



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

November 6, 2018 | 2:30 – 4:30pm
City Hall | Rose Room

Board Members Present: Jeff Anderson, Paul Agrimis, Tonya Booker, Kendall Clawson, Michelle Dedeo, Pat Frobos, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Jenny Glass, Katy Holland, Ian Jaquiss, Tamara Layden, Jim Owens, Paddy Tillett

Board Members Absent: Joe O’Leary, Lorena Nascimento, Gladys Ruiz

City Council Members Present: Mayor Ted Wheeler, Commissioner Nick Fish, Todd Lofgren

PP&R Staff Present: Eileen Argentina, Tamara Burkovskaia, Jenn Cairo, Claudio Campuzano, Margaret Evans, Art Hendricks, Trang Lam, Lauren McGuire, Kia Selley, Jason Smith, Jennifer Yocom

Call to Order/Approve October Minutes/Director’s Update Pat Frobos, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 2:36pm. She asked for any edits to the October meeting minutes. No edits were offered, and she called for a motion to approve the October meeting minutes. Paul Agrimis made the motion, Michelle Dedeo seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Trang Lam introduced Claudio Campuzano, PP&R’s new Finance, Technology & Property Manager.

Pat Frobos presented a Certificate of Appreciation to Jeff Anderson for his work with the Board. She also congratulated Jenny Glass on winning the Skidmore Prize. Meeting participants joined Pat in recognizing the success of their colleagues.

Strategic Plan Update At the Board’s request Jason Smith provided an overview of the 2017-2020 Strategic Plan Performance Measures and a progress report on various initiatives. Jason reviewed the Strategic Plan framework and described the model for strategic planning and performance reporting. The Strategic





Plan is grounded in Parks 2020 Vision and Racial Equity Plan. The progress made toward the Plan's goals is described in annual performance reports. Currently, PP&R is defining performance measures and gathering data relevant to those measures. The next stages will be:

- Analyzing and communicating results;
- Defining and communicating improvements;
- Defining outcomes and strategic initiatives; and
- Identifying and allocating resources.

Jason requested assistance from Board members to work on performance measurements, targets and trends of the Strategic Plan implementation. He asked for volunteers to join him and Claudio Campuzano for two two-hour work sessions to review and analyze the data related to measurements.

Tonya Booker, Paul Agrimis, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Jim Owens and Pat Frobles are interested in working on this project.

Pat Frobles suggested that Jason sends materials to all Board members.

Mayor Wheeler & Commissioner Fish Discussion

Pat Frobles thanked Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Fish for coming to the Board meeting and asked them to talk about the following:

1. What are their priorities regarding Parks and how can the Board support work toward these priorities?
2. What opportunities exist for PP&R's to collaborate with other City Bureaus and strategic partners?
3. What strategies are they planning to use to overcome impacts of gentrification and densification?
4. What is the status of the search of the new PP&R Director?

Mayor Wheeler started off by saying that parks are one of the City's greatest assets. He chose Commissioner Fish to be the Commissioner-in-Charge of the Parks Bureau because he trusts him and values his knowledge and expertise. Parks intersects with several other priorities of the City, such as





livability, health, equity, complete neighborhoods, environment and others.

Mayor Wheeler admitted that the City can improve in long range fiscal planning. He solicited the Board's feedback and help in the City's efforts to improve fiscal planning and financial management in the following areas:

- 1) Cost recovery for recreational activities.
- 2) Capital planning: should our hundred-year-old community centers be preserved? Are there ways to make them functional? Is this where we want to invest, or should we build new facilities that better meet the needs of the community?

He also shared his vision to reactivate the Willamette River Waterfront with a focus on the environment, nature habitats, recreational and commercial activities and activating waterways.

Since Commissioner Fish is also responsible for the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), there is an opportunity for the two Bureaus to work together on some overarching projects.

Mayor Wheeler asked the Board to consider the City's beautiful views and love of trees and how these may be in conflict. As property values increase and the city grows, views are being privatized or lost. Are some of the views worth protecting? Do views supersede trees? He also asked the Board to consider if Parks has a role or responsibility to deal with the city's homeless crisis. If it does, what is the role?

