



**PORTLAND
PARKS & RECREATION**

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

**Budget Advisory Committee
Meeting #3
December 21, 2017**

6:00 – 9:00 p.m.
Columbia Building
111 SW Columbia St., Suite 800 | Portland, OR

Draft Meeting Summary

Committee Members Participating

Jeff Anderson, Sophorn Cheang, Carol Chesarak, Amourie Downing, Sami Faile, Kolini Fusitu'a, Jenny Glass, Ian Jaquiss, Jackie Hunter, Jenny Lee, Joe McFerrin II, Jim Owens, Natalie Rush, Yoko Silk, Randy Gragg

Staff, Commissioner's Office, Facilitation

Mike Abbaté, Jamal Fox, Ryan Kinsella, Amy Archers-Masters, Trang Lam, Anthony LeBron, Eileen Argentina, Sabrina Neal, Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Jason Smith, Jennifer Yokom, Kirstin Green, Aascot Bohlander, Brian French, Pooja Bhatt

Welcome, Introductions & Agenda Review

Kirstin welcomed participants, called for introductions, reviewed the agenda, and offered BAC members an opportunity to request changes to the previous meeting's summary. No comments were made.

Review Feedback from Related Processes

Sabrina Neal, Ginny Thao, and Jed Arkley of the Community Outreach Support team presented the Culturally Specific Focus Groups/Listening Sessions Budget Themes Executive Summary. The document was provided to all participants in their printed packet for reference.

Budget Direction

Mike Abbaté, Parks & Recreation Director, presented an overview of the direction he received from the Mayor and how that translated to direction he gave his staff in the preparation of the 32 budget packages on offer. In summary, the Mayor requested that all departments deliver 5% in cuts. The packages presented tonight are more than that 5% to provide a basis for discussion. Mike asked BAC members to keep the values in mind as they contemplate which packages to keep on the cut list and which to remove.

Amy Archer-Masters, Finance, Property, and Technology Manager, presented an overview of the remainder of the meeting packet. Deputy Director Trang Lam added that some of the packages include impacts to full time employees, or FTEs. Staff are very sensitive to those potential reductions.

Key points from the BAC's discussion follow.

- The management team referred to a range of sources to create the possibilities presented tonight.
- Potential reductions to staff is very sensitive and involves human resources direction, the bureau's equity plan, internal processes already in place among other considerations.
- Potential "add" packages will be a topic on our next meeting agenda.
- Potential fee increases may be offset by scholarship programs. These cuts do not affect those criteria.

BAC members then met with Senior Management Team staff to review the packages in three main service areas:

- A. Asset Management, Director's Office, Operations & Strategies
- B. Land Stewardship/Urban Forestry
- C. Recreation, Equity & Inclusion

BAC member then indicated with dots which packages they could live with advancing, and which they felt should come off the table. Results follow in the appendix.

Additional comments and questions included these summary thoughts:

- Some actions are a blend of adding revenue while reducing program elements.
- One option is charging other bureaus for tree removal.

Engagement Manager Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong explained how this guidance will be presented at the Public Meeting January 4 and associated focus groups, discussed by the senior management team, and Commissioner Fritz. A prioritized list of packages will be created by staff and shared with BAC members at our final meeting in January.

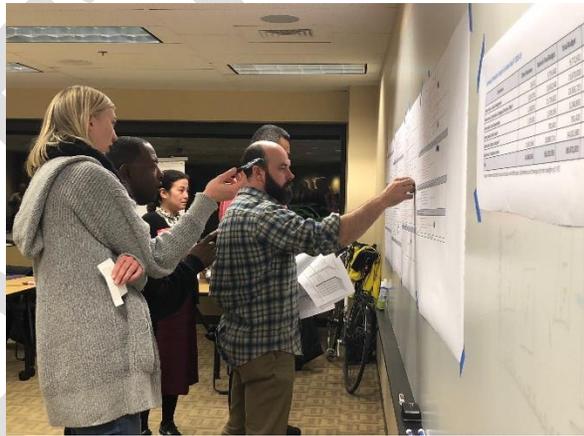
Closing comments included the following:

- Maintain outdoor education programs, especially that serve disadvantaged communities.
- More than 1.8M people visit Pioneer Courthouse Square each year; the most diverse set of visitors located on the transit mall.
- Equity and inclusion reduction is not an option.
- Implementing the Hillside and Fulton Community Center closures package would cause a lot of heartburn. You will hear a lot from the community if you move forward with that option.

Adjourn

Mike sincerely thanked BAC members for coming and participating. He acknowledged that this was the hardest meeting of the year and thanked everyone for making difficult decisions and adjourned the meeting.

