

**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

August 13, 2019 | 8:00 - 10:00 am
City Hall | Lovejoy

Board Members Present: Bonnie Gee Yosick, Mike Elliott, Pat Frobes, Jenny Glass, Randy Gragg, Ian Jaquiss, Tamara Layden, Jim Owens, Paddy Tillett, Erin Zollenkopf

Board Members Absent: Paul Agrimis, Kendall Clawson, Michelle Dedeo, Katy Holland, Lorena Nascimento, Lee Novak, Gladys Ruiz

PP&R/City Staff Present: Tonya Booker, Maximo Behrens, Asha Bellduboset, Margaret Evans, Rachel Felice, Brooke Gardner, Sarah Harpole, Marshall Johnson, Todd Lofgren, Adena Long, Lauren McGuire, Kendra Petersen-Morgan, Sonia Schmanski, Becca Shively

Call to Order and Approve July Minutes Vice Chair Bonnie Gee Yosick called the meeting to order at 8:05am.

Bonnie asked for a motion or comments on the July meeting minutes. A correction was identified with regards to the number of seats on the Alternative Funding taskforce. There is one seat on the task force with two alternates for that seat.

With the amendment, Paddy made a motion to approve the minutes, Jim seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Bonnie reminded the Board to refer media requests to Mark Ross the Bureau's Public Information Officer.

Bonnie shared that Paul, Pat, Kendall, Jim and herself met with Commissioner Fish, Director Long and Deputy Director Lofgren recently. To ensure regular contact with the Commissioner, these meetings will be scheduled once a quarter. Board leadership will be working closely with Adena and senior management.



Public Comment

Bonnie invited Willie Levenson to share his comments. Willie shared that he is with the Human Access Project (HAP), and he reviewed HAP's volunteer and philanthropic efforts. He thanked PP&R for their joint efforts over the past years. Willie shared his interest in advocating for safe access to the river as a city funded activity. HAP is interested in ongoing funding dedicated to river access efforts.

Jim suggested that the Board look into how Parks can better recognize the river as a parks/recreation resource in the future. Bonnie suggested that the Board ask staff to work with Willie and HAP and that a presentation by HAP be scheduled at some point in the future.

Director's Report

Director Long shared the following report:

You may have heard about the planned August 17th protests at Waterfront Park...

- We are working with the Mayor's office and Police Bureau to help prepare the City for the anticipated unrest and possible violence
- We have shared all citywide parks events and permitted events, highlighting those in downtown
- Together with Security & Emergency Manager Vicente Harrison, Todd Lofgren and I will be stationed at the Incident Command Post at the City's Emergency Operations Center in far East Portland. PIO Mark Ross will join other City communications staff at the Joint Information Center hosted by the Police Bureau at the Justice Center.

We are in the process of developing a policy around the provision of social service activities in our parks. The policy will establish criteria associated with ongoing activities, including: permitting, security, restrooms, insurance, compliance with City, State and County Regulations, park property type, and frequency.

The PP&R and BES Process Improvement Project will officially kick off this month.

- Commissioner Fish, BES Director Mike Jordan and our respective Deputy Directors are sponsoring the effort.





- Brian Landoe from Urban Forestry and Rachel Felice from Lands Stewardship will co-project manage with Shannah Anderson from BES. Consultants Veritas Collaborations and JLA Public Involvement will facilitate the process.
- As a recap, the bureaus will be working collaboratively to formulate recommendations towards the development of a natural resource service delivery model that empowers both Bureaus to collectively implement and achieve goals and strategic priorities related to natural resource management.
- Once the final touches on the charter are complete, I will share it with the board.

In Assets & Development:

- We are participating in the Office of Management and Finance's (OMF) recently launched Long Range Facilities Plan, which will examine the needs and possibilities for City-owned and managed office and maintenance spaces over the next 20 plus years. In the long term, the outcome of this project could positively impact the work environment for all of our office and field staff.
- The Replacement Bond Annual Report for FY 18/19 is forthcoming.
- And, the process for selecting growth capital and major maintenance capital projects for funding in FY 20-21 has begun. Paul and Jim serve on the Management Rating Committee, which will meet in late September.

