

**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

May 1, 2018 | 3:00 – 5:00pm
Congress Center | Room 513

Board Members Present: Patricia Frobos, Paul Agrimis, Joseph O’Leary, Jeff Anderson, Michelle Dedeo, Christa Stout, Ian Jaquiss (by phone), Paddy Tillet, Jim Owens, Meryl Redisch, Kendall Clawson (by phone), Judy Bluehorse Skelton

Board Members Absent: Gladys Ruiz, Jenny Glass, Tonya Booker, Kathy Fong Stevens

PP&R Staff Present: Mike Abbaté, Brooke Gardner, Jennifer Yocom, Amy Archer-Masters, Heather Randol, Lauren McGuire, Margaret Evans, Ryan Kinsella, Jen Cairo

Commissioner’s Office: Commissioner Fritz and Cristina Nieves

Call to Order and Welcome Pat Frobos called the meeting to order at 3:02 pm

Pat welcomed all to the meeting and those on the phone. She indicated that the agenda would be rearranged to accommodate schedules. Pat shared that the Mayor had agreed to visit the Board again in six months. She anticipated having him join the meeting in September.

Public Comment Val Atchison and Jerard Weigler were the two members of the public who signed up for public comment. Both expressed concern regarding the Off-Road Cycling Master Plan and the process the Board took in reviewing and commenting on the plan. Mr. Weigler expressed his concern for how off-road cycling would affect the safety of hikers in the park.

Mayor’s Proposed Budget Director Abbate shared that the previous Friday the Mayor called a meeting of all bureau directors where the Mayor informed them that he was taking control of all bureaus. His plan was to keep all the bureaus under his control until May 16. At which time the council would vote on the budget and the Mayor would reassign the bureaus. Director Abbate and Parks staff will continue working with Commissioner Fritz as well during this time.

In the Mayor’s proposed budget there were \$2.2million in cuts and 1.1million in new funding for major maintenance for seismic retrofitting. Parks was instructed to request \$500,000 for major maintenance in coming years; \$100,000 for PPF operating expenses and \$250,000 for the East Bank Esplanade.



The budget included \$61,000 for additional maintenance support, such as the Washington Park stairs renovation. This will be a good improvement and supports the masterplan for Washington Park.

Cuts in the Mayor's Proposed Budget include splash pad time, customer support hours reduction as well as the closure of four community centers. Fulton and Hillside were cut but have 1 years' worth of funding for transition.

Parks did get funding for the cost recovery plan and financial sustainability plan but not the \$575,000 for long range plan. Funding for the fountains was removed from Parks daily operations and included in the Water Bureau's budget. A few positions were not funded and the customer service center will now be closed on weekends. It is a 3.4% cut.

Board members discussed other aspects of the proposed budget including swimming in the Willamette/Poet's Beach, Children's Museum, Pioneer Square, Pittock Mansion and Portland Film Office.

Pat asked if the direction to ask for specific amounts in specific categories in coming years was typical. Mike shared that this hasn't always been the direction Parks has received. Trang added that though they have directed us to ask for it doesn't mean that it would be allocated in the budget.

**Vote on Three New
Parks Board Members,
Two Reappointments
and Officers**

Kendall Clawson, Vice Chair, thanked the Board members who made recommendations. The Nominating Committee interviewed six applicants. They decided on three candidates to bring forward for consideration. Next year there will be four vacancies to fill. The candidates included Bonnie Gee Yosick, Katy Holland, and Tamara Layden.

Kendall made a motion to accept these three nominees. Joe O'Leary seconded. The Board unanimously voted to appoint Bonnie Gee Yosick, Katy Holland, and Tamara Layden to the Board.

Pat Frobos made a motion to reappoint Tanya Booker and Ian Jaquiss to the board. Jim Owens seconded and the Board unanimously voted to reappoint Tanya Booker and Ian Jaquiss to the Board.

Paul Agrimis made a motion to select Pat Frobos and Kendall Clawson to serve as Board Chair and Vice Chair respectively. Michelle Dedeo



seconded and the board unanimously voted to select Pat Frobes and Kendall Clawson to serve as Board Chair and Vice Chair, respectively.

Commissioner Update

Commissioner Amanda Fritz thanked the Nominating Committee for their work selecting the candidates and was pleased with who was selected.

The Commissioner shared two main items: the idea of rezoning the Mt. Tabor Park property and other properties that are perhaps zoned incorrectly and how that might save the bureau money in the long run; and the idea of transferring unused floor area ratio credits.

Jim Owens asked why the Mayor has asked parks to absorb disproportionate cuts in his proposed budget. The Commissioner said that the Mayor's focus is on houslessness and police. She suggested that he does not understand the value of parks and the service everyone enjoys. At a recent budget hearing 90% of the comments were about parks. The Commissioner and Parks Board will continue to try to educate the Mayor about why parks are important to each of our communities.

Amend March Minutes

Pat directed the boards attention to the March minutes pointing out that there was an amendment. Paul Agrimis moved to approve the minutes and Paddy Tillet seconded. The Board unanimously approved the March minutes with the suggested amendment.

Approve April Minutes

Pat informed the board that a community member had requested that the comments he read at the April meeting be included in the April minutes. They are included as an attachment. Jim offered an amendment to the 1st page, last sentence, should read "parks board applauded them." Another amendment was to be made to the 4th page to better reflect comments on the dog bowl.

April minutes will be brought back to the board in July for approval.

Community Needs Survey Results

Jason Smith and Kerry Anderson presented their Community Needs Survey Results to the board. PP&R staff worked collaboratively with the Survey Research Lab at Portland State University to survey randomly selected members of Portland's population. The survey objectives were to use the data to generalize to all Portlanders, analyze for differences among neighborhood coalitions, and evaluate for differences between aggregated Portlanders of color and white Portlanders.

A total of 1,697 online surveys were completed. An additional 306 surveys were completed by phone, through SRL interviewers. Weighting (an adjustment factor) was performed for age, gender, income,





neighborhood coalition, and race/ethnicity. The total number of usable responses for this survey was 2,003, resulting in a margin of error of $\pm 2.19\%$. Both the number of respondents and the margin of error exceeded targets identified at the outset of the project.

Nearly all respondents (94%) reported visiting a park or natural area at least once in the past twelve months. Fifty percent of respondents visited at least weekly and 34% visited more than once a week.

The board discussed the survey findings specifically inquiring about past safety concerns, if there was a question of how the public thought Parks should be funded, the average age of participants, the interest in having more community centers, and how the survey results will be shared.

Pat indicated that it will be important to get working on the long-range plan now before this data ages. Portland is changing fast and the survey results may not be valid later.

Retreat Agenda

Pat reminded the board that the board retreat is coming up on 6/22 at the Pittock Mansion at 8:30am – 2:30pm. She asked the board for agenda items they would like to focus on at the retreat. The board brainstormed retreat topics.

Pat indicated that the June board meeting would be cancelled as they are having a retreat in June.

Meeting Adjourned

Pat Frobes adjourned the meeting at 5:16 pm

Next Meeting July 3, 2018

