



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

January 9, 2018 | 3:00 – 5:00 pm  
Congress Center | 5<sup>th</sup> Floor, Room 513

**Board members present:** **Tonya Booker, Kendall Clawson,** Patricia Frobes, Jenny Glass, Jim Owens, Kathy Fong Stephens, Gladys Ruiz, Paddy Tillett, and Jeff Anderson.

**Board members absent:** Paul Agrimis, Aubre Dickson, Ian Jaquiss, Joseph O’Leary, Judy Bluehorse Skelton 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 3:07 p.m.

**Approval of the Minutes** Approval of the December minutes was moved and seconded and passed unanimously.

**Administrative Matters** Pat distributed a schedule for Board members to indicate whether there were alternate days and times for Board meetings that would be more convenient than the current day and time. The alternate days/times offered were Tuesday 12-2:00 pm, Wednesday 3-5:00 pm or Thursday 5-7:00 pm.

Pat mentioned that there may have been some confusion about the authority and responsibility of various Board sub committees. Pat clarified that the sub-committees were working groups with no responsibility or authority to take any action other than to gather and synthesize information for the Board. She indicated that a written clarification would be brought to the Board at a future meeting.

**Public Testimony** The Board heard public testimony about the Off-Road Cycling Plan as follows:

Catherine Thompson described negative encounters between bikers and





hikers in Forest Park, including bikers running into pedestrians. She urged the Board to consider the safety of the pedestrians in the Park and what could be done to protect them.

Spencer Bushnell described himself as a frequent off-road cyclist and indicated that he has never run into a pedestrian. He cited Phoenix, AZ, Richmond, VA and New York City as cities that have what Portland Oregon doesn't: an off-road cycling plan that successfully accommodates cyclists and hikers.

Andrew Jansky (Northwest Trail Alliance Advocacy Chari) mentioned that most mountain bikers are environmentalist and are concerned about protecting natural areas. The experience at Powell Butte has shown that that claims that off-road cycling results in environmental damage are not accurate. The Off-Road Cycling Plan is good, but just needs to be more aspirational on how to engage the next generation of Park supporters. The plan is providing hope to the mountain bike community.

Tom Cunningham mentioned the Forest Park natural resources plan, adopted by the City in 1995, protects wildlife and the environment and should be enforced. He asked that the Board not approve any portion of the Off-Road Cycling Master Plan that affects Forest Park. He asked that the Board make recommendations regarding pedestrian safety and user conflict rules; and that natural resource studies be put into the Off-Road Cycling Master Plan.

Jocelyn Gaudi Auarrell indicated she had participated on the advisory committee for the off-road cycling plan. She reminded the Board that mountain biking is a family sport that promotes community in positive ways. Adopting the sustainable child development policies outlined in the plans will help to restore and preserve the natural resources outlined in the plan and help improve nature in the city for humans and non-humans.

**Off-Road Cycling  
Master Plan**

Pat indicated that the Land Use Working Group will continue its discussion of the Off-Road Cycling Plan and come to a future meeting, perhaps in March, with proposals and alternatives for Board action and a vote. At that time, there may be an extended public comment period during which people can speak for more than 2 minutes.

Jim Owens reminded the Board that it has been briefed twice about the process of developing, and the substance of the Off-Road Cycling Master Plan. There have been other off-road cycling plans in the past, but not one





that is as comprehensive as the current proposal. He noted that the current draft addresses the need for environmental studies and the creation of new facilities. He further noted that, although the final plan will be implemented by the Parks Bureau, the plan itself has been developed by the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS). BPS established an advisory committee that has worked with BPS in developing the current draft. Jim was the Parks Board liaison to the BPS advisory committee.

The Board discussed the topics the Board would like the Land Use working group to cover in its report to the Board regarding the current draft plan, including equity and inclusion.

**Director's Update** Mike stated that the budget is due on January 29<sup>th</sup>. The Bureau will need to cut \$3.5 million to comply with the Mayor's request that each bureau cut its respective budget by 5%. Last week a budget meeting was held in East Portland and it was a very productive meeting. Additional meetings took place at Community Centers in Woodstock, Fulton, Hillside and Sellwood. Translators were present for Vietnamese and Latin citizens during the process. The next meeting will take place on January 16<sup>th</sup> at the David Douglas High School. BAC will review add packages at its next meeting. The Parks Board will also be participating. Tonya Booker, Judy Bluehorse Skelton, Jenny Glass, Jeff Anderson and Jim Owens have attended the BAC meetings as Board representatives and made many positive contributions. Both Pat and Mike thanked them for their participation.

Mike mentioned that the City Council will have two public hearings on the budget on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup>. The public is welcome to testify broadly or on a specific issue either in person or via written document. Commissioner Fritz noted that speakers are chosen by lottery.

Mayor Wheeler will be at the February Board meeting. Prior to that time Parks Board committees will determine questions for the Mayor to address.

**Additional Information** In the future after the Parks Board materials are distributed to the Board, the materials will also be posted on the Board website.

**Meeting Adjourned** The Board meeting was adjourned at 5:00 pm

