



North Portland Aquatic Center Project Public Advisory Committee Meeting #1 Notes – Nov. 1, 2022 5:00-7:00pm

Welcome and Agenda Review

- Welcome by Ken Rumbaugh
- Robin Johnson Craig, North Portland Aquatic Center (NPAC) Project Manager, provided a brief project overview. Full project details can always be found at the [North Portland Aquatic Center](#) project page.

Introductions and Sticky Note Exercise

Attendees:

- **Project Advisory Committee (PAC) members:** Jamar Summerfield, Ashley Bubnick, Tod Pitstick, Derrell Wheeler, Daniel Smith, Itzel Megchun, Tricia Kasper, Millie Haley, Morgan Spriggs, Ignacio Castillejos, LA Walker, Erica Cuesta, Jenny Hoyt, Elaha Alizada, and Sheryl Juber (*PAC members not in attendance: Dion Jordan, Xaii Crowl, and Bea Gloth*)
- **ELS Architecture and Design team:** Clarence Mamuyac, Dana Vollmer-Grant, Beth Cantrell, and Jeana Woolley
- **Portland Park & Recreation (PP&R) staff:** Robin Johnson Craig (Project Manager), Ken Rumbaugh (Community Engagement Lead), and Payton Stang (Community Engagement Aide)

“Sticky Note” JamBoard Activity

- All PAC members were asked to create 3-5 sticky notes that provide the group some information and background about how they identify.
- This activity will help us know who is and isn't in the room, and where we may need additional perspectives to make recommendations.
- See the [NPAC PAC “Sticky Note” Activity](#).

Roles, Group Agreements, and What to Expect:

Role of PAC in the life of the project (as shared in the recruitment process):

- Elevate and confirm community priorities for site selection, aquatic center programming and schematic design

Administration

1120 SW 5th Avenue, Suite 858
Portland, Oregon 97204
503-823-PLAY (7529) | Fax 503-823-6007

PORTLANDPARKS.ORG
Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Director Adena Long



- Serve as a community liaison between PP&R and the greater North Portland community
- Provide feedback and input on ideas, site selection, programming, and design concepts of the aquatic facility.

Group Agreements and Rules were reviewed

- Millie suggested adding the following statement to the document: *“Approach differences with curiosity instead of judgement.”* – This has been added.
- No additional suggestions were made.

What to Expect (community engagement calendar of events)

- **Community Workshop #1:** Sat., Dec. 10, 2022, 10:00am-2:00pm @ CJCC
 - Goal: Plan, organize, and engage community
- **Community Workshop #2:** (tentatively) Week of January 23
 - Goal: Develop site selection criteria and programming opportunities
- **Community Workshop #3:** (tentatively) Week of April 3
 - Goal: Develop a single concept for each of the top three sites
- **Community Workshop #4:** (tentatively) Week of May 29
 - Goal: Develop a preferred concept/preliminary schematic design
- **Community Workshop #5:** (tentatively) Week of July 31
 - Goal: Develop final schematic design
 - Clarifying question from Ignacio about what communication happens in between the PAC meetings and community open house events.
 - Ken shared that he will be the conduit for the PAC for all matters during the life of the PAC. Ken will be in regular communication with PAC members about important news, updates, and status of the project.

PAC and Community Engagement Timeline/Feedback Loop

- The timeline and feedback loop were shown in a visual graphic as the role of the PAC relates to the roles of the Technical Advisory Committee (TAC), Focus Groups, Community Workshop events, and broad Community Survey efforts.
- View the [North Portland Aquatic Center Project Community Engagement Feedback Loop](#) graphic.

Project Information and Site Selection Overview

Our design team: ELS Architecture and Design

PAC members were introduced to our ELS Architecture and Design team. Please have a look at their impressive portfolio of work in [Sports, Recreation, and Aquatics](#).

Project Overview

PP&R Level of Service Goal: The guiding document for PP&R outlines that PP&R has set a goal of providing a full-service community center (large gym, fitness programs, indoor aquatic center, and arts and crafts opportunities) within three miles of every Portland resident, and a park within a half mile of every Portland resident. Currently, this is true for about 70.6% of Portlanders. Charles Jordan Community Center does not have an indoor pool, so it does not meet the criteria of a “full service” community center.

PP&R site pre-qualification criteria for the future North Portland Aquatic Center

- A location in North Portland
- A 2+ acre site, currently under PP&R stewardship.
- A site that will not require significant tree removal
- An accessible site on major bus routes and active streets

All viable sites will be shared with the PAC at our early December meeting and will be shared with the public at the first community gathering on December 10, 2022. There, we will continue gathering community input and priorities on site criteria. By Spring 2023, we plan to narrow the site list to a final three for consideration.

Once we have our final three sites, concept designs will be drafted by ELS Architecture and Design for each site. The concepts and designs will be unique for each, based on the site characteristics. A preferred design will be vetted, refined, and chosen. It is our goal to have a final site and schematic design by August 2023. The project will immediately begin going through the land use permitting process, which typically takes five months. By end of 2023, the project should be entitled and ready for next steps.

