



A Park and Wilson Outdoor Pool Naming Committee Meeting #1 Notes

Tuesday, June 28, 5:00pm – 7:00pm

Committee Members Present: Don Baack, Sergio Barrera, Bettina Barrera, Kelsey Bowers, C.N.E. Corbin, Doug Decker, Rachelle Dixon, Sumayo Hassan, Chung-Huey (Nina) Kung, JR Lily, Amanda Squiemphen-Yazzie. **Not Present:** SandeBea Allman.

PP&R Staff: Maija Spencer and Carolyn Lee

Welcome and Introductions

- **Maija reviewed the meeting agenda and goals of the meeting:**
 - Get to know each other
 - Understand this committee’s assignment, the naming policy, and timeline
 - Identify any follow-up items
- **Ground Rules and Housekeeping:**
 - Carolyn shared the ground rules for this process (*see attached document*). She invited the group to add any others, but none were added.
 - She encouraged everyone to take care of their needs. We are recording the meeting. It is great to have cameras on to get to know each other. Please stay muted when not talking and use the hand raise or chat box to participate in discussions.
- **Sticky Note exercise:**
 - The goal of this exercise is to get to know each other and hear who is represented at the table. Maija asked everyone to post several sticky notes that describe something about the community they represent, expertise, and/or lived experience they bring to this committee.
 - Maija demonstrated how to use sticky notes on the Jamboard, and then everyone added theirs (*see attachment*).
 - Each committee member introduced themselves and shared their sticky notes.

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Commissioner Carmen Rubio
Director Adena Long



Purpose of this Group and Process Overview

- The naming policy is our guide for this process (<https://www.portland.gov/sites/default/files/policies/prk-3.03-sponsorship-and-naming-policies-at-park-properties.pdf>)
- It calls for the PP&R Director, Adena Long, to appoint an ad-hoc committee to consider names that meet the criteria laid out in the policy and make a recommendation to the Director. She will then take the recommendation to Parks Commissioner, Carmen Rubio, to accept.
- Carolyn reviewed the Guiding Principles handout (*attached*) that is an excerpt from the policy. There are 8 principles identified that names should reflect. When naming after people, the honoree needs to have been deceased for at least three years, can't be a living person. Park and facility names do not have to be based on a person – could be place-based, reflect on an event, or create community.
 - It was noted that the term “disadvantaged community” should be looked at in the policy.
 - The PP&R Equity team has hired a policy analyst who will be reviewing all PP&R policies, including this one.
 - PP&R staff will pass on feedback from this process and the committee to help update the policy. This committee may also want to make a recommendation.
 - Is there an effort to look at other park names?
 - Yes, there will be after this process. These two sites are the priority for this year. There was a commitment made by Commissioner Fritz to have a public process for identifying a permanent new name for A Park. Portland Public Schools already did a process for the former Wilson HS (now Ida B. Wells), so we need to catch up with the school.
 - The next step will be to have a technical advisory committee take a comprehensive look at all the park and facility names citywide. This will help PP&R determine how to move forward, create priorities, and have an ongoing process to look at names.

- We know the bulk of our park names came from white male settlers who held property, often taken from the Native/Indigenous community, who sold or donated the property to the City. Some names are place-based or neighborhood-based. We have also gone through community naming processes in recent years for new parks like Gateway Discovery, Khunamokwst, and Luuwit View. Maija worked on a renaming process two years ago for Lynchview Park (now Verdell Burdine Rutherford Park).
- Are you in conversation with the Bureau of Transportation, since these park names often have matching street names?
 - Yes, we have let Commissioner Hardestry (who is Commissioner over Transportation) that we are starting this process. For this process, we are focused on the park name.
- Maija asked the group if there were any other criteria that was important to add.
 - The name should reflect the consciousness, the intention of the physical space being a place where community comes together to celebrate being outside. This is about the future.
 - Maija noted that Khumamokwst Park's name is a Chinook wawa name that means "together".
- **Decision-making**
 - Recommendations should represent a broad base of collective wisdom about what will best serve our city and the local neighborhood.
 - The committee will work to reach full agreement on guidance and recommendations, using a consensus process that respects the perspectives and contributions of all advisors.

