



A Park and Wilson Outdoor Pool Naming Committee

Meeting #2 Notes

Tuesday, September 6, 5:00pm – 7:00pm

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

PP&R Staff: Maija Spencer, Carolyn Lee, Kali Levy

Welcome and Introductions

- Maija gave a welcome and reminded the group that closed captioning was an option.
- The City is waiting for guidance from Laura Johns with the Tribal Relations office on an appropriate Citywide land acknowledgement. To respect that process, facilitators did not give a land acknowledgement, but invited the committee to share one if they wished. No one offered one.
- **Goals of the meeting:**
 - Get to know each other more
 - Review summer outreach
 - Discuss names submitted by the community
 - Determine how the committee wants to move forward
- The group was reminded of the previously agreed on ground rules
- **Introduction exercise:**

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



- For introductions everyone was asked to state their name, pronouns, and to share a story about any part of their name (given, chosen, or nickname).
- This raised a discussion of the history and meaning attached to names.
- It was brought up that this question was triggering for some committee members, as the change in spelling of one's name upon entry into the United States, colonization, enslavement, and violence had separated some people, especially Black and Indigenous people, from their original names.

Review Summer Outreach Report

- Outreach efforts included:
 - Social media
 - Tabling at eight events across the city
 - Flyers at Stephens Creek Crossing – thanks to Sergio, Bettina, and their son for helping!
 - Webpage information
 - Email to 1,400 people
 - Articles in the Portland Tribune and Hillsdale News
 - Signage with QR codes at A Park and Wilson Pool
- 273 people made submissions through the online survey
- Over 500 people were connected with at outreach events
- There was a comment that the survey could have been improved by giving more history as to who Custer and Wilson were and why new names are being chosen.

- Staff noted that the webpage introduction to the survey explained the context of why these sites are being renamed, and PP&R staff doing outreach in person were explaining why the names were problematic to people who were unfamiliar with them.
- How do we determine if outreach was successful?
 - The demographic data collected in the online survey was fairly aligned with demographics across the City and in Southwest Portland, and in some cases, more diverse.
 - This was a potentially more challenging survey to participate in, because instead of just clicking through options, you had to have an idea for a name. Outreach was fairly broad, but not everyone chose to participate.
 - Should this be considered enough engagement of priority communities?
 - This committee, who will ultimately make the decision, was intentionally selected to be representative of priority communities.
- There was a single survey for both A Park and Wilson Outdoor Pool name ideas. A committee member asked if demographic information for each location could be reported separately to see if different communities submitted for the pool vs the park. Yes, staff can provide this.
- Conversation ensued about how there was not demographic data collected about pool users.
 - The name does not need to be representative of who is currently using the pool, as the name will serve the pool for decades to come and is a citywide public asset.
 - Some communities may not be using the pool because of the name, barriers like fees, or other factors.

- In Portland, if the majority always gets to choose, it will always be white people choosing
- Some people have to show up as communities to be counted; others can show up as individuals and be counted.
- You need to ask why people are not using the pool.

Review of Criteria:

- Maija shared the criteria that the committee expressed as important at the first meeting. This was shared after the meeting in an email for the committee's review, and this was used in the survey questions:
 - reflect and inspire the community
 - honor Native and Indigenous communities
 - are symbolic or significant
 - create a sense of community and inclusion
 - are future facing and imagine a Portland for all
- Is anything missing from the criteria?
 - *Add:* Honoring Black communities
 - The importance of a feeling of inclusivity in a place was highlighted.
 - What would it mean to have full representation in the parks system?
 - Currently, there are only eight Portland park and recreation assets named after Black or Indigenous people or Indigenous words.
 - Parks honoring communities of color should not be just where the largest populations of these communities are.

- There are no parks in Portland honoring people from the Asian/Pacific Islander or Latinx/Hispanic communities.
- Naming another park after a white person would not be in line with increasing representation.

Review of Name Submissions:

- Everyone was asked to speak as to which names they would prioritize, and which names they would take off the list.
 - Everyone in the meeting participated, though only a few had names that stood out to them. These were:
 - Peace Park
 - Multnomah Park
 - Nick Fish Pool
 - Council Forum / Forum Council Park
 - First Nations Park
 - Ida B. Wells Pool / The Well – with the addition of “Civic”, “Aquatic Center” or something designating it is not just a pool only for the school community.
 - Beatrice Morrow Cannady – was previously a name suggested by the petition to change Custer Park’s name. It should still be considered, since she has local connection from attending Lewis & Clark Law School but would prioritize Native/Indigenous name first.
 - Some wanted names that had local meaning to Portland or Oregon.
 - Something that is restorative was suggested.

- Some commented that nothing from the list fully spoke to them.
- About half the committee expressed support for naming the pool after a Black woman, such as Ida B. Wells.
- One committee member was supportive of parks having two names. One being a Native/indigenous name or word and the other could be a “government” name.
- Many were supportive of the park name honoring Native and Indigenous communities.
 - There was discussion as to the land around A Park being disputed, so it would not be appropriate to be named after a single tribe (such as Multnomah).
 - First People/First Nations is not typically used by local tribes. More common in Canada.
 - Some individual Native names were suggested including Geronimo and Winema (born in OR 1846).
 - Staff noted that some NACAC (Native American Community Advisory Committee) members have previously given feedback that parks should not be named about Native individuals.
 - There was discussion as to whether this park and renaming would be a priority for the Native community currently.
 - This option will need to be discussed with local Native tribe elders.
- How do we move forward from here?
 - There is strong support from committee to honor people of color and/or Native and Indigenous communities with this naming process.

- A Native/Indigenous name should be given priority for A Park if Native community supports this. If not, then consideration should next be a person of color.

Next Steps:

- PP&R staff will provide additional data requested from survey.
- JR Lily will work with PP&R staff to consult with NACAC (Native American Community Advisory Committee) at their next meeting regarding A Park.
- Maija and Carolyn will check in with SandeBea who is a committee member active in the Native community and who has not been able to attend the meetings.
- The next meeting will be in late October.