Community criteria

The following are the criteria themes and takeaways that have become clear since beginning community engagement in April 2022:

- Ensure that it is walkable (specifically, for those living in dense neighborhoods and Portlanders living with low income)

- Ensure that it is bikeable (specifically, for those living in dense neighborhoods and Portlanders living with low income)
- Ensure easy public transit access
- Build it near a Portland Public School (specifically, in a dense neighborhood where Portlanders are living with low income)

What will we build in North Portland?

The specifics are yet to be determined, but we know that our baseline is the facilities and programming that PP&R currently offers at [Mt. Scott Community Center Indoor Pool](#), [East Portland Community Center Indoor Pool](#), and [Southwest Community Center Indoor Pool](#). That said, these facilities are all over 20 years old. The world of aquatics has come a long way. We are excited to build a facility that is cherished for generations to come.

How Will Success Be Defined?

PAC members were asked “How will we define success for the PAC and for the project?” The responses we received are reflected below.

This is a living (and growing) list. We are encouraging all PAC member to continue adding to this list as we begin our work together.

- Ensure we are including and serving people who have been victims of gentrification. Marginalized communities, low-income who were moved out of area have access with our help. Be intentional about this effort. More than just the MAX or a bus ticket. Private PP&R bus to take people to and from the future facility.
- Ensure the new pool doesn't just become a reward for those who are still able to afford houses in North Portland.
- If we end up with a pool that maximizes service to the most people possible, that is big enough for future use and not just current need.
- State of the art center with amenities for all.
- Adjustable adult size changing tables.
- Swings that have soft strappy seats.
- Ample PP&R staff present at all times who know how to operate the facility and amenities.
- Create a pool that is a destination for our community, and one that draws others to North Portland as well.
- Splash pads as those in wheelchairs can access.
- Ramp up to the slide.

- Seeing folks of different ages, races and abilities feeling safe in the new space.
- Ramps to access all amenities. Ramps serve EVERYONE! Kids feel safer and learn easier on ramps.
- Include therapeutic pools. The Baby Boomer generation is the biggest generation of our time. They are quickly needing more accommodations.
- A splash pad that allows a wheelchair to use with no stairs.
- Family changing rooms. Giving back dignity.
- Spaces are inclusive for individuals, from the entrance to the bathrooms.
- Information is written/displayed in many different languages.
- The cost of entrance is accessible for everyone.
- Activities and classes for adults and kids with disabilities.
- Make it sustainable
- Classes taught in multiple languages.
- A facility that is safe and inclusive for all.
- Signage with (universally understood) pictures instead of words
- Be mindful of unintended consequences and demographic differences. Do not allow the aquatic center to further push narrative of class separation. Trying to become accessible can often lead to more (unintended) separation, and a facility being less accessible.
- Success to me would include a pay-scale (sliding scale) to ensure low-income folk can get access. – Read more about the [PP&R Access Pass Program](#) that Ken outlined during the meeting.
- Photos of non-traditional pool users. So, everyone can see themselves represented
- Make water play opportunities available for all ages and abilities. Splash pads are a great way for people to get their toes wet and build water safety skills.
- Include an Olympic size pool (50m x 25 yds) with separate tank for kid lessons for multiple teams to practice at the same time and host competition events but maintain neighborhood access to learn to swim.
- Build something big and grand that serves the whole city. Make North Portland a destination.

PAC Member Support in Recruiting for NPAC Focus Groups

As outlined by Jeana Woolley, we will be convening Focus Groups throughout the life of this project in between each of the five Community Gatherings. The role of the Focus Groups will be to act as affinity group subject matter experts to provide

feedback that helps inform the design development process for the North Portland Aquatic Center. The first Focus Groups will be convened in early to mid-January. The goal for these first Focus Groups will be to provide the team with input on what criteria they think is most important to prioritize in selecting the preferred site and what programming elements they feel are most important to include in a new center. The commitment for each Focus Group member will be as follows:

- Attend one 2-hour Focus Group listening session
- Offer feedback about key project considerations based on their unique expertise and lived experience, and identify the priorities that are important to members of the affinity group they are representing
- Focus group members can also participate in the Community Gatherings and take the Project Surveys online if they chose to do so.

WE NEED YOUR HELP! We are asking each of our PAC members to identify 1-3 people in their community of friends and associates who would be good candidates to participate in our Focus Groups and who could provide valuable feedback on the project from their unique perspective. We are especially interested in the perspectives of people who have lived experience and expertise in the following communities:

- Disability community
- LGBTQIA+ community
- Black community
- People of Color community
- Low-income community
- Immigrant and Refugee community
- Youth community
- Senior community
- Competitive swimming community

If you have people in your own circles that come to mind, please contact them to ask their permission about whether we can contact them to discuss their potential participation. For those contacts that express interest, please share their name and best contact information with both Jeana Woolley (jamew2@msn.com) and Ken Rumbaugh (ken.rumbaugh@portlandoregon.gov) no later than December 9, 2022. Jeana will then follow-up with them.

THANK YOU! – These Focus Group conversations will allow our project team to dive deeper into the specific needs and priorities of all the various community stakeholders that we hope will benefit from the development of the North Portland Aquatic Center.