



North Portland Aquatic Center Project Public Advisory Committee Meeting #2 Notes – 12/6/2022

Welcome and Agenda Review

Ken Rumbaugh (Community Engagement Lead) provided a welcome and facilitated introductions.

Attendees:

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

Brief review of Roles, Group Agreements, and “Success” activities

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
- 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 “How we define success” documents may be reviewed, [HERE](#), in our notes from the November 1, 2022 NPAC PAC meeting. No additions were made on 12/06/2022.

Administration

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Community Workshop #1 Preview

Project Story

Jessica Stanton of Stanton Global Communications (contracted by ELS) presented the “Project Story” from Board #1 of our Community Workshop (see below):

Welcome Portland Community Members!

We’re excited to hear from you over the next nine months and to bring you in on the design process. Together, we will make sure the North Portland Aquatic Center meets the community's needs. This facility will address historical gaps in access and service quality for the North Portland community.

Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) has assembled an experienced team of national and local experts who will bring a dynamic engagement process to the new facility’s site selection and design. We welcome your ideas and goals in helping us create a new facility that supports your ability to swim, play, and gather.

PP&R has defined the following priorities for this project:

- **Equitable Community Access** – Your voice is vital for informing the process and guiding us to the best facility for all community stakeholders.
- **Eco-Friendly and Healthy Building Design** - The ELS/BCA team, in partnership with PP&R, looks forward to creating a sustainable and resilient aquatic center. The building’s design will be guided by standards of the United States Green Building Council’s LEED program and the WELL Health-Safety Rating system. As a statement of aspirational intent, the design team is signed on to the AIA 2030 Commitment, meaning we plan on delivering a design that reduces or eliminates greenhouse gas emissions. We are mindful of our natural resources and will prioritize the creation of a healthy and welcoming environment for all to enjoy.
- **Design Excellence** - The new North Portland Aquatic Center will both respond and add to its surroundings, becoming an important part of

the North Portland community. The ELS/BCA team's design approach is rooted in the belief that social interaction, leisure, recreation, wellness, and fitness play a significant role in the lives of the North Portland community. Our team, in partnership with PP&R, wants to create a safe and inclusive community aquatic center that will become the heart of North Portland. Believing that high-quality architectural projects can inspire and elevate their surroundings, we seek to design an aquatic center that will build and improve community health while strengthening community bonds. We want to inspire participation, encourage interaction, and support wellness and personal achievement among North Portland community residents of all ages, abilities, and backgrounds.

Portland Parks & Recreation's mission is to help Portlanders play by providing the safe places, facilities, and programs that promote physical, mental, and social activity. Our mission increases the wellness of Portland residents and the livability of our city.

Six Candidate Sites

Ken Rumbaugh outlined the criteria and six (6) candidate sites being considered for the North Portland Aquatic Center project.

Portland Parks & Recreation and the ELS/BCA design team developed criteria to evaluate each publicly owned site in North Portland to determine the six candidate sites for the North Portland Aquatic Center.

Criteria

- *Site is managed by Portland Parks & Recreation*
- *Site is not restricted for development*
- *Site has at least two acres of available land for the new facility without major clearing of existing tree canopy*
- *Site has acceptable street, transit, bicycle, and walking access*

- *Site is within three miles of residences at the end of the North Portland peninsula to meet the PP&R service goal*

Based on these criteria, the following sites are viable options (in alphabetical order):

- *Columbia Park*
- *Columbia Annex*
- *Northgate Park*
- *Pier Park*
- *St. Johns Park (adjacent St. Johns Community Center)*
- *University Park (adjacent Charles Jordan Community Center)*

Ken Rumbaugh led a presentation of the “Gallery Walk” boards that will be presented at the North Portland Aquatic Center Community Workshop event on Saturday, December 10, 2022 (open house style) 10:00am-2:00pm at Charles Jordan Community Center.

