

## Parks Board Meeting Minutes

### Meeting information

Friday June 7, 2023

9am-12pm

Portland Building Room 216 and Zoom Virtual Meeting

### Board members present:

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin, David Staczek, Jonathan Beckhart, Adrienne Feldstein, Matt Shipkey, Ali Berman, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Suenn Ho, Patti Miles, Crys O'Grady, Casey Mills, Sabrina Wilson, Jessica Green (ex-officio)

### Board Members absent:

Adam Lewis

### City staff present:

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Joey Furuto (Chief Coordinator), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Tonya Booker (Land Stewardship Division Manager), Melody Brooks (Interim Equity & Inclusion Manager), Lauren McGuire (Assets & Development Division Manager), Jenn Cairo (City Forester and Urban Forester Division Manager), Jason Smith (Performance Analyst), Marshall Johnson (Natural Resource Ecologist), Rachel Felice (City Nature Manager), Laura Lehman (Senior Environmental Planner), Dan Ryan (City Commissioner), T.J. McHugh (Chief of Staff for Dan Ryan)

### Others present:

Bill Van Bang, Allison Snopek, Sameer Kanal, Debi Elliott, Megan Cook, Christian Thompson

Meeting called to order at 9:06am with roll call following.

## Agenda Items

### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### General Announcements

Casey Mills (Board Member), Erin Zollenkopf (Board Member), Ali Berman (Vice Chair), and Todd Lofgren gave remarks and gratitude to Bonnie Gee Yosick for her service on the Board.

### Approve April and May Minutes

Casey moved to approve both April and May minutes, and Ali seconded. All voted in approval and the motion passed.



Proposal to hold recess in July and commence 2024-2025 meetings in August  
Matt Shipkey (Board Member) moved to hold a recess in July and commence 2024-2025 meetings in August, and Crys O'Grady (Board Member) seconded. All voted in approval (with Bonnie abstaining) and the motion passed.

## Director's Report

### *Portland Clean Energy Fund*

At the previous meeting, there was an update on the newest tranche of PCEF funding. Based on their initial timeline, the Bureau should have heard back whether the letter of intent was chosen for a full proposal development; however, PCEF received 55 proposals totaling \$2.4 billion. The requests for funding were more than anticipated, so additional time was requested by PCEF to review the proposals. Those steps include a viability screening and then scoring panels. The PCEF Committee will likely choose 6-8 projects at their July 25 meeting.

### *Natural Resource Service Delivery*

Bureau of Environmental Services Director Dawn Uchiyama and Director Long presented the NRSD workplan and task list to the City of Portland Executive Leadership Team. The project has been included in the Deputy City Administrator's joint workplan. At that presentation, the Directors impressed upon the importance of the City's support of next steps with tangible resources. Parks and BES have been largely managing and supporting the work through project management and consultant resources. There was strong interest and commitment from CAO Mike Jordan to ensure this work continues to move forward through the transition. To harness that enthusiasm, there will be an internal work session with the Deputy City Administrators, five Directors, consultant, key subject matter experts and Project Managers will be scheduled shortly.

### *Summer Season Prep*

Recruitment and hiring are well underway for all seasonal positions throughout the Bureau - including counselors for Summer Camps, Nature Day Camp, Free Lunch and Play, Youth Conservation Crew, Seasonal Maintenance Workers, Tree Census staff, and more.

Fountains are being turned on, with a few delays due to unforeseen and difficult-to-address repairs at Peninsula or long lead times for fabricated materials at the Keller Fountain. Outdoor pools are also being prepped for the season. All pools are scheduled to open on June 20th, with the exception of Montavilla, which encountered a delay due to state law-mandated upgrades that upon investigation, turned out to be more complex, timely, costly than others the previous pools that were already completed. The bureau's contractor and staff have prioritized this work and are moving as quickly as they are able.

