



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

April 3, 2018 | 3:00 – 5:00 pm
Congress Center | 5th Floor, Room 513

Board Members Present: Patricia Frobles, Paul Agrimis, Joseph O’Leary, Jeff Anderson, Tonya Booker, Michelle Dedeo, Kathy Fong Stevens, Christa Stout, Ian Jaquiss, Paddy Tillet, Jim Owens

Board Members Absent: Kendall Clawson, Gladys Ruiz, Judy Bluehorse Skelton, Jenny Glass, Meryl Redisch

PP&R Staff Present: Mike Abbate, Hailee Vandiver, Brooked Gardner, Mark Ross, Art Hendricks

Commissioner’s Office: Commissioner Fritz and Cristina Nieves

Call to Order and Welcome Pat Frobles called the meeting to order at 3:04 pm

**Rose Quarter
Redevelopment Proposal**

Zari Santner and Rukaiyah Adams presented their non-profit’s Rose Quarter redevelopment proposal. The Rose Quarter, also known as Albina which is said to mean “bright light,” is 94 acres of the city that runs from the north side to the water front. These 94 acres were razed and it is now where the Moda Center and Memorial Coliseum reside. The Rose Quarter was a part of the city that connected Portlanders, new and old, to the river and to each other. Three years ago, Rukaiyah and Zari gathered a group of people to create a vision of a community where people can work and play. The group talked openly about racism and urban policy. The plan draws inspiration from cities that are connected to their waterfront and have overcome division like Berlin and Warsaw. The site is disconnected from the waterfront by the highway and railroad. The vision Zari and Rukaiyah presented is a 50-year vision, but there is also a 5-7-year smaller version. Portlanders value their parks and open spaces.

A Parks Board member asked how the Parks Board can help

Rukaiyah responded that advocating for affordable housing and thoughtful development at the Blanchard School site and ensuring freeway LIDS are not harming pedestrian access to the street grid are two fulcrum decisions that could preclude the establishment of the foundations of the plan. Two Parks Board members applauded the team on their compelling vision.





Introduction to Testimony on Discussion of Draft Off- road Cycling plan

Pat Frobes introduced the testimony and panel arrangement for this meeting and explained the Parks Board's role in the Off-Road Cycling Master Plan (ORCMP). There are 185 pages of written testimony posted on the Parks Board website. Though most of the testimony received was concerning Forest and Riverview Parks, this is a citywide plan. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability (BPS) spent two on this plan and the Parks Board's role is not to approve or disapprove the plan, but to provide advice to city council and other bureaus that deal with green spaces. Once the Parks Board has approved comments they will be submitted to BPS for consideration; when the plan has been finalized the Parks Board may or may not make further comments. The testimony for this meeting has been separated into four parts.

Panel 1: Portlanders Concerned about Additional Off-road Cycling in Forest Park

Panel Members: Catherine Thompson, Marcy Houle, Tom Cunningham, Mike Lindburgh

Marcy Houle lead a letter written by former Governor Barbara Roberts (see posting online of panel written testimony for April 3 meeting) that listed environmental and safety concerns for biking in Forest Park.

Catherine Thompson stated that Forest Park is designated as a wildlife habitat and the state says it must be inventoried and monitored for capacity. Thompson stated that Commissioner Nick Fish did not approve of new trails being built in Forest Park in 2010 without further studies done. She concluded that we need to protect the children and the wildlife in Forest Park

Thomas Cunningham believes we have a serious issue safety issue in Forest Park. Forest Park is being monitored by Parks personnel and there has been an acknowledged problem since 1995. He stated illegal bike riding gets people hurt, put in the hospital, and puts all users in danger.

Mike Lindburgh stated that cycling in Forest Park requires an exception of land use law. He said the city must carry out wildlife studies, implement safety measures, and in accordance with the strategy plan, develop recreational opportunities at other sites before bringing them to Forest Park.

Part 2: Portlanders in Favor of Additional Off-road Cycling in Forest Park

Bob Laudarud stated that a diversity of management tools are necessary for a diversity of manage a diversity of demands. He serves as the president of Northwest Trail Alliance. He has received over 60 emails testimonies from Portlanders concerned about the lack of trails





Erin Chips believes the trail options provided in the plan are too steep and narrow. She stated that trail guidelines have adopted across the country and world so there are no justifiable reasons shared trails would not work in Forest Park. She also said that studies show bikes cause the same amount of erosion on trails as hiking or running does. Cyclists contribute thousands of volunteer hours. Human need nature and nature needs us too. Banning people from natural areas prevents stewardship.

Evan Smith lives next to Forest Park and was on the masterplan advisory committee. He worked with Charles Jordan who nurtured his love of Portland Parks and Recreation. He views the plan through his daughters and there is nowhere for them to ride in Portland. He called for more paths that are suitable for beginning cyclists. His daughters have ridden in Hood River and Bend where trails are shared successfully. He stated that cyclists are concerned about the environment, but he believes the biggest concern is not type of usage, but apathy.

Jocelyn Quarrel stated that Gateway Green is of particular importance to her as she served on the board for five years. As the population of the city grows so do the demands on public lands. Portland demands a high quality of life where people can connect and engage sustainably with nature. She asked the Parks Board to reconsider closure recommendations that were made outside of the meetings.

