say they have visited one in the last year. We need your good advice on the direction we should take when we form our next budget.

Meeting Goals:

- Understanding the budget development process
- Identifying information needed by the BAC to develop recommendations
- Understanding how to apply the Budget and Equity Values
- Understanding the role of the committee moving forward

Tonight's meeting is about equity and inclusion. Make sure our values work for us and inform our criteria moving forward.

Dates for the BAC's process.

- Meeting 1: Monday, November 13th, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM*
- Meeting 2: Monday, November 27th, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM*
- Meeting 3: Thursday, December 21st, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM*
- Meeting 4: Tuesday, January 16th, 6:00 PM – 9:00 PM*
- Meeting 5: TBD in May

We will be asking what information you need at the end of each meeting. Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong is a resource to you as well. Meeting dates are all firm at this point.

Equity and Values

Portland Park & Recreation Equity and Inclusion Manager, Art Hendrix talked about why equity – racial and disability inclusion – matters. There are three foundational pieces we will reference tonight – equity goals, plans and tools. He introduced Ms. Judith Mowry, the City of Portland's Equity and Inclusion Bureau Liaison. Judith reviewed PowerPoint slides detailing a number of historical laws in the U.S. and Oregon that have discriminated against black people, native Americans, Chinese immigrants, Japanese-Americans, other Asians, Mexicans, and other native and immigrant people of color. She also reviewed more recent legislation from the past several decades that served to reverse these discriminatory laws. There is a long history of discrimination and oppression that the city is seeking to address through current policy.

Ms. Mowry then reviewed explicit and implicit bias. Explicit bias is easy to recognize because it is obvious (actually it is illegal). Implicit bias is harder to recognize since it resides in our subconscious. We react to issues about race all the time – our personal values don't inoculate us against implicit bias. It's important to try to recognize these tendencies. Think about how our policies and actions are affecting people in ways we may not recognize.

Bias is often seen in personal terms, but it can be organizational also. We can combat this by developing a road map for our decision-making processes that considers racial equity. He then introduced the three foundation pieces:

- **Citywide Racial Equity Goals** – This is the City's racial equity framework and is focused on race and disability. Everyone should be able to participate in city services regardless of their background or ability. Historical disparity has disadvantaged some populations. In six years the city has come up with some tools to use to help. We consider institutional and systemic racism. Individual policies and practices that discriminate against groups as well as the system as a whole (justice, health, economics, etc.). City is more focused on addressing institutional racism and undoing past wrongs. Also, ADA transition plans to make sure all Bureau facilities are accessible. Parks has 14,000 items to address in their current ADA transition plan – some are large items but many are small.
- **Bureau Racial Equity Plans** - Every bureau has completed a 5-year racial equity plan that looks at culture, employment, contracting, public engagement – how can we do better? Also, where does the funding go and who benefits? Making up for historical burdens. Parks' plan has 6 major goals, with Goal 1 being changing existing services using racial equity best practice. Go to the Portland Parks website and you will find a tab for racial equity and inclusion – lots of documents there. Hard copies are available too. Parks uses a service area equity tool that looks at household poverty, % of people of color, age, etc. to identify vulnerable areas in their system when making decisions about service offerings. This is available to the BAC if more data is needed.
- **Budget Equity Assessment Tool** – This tool is used to guide bureaus and their BACs in assessing how the budget requests benefit or burden communities, specifically communities of color and people with disabilities. Not going into a lot of detail about the tool tonight. We have a values exercise for the BAC instead.

Budget Values document

This document was developed by staff as well as the prior BAC. The values will continue to be refined in each successive budget process.

1. Portland Parks & Recreation is committed to providing equitable services and programs and welcomes all members of our community, including those who are underserved due to race, ethnicity, income, age or ability.
2. Protect our ability to provide a safe environment, facilities and programs for our community and employees.
3. Maintain our ability to implement our Strategic Plan and create the next long-term vision.
4. Maximize our ability to provide service through leveraging partnerships and revenue generation, so that limited General Funds can help meet other values.

5. Take care of building, parks and natural areas before they require major investment or replacement.
6. Preserve our ability to provide basic levels of service by making the difficult decisions to reduce or eliminate less core activities.
7. Support programs that foster volunteerism and build relationships which help build community, expand program offerings, and maintain natural areas and parks.

Value #2 was modified last year a little to reflect employee input.

Applying the Values Tool: Small Groups

BAC members then met in small group discussions to examine the value statements more closely. Participants looked at the supporting bullets below each one and see if they function as a screen from which to base budget decisions as the BAC considers packages at their next meeting. Members were asked to consider whether there are thoughts missing that should be there? Is there anything you would change?

Group 1 focused on Values 1-3 and Group 2 focused on Values 4-7.

BAC members were also encouraged to use the buddy system....BAC members will be with us for at least a couple of years. Year one may be harder than year two. We encourage new members to buddy up with returning members – exchange phone numbers and reach out. You may find it helpful to have someone to guide you. Find a buddy!

Reports/Discussion

After the small group exercise ended, Kirstin asked if everyone got a buddy – did everyone buddy up? Two members had not connected with a buddy and she paired them up with returning members. All BAC members now have at least one buddy.

The spokespersons for each group then noted their thoughts and suggestions for each value statement. These will be compiled by Parks staff and the document will be updated for BAC adoption at meeting 2.

Value 1

- There was consensus around the value statement
- Use the 5th goal of the 5-year equity plan, with a focus on equitable access

Value 2

- Add employees/staff in consideration of safety

Value 3

- There are a number of bullets and redundancy. Recommend simplifying the bullets.
- Call out the strategic plan as a lens for the packages.

