

**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

October 9, 2018 | 8:00 – 10:00am
City Hall | Rose Room

Board Members Present: Paul Agrimis, Jeff Anderson, Tonya Booker, Kendall Clawson, Michelle Dedeo, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Jenny Glass, Tamara Layden, Lorena Nascimento, Joe O’Leary, Paddy Tillett

Board Members Absent: Pat Frobles, Katy Holland, Ian Jaquiss, Jim Owens, Gladys Ruiz

PP&R Staff Present: James Allison, Amy Archer-Masters, Eileen Argentina, Jenn Cairo, Margaret Evans, Brooke Gardner, Art Hendricks, Brett Horner, Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong, Trang Lam, Lauren McGuire, Kia Selley, Jason Smith, Jennifer Yocom

Commissioner’s Office: Commissioner Nick Fish, Todd Lofgren

Call to Order/Approve September Minutes/Director’s Update Kendall Clawson, Board Vice Chair, called the meeting to order at 8:06am. Kendall asked for any edits to the September meeting minutes. She offered one edit indicating that Katy Holland was not at the September meeting. With this edit she called for a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Bonnie Gee Yosick made the motion, Paul Agrimis seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Parks Interim Director Kia Selley acknowledged Kendall Clawson’s recent award at the PSU Center for Women’s Leadership Power Luncheon. Kia shared some highlights from September which included the September 28 Tribal Summit that Laura John coordinated. The Summit was a great opportunity for Bureaus to engage the Sovereign Nations and begin strengthening those relationships. On September 29 was the Kenton Park playground opening, and on Thursday, October 10, there will be an event at Parklane Park to celebrate the partnership with the Portland Trailblazers and Nike to refurbish basketball courts in Portland parks.

Kendall requested more notice on events as the Board would like to have a larger presence at these events going forward.

Report on Albina Vision Project Paddy Tillett shared an update on the Oregon Department of Transportation I-5 Albina plan with the Board. The main concern is the plan does not provide for usable park space. The Parks Board is more likely to support the Albina Vision concept rather than the ODOT plan. ODOT is continuing their work and are due to come back in January with the next phase.

Bonnie indicated that this is an environmental analysis process, so it is important that the Parks Board stay engaged.





Paddy shared that the timeline is posted on the website and that the Parks Board should ask for an update in three months.

Mayor Meeting Preparation

Kendall reminded the Board that at the September meeting they discussed the conversation they'd like to have with Mayor Wheeler at the November Board meeting. The Board reviewed the questions that Pat Frobos and Kendall created based on the Board's discussion and feedback.

Paddy indicated that it would be important to condense the questions and review all the questions at the beginning of the discussion to ensure that critical questions are asked first. The intention being to avoid going overtime with other questions not allowing for discussion of items the Board see as a high priority. Kendall offered to send the questions to the Mayor's office in advance of the meeting and the Board supported this.

Paul suggested editing down the questions to one page.

Kendall asked the Board what one to two things the Board should prioritize.

Paddy would like to focus on the opportunities to collaborate with other bureaus. He pointed out that the Parks Board should have been involved in the I-5/Albina Project from the start.

Eileen Argentina and Jennifer Yocom asked to include Recreation and not solely Parks in the questions.

Jason Smith asked if the Board would like to include anything on financial sustainability. Kendall noted that a sub-bullet could be added indicating that there is a working group focused on financial sustainability.

Tonya Booker would like to focus on how the Parks Board can best interact with the Mayor's staff. Tonya would like to make it clearer to the Mayor and his staff that the Board is meeting monthly, spending time on this work and feel that their voices should contribute to the outcomes of this work.

Michelle Dedeo would like to be more direct than the questions are currently framed. Rather than asking to be involved in policy process, she recommends that the Parks Board tell the Mayor how they would like to be involved in the policy process.

Paddy would like to ensure that the reference to Commissioner Fish reflects his experience working with Parks.





Jenny Glass would not like to raise the topic of river access as much of their past conversation with the Mayor was focused on this topic. She suggested that the conversation should be framed in a way to ensure other items are discussed. Kendall shared that the focus can be on the Mayor's overall vision rather than asking specifically about river access. Tanya echoed this and suggested that river access will come up organically as it's an area he's already indicated is an area of interest.

Tamara Layden suggested that there may be a long version and short version of the questions they offer to the Mayor.

Jenny asked that the bullets be numbered. She suggested that some questions could be condensed and framed with partnership and collaboration which would include inter-bureau collaboration.

Joe O'Leary offered that the Board should be mindful of the tone of the questions.

Commissioner Update

Kendall welcomed Commissioner Fish and the Board had a round of introductions. The Commissioner thanked Kendall for inviting him to the Parks Board meeting. He shared his experience with Parks and his excitement about being the Parks Commissioner once again. He shared that over his 10 years as a City Commissioner he went from being a junior member to the most senior member. In that time, he has learned that there is a lot of frustration when there is change in leadership. He shared that Parks needs the next four years to be very economical.

Commissioner Fish then reviewed his priorities for Parks. During the first year he would like to bring calm to the bureau and focus on a couple things. The top priority is to complete a national search for the Director position. He would like to have the process complete by Christmas. He would like the Parks Board to have an opportunity to weigh in on the decision.

His second priority is to hold Parks harmless in the budget process. Parks has been asked to do more with less and it is not sustainable.

The third priority is to add packages to build back up the budget what was stripped down over time. He would like the Parks Board to help guide Parks' budget process as the city budget process is in transition.

The Commissioner's fourth priority is to look at how Parks can utilize and facilitate strategic partnerships. He would like to focus on the partnership opportunities between Parks and the Bureau of Environment & Sustainability now that these are both housed under one Commissioner. He wants to highlight the projects the two bureaus work on together such as welcoming salmon back at Oaks Bottom and Tryon Creek. He shared that he would like to take a comprehensive view of the



Summer Free For All program and do what he can to help upgrade what we are offering.

In addition to these priorities related to the Parks Bureau the Commissioner shared his personal goals for this year. He shared that his leadership style may be different than other Commissioners noting that his staff may attend meetings in his place and they are empowered to make recommendations. His office does work collaboratively, and important work will be done at the staff level.

Paddy shared that it is incredibly helpful to have the Commissioner's priorities up front as it gives the Board useful and usable information to work towards those priorities. Joe noted that the Commissioner has the right priorities and it is very reassuring to hear the Commissioner's plan for Parks. Paul echoed these comments and shared his appreciation for the Commissioner's clarity and sincerity.

Kendall thanked the Commissioner for joining the Board meeting and sharing his priorities. She asked the Commissioner to include the Board in the Director search and shared that the Board is eager to get to work.

Commissioner Fish shared that his staff member Todd Lofgren will be the point of contact for the Director search. The first step is to frame the job description and determining the scope of the search. There should be strategic outreach. Then there will be a screening process to identify finalists. He acknowledged the need to ensure the right people are doing the screening. He noted that there will be opportunities at different junctures for the Board to be involved, including having at least one Board member on each panel. He is committed to have the leadership question solved by the end of the year.

Meeting Adjourned

Kendall asked the Board to consider having the December and January meetings in the evening to allow for better attendance of the full Budget Advisory Committee as the budget discussion will be on the agenda for those meetings.

Kia announced to the Parks Board the resignation of Deputy Director Trang Lam. Trang's last day will be December 3, 2018. Kia and the Board thanked Trang for her dedication to Parks as both the Property Manager and the Deputy Director.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:05am.

Next Meeting November 6, 2018

