

Tuesday, September 14, 2021

9:00 - 11:00 am

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Nova Newcomer, Paddy Tillett, C.N.E. Corbin, Adrienne Feldstein, Erin, Zollenkopf, Ali Berman, David Staczek, Mike Elliott, Alejandro Orizola, Casey Mills, Randy Gragg

Members Absent

Paul Agrimis, Sabrina Wilson, Juan Piantino, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, Lorena Nascimento

City Staff Present

Adena Long, Lauren McGuire, Brooke Gardner, Maximo Behrens, Vicente Harrison, Todd Lofgren, Kenya Williams, Tim Collier, Margaret Evans, Tonya Booker, Jenn Cairo, Claudio Campuzano, Linda Law, Cynthia Castro, Kendra Petersen-Morgan, Laura Lehman, Victor Sanders

Call to Order/Public Comment

Board Chair Bonnie Gee Yosick called the meeting to order at 9:02am and invited Mary Margaret Wheeler Weber, President of the Port Smith Neighborhood Association, to share their comments. Mary Margaret reviewed the advocacy efforts of the organization for aquatics and asked the Board to urge the Bureau to do more community engagement regarding the Columbia Pool. The meeting participants thanked Mary Margaret for their comments and the efforts of the Port Smith Neighborhood Association and discussed bringing the topic to an upcoming Land Use/Infrastructure Working Group meeting.

Bonnie reviewed the agenda and asked members to share any feedback they have on the draft Board Annual Report to Council. Meeting participants shared what parks related summer goals they haven't gotten to or what they are looking forward to this fall.

Approve August Minutes

The minutes were unanimously approved.

Director's Report

Director Adena Long noted that the employee newsletter was shared with the Monthly Report. She provided an update on the Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland (HPHP) work. The first wave of Listening & Learning is complete and is informing the work of the Actions & Results and Mission/Vision/Values/Equity Statement (MVVR) teams. Board member Erin Zollenkopf has volunteered for the MVVR team and Adrienne Feldstein will serve on the Actions & Results team. The Parks Foundation's Jessica Green will serve on the MVVR team as well. HPHP communication materials are currently being developed and will be shared widely. The Bureau is planning the next round of Employee Gatherings in October and November.



Adena reviewed the upcoming PP&R related Council items - Forest Park Entry Project bid and Interstate Firehouse Cultural Center (IFCC) procurement exception. Bureau staff answered the Board's questions about security, IFCC, and the timing for review of the draft MVVR statement – following the first MVVR team meeting in October.

Working Group Reports

Community Engagement

At their meeting the working group learned more about the Community Engagement (CE) team. In the past, the CE team was focused on capital projects, but now they are doing broader engagement through the HPHP work and other internal engagement. The working group discussed the unique position of parks and facilities to do engagement, and the working group's priorities including increasing Board visibility, attending events when/where appropriate, and supporting Bureau engagement.

Financial Sustainability

The working group did not meet, but they participated in the two Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) meetings held since the last Board meeting. At the BAC meetings, the Bureau solicited feedback on its Fall Budget Monitoring Process (BMP) Request which includes 34 proposals and \$39 million. Significant line items include \$5 million for new workorder and asset management systems, \$2 million for emergency tree care and maintenance, and \$4 million to remove cost as a barrier for programming. It also includes funding for ongoing expenses for 90 new full-time employees in Land Stewardship, Urban Forestry, and Assets & Development. The Fall BMP proposals align with Levy priorities to protect and grow nature, recreation for all, and community partnerships. The request was submitted to the City Budget Office (CBO) on September 9. The CBO will review and submit recommendations to Council at the end of the month. Council will have a work session on October 19 and vote on the Fall BMP on October 27. The team has brought on a new System Development Charge Coordinator who will be joining the next working group meeting. Nova Newcomer noted the opportunity to communicate with the community about how field permit fees are allocated.

Land Use/Infrastructure

The working group discussed several items at their last meeting including prioritization of capital projects and the need to consider population density when looking at service levels, ADA compliance, North Portland pool, tennis courts repurposing, and unapproved park modifications.

Board Affairs

The tentatively named Board Affairs Working Group was announced at the last Board meeting, and Vice Chair Casey Mills asked for additional volunteers to join the group. A draft agenda with a list of topics was included with the meeting materials. Casey hopes the group will meet before the October Board meeting.