Value 4

- As written, it encourages people to take Parks for granted. Use the word 'maximize' with respect to the General Fund.

Value 5

- Suggest taking care of natural areas before parks. Also, prioritize maintenance funding according to park use per facility.
- Do we need to note that we should catch up on maintenance where we already have identified needs?

Value 6

- Last two bullets may work better combined “When making difficult decisions we should prioritize for folks who have the highest need.”
- Please define a core service.

Value 7

- People of color don’t tend to be the volunteers. They want to be paid for their time typically. Volunteers in communities of color need educating about what it means to donate their time – an intentional strategy around civic engagement.

Commissioner Fritz noted that some immigrant communities don’t even call it “volunteering” – they consider it to be working within their community. We should consider the language we are using – dominant culture language. You can’t train everyone in a 9-5 workday. Consider other hours to train and volunteer. Also, consider the best avenues to reach many members of certain communities of color.

We should think of access to resources. What areas are we drawing from? Let’s consider the service areas when we are developing packages.

Lang directed BAC members to the final tab in the binders. There is information about last year’s budget process and the strategic plan for Parks. Let us know if you have questions about the information.

Next Meetings/Topics/Role Moving Forward

Meeting #2 will be held in two weeks at the Columbia Square Building downtown. The aim is to move the meetings around to keep travel distances equitable for everyone.

We will give a Budget 101 and an overview of our service areas. We will discuss potential packages.

Prior year budgeting packages are included in your binders for reference. Previous BAC members asked for precedent examples.

Closing Comments/Questions

- Clarity is needed about SDC funding. It is a separate bucket that the BAC can’t touch. We should make that clear for new members. [Next time there will be a Budgeting 101 agenda item.]

Reflections

Director Abbate to provided closing thoughts. He thanked the members for looking at our values. When we are making cuts, it is really hard to preserve all seven values completely, but we try to keep their spirit intact. Thank you for committing to this difficult work.

Adjourn

Notes from small group discussion on Values

Value 1:

- Don't know how many parks look like mine because the one by me has nothing. How do I know what others look like in order to say what I want in mine? You want to make sure your voice is heard but first need to know what you don't have.
- Add language to the first bullet to be clear about equitably served by programs and services.
- Do we need to call out the specifics of the 5-year Racial Equity Plan goals? It is difficult to have to reference another plan in order to review a package to see if it meets these goals.
- Goal #5 of the Racial Equity Plan seems the most relevant to call out and list here so that it doesn't have to refer to a different list/plan.
- This goal does not call out facilities. Services does not necessarily seem to obviously refer to facilities too. Add access to facilities in the value statement.

Value 2:

- This value does seem to capture both the physical safety as well as the emotional and psychological safety to that is valuable.
- The last bullet has a different section about assets. If this is about specific hazards like asbestos and lead then those should be called out.

Value 3:

- The bullets are vague and confusing.

- There are many bullets that are covered or belong in other values (like equitable service under value 1, facilities and safety under value 2, marketing among diverse populations relate to value 1). Can we condense to maintain better focus and make usable?
- If keeping these bullets, need some clarification.
 - Ecological health and park lands implies bare ground and not active wildlife so language would need to encompass other broader content.
 - Not sure whether urban forest includes natural areas.
 - Suggest change second bullet to include “and sustain ecosystem services...”.
 - New recreation assets may be created in areas where there is potential for raising money and that does not necessarily ensure that new assets are distributed in an equitable way.
 - Change 5th bullet to say “...through effective and adequate management and maintenance of park facilities”.
- General group agreement that the bullets are too detailed to be useful in evaluating a budget package or decision. Suggest simpler language that relates to the strategic plan and make sure one stays relating to the vision.
- Add language about needing resources for implementation of the strategic plan.

General comments from larger group:

It is tough to make sense how decisions will align with all these values. Especially with equity. Some resources like Mat Dishman people come to from all over town so you need that information to evaluate and not just the geographic data from around that center. Packages likely will not meet all values and we have to weigh them out and balance based on the values.

Value 4:

- Who does PP&R consider partnerships?
- Important to preserve staff.
- What is cost recovery? Does this refer to fees?

- Suggest using other wording beside “maximize,” in the actual value. This goes to the concern of people taking parks for granted.

Value 5:

- Consider changing the order of what to take care of in this value to natural areas, parks, then buildings.
- Buildings are important because they cover the largest area of diversity: they house great programs and this is the best way to measure the diversity in use of PP&R.
- Majority of this group was understanding and accepting of closing buildings when they are beyond repair. However, the problem with closing buildings is when they affect a large community that is using these buildings there needs to be an equity lens. If there are many people using this center then it should be repaired instead of closed.
- Good to be proactive with taking care of PP&R properties.

Value 6:

- Combining last two bullet points so that the meaning is clearer.
- “Committed” not “willing” in this bullet on diversity.
- Criteria to determine what core services and activities are, how do we & PP&R assess this?
- Wonder how serious PP&R is about these values because of what happened with the preschools last year. BAC gave a suggestion and PP&R did not take their suggestion.

Value 7:

- Rework volunteer program & how we recruit. Need diverse group of volunteers.
- Volunteering means different things to communities so reach out to other communities in the most appropriate way. Mindful of different lifestyles and availabilities.

- Adding in an educational component where PP&R educates the public on volunteering importance.
- Feel as though PP&R sometimes ask more of volunteers that the neighborhood associations can provide.

DRAFT