The Summer Free For All's Cultural Events will launch with the 3rd Annual East Portland Summer Arts Festival (July 6 & 7) featuring soul/R&B artist Allen Stone and pop icon and percussionist Sheila E. The full summer line-up was announced on May 22 and is available on the website. The Free Lunch + Play program kick-off event will be on Thursday, June 27 at 11:30am at McCoy Park.

In other Recreation work, as part of the annual replacement schedule for fitness equipment, the new allotment has been delivered, providing new equipment to continue to replace the outdated pieces. One particular highlight is East Portland Community Center's efforts to focus on providing greater access and options for patrons with varying abilities, adding additional



accessible pieces to compliment the wheelchair accessible Paramill, as well as reconfiguring the fitness center layout to better accommodate users with mobility and sight considerations, including adding braille instructions.

#### *Other Park Projects*

The new stone wall, stormwater features and plantings at Washington Park South Entry was completed. (Photos are included in the monthly report.)

Permission to Bid Ordinance went to Council for the Berrydale Park Skate Park and other park improvements - anticipate bid opening in July and construction in August or September.

The Mt Scott Community Center construction project is moving forward successfully, with all demolition complete and much of the underground work wrapping up.

The contract for Wilkes Headwaters capital project was approved at Council last month as has project start up; the Project Advisory Committee and community meetings are expected to commence this summer.

PP&R hosted an opening event to celebrate the completion of Errol Heights Park. It was a well-attended event with great activities and partner participation. The 16-acre park renovation was complemented by street and stormwater improvements by PBOT and BES. The community's journey of this transformation was ten years in the making, and the gratitude was clear. This new hybrid park is quite spectacular - definitely check it out!

Casey commented on the great work on the Light Pole project as well as the January storm response. Director Long added that Mt. Tabor, Ladd's Addition, and Lair Hill are the last parks that need the light pole replacement, otherwise, the project is done. It should completely finish by end of summer.

### **Working Group Reports (Q&A only)**

#### *Board Affairs*

There were no questions.

#### *Land Use & Infrastructure*

There were no questions.

#### *Financial Sustainability*

There were no questions.

#### *Community Engagement*

There were no questions.

#### *Recreation, Nature, and Programming*

There were no questions.

### **Portland Parks Foundation Report**

Work for Thompson Elk Fountain is up for bid. There was a mandatory pre-bid meeting for those interested, which is due June 25. PPF is working with Water Bureau's communication team on updates around the fountain since there is a lot of community interest.



There will be community play day with promotion at Raymond Park during a Free Lunch + Play event on July 27.

Portland Heights Park has had a lot of interest from community, especially surrounding the ADA conversation. At the moment, the parking lot is significantly higher than the playground, and despite the playground being ADA inclusive, the path to the playground is at a 25% grade slope (ADA Accessible needs to be at 4%).

During the Candidates forum, on preliminary legal advice, there will be invitation for all candidates in order to be equitable.

Dr. Corbin announced that Erin Zollenkopf will be the Parks Board representative for the PPF Board. This position comes with voting power.

### Visit from Commissioner Ryan

Commissioner Dan Ryan came to the Board meeting for a visit and said a few remarks.

### Community Needs Survey

Jason Smith (Performance Analyst) and Megan Cook from PSU presented on the launching of the Community Needs Survey for this month and the methodology on the questions and execution of the survey. He co-presented with Debi Elliott from PSU and her staff, who are working in collaboration with PP&R. There will be an update towards the fall on the results of the survey.

Dr. Corbin asked if there were distinctions between certain amenities such as benches vs. picnic tables or fenced vs. open dog off-leash areas. Dr. Elliott replied that it was up to the individual taking the survey on how they would like to give feedback.

Adrienne Feldstein asked about the methods of outreach to improve response rate within disadvantaged communities. Debi replied that there will be a three-part mailing to focused households. There will be a variety of different organizations throughout the community that serve a wide range of individuals that serve distinct communities.