Portland Parks and Recreation
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DRAFT

Appendix: Prioritization Dot Exercise Findings:

#	Short Package Description	Yay / Blue Dots / “I want to make this cut/change”	Nay / Yellow Dots / “I want to prevent this cut/change.”
1	Work Order Efficiency	5	
2	Reduce Asset Management Program		2
3	Reduce Central Services	2	2
4	-5% to pass through funds	2	7
5	Reduction in seasonal staffing	6	
6	Reduction in BTS Application Analyst	5	1
7	Training & Travel Reduction, Eliminate Employee Recognition	1	1
8	Reduce weekend CS coverage	5	
9	Realignment of public outreach		4
10	Increase special use permit fee	7	
11	Paid parking in WA Park	9	
12	Reduce frequency of DT restroom cleaning	4	1
13	Outdoor water use reduction	10	
14	Eliminate service to non-core properties	3	
15	Increase private use fees	9	1
16	Utility cost shift for partner orgs	8	
17	Strategic Parking assessment	9	
18	No planting in DT transit mall	8	2
19	Regional trails service reduction	1	2
20	Eliminate Seasonal maintenance workers in certain areas		1
21	End Protect the Best Program	2	3
22	Horticulture reduction		5
23	End Environmental Education		11
24	Charge for emergency Tree Removal	10	
25	End Outreach & Science Programs		9
26	Fulton & Hillside Community Centers	4	3
27	Sellwood Community Center	6	1
28	Montavilla Community Center	1	6
29	Woodstock Community Center	4	1
30	Eliminate Fountains	8	4
31	Laurelhurst Dance Studio Realignment	7	
32	End Senior Recreation Excursions Program	1	4
	TOTALS	137 / 140	71 / 70

D. Asset Management, Director's Office, Operations & Strategies- Ramiro Villalvazo and Jennifer Yocom and Margaret Evans

Comments included the following:

- need to backfill for cuts within equity and inclusion there is a position that will be realigned over to operations and strategy that was an administrative position. Need to make sure staff and work plans are aligned
- #1 and #6: there will be someone who continues to help with the micromain program. No cut to planning, development or construction not funds are used for acquisition fee increases related to COLA
- #8 is there a need to have coverage on the weekends? The highest use of facilities is on weekends, need to develop new practice on weekends which correlates needs and safety. Can we augment the staff with volunteers?
- Concerns about the possibility of cutting too much now and needing more later. Deferred maintenance is more costly in the long run
- #1 does this create a functional computer system? Supports about 200 staff efforts to process 30,00 work orders a year
- #9 and #3 this is trade job specific which is valuable and supports all assets of parks, these jobs are important to hold onto and cutting would jeopardize our ability to do reimbursable work for bureaus
- #4 cuts a small amount from small organizations. These cuts are big to them. The capacity of each of the partners is different
- focused on closing the play gap and not proposing cutting any planning, capital, or asset management, did not cut maintenance funding

Questions included the following

- loss of capacity in equity and involvement Central services eliminates three positions. Can you prioritize within that reduction?-Is it important for staff to get together once a year?
- is the 8k worth the damage to staff morale?
- how are #1 and #6 related?
- #5 seasonal staffing needs clarity
- #6 #7 it includes all traveling and training. It also eliminates employee recognition. Can you keep at least one?

E. Urban Forestry and Land Stewardship- Led by Jenn Cairo and James Allison

Comments included the following

- BAC members were surprised we paid for partners utilities on package #16
- Package #11 Will the price of parking raise above street parking rates?
 - o We have raised the parking rates to equal downtown we will use the additional revenue for maintenance. The demand for parking is very high and we can increase fees without pricing out customers.
- Packages #22 & 23 who does this work?
 - o This work is done by Horticulturist and volunteers, if we take this cut we will dismantle the parks system.
- Shifting utilities to partner organizations should be an incremental shift. It should not be all together, they are different organizations.

- Not supportive of the cuts suggested in package #22 and anticipates the public will feel the same

Questions included the following:

- Which Partners and what impact are we talking about on package #11?
- Is it better use of technology or better staff management on package #13? When?
 - o From Memorial Day to 4 of July.
- On package #25 Do we add bridge funding to total savings? This is confusing when you are cutting and then request funding at the same time.
- What are the monetary loss of volunteers in package #25? Has Parks calculated that?
- What is an undeveloped site? Why don't Parks sell them? How much labor it cost to maintain those?
- Confusion about which trails are affected by #19
- Why take cuts on front line (field) staff and not Asset Management?

F. Recreation, Equity & Inclusion – Led by Eileen Argentina and Mike Abbaté

Comments included the following:

- concerns and confusion over whether senior rec programs will still be available if the community center funding is cut
- Will there be funding for pre-schools?
- suggestion to cut the coordinator position to ¾ instead of a complete elimination of the position at rec center
- some members firmly oppose cutting senior funding, some believe there are others center available for senior recreation
- some members were not supportive of single-use community centers
- a member pointed out that other senior recreation organizations do not take seniors out and are more center focused. They also do not consider low-income seniors
- Some members stated Montavilla funding could be cut because of its proximity to EPCC and Mt. Scott; other members pointed out Montavilla location is advantageous because it close to a bus line, which allows for many people including Tongan youth to access it.
- fountains are important for park beauty

Questions included the following:

- Can money for the fountains come from the water bureau?
- Which programs are seniors using most? Are there other senior recreation options available in the same areas?
- Has there been much exploration of community partners in community centers?