- Whenever possible, the group will forward recommendations that are supported by the full group.
 - If full agreement is not possible, the committee will use a 2/3 majority vote to finalize recommendations. In the case of a majority vote, a report on the voting process will be submitted along with the majority recommendation.
 - Final decisions will be made by the PP&R Director and Commissioner. We want to emphasize however that they want to support the community's recommendation, so the committee has a significant role in this process. The power really rests with this committee.
- **Timeline for process**
 - July – August – we will seek community name submissions. We will have an online form, and we will publicize the efforts through flyers, paper handouts, signs, social media, and through our PP&R outreach events.
 - September – we will bring you together to review the submitted names and begin narrowing the list.
 - October – November – we will meet 1-2 more times to make a final recommendation.
 - December – review and approval by the Director and Commissioner, followed by an announcement in early 2023.
 - The pool will open with its new name in summer 2023.
- **Site Visit:** Is the group interested in a site visit together this summer while the pool is open? Yes, interest was expressed, so Maija and Carolyn will follow up with scheduling that via email.
- Rachele noted that she has a video that captured some neighbors ideas for a new name for A Park. It was originally a dairy farm, and she spoke with family members of the original owners (the Raz family).

Hillsdale Neighborhood name submission for Wilson Outdoor Pool

- Hillsdale Neighborhood led a naming process for Wilson Outdoor Pool earlier this year, before PP&R had started this process. Their goal was to include all of SW Portland. There had been an effort to rename the pool about 10 years ago that was divisive.
- Don Baack described the process, also outlined in the attached handout. They got about 19 ideas submitted, including Hillsdale Pool. They put together an online ballot and advertised it via the SW Connection, Hillsdale News, SWNI news, and Nextdoor. 66% of the 365 votes selected Hillsdale Pool.
- There has been confusion about Wilson Pool sharing a name with the school in the past. The school would receive calls, even though it was operated by PP&R.
- Don noted that Hillsdale is a recognized town center by Metro – has many recreational facilities in addition to the pool and the farmer’s market.
- Maija noted that Hillsdale Pool would be consistent with other outdoor pools that generally share a name with the adjacent neighborhood/park (such as Peninsula, Grant, Creston, etc) and would distinguish it from the school. It does meet the naming policy criteria. PP&R wanted to give this committee the opportunity to consider the Hillsdale neighborhood’s nomination in keeping with the naming policy.
- The committee could still proceed with a call for additional names and keep Hillsdale as an option to consider later.

- **Questions for the committee:**
 - Does the naming committee support this submission?
 - Would the naming committee like to proceed with a call for additional names?

- **Discussion:**
 - Hillsdale is not always very welcoming to people of color. There have been experiences with white supremacy culture at the high school.

- It was clarified Hillsdale Pool was the recommendation of the Hillsdale neighborhood. It is not an official decision. It will be the task of this committee to recommend a new pool name to the Director and Commissioner.
- The Hillsdale name is already on many things. It is a fine name, but it feels overused.
- Does the name Hillsdale make it seem more like a neighborhood pool and not make it seem like a city amenity?
- Some committee members said they had not heard about the voting process until joining this committee.
- Kelsey noted she worked at the pool for two decades. It is a unique pool that draws people from all over the city for its features and open swim times. It is the only outdoor pool with a lazy river, diving board, etc. It is not equitable to only ask SW residents what the pool should be named. She lived in SW Portland and attended Ida B. Wells. This pool has one of the highest attendances in the city.
- What is the history of the Hillsdale name?
 - Hillsdale was named during the 1860s-1870s to describe the hills and dales in the surrounding area. It was also once known as Summit. Many Oregon place names are tied to the names of post offices, and Hillsdale was the post office name established in June 1886. Doug found this in the Oregon Geographic names book which is a primary resource for history of places names in Oregon (Added by Maija: A dale is another word for a valley).
- 365 people out of 8,000 Hillsdale residents – who is missing? Who participated? Nextdoor is largely white women statistically, some committee members have unsubscribed because of their experiences on it.
- It was noted that an online survey does not address the digital divide.
- What symbolic or representation does Hillsdale Pool have for the community? A member noted her family did not see the survey, and it is important that all Portlanders have an

opportunity to be involved since it is a diverse city with many opinions, experiences, and thoughts. It should be something meaningful to explain to younger generations when committee members talk about their experience picking the name.

- The committee members would like a name that:
 - Reflects the community
 - Inspires the community and/or is symbolic and significant to everyone of all ages and cultures
 - Contains words that convey a sense of restored community and restorative justice
 - Naming after a person may make it hard for others to feel represented, so a word or phrase may better reflect a sense of community and inclusiveness
 - Would like an indigenous name
 - Future-facing, aspirational
 - A name that reflects an environmentally and socially justice Portland in which everyone is thriving
- Maija summarized the discussion:
 - The committee is not ready to accept Hillsdale Pool as a name tonight.
 - The committee would like to hear more from a broader swath of the community, beyond SW Portland, and see broader outreach that isn't solely reliant on an online tool.
 - Hillsdale Pool can still be considered alongside other name submissions in September.

