

**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

August 14, 2018 | 8:00 – 10:00am
Mt Scott Community Center | 5530 SE 72nd Avenue

Board Members Present: Paul Agrimis, Jeff Anderson, Tonya Booker, Kendall Clawson, Pat Frobes, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Jenny Glass, Katy Holland, Ian Jaquiss, Tamara Layden, Joe O’Leary, Jim Owens, Paddy Tillett

Board Members Absent: Michelle Dedeo, Gladys Ruiz

PP&R Staff Present: Amy Archer-Masters, Jenn Cairo, Megan Dirks, Katie Dunham, Margaret Evans, Brooke Gardner, Brett Horner, Lauren McGuire, Emily Roth, Kia Selley, Tate White

Commissioner’s Office: Commissioner Fritz

Call to Order and Welcome Chair, Pat Frobes called the meeting to order at 8:08am.

Pat reviewed the materials that were sent in advance and the agenda for the meeting. She noted that the Board priorities for 2018-19 are posted on the wall. She highlighted that in furtherance of the prioritized desire to increase collaboration with the Parks Foundation, Pat attended the Parks Foundation Board Retreat. She further proposed that the chair of the Parks Board and the chair of the Parks Foundation Board serve as an ex-officio member the other’s Board. The Parks Board and the Parks Foundation Board will continue to work together to identify opportunities for meaningful collaboration.

Public Comment There were no members of the community signed up for Public Comment.

Draft Annual Report to Council Pat asked the Board to review the Parks Board Annual Report to Council and asked the Board for feedback by August 22, 2018.

Director’s Update Parks Interim Director, Kia Selley shared with the Board that Parks will have a new Commissioner-in-Charge as of September 4, 2018. She thanked Commissioner Fritz for her leadership and noted that Parks staff are looking at ways to thank her for her efforts.

Kia reported that Montavilla Park and Community Center had been experiencing impacts of homelessness and drug use. This affects the neighborhood, park visitors as well as staff. Parks is working to address the issues by assembling a staff work group similar those that have addressed these issues in the past.

Regarding the upcoming budget process, Kia shared that the City Budget Office submitted new guidance to improve the budget process. Staff will





update the Board on the process in September or October. The process will begin with a policy discussion by City Council. Kia indicated that Amy Archer-Masters, Finance Manager, will be stepping down from her role. Kia thanked Amy for hard work.

Kia shared some of the milestone accomplishments Parks had this summer: Gateway Discovery Park Opening, Festival Latino event, Summer Free For All events, and others. She urged the Board to get out into parks and enjoy the upcoming events. Kia highlighted the Cully Park opening noting the effort of the community coming together to drive the design and construction of the park

Kia gave a brief update on the Strategic Plan. She offered quarterly progress updates to the Board if they are interested. There will be an annual report next year as the work has just begun.

Vice Chair, Kendall Clawson asked if staff could cross reference the Board priorities with the Strategic Plan to identify ways they can work together in different areas.

Pat shared that the Board had previously expressed concern about the performance measures that were being used to determine whether the objectives of the Strategic Plan were being met. The Board was particularly concerned that, with respect to achievement of the equity and diversity objectives, there was too much focus on entry-level positions and not enough focus on promotions/leadership/retention efforts. She asked that at a future meeting the Board receive a full report on the progress made with respect to the Plan's objectives, with an emphasis on performance measures used to define progress. Pat also indicated that, beginning in this fiscal year, the Board's discussion of Bureau's budget proposal would focus on the relationship between the budget and the objectives in the Strategic Plan as opposed to a focus on a list of proposed cuts and adds.

Commissioner Fritz Update

Commissioner Fritz shared her appreciation to have been Commissioner of Parks and her pride in the work that has been accomplished including work with the Board, on Level of Service, bathrooms, and other efforts. She expressed her gratitude to Kia Selley for stepping into the Interim Director position. She noted her confidence in Commissioner Fish and his ability to lead Parks. She reviewed the additional development projects that have been announced and noted that she is available for questions and feedback. Commissioner Fritz thanked Jeff Anderson for his work as Executive Director of the Parks Foundation as he has announced his intention to retire at the end of October.

Regarding the Director recruitment process, Commissioner Fritz shared with the Board that her staff is putting together the Director recruitment survey results and will have that by September 4, 2018.



She encouraged the Board to attend upcoming Parks events such as Tongan Day and Walk with Immigrants.

The Board thanked the Commissioner for her service as Parks Commissioner.

