



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

April 14, 2020 | 8:00 - 10:00 am
Zoom Video/Conference Call

**Board Members
Present:**

Paul Agrimis, Kendall Clawson, Mike Elliott, Pat Frobos,
Bonnie Gee Yosick, Jenny Glass, Randy Gragg, Katy Holland,
Ian Jaquiss, Lorena Nascimento, Jim Owens, Gladys Ruiz,
Paddy Tillett, Erin Zollenkopf

**Board Members
Absent:**

Tamara Layden

**PP&R/City Staff
Present:**

Shannah Anderson, Maximo Behrens, Asha Bellduboset,
Tonya Booker, Jenn Cairo, Claudio Campuzano, Tim Collier,
Angie DiSalvo, Margaret Evans, Brooke Gardner, Brian Landoe,
Todd Lofgren, Adena Long, Lauren McGuire, Dawn Uchiyama,
Everett Wild

Call to Order

Board Chair Paul Agrimis called the meeting to order at 8:04am. He noted that they will add to the agenda a discussion and motion to vote on a board position to support continued funding for the Portland Parks Foundation.

**PP&R COVID-19
Response Update**

Todd shared that PP&R has been very busy over the past month responding to the COVID 19 event and has been under the guidance of regional public health officials. They expect more changes and do not have a known end date for closures. The Governor will provide guidance on reopening.

The PP&R Incident Command Center (ICC) was activated soon after event started. The ICC is operating out of Eastmoreland clubhouse. They are taking steps to protect staff safety. Staff are being redeployed as Park Greeters and are creating videos to help educate the public about physical distancing.

Parks has supported vulnerable communities by offering the use of three community centers as homeless shelters and continuing the support of food distribution. The bureau's protocols have been reviewed and approved by county health officials. Closures include playgrounds, sports courts and fields, pools, community centers, and destination parks and gardens have closed. Signs have been placed at all park sites to help educate visitors on physical distancing requirements. 50 Park Greeters were deployed and will



continue this work educating the public on safety measures. 54 bathrooms sites have been set up for 24/7 use.

COVID-19 Financial Impacts to PP&R

Claudio shared that the finance team has been working on projections for closures and layoffs. They anticipate a net loss for FY2019-20. There have been many other programs impacted such as permitting.

The Spring BMP is the second supplemental budget process which is the last opportunity for bureaus to adjust their budgets for the fiscal year. The PP&R Spring BMP request is due the following Monday, and that will include a funding request for COVID 19 impacts. Claudio briefly reviewed the city's revenue sources and how the recession may impact the General Fund and the FY2020-21 budget. The bureau will need to look at how COVID 19 impacts operations, how quickly programs will be able to begin again and when customers are able and willing to come back. These projections will guide the Fall BMP discussions and request.

Pat asked if there has been thought on how recreation will look in the long term rather than just the short term. Adena responded by noting the Sustainable Future work continues and they remain hopeful that in the long term there will be more stability. Todd noted that staff are looking at options for recreation programming later this spring and summer. They may be providing childcare for essential staff. They will be conducting a modified Free Lunch + Play program.

Katy noted that the website says facilities are closed through May 2 and asked for clarification on plans for reopening. Todd shared that there is a lag for decision making, announcements and web updates. The next term was scheduled to begin early June. The extension of the closures/cancelations haven't been announced yet, but they expect to cancel them given the Portland Public School closure through end of school year. Seasonal staff are hired in March, so there is not the usual staffing for typical programming. Recreation staff are working to identify ways to maximize programming options given the staff we have in place.

Kendall acknowledged the impact on staff and how hard this is for them. She strongly advised the bureau to push forward more quickly with at least some modeling for how PP&R will look in the intermediate and the future. She encouraged PP&R to plan for all the potential scenarios and how to respond to them. There will be





great community need. It is not enough to think only about the next few months. She suggested the bureau partner with other agencies and think about how people will be engaging with PP&R differently. Adena thanked Kendall for her feedback and shared that they are thinking about the future noting that PP&R has been stepping up in all those areas. The most immediate actions have been addressing emergencies, and they continue to think about these issues going forward. Kendall suggested rethinking what PP&R is as a bureau. They will be low on the budget food chain. She stressed the need to reframe what PP&R is and have a plan for how that is communicated.

Bonnie shared that in addition to reframing and rethinking PP&R, they need to think about how PP&R comes out the other end more just and resilient.