Commissioner Nick Fish thanked the Board members for stepping in as the Budget Advisory Committee. He said that parks are key to City's quality of life and have always been central to his family's experience. His goal as Parks Commissioner is to bring stability to the Bureau. The Commissioner expressed hope that this year, as the City is implementing a new budget strategy, ways to make the budget more robust will be identified.





Commissioner Fish listed his goals for the Parks Bureau:

- Maintain what we have, inspire and rebuild the Bureau;
- Nurture the current leadership and conduct the national search of the new Director;
- Adjust investment in assets we have, including staff;
- Invest in workforce in anticipation of changing demographics of the workforce;
- Continue prioritizing high quality and equitable delivery of services;
- Encourage and strengthen public/private partnerships; the Commissioner is ready to help in fund raising;
- Support the rule/policy: when we open a new park/add a new asset, we need to set aside funds to maintain it;
- Create a capital replacement fund.

Paul Agrimis expressed concerns about the backlog of workorders and the aging facilities that will require more maintenance in the future. Jim Owens questioned if we should build new parks when we are struggling with maintaining existing parks.

Over the next two years the Commissioner shared that he will continue the financial sustainability work started by Commissioner Fritz. He does not want to suspend projects planned for implementation in SE Portland, a park-deficient and underserved area. The Commissioner also said that he objects to any cuts in services.

Kendall Clawson agreed that the equity piece is important. However, we need to start thinking how we can make some money. It will take careful crafting to create a message that uses an equity lens and communicates why we need to focus on revenue raising.

Mary Ruble, Portland Parks Foundation Board Chair, brought up a question of public/private partnerships, indicating that there are opportunities to partner with private businesses.





Commissioner Fish referred to several examples of successful partnerships, such as Halprin Landscaping Sequence project, Leach Botanical Garden and Salmon Sanctuaries, and emphasized the need to encourage such partnerships where government funding can be enhanced by funding from private philanthropists.

Pat Frobos called for engaging community in a city-wide conversation about the parks with regards to working on Vision 2035.

Commissioner Fish reviewed his approach to developing Vision 2035: under promise and over deliver, rather than over promise and under deliver:

- Get as much input as possible and, if needed, scale back to make goals doable and achievable; it's OK to have stretched goals if they can be achieved;
- Link to the new community survey, which now is done by the Budget Office; and
- Engage diverse community groups into the conversation.

Bonnie Gee Yosick noted that Portland will be different in 2035: population density will increase, and homelessness is likely to increase as well. What will it mean for parks? Will traditional parks, with playgrounds, still be needed? A lot of factors need to be considered when programming parks. And who will be responsible for making such decisions?

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Fish agreed that parks programming will be impacted by community diversification, demographic changes and other factors. We are already seeing this in Forest Park, for example: some people want it to remain a natural area, while others want permitted uses to be expanded to include mountain biking.

Commissioner Fish suggested that in 10 years, we will need more recreational services for older people and over 50% of the city's children population will live in East Portland. He asked the Board to consider this as the Vision 2035 is developed.



Jenny Glass asked how we will make strategic investments considering these emerging trends.

Commissioner Fish responded indicating his goal to build up a sustainable, robust budget using the budget from 10 years ago as the baseline - before drastic cuts were made to the PP&R budget.

Mayor Wheeler reiterated that a city without healthy parks cannot be a healthy city and addressing public safety issues and homelessness is very important for parks. Although there are a lot of competing needs, the Mayor and Commissioner are committed to making parks a strong asset of the City.

Pat Frobles asked for an update on the on the search for the new Parks Director and stressed that Board members are eager to be engaged in the process.

Commissioner Fish provided the following updates:

- The job announcement was posted, which lists such skills and attributes as passion for parks, strong management experience, striving for innovation, especially in a resource-constrained environment, and a deep commitment to equity.
- Commissioner's staff are working on setting up panels that will include past Bureau Directors, representatives of the Portland Parks Board and the Portland Parks Foundation Board.

The plan is to have 2-3 finalists by late December, when the selection will be made.

ADA Update

This agenda item was postponed.

Meeting Adjourned

Pat Frobles thanked everyone for participation and announced that the next meeting will be held on December 11. It will be held in conjunction with the BAC meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 4:15pm.

Next Meeting December 11, 2018