Communtiy Outreach

- Maija summarized PP&R's plans for outreach for name submissions and noted that Wilson Pool, as discussed, serves people across the city, so it is important to do outreach in other parts of the city as well as SW Portland.
 - Online survey
 - Paper survey

- Webpage
 - Yard signs with QR code at A Park
 - Flyers and signage at PP&R community centers and Wilson Pool (with QR code)
 - Flyers to residents at Stephens Creek Crossing
 - Social media (Facebook, Nextdoor, Instagram)
 - Email to registrations at Wilson Pool (pass holders, swimming lessons) and past permittees at A Park
 - Local neighborhood newspapers
 - Sharing the survey and flyer at PP&R tabling events at summer events around the city (East Portland Arts Festival, Summer Free for All, etc).
- **Suggestions from the committee:**
 - Have a table at Wilson Pool. Many people wait outside in line to get in.
 - Have a table at the Hillsdale Farmers Market on Sundays and/or Multnomah Days in August. Look for other events, too.
 - Take advantage of city engagement processes already happening to get info out.
 - Have committee members participate in tabling events to hear from community directly.
- **Discussion included:**
 - There is a history of discrimination at public pools and even today, not everyone feels welcome. There is a higher incidence of drownings in the Black community, because of a history of exclusion from pools and learning to swim.
 - Maija noted that the 2020 Levy has allowed PP&R to use a “pay what you can” system for swimming lessons and drop-in swim times. No paperwork is required to reduce barriers, and the Teen Force program provides free access for teens.
 - Dr. Corbin shared a link to a sci-fi story called “Custer on the Slipstream”. Slipstream is an Indigenous term based on the

understanding that every time you slip into a stream you're stepping into a different one.

<http://34.219.95.87/pdfs/Walking%20the%20Clouds%20Custer%20on%20the%20Slipstream%20w%20copyright.pdf>

- Make it easy for people to participate.
- It's important to note the harm that has happened at these locations and these neighborhoods.
- What will the survey process look like? How can this be done in an equitable and inclusive way?
 - Maija explained that the Community Engagement team frequently does surveys. It is not usually the kind of survey that reaches a statistically significant % of the population as those surveys are quite expensive. It is important to be clear that these surveys are reflective of who chose to participate. We collect basic demographic information (optional) that helps PP&R staff assess if the responses reflect the community we were trying to reach or if additional targeted outreach is needed. (And adding that we also do additional outreach using other tools beyond surveys to reach more diverse communities).
 - It's helpful to set goals for the communities you desire to reach to make sure we reach a certain amount of each community, especially in a city like Portland that is majority white. Make sure there is equal representation per community group, instead of statistical significance.
 - Maija explained that the process she and Carolyn were planning was for the community outreach phase to be at the front of the process – asking for name submissions from the community.
 - Then, PP&R would rely on this committee would look at the list and if there is a clear front runner, then this committee could recommend that name to move forward. Or if the committee feels like they

need further outreach this fall after narrowing down the list, that could be an option.

- Surveying is always imperfect – not everyone will be reached even with intentional outreach efforts, and that is why PP&R was very intentional in bringing together this committee to be a broad representative sampling of the community.
- Create parameters for the name – vibe, feel, that we want? Rather than just asking for a name, describe what we want to the name to feel and do.
- Is it possible to get demographic information about who uses the pool?
- Geography and cartographers are political.
- What is the future we want to see in Portland? What is the aspiration for these spaces?
- Many refugees and other communities who have experienced trauma do not ever talk about the past with their children.

Next Steps

- **Maija summarized some next steps/decisions reached tonight:**
 - See if more info can be found about history of Hillsdale name. Don will talk to some neighbors with historical knowledge.
 - The committee would like to hear name ideas for both A Park and Wilson Pool through an inclusive process that is not solely online.
 - There is interest in a Native/Indigenous name.
 - There is support for names that are inclusive, create a sense of coming together, are forward-looking, and provide a sense of justice and welcoming.
 - PP&R staff will share the parameters that began evolving in tonight's discussion for feedback from the committee.
 - PP&R staff will share the outreach plan and materials for the committee to share.

- Committee members are invited to share any feedback on the meeting.
- A poll will be done later for the site visit in August and the next meeting in September.

- **Next meeting will be in early September**
 - Further shape parameters.
 - Review names submitted – begin to narrow the list.
 - Determine if additional community outreach is needed.
 - Determine next steps to move forward with a decision.

- **Stipends** – let Carolyn know if you are interested and haven't gotten the paperwork yet or need assistance with the paperwork.