

Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting information

Tuesday, February 13, 2023

5:00-7:00pm

Portland Building Room 216 and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Board members present:

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin, David Staczek, Jonathan Beckhart, Adrienne Feldstein, Matt Shipkey, Sabrina Wilson, Adam Lewis, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Suenn Ho, Patti Miles, Crys O'Grady, Erin Zollenkopf, Ali Berman, Jessica Green (ex-officio)

Board Members absent:

Casey Mills

City staff present:

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Todd Lofgren (Bureau Deputy Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Tonya Booker (Land Stewardship Division Manager), Melody Brooks (Interim Equity & Inclusion Manager), Lauren McGuire (Assets & Development Division Manager), Claudio Campuzano (Manager of Finance, Property, and Technology), Sarah Huggins, Kellie Torres (Chief of Staff, Commissioner Dan Ryan), Robin Johnson Craig, Tom Armstrong (Supervising Planner, BPS), Patricia Diefenderfer (Chief Planner, BPS), Julia Michel (Economic Planner, BPS), Carine Arendes (Planner, Assets & Development)

Others present:

None

Meeting called to order at 5:02pm with roll call following.

Agenda Items

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

General Announcements

Board Members Crys O'Grady, Suenn Ho, and Matt Shipkey attended the open house for Darcelle XV Plaza and reported that it was a great opportunity for community engagement. Patti Miles (Board Member) asked if there was discussion about the fence. Crys said that there were differing opinions but there was not a formalized conversation. Suenn said that there were some talks with Capital Project Manager Ross Swanson on the type of fence that would be possible.

Dr. Corbin (Board Chair) asked about getting a map of bus stops to study accessibility to park spaces.



Approve January Minutes

There were a few typos pointed out in the headers and agenda. Ali abstained from the vote due to her absence. All voted in favor.

Director's Report

Both the Vibrant Communities Budget and Natural Area Service Delivery Assessment City Council Work Sessions were held on Thursday, February 1. While we didn't receive as much direct feedback on the draft workplan as we would have liked, the dialogue around natural resources in general, was robust and interesting. The core team has reconvened and are planning additional engagement from late February through April. In addition to having advisory board representatives join Bureau Leadership and SME group, we have committed to returning in March to the full board for an update and the opportunity to provide more feedback.

In response to discussions held at the full board and the Board Affairs Working Group, we will be modifying some procedures:

- Posting agenda at least 2 weeks in advance of upcoming Parks Board meetings
- Working Group meeting reports will now be included in the Parks Board packet and will be posted for public access

Reminder for WG chairs/co-chairs to use the meeting report template and be mindful of including confidential information or information that is not yet ready for public consumption.

Today, Council item to allow Bureau of Human Resources to offer employment agreement to Interim Deputy City Administrators, which signals a significant milestone in the transition. We anticipate that Commissioners will appoint Interim DCA's in the coming months.

On February 2, PCEF Committee voted to recommend 24 of the 25 projects that Bureaus proposed to them in late January. For PP&R these include: Mt. Scott Community Center Renovation for Resiliency, converting Gas-powered backpack leaf blowers to electric, the Tree Protection program, and the Arborist Trainee program. At our last meeting, some board members asked about additional opportunities to partner with PCEF - I learned that there is an additional \$158 million that has not been allocated. The PCEF committee will be meeting on Feb 15th to discuss process and parameters before we move forward. Once they land on specific next steps, they will share those out more broadly.

Within the Board packet was a summary report of the storm response in January. We express gratitude and pride of our team's response and continued recovery efforts. Urban Forestry responded to hundreds of calls for service, and PP&R quickly pivoted to waive retroactive removal and replanting permit fees and lowered barriers to assist property owners. Professional Repair and Maintenance Services generated and responded to hundreds of work orders, including damages that closed several facilities for multiple days. Park Rangers continued patrolling and assisting folks out of doors, and Land Stewardship staff cleared snow, ice and debris and closed multiple trails throughout the system. The Charles Jordan Community Center was activated as an overnight temporary shelter on January 16 and met capacity, having hosted 180 guests.

Regarding the past public comments on PP&R's drone policy, the Portland film office intends to have all drone launches occur outside of Portland Parks until public concerns regarding policy and procedure can be addressed by Prosper Portland, effective immediately.



Suenn Ho (Board Member) asked if there was an opportunity with soliciting ideas/get community engagement on what the Mt. Tabor picnic shelters could look like. Director Long responded that the Community Engagement (CE) Coordinator is in direct contact with the Friends of Mt. Tabor who were very responsive about partnering with CE. Lauren McGuire commented that Mt. Tabor shelter is a historical structure and so design will likely not have much variety.

Adam Lewis (Board Member) asked about Multnomah Arts Center (MAC) now adding paid parking. Maximo Behrens replied that there are three parking lots at MAC and the west side parking lot will be the only one that will be paid, with the other two remaining free.

Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Member) asked about the decision to blanket close many park assets in response to the storm. Director Long replied it wasn't a blanket closing, but more surrounding the PP&R staff being unable to access facilities. There were several more urgent emergencies that the limited staff could work on. Todd Lofgren added that with the Mayor's declaration of emergency, there was an order to have non-essential employees not report into work, which resulted in several closures. Director Long also said that having nonessential staff reporting in is also tied with labor agreements.