Portland Parks Foundation Report

The Foundation's Paseo event was canceled due to the recent spike in COVID-19 cases. The event steering committee developed a pivot that includes a series of videos highlighting the groups they were intending to support at the event. The Foundation is also preparing for the Friends & Allies Summit that will kick off with a day of service on October 23. The summit will take place over several days with keynote speaker, Commissioner Dan Ryan. Session topics include fiscal sponsorships, volunteer development and retention, and equity discussions. Staff are working to select parks to highlight in the next round of posters and identifying designers. The Foundation is working with PP&R to reboot their relationship given the changing needs of the Bureau and to identify opportunities. Their first meeting is scheduled on September 14.

Staff Safety Training

Safety and Security Manager, Vicente Harrison reviewed the Bureau's Safety Infrastructure Workgroup which includes the Security Program and OSHA Worker Safety Program. Staff from these programs work together to deliver Bureau safety trainings and Total Worker Health Programming. Safety Team Coordinator, Victor Sanders reviewed recent staff safety challenges which includes increased harassment to staff and damage to assets, increased dumping and trash in/around parks weighing on staff, and compounding emergencies.

The team has created a new mobile-friendly reporting tool to supplement police reports. They have offered trainings to support staff who face harassment or witness crimes including a training on communicating with individuals in distress, mental health first aid, Recreation and front-line staff safety trainings, and Equity & Inclusion and Safety Team direct outreach to division staff. The team also provided trainings to support staff dealing with compounding emergencies including one on responding to trauma and traumatic events, and the Bureau has extended the Employee Assistance Program – which includes counseling services for staff and their families - to seasonal staff. Soon the team will offer a verbal judo training for all staff, analyze report data, and onboard two new risk specialists focused on OSHA written programs and total worker health programming.

Council invested \$1.4 million in one-time funding for 22 additional seasonal Rangers. Other Ranger Program enhancements include additional training hours and experts for the annual Ranger Academy, new technology for Ranger data collection to better understand patrol, response, and problems in parks.

Meeting participants discussed the ways staff engage with other City service providers, who to contact with various public safety concerns in a park, staff collaboration with 311, customer service, and communications staff, and the need to post information at PP&R sites.

Fire Risk Reduction Efforts

Supervisor for City Nature West, Kendra Peterson-Morgan reviewed the parks that have been identified as wildfire hazard zones. PP&R and Portland Fire & Rescue (PF&R) were recently awarded a FEMA grant to assist in vegetation management in Forest Park and to do outreach

and education to adjacent landowners. The Bureau has also been working to improve the fire access road and collaborating with PF&R to share requests with utility companies to improve their vegetation management to reduce fire risk. Ivy is a latter fuel, and the Bureau is changing its ivy removal practice to prevent ground fire entering the tree canopy. City Nature and Urban Forestry staff are working together to identify trees near structures that need limbing work done to prevent fire from entering the canopy. Bureau partner, the Forest Park Conservancy is taking lead on fire prevention communication and sharing an offer from PF&R to do assessments of homes in fire risk zones and vegetation management. Additional efforts to raise the public's awareness of fire danger included adding fire danger signs at trailheads, posting information signs, and contacting park users who are known for bringing fire into parks.

Environmental Planner, Laura Lehman reviewed the City of Portland's Mitigation Action Plan led by the Bureau of Emergency Management (PBEM) and includes partner bureaus: PP&R, PF&R, Water, Development Services, Planning & Sustainability, Environmental Services, and Equity & Human Rights. Staff are considering the potential impacts of earthquakes, floods, landslides, wildfire, smoke, and extreme weather, and they are identifying projects to mitigate these risks to include in the plan. Some projects include natural areas wildfire reduction, mapping hazard zones, and seismic retrofits. PBEM is conducting the community engagement effort for the plan. Multnomah County has a Community Wildfire Protection Plan that is being updated and this effort includes many partners including fire districts. This is another opportunity for PP&R to have close collaboration with PF&R. City Bureaus are meeting in October to refine the projects for the Mitigation Action Plan, and staff would like to convene a standing wildfire protection committee.

Bonnie thanked the presenters and asked members to send any questions or meeting agenda items to her by email. The meeting was adjourned at 11:05am.