PAC Member Questions and Discussions

Was there any ranking or order of the criteria given to possible sites?

- *There was no special ranking. The list was created to help narrow down options and create perimeters. We look forward to hearing from community members about the site criteria that is most important to them.*

Thought of having features of the pool outside? It was still in the 90’s this

October

- *This question and comment was highly liked by fellow PAC members. This is a possibility and something that will be explored and discussed further in community open houses to come.*

Can there be a shallow end of a 50-meter pool?

- *50-meter pools vary in depth. The “shallow” end of a 50-meter pool can be as shallow as 4’6” and the “deep” end is often up to 3 meters (about 10 feet) deep.*
- *A “bulkhead” (a moveable divider in the pool) of 50-meter pool allows for two simultaneous activities of different teams, sports, ages, etc.*

Will the site selection or design come first?

- *The amenities that we are discussing will fit on all 6 sites that have been identified. The differences in each potential site will change HOW each could be utilized. Some may have to be stacked/storied buildings.*

In past years, there has been discussion around Charles Jordan Community Center (CJCC) adding a pool. University Park (one of our candidate sites) is adjacent CJCC. A community center with a pool attached or adjacent is referred to as a full-service community center (as defined by Portland Parks & Recreation).

- *Yes. PP&R defines a “full-service community center” as one with access to fitness center, gym arts & crafts activities, and a pool.*

Concern expressed that a North Portland Aquatic Center in St. Johns or Pier Park would add up to 20 minutes to the drive-time for guests traveling on N. Lombard to reach the facility.

- *This will be an important conversation point in the discussion about the final site of the NPAC. PP&R Aquatic leadership have also shared concerns that a facility further west on the N. Portland peninsula would add to the already difficult task of staffing the Aquatic Center.*

Concern expressed the question, “Should there be further consideration of a 50-meter Olympic-size pool?” was suggesting that the 50-meter option is already being dismissed.

- *PP&R staff shared that there has been tremendous support and advocacy for a 50-meter pool from PP&R Aquatic Staff and PP&R Leadership. The ELS team added that they would love to design a 50-meter pool for this project.*
- *PP&R has contracted with BAE Economics to conduct a “Market Analysis” for the need of a 50-meter pool and/or other competitive*

aquatics sports facilities. PP&R expects that report to be published by Community Workshop #2 on Jan. 24, 2023.

If the community can't get to consensus on the six sites, will the process be allowed to go back to the inventory to come up with additional candidate sites?

- *No. Not without adding significant time to the project (an estimated 1-2 years). This scenario was unacceptable given the need for aquatic services in North Portland.*
- *As initial candidate sites were identified in North Portland, there were originally about sixteen (16) in total. Due to the need to move the project forward, the criteria that the site be under the current management of PP&R was moved to the top of the list. Therefore, the sites that were not currently under PP&R management were eliminated from the list of viable sites.*

There is great interest, among PAC members, in an outdoor element to the North Portland Aquatic Center.

- *A universally accessible splashpad or interactive fountain on the exterior of the North Portland Aquatic Center would be a huge win for the community. Any such amenity would serve as an entry point for individuals who are not yet comfortable with a pool setting. A splashpad or interactive fountain would also serve as a great way to stay cool in the hotter/longer Portland Summer Season.*

Supporting Documents and Links

These items were shared in the Zoom meeting chat feature as resources for the discussion and project

- Full project details can always be found at the [North Portland Aquatic Center](#) project page.
- [North Portland Aquatic Center project – Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- [Columbia Indoor Pool – Frequently Asked Questions \(FAQ\)](#)
- [Chehalem Parks & Recreation Aquatic & Fitness Center \(Newberg, OR\)](#): This facility has been identified by PP&R staff as an extraordinary Aquatic Center, and a model for what they would love to see in the PP&R system.

- [A 3D Model of the Chehalem Aquatic & Fitness Center](#)

Meeting adjourned at 7:04