On the Personnel front....

- Todd and Tonya are settling in and meeting with staff and colleagues.
- The HSE Manager candidate who was selected, has since declined the position, will either go back to list or reopen the posting.
- Property and Business Development Manager interviews began Monday, 8/12.



- Equity Manager job announcement is being developed and I am hopeful that the posting will go live later this month.

Upcoming Community Engagement opportunities include...

- The final Gabriel Park Playground PAC Meeting, which is scheduled for August 22
- Recruitment is open for the Parklane Park PAC with a deadline of September 9; as I understand, Jenny Glass plans to apply to represent the Parks Board
- The next South Park Blocks PAC Meeting is in late September
- Gilbert Primary Park Playground opening event is scheduled for late September, and the Glenhaven Park Playground opening event will take place in early October.

True to the season, we have held many events....

- In the last month, we have broken ground for the Leach Botanic Garden capital improvements and celebrated the grand opening for the Halprin Sequence. Thank you to those board members who were able to join us...
- On August 1st, we honored and celebrated 172 sponsors and partners at the Summer Free For All Sponsor Appreciation Night which also marked the kick off of the Washington Park Summer Festival.
 - I know Paul and Paddy were there, and anyone else who also made it, can attest to how amazing the Mike Phillips jazz concert was!
 - Our partners have contributed over \$600K cash plus another \$1.6M in-kind to this program. We exceeded our cash fundraising goal by more than \$100K, thanks to our generous supporters.
- Unfortunately, Festival Latino in Cully Park this past weekend was called off early due to rain. Despite that, we were honored to provide a space to join together as a community and celebrate the strength of our diversity—especially in light of recent tragedies and injustices around the country.





- As I mentioned earlier, we recommend avoiding downtown on August 17th. Instead, consider joining us at Gateway Discovery Park for Tonga Day - it promises to be an excellent day of cultural performances, music, a movie, food and more.
- Please also mark your calendars for a celebration of Charles Jordan's Birthday—at Charles Jordan Community Center, August 31 at noon.
- And of course, there are still many, many opportunities left to experience Summer Free For All!

RENEW Forest Park Update

Land Stewardship Division Manager, Tonya Booker, introduced staff whose work includes Forest Park: Becca Shivley, Kendra Petersen-Morgan and Rachel Felice.

Becca shared the organizational update of the Land Stewardship division. She then shared a presentation on the work of RENEW Forest Park highlighting the features that make Forest Park unique. She shared some of the barriers for community members including accessibility and signage. Becca shared that there is strong advocacy for Forest Park.

RENEW Forest Park launched in 2014 as a creative approach to rally supporters and leverage support of the park to meet its needs to restore, rebuild and reconnect.

Becca reviewed the accomplishments of the work and the current priorities. She asked the Board for feedback on any private partners that should be engaged with this work.

Bonnie thanked them for their presentation. She noted that some of the projects were funded by System Development Charges (SDC) and that the Bureau should ensure there is funding for operations and maintenance.

Paddy noted that an inventory of the species in Forest Park would inform discussions about trail use. Kendra responded that staff does have an inventory of species in the park, and the studies are conducted in partnership with universities.



Jim shared that he would like there to be the same amount of energy going into other resources around the city, not just Northwest Central.

Erin asked about what work is being done to increase access. Becca responded that the planned visitor center will be an accessible hub for visitors. Kendra noted that they are doing targeted outreach, inviting people into the park and creating a more expansive group familiar with the park. Rachel noted that the Youth Conservation Crew (YCC), a diverse group of the city's youth, works in the park and other natural areas around the city as part of their workforce development program.

Jenny asked if there is work being done to address transit access which is critical for East Side visitors. Rachel responded that transit will be part of the access study.