Crys asked about enrolled and descendent questions specifically surrounding tribal members. Director Long replied that it likely had to do with City data aggregation.

### PGE Harborton Reliability Project

Laura Lehman, Marshall Johnson, and Rachel Felice gave a presentation on the Harborton Reliability Project proposed by Portland General Electric. The presentation explained what PGE proposed to construct and the impact on the natural areas in Forest Park for the project. PP&R listed several concerns such as climate resilience, loss of wildlife habitat, impacts to water resources, increased wildfire risk, consistency with the Natural Resources Management Plan, and mitigations of impact. Laura also explained the Land Use process that PGE is going through.

Adrienne asked what is the rationale from PGE and do they have obligations to provide alternatives? Laura answered that they are required to provide alternatives and concluded that they all are significantly more expensive and required a much longer timeline. They have



system reliability requirements by the state, and so the alternatives would meet the requirements if the project was delayed. Regarding rationale, it would enhance the reliability of the system during power outages. Ali commented that PGE believes that their current need for power will expand significantly by 2028.

Bonnie asked about the BPA-owned corridor and why that couldn't also be used. Marshall replied and said that the area has many different easements and disputes with the owners. The bureau was told that the powerlines in the corridor were at capacity.

Ali commented that there is one habitat in the entire Forest Park complex for red-legged frogs that is near the project. She asked if any of the habitat will remain and how much this will affect their movement. Marshall replied that the project will likely affect upland habitat where the frogs live, but would not necessarily affect their crossing. PGE had initially proposed a project that would be right on the stream, which would upset their migration pattern, but they've adjusted this based on the comments from the bureau.

Matt asked if there were any options that PP&R felt strongly about and what the plans are if the bureau isn't able to push back due to the easement. Marshall replied that the easement was granted to PGE decades ago for powerline construction, but there is a clause that says they are required to follow local, state, and federal regulations. There may still be discussions on the easement and how that affects the decisions. Marshall said that one of the requirements for application to BDS was a thorough proposal for mitigation. Both PP&R and BES have said that the mitigation package was not adequate.

Suenn asked what impact the Board could have on this project. Laura replied that if the Board could provide comment on the open comment process and/or public testimony during the public hearings, then the hearings officer (a third-party hired by BDS) would take that testimony into account. Corbin added that though the Board cannot help guarantee an outcome.

Jenn added that with this type of project, often the loss of nature services is not accounted into the budget of the work.

Casey asked if the bureau had an idea of what Phase 4 and 5 would be. Laura replied that they do not, though they have asked for more information when they replied to PGE that their mitigation package was insufficient. Marshall added in their justification portion of the narrative that this location is a bottleneck of power moving to the Portland area. There is a chance that this would include a future phase of undeveloped areas in Forest Park to be used.

Bonnie recommended that the Board continue to monitor this project and also take an official position. This includes eco-system service cost and the value of eco-system services that it would cost in addition to the benefit costs. Ali also commented that though we can have one representative from the Board, as private members, we can coordinate in larger numbers to individually say what kind of impact we would have since larger numbers can add more impact.

Corbin put forward a motion to create an ad hoc committee to create an advocacy plan, whether through testimony or letter, and to monitor the process of the PGE project with the PP&R bureau. Ali so moved, with Matt seconding the motion. Ali added that there could be collaboration with additional stakeholders to have a unified message. Board members (Patti, Suenn, Ali, Matt, Casey, Crys, Sameer, and Bill) volunteered their interested in their committee,



and Director Long added different Lands staff such as Rachel and Marshall to put this forward. All voted in favor, and the motion passed.

Sameer commented that it would be interesting to request the amount of power projected to be used by PGE by 2028.

### **Public Comment/Other Business**

There was no public comment.

Crys added that there were additional laws on public meeting rules and communication. She requested that it would be helpful to have a small training on the rules. Sameer commented that there are folks from the City Attorney's office that can give training.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Corbin adjourned this meeting at 11:53am.