Matt Shipkey (Board Member) asked about whether the news was true about the bureau was not pursuing the Bond option. Kellie Torres (Commissioner Ryan's Chief of Staff) replied that headlines were somewhat misleading. There have been briefings with Commissioner Ryan and the Mayor as well as President Peterson of Metro and the Multnomah County Chair on what measures are possible. There also may be consideration on renewing the levy this year or next year, which is dependent on the local elections. They are also still waiting on guidance from the Governor, who had told the public that there would be no new taxes.

Dr. Corbin (Board Chair) asked what PCEF opportunities were available for fixing damage done by the ice storm. Director Long replied that PCEF is very specific in the type of funding allowed, and they have expressed interest in building resiliency hub. She also said that much of the damage in the ice storm was directly related to the deferred maintenance backlog. Dr. Corbin commented that there is a lot of opportunity of shading and solar panels. Director Long replied that there have definitely been discussions about the concept within the bureau, but not necessarily with PCEF.

Sabrina Wilson (Board Member) asked regarding resilience hubs in East Portland area and neighboring coalitions. What kind of definition or model are we using? Are we relying on PCEF to define this? There have been contrasting ideas on what that means. Director Long replied that it is a PCEF program and PP&R has not been asked to weigh in on this. Director Long said the Board could invite PCEF to a meeting to answer any questions. Ali Berman (Board Member) commented if it might be worth starting out talks with PCEF by sending them a list of questions and comments before bringing them to the meeting. Some of the questions may already publicly available. Dr. Corbin supported the idea and asked for WGs to discuss at their meetings to send in their questions to her.

Jonathan Beckhart (Board Member) brought up the subject of Red Tail Golf site. Is there validity to these negotiations and if so, what potential revenue is there? Todd replied that the Mayor's office is the lead on bringing Major League Baseball to Portland. PP&R currently does not have any further information on what is moving forward. Dr. Corbin asked (on behalf of absent Board Member Casey Mills) whether items like this would come in front of the Board for community members to weigh in on these significant negotiations. Director Long replied that ideally yes,



though in this case, the Mayor's office is leading in negotiations. It would be worth letting their team know that the Board is interested in bringing that to public discussion. There is a Golf Advisory Committee that is also interested in being part of the conversation. Todd added that the City's desire to bring in MLB has been in the works for 6-7 years. In addition, Red Tail is zoned open space so there would be a formal land use process that the City would have to go through.

Sabrina commented whether PP&R received a letter from Thrivepdx regarding the closing of warming shelters. Rosewood Initiative was not part of the letter. Director Long replied that she did not see it but she will look into it.

Working Group Reports (Q&A only)

Board Affairs

There were no questions or comments.

Land Use & Infrastructure

There were no questions or comments.

Financial Sustainability/Budget Advisory Committee (BAC)

The letter included in the packet was actually last year's letter, this year's is currently in the drafts. Claudio shared a summary of the most significant impacts for this coming fiscal year.

Sabrina asked if Tree Canopy expenses are considered new expenses. Claudio answered that yes, and the deferred maintenance backlog is regarding built assets. Todd added that the projects that PCEF approved were the Mt. Scott CC renovation, Arborist Trainee Program, street tree maintenance, and replacing gas powered leaf blowers to electric.

Erin asked about the projected revenue decline.

Dr. Corbin asked what could the public and the Board do to advocate for more funding for Parks. Todd said that we're faced with the fact that there would be a reduction of services and the continuous deferred maintenance backlog. There has been work with the Commissioner on how to manage the cap. Claudio will be working with Division Managers on anticipated service reductions and this will be brought to the next budget cycle.

Bonnie said that the key points that will be stressed in the letter will be 1) PCEF is an opportunity for climate resilience and trees, 2) Thinking about cost-sharing with the new administrative positions and expenses with the city charter transition, 3) the continuous issue of deferred maintenance and the fact that much of the ADA transition work is part of the backlog. BAC will be reviewing the letter and submitting this week.

Community Engagement

There were no question or comments. Sabrina reported that CEWG will be working with the Equity & Inclusion team to learn more about their work and how to support them.

Programming Working Group

There were no questions or comments.



Portland Parks Foundation Report

There are a few open positions available and Jessica Green (Ex-Office Board Member) asked the Board to help promote these roles.

The Elk fountain design is almost finished and PPF will be ready to give it to the City within the next few weeks.

There are three playgrounds (Raymond Park, Portland Heights, and George Park) that are the main focus of PPF's work.

Jessica has also now fully joined the role as Executive Director at PPF.

Anti-Displacement Action Plan for North Portland Aquatic Center

Tom Armstrong gave a presentation detailing on BPS's Anti-Displacement Action Plan. Robin Johnson Craig then presented on how the ADAP applies to the building of NPAC.

Bonnie made a comment about the affordability of housing given that the incomes in the service area of NPAC is nearly forty percent less than the average in Portland. Tom replied that there is not as much data on the income of the actual homeowners in the service area. Patricia Diefenderfer also pointed out that there is a higher home ownership rate in the area as well.

Public Comment/Other Business

There was no public comment.

Meeting Adjourned

Dr. Corbin (Board Chair) adjourned this meeting at 7:02pm.