Tamara echoed Erin and Jenny's comments and stressed that the Bureau should not deprioritize working with PBOT on transportation issues and access to the new visitor center.

Becca thanked the Board and invited them to come to the park for a tour to see projects.

**Land Use/
Infrastructure
Working Group
Update**

Willamette South Reach

Paddy shared the memo on South Reach Retail in Parks with the Board. Bonnie asked for comments on the memo. Jim noted that the memo would go to the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability and their Commission.

Tamara raised the questions that Gladys had sent via email. The Board discussed and determined that a last line "d" will be added that says, "Considers opportunities for broad inclusion of vendors that reflect the diversity of the city." With that amendment, Bonnie asked for a motion to approve the memo. Paddy made the motion, Erin seconded, the memo was unanimously approved.





Broadway Corridor Presentation

Sarah Harpole of Prosper Portland was invited to share her presentation of the plans for the Broadway Corridor. She gave an overview of the space included in the area, the timeline, the public/community engagement, the racial equity lens used, the rough plans for the space, and the implementation plan.

Lauren shared the work and collaboration that Parks has been doing with Prosper.

Randy asked how programming of the large public space would be managed. Sarah responded that they will be looking at local and national models. Randy urged Sarah to build that plan out early.

Jim noted that there were issues raised by the Working Group which included: equity and community outreach efforts; housing; maintenance costs; design connectedness between green and isolated spaces; and connectivity to other park areas.

Bonnie noted that while the phasing of the existing parking garage is important for minimizing cost, they do not want that to hinder the connectivity or design options for the park. Sarah noted the relocation of the post office retail will be moved to the main level of the post office and will influence the timing of the work.

Finance Working Group Update

Pat shared that the Finance Working Group has been meeting regularly and gave a high-level financial report. The bureau ended the year slightly under budget and Golf is back in the black.

Pat noted that the Council work session in November will focus on alternative sources of revenue and alternative service levels. They are looking at a temporary property tax, parks district and other tax options. Consultants from Portland State University will help with analysis.



Pat shared that the first meeting of the Alternative Funding taskforce is at the end of August, so it is timely to approve the Board's letter on the taskforce. The taskforce will develop three scenarios that look at keeping funding as is which will lead to decreased services; increasing funding to keep service as is; or increasing funding and increasing services.

The next meeting of the Finance Working Group is September 5, 2019.

The letter to Commissioner Fish about the taskforce asks him to set the bar high to do something that can really make a difference. Bonnie asked if there were questions or discussion needed on the letter. Jim made a motion to approve the letter, Mike seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Working Groups Update

Tamara shared that Bonnie, Paul, Jenny, Gladys and herself met to discuss the Working Groups. She noted that since there are many people missing and with staff turnover, they are looking for the best way to be effective. They are looking at the work the committees have done and are developing a new working group which will be announced later.

Public Comment Update

Bonnie reminded members that at the retreat they discussed the need to review the public comment policy. Pat had volunteered to make that update.

Pat shared that the bylaws update is underway. She is working with Brooke to ensure the bylaws fit within the template created by Civic Life. Pat noted that she needs input on the public comment policy and would like to discuss at the September or October meeting. Pat will send a request for feedback or concerns so they can have a structured discussion at a future meeting.

Letters to Resigning/Retiring Division Managers

Pat shared the letters that will be sent to the Division Managers who have resigned or retired recently from the Bureau.



Annual Report

Bonnie shared that Pat wrote the Boards Annual Report as the former chair. The Report outlines the work of the Board and the concerns of the Board going forward. The priorities in the Report are based on the retreat discussion.

Bonnie asked if there were any comments or questions on the Report and asked for a motion. Erin moved to approve the Report, Jenny seconded, and the Report was unanimously approved.

Parks Board Meeting Adjourns

The meeting was adjourned at 9:57 am.

Next meeting is Tuesday, September 10, 2019.