**Part 3: Individual
Comments on Riverview
Natural Area (Pros and
Cons)**

Con: John Miller and Alexandra Clark

John Miller recounted that legends say mountain biking trails were built decades ago on the cemetery. He also stated two mountain bikers were seated on the panel when the plan went to council

Alexandra Clark brought a copy of the conservation easement with her. She quoted her grandfather saying, “be thankful for good health.” She said good health and longevity depend on high water and air quality. She asserted salmon species are threatened and interruption of the waterflow and water cycle is detrimental to Riverview Natural Area. She urged the Parks Board, on behalf of concerned citizens, to continue the ban on off-road cycling and dogs off-leash.

Pro: Andrew Jansky and Spencer Bushnell





Andrew Jansky recounted his surprise at being called into Commissioner Fritz's office in 2015 to receive the Riverview cycling ban. He said that a common argument he hears against off-road cycling is the Metro Conservation Easement which some interpret as stating cycling has negative environmental impacts. Andrew emailed Metro (see posting online of panel written testimony for April 3 meeting) and asked if cycling was permitted under the Conservation Easement. Metro responded that they consider biking nature recreation so it is allowed. His main concern was not getting the next generation to develop into parks stewards.

Spencer Bushnell reiterated current scientific evidence stating that cycling does not cause more ecological impact than running. He asserted biking can exist in Portland and it is a great opportunity to reinvigorate a natural area.

**Part 4: Individual Comments
on Other Aspects of the
ORCMP**

Paul Hobson lives in the Woodstock neighborhood and rides to Powell Butte before going to work in the morning as an environmental engineer. He stated that shared trails have not been an issue in his experience.

Daniel Greenstadt said the parts of the ORCMP that don't concern Forest Park and Riverview look like good ideas. He is a neighborhood association and PTA president so he is heavily involved with families and kids in the neighborhood seeking recreation in parks. From his experience with the community, he believes the parts of the ORCMP that touch on parks are well received and the main concerns are safety and the environment. These issues have been resolved in other places and he suggested Portland could benefit from considering those places and learning from them.

Christian Treibal stated the dog bowl located in the Overlook neighborhood is not large enough to accommodate the multiple usage suggested in the ORCMP. It is currently being very largely used by the Overlook community. People from Overlook meet there and use it as a beloved dog park even though it is not owned or operated by Portland Parks and Recreation.

Rick Kappler is a westside resident and desires for council to work with ODOT on mountain biking trails. He stated ODOT right of way is very important and encouraged work to be done on potholes in Portland roads to allow for safer biking. He specifically mentioned locations by the I-5 and Highway 26.





**Parks Board Deliberation:
Draft Statement (Jim
Owens)**

Jim Owens presented his written report to the Parks Board. He mentioned the ORCMP has been a fascinating project to be involved in and it is a great example of civic engagement at its rawest and finest. We've had more public comments on this conceptual masterplan than everything he has witnessed in five years on the Parks Board.

Director Mike Abbaté said there is a lot more in the plan than Forest Park and Riverview

Jim Owens explained the plan provides an expanded system of trails for cycling from four areas to nine surface trails, 15 more bike parks, 3 new urban off-road cycling trails. However, it is a conceptual plan and does not authorize anything. Every facility mentioned in the plan would have to go through detailed design and planning and those in Forest Park and Riverview would have to go through additional review. Nothing is going to happen overnight. The opportunity is for the Parks Board to give recommendations to BPS on the Off-road Cycling Plan and to create a good set of practices to apply to shared trail usage. The major criticism, he observed, is that the plan is limited to city owned properties so the system is not interconnected. This issue was raised by the committee but never resolved. Additionally, the plan does not have listed priorities for implementation. In short, the plan is not done and the committee should be reconvened to talk about timing, funding, and priorities before it goes to council for adoption. Lastly, given budget constraints, nothing will happen in the short term unless groups step forward to take advantage of the momentum of this process to meet the demand.

Pat Frobes mentioned that this plan is conceptual, but responds to trends nationally for a growing demand for more cycling, and responds to the 2020 vision. However, it relies on the best management practices being quickly adopted.

Tonya Booker pointed out a significant amount of resources are required to make this a reality. She also mentioned the difficulty of balancing the cost of this plan with the other needs within Parks and Recreation. Moreover, she pointed out her concerns that the process for the Off-road Cycling Plan has not been equitable.

Director Mike Abbaté said he would like to reach out to BPS to talk about their outreach efforts to show that input in the plan was inclusive and equitable.





Kathy Fong Stevens suggested that the Parks Board’s role is adding language to ensure an equitable and feasible plan.

Several Parks Board members agree

Pat calls on board members to remember that Parks has had budget cuts 7 out of the last 10 budget seasons.

Jim Owens reminds the board that these plans are typically 20-year plans and there may not be the resources today to implement it so calling it a blueprint plan is appropriate so it can be used when resources come available.

Pat Frobes also pointed out that what the Parks Board will submit another set of comments if the Off-road Cycling Plan is revised.

Tonya Booker suggests adding reconvening the advisory council as a recommendation to BPS.

Paddy Tillet moved that the Parks Board forward comments as put together by the board with the amendments just described. Tonya Booker seconded and Christa Stout abstained

Approval of March Meeting Minutes

The motion to approve the March minutes was seconded and passed

Meeting Adjourned

Pat Frobes adjourned the meeting at 5:17 pm

Next Meeting May 1, 2018

