

## Parks Board Meeting Minutes

### Meeting information

Tuesday, April 11, 2023

5:00-7:00pm

1120 SW 5th Ave, Room 216 and Zoom Virtual Meeting

### Board members present:

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Casey Mills, Adam Lewis, Dr. C.N.E. Corbin, Erin Zollenkopf, Alejandro Orizola, David Staczek, Crys O'Grady, Ali Berman, Mike Elliott, Paul Agrimis, Sabrina Wilson, Suenn Ho, Adrienne Feldstein, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, Randy Gragg (ex officio)

### City staff present:

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Jenn Cairo (City Forester and Urban Forestry Division Manager), Brett Horner (Planning Manager), Kenya Williams (Equity & Inclusion Manager), Tonya Booker (Land Stewardship Division Manager), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Nancy Roth (Sports & Aquatics Manager), Victor Sanders (Safety & Security Coordinator III), Cameron Simmons (Hatfield Fellow), Chris Silkie (Asset Management Program Manager), Vicente Harrison (Healthy, Safety, and Emergency Manager), Dan Ryan (City Commissioner), Karen Guillén-Chapman (Senior Policy Director)

### Others present:

Gary Ordway, Marcus Mundy

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm.

## Agenda Items

### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### Approve March Minutes

Casey Mills (Board Member) moved to approve the March minutes and Crys O'Grady (Board Member) seconded. All voted in favor, with Paul Agrimis (Board Member) and Sabrina Wilson (Board Member) abstaining due to absence, and the motion carried.

### Director's Report Q&A

Director Long ceded most of her time to Commissioner Ryan, but she asked to refer to monthly report, in particular the first page where there are Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland and Government Transition updates. Regarding House Bill 3515 - it didn't get out of committee but thank you for the support. Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director) commented that the Special District Association of Oregon filed a letter in opposition with signed support from the parks district of Bend and Tualatin Hills. The bill would have set a new precedent that local governments could be the governing body rather than only counties and independently elected bodies.



Sabrina Wilson (Board Member) asked for more information about the government transition and programmatic assessment. Director Long commented that assessments within each service area (in PP&R's case, Culture and Livability), in addition to across service areas is underway. There was a survey sent out to employees to get feedback on future programmatic alignment and that there will also be opportunities for community feedback. Both the Director Long and Deputy Director Lofgren are working with other bureaus on these assessments.

## Commissioner's Remarks

Commissioner Dan Ryan spoke to the Parks Board about some of the topics that he wanted to prioritize:

1. Activation of downtown parks and squares, which are currently in crisis.
2. Recruitment, especially in aquatics.
3. Severe weather and the relationship that the city has with the county and their usage of Parks assets.
4. The light pole project with the challenges and community members that are vocal about their parks.
5. The Special Parks district and that this past session was the furthest progress made.

## Working Group Reports (Q&A only)

### *Board Affairs*

There were no questions, though Dr. C.N.E. Corbin (Board Member) noted that the Board Affairs Working Group has started discussing opportunities on how to alleviate the pressure on PP&R being used as an overnight shelter during weather emergencies. With East Portland Community Center being recently used as a warming shelter, she asked for concrete numbers and data on what the impact was on Community Centers (e.g. number of people displaced, programs suspended, etc.).

### *Nominating Committee*

The application for the Parks Board is currently live until the end of the month.

### *Financial Sustainability*

There was not a FSWG meeting this past month.

### *Community Engagement*

There were no questions.

## Elk Statue Vote

Randy Gragg (ex-officio) shared a presentation on the Thompson elk statue and fountain. The Portland Parks Foundation received a generous private contribution for the restoration of the statue to its original location. They hired a prestigious architecture firm, several historians, and convened a steering committee. The design objective is to restore, rehabilitate, and reinstall the fountain in its original location and seismically stabilize the statue while adding a recirculating pump.

The 2023 total construction estimate: 2.2 million + approximately 200k design/engineering costs. PPF proposes to pay for engineering/design costs if the city allocates construction in the '23/'24 budget.



Paul Agrimis (Board Member) made a motion that the Parks Board supports the PPF in completion of the design of the replacement of the Elk Fountain for \$200,000 and ask the city step up with the remainder of the construction funds of \$1.5 million with the general fund and not the Parks fund.

Suenn Ho (Board Member) commented that this seems like an awkward letter if we are asking that non-Parks money be spent on this. Director Long clarified that Parks maintains the fountain portion of the statue.

Adrienne asked PP&R's opinion on this. Tonya commented that Land Stewardship is responsible for ongoing maintenance. Sabrina also commented that does this look like a primary concern from Parks Board and does this unintentionally show that the Board only cares for these types of matters rather than provide support in other areas of the bureau. Elana Pirtle-Guiney (Board Member) added that the gesture of taking this from the Mayor's general fund, acknowledges that the statue and fountain is not one bureau's responsibility.

Although Sabrina Wilson and Suenn Ho voted against, the motion carried with majority votes.

### O'Bryant Square Activation Vote

Randy Gragg (ex-officio) presented a timeline for the activation of O'Bryant Square. Funding for activation needs to be aligned with the opening of the park. There is not a lot of natural activation that can happen due to the telco equipment.

The square will be demolished and will just be a space, in a difficult location. There are not a lot of SDC opportunities which often fund the redesign of plazas. PPF is asking for a letter of support for positive activity.

Elana Pirtle- Guiney (Board Member) asked for what the funding would be allocated – Randy said that it would be for programming and activation, which means that there would be a management team to help facilitate programming and provide space for things like food carts.

Adam Lewis (Board Member) commented that if the ask from PPF is just for supporting programming at O'Bryant, then the answer would easily be a yes. However, if the ask included a scope or a dollar amount, this would be a lot more complicated since there are no concrete plans in place.

Director Long commented that the bureau supports activation of the Square once the demolition is finished and funding for this is completed. She was not comfortable with having one entity complete this work as there are a few other possible alternatives.

Paul Agrimis (Board Member) suggested coming back in a month to have a clearer picture on funding and Elana Pirtle-Guiney (Board Member) supported the idea. Casey Mills (Board Member) also noted that there can be emergency Board meetings if something was time urgent.

### Recreation Programming Overview

Maximo Behrens, Jamie Sandness, Nancy Roth, and Durelle Singleton gave a presentation on the current programming in the Recreation Division, including the recruiting data from this past year.



Sabrina asked about pivoting with the data given. For example, with regards to class fill rate and whether programs change based on enrollment. Jamie answered that in the past, the bureau was more focused on revenue and spaces filled, but with the assistance of the Levy, they are able to prioritize for programming that is needed. Currently overall, programs are about 70% full, which is actually an ideal rate.

Dr. CNE Corbin (Board Member) asked that the bureau continues to disaggregate data to expand beyond the BIPOC/non-white label and give more detailed breakdowns on ethnicity.

### Public Comment

There was no public comment. Dr. CNE Corbin (Board Member) commented on the need for an Environmental Justice should be included among the items covered in the working groups.

Working Group.

### Meeting Adjourned

Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Chair) adjourned this meeting at 6:59pm.