**Level of Service
(Vision 2035
Foundational Project)**

Portland Parks Staff, Brett Horner, Katie Dunham and Emily Roth presented an update to the Board on current Developed and Natural Areas Level of Service project and initial findings.

Board member, Bonnie Gee Yosick noted the importance of looking at population density and how it affects the needs of a geographic area and the capacity of a park or park service to meet those needs. Katie Dunham noted that, when planning parks, density is considered. Staff will come back to the Board with a Community Center Level of Service presentation that will include more information on the impacts of density.

Board member, Paul Agrimis asked why the Level of Service study is looking at a half mile radius for resident access to a park rather than a quarter mile radius which may be considered a best practice. Brett indicated that the 2020 Vision established the half-mile radius standard. Staff will be looking at the quarter mile radius as well. Paul asked whether landscape diversity in the natural areas (such as wetlands, prairies, and forests) was being considered in the Level of Service study. Emily explained that this hasn't been laid out yet, but it is something staff can do. Paul noted that there are some shortcomings in the existing natural areas and the issue of diversity should be prioritized.

Jenny Glass, Board member, asked if Metro's natural areas are included in the Level of Service study. Emily indicated that any Metro properties that Parks maintains are included.

Board member Kendall Clawson asked if the safety issues people of color reported in the survey were also reported by white people in the same area and asked that geography be clarified as people of color live in many different areas of the city. Brett reported that there was a correlation between geography and what was being reported in the survey, specifically in the Cully neighborhood and Springwater Corridor. Katie Dunham noted that staff is working with Verde and IRCO and the populations they serve to form focus groups. Kendall urged staff to look at where people live and consider how income affects the results they are seeing. She recommended that staff keep in mind accessibility and engage the Tribal community before developing natural areas.

Board member, Jim Owens asked how facilities and programs are matched – do the programs match the area's needs? Brett stated that





the Community Center Level of Service study will look at the structures as well as the kinds of programs the community wants/needs. Jim asked how the Level of Service study addresses golf and trails. Brett explained that golf was looked at separately while a trails plan has already been approved by Council. PP&R is not including trail in the current Level of Service study, though they may look at trails in the 2035 Vision process. Jim asked if access, transit and parking were included. Brett shared that those items are not being looked at for this study. When planning specific parks those items are looked at. Jim noted that the central city serves residents, visitors and the working population and asked how these groups' different needs are assessed. Brett shared they have not looked at how to measure the needs of those who are not residents but spend time in central city parks. They might look at asking people where they recreate if not the park or natural area closest to their residence.

Bonnie asked if the study had considered special park users such as the Portland Farmer's Market. Brett and Katie reported that they are looking at the needs of special users and partnerships as well.

Ian Jaquiss, Board member, pointed out that the study on developed parks doesn't include pools and asked if swimming is a focus of the study. Katie indicated that the Community Center Level of Service study will include pools at community centers as well as beaches/swimming in the Willamette. Brett noted that while the Community Center Level of Service study will be looking at the pools at community centers, it will not include stand alone pools.

Board member, Katy Holland echoed Kendall's comments that it's important to look at geographic distribution and economic status. She suggested that Brett, Katie and Emily speak with the Native American Advisory Committee. Katy asked about plans for serving those who will be living in newly developed buildings which tend not to be family dwellings. She asked if they are getting a broad idea of the different age groups. There is often a focus on families, but senior citizens do not respond at the same rate. Katy asked if there should be a focus group for dog parks as there is a large population that uses dog parks. Brett noted that these were all good points. They will be looking at specific populations and their responses, including age. They will be looking at SE Portland development's effect. Fenced in off leash dog parks are popular with a broader community than dog owners.

Pat echoed the importance of looking at the relationship between density and the capacity of a natural area, developed park or community center. She suggested the half-mile radius may not be a meaningful metric when the number of potential users living within a half mile radius is factored in.

Paul echoed the density issue as PP&R can't succeed in the future if they





don't get into the granular detail. He urged staff to look at the suggestion in the context of visioning. Katy encouraged staff to get beyond the metrics and to focus on experiences in parks.

Pat thanked Brett, Katie and Emily for their presentation and suggested that 1-2 Parks Board members should work with staff on the Level of Service work. Pat asked staff to identify reporting points for the Board which are early enough in the process to allow for continued dialogue and input.

Approve July Meeting Minutes

Pat asked for approval of the July minutes. Jim made the motion to approve, Paddy Tillett seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

Meeting Adjourned

Pat Frobes adjourned the meeting at 10:02am.

Next Meeting September 11, 2018