Jim suggested the board publicly acknowledge the efforts of bureau staff in response to the event. He proposed a letter go out from the chair to staff thanking them for their efforts and acknowledging the challenges.

Tree Program Update

Adena reminded the board that at their last meeting they were asked to come back to share an update on the tree program. She reviewed Commissioner Fish's goals when he was assigned both the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) and PP&R. A taskforce of staff was created, and they reviewed processes. BES and PP&R determined that all tree planting programs should be under PP&R. They determined that they needed to share more information and gather stakeholder feedback. BES Deputy Director Dawn Uchiyama introduced herself and shared an overview of BES noting the overlap in PP&R and BES's missions.

Paul would like to designate a board representative to support this work. Bonnie shared her interested in the tree planting program but is more interested in the taskforce work to find inefficiencies. Dawn welcomed the engagement. Adena shared her support for Bonnie to serve in this role. Jim shared his appreciation for the information that the bureau has sent.

Gladys highlighted the letters from stakeholders sent in response to the plan which stress PP&R's vulnerability and question how PP&R is planning to address equity concerns. Adena noted that should the planting program transition to PP&R the financial resources would be made available through an interagency





agreement with BES. PP&R has a trust fund that provides more sustainability for Urban Forestry. Regarding the equity concerns, all current contracts would be kept intact.

Todd added that there is an equity plan for tree planting. Tree distribution hasn't been equitable, and they are working to address the inequities of the past.

Approve March Minutes

Paul asked if there were any questions or comments on the minutes from the March meeting. Paddy made a motion to approve the minutes, Pat seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

I-5 Rose Quarter Update

Jim reported that ODOT has decided to move forward with the I5 Rose Quarter project. The board has submitted feedback. Jim reviewed the comments the board provided. He noted that the land use/infrastructure working group will receive a presentation from the Albina Vision and ODOT for an update and how they are addressing concerns. They will come back to the board with suggested position for consideration and share this with ODOT.

Portland Parks Foundation Update

Randy thanked the board for the opportunity to share. The Portland Parks Foundation work has included the Barbara Walker Crossing opening, Summer Free For All (SFFA) fund raising, and planning the Friends and Allies Summit which will be postponed to the fall. They had 250 people signed up for the candidate forum that was postponed. The Foundation recently received the Bank of America Neighborhood Builders grant to support Mobile Lunch + Play. The Foundation plans to hire a fourth person. They are beginning conversations about what the Foundation's role will be in the Sustainable Future work beyond the central campaign fundraiser. Swim scholarships fundraising launched just before the closures, and SFFA programming will be impacted.

They will be requesting continued city funding to support the Foundation. In the past few years there has been a return on investment. They are working to bolster small grants programs to help people on the ground.

Paul thanked Randy for his update and shared his appreciation for the Foundation's alignment with PP&R's equity lens. Randy summarized the Foundation's equity efforts.





Jim noted that the Foundation is a critical partner to the bureau. The board has supported funding the foundation in the past and he supports them doing so again.

Lorena noted the importance of small grants as a way the Foundation can support equity and diversity in a way that the bureau isn't able to.

Gladys thanked Randy for his thorough report and the ways they are addressing equity in their work and on their board. She asked how the Foundation addresses equity internally and what ways DEI is happening internally for the three staff. Outreach looks different based on what is being done internally. Randy noted that they did a strong recruitment effort to diversify. Staff are doing readings and discussions on systematic change. At their retreat in June topics are 20th anniversary initiatives and how to do DEI. The Foundation board meets every other month and may bring on a facilitator. He agreed that DEI needs to be embraced internally as it drives the work. Gladys suggests working with the board on decolonizing wealth. Amidst the COVID pandemic folks are impacted differently. She asked if the Foundation is doing anything to support staff who have been impacted by the event. Randy noted the ways the Foundation has pivoted in response including supporting the SUN Schools food fundraising. Gladys encouraged Randy to look at ways to be relevant right now. She suggested that Kendall's feedback should be applied to the Foundation as well.

Paul asked for a motion for board position to support city funding of the Portland Parks Foundation. Jim made the motion, Pat seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

Finalize Public Comment Procedure

This item will be postponed to next meeting.

Working Group Updates

Nominating Committees Updates (Tamara Layden, Pat Frobos)

- Erin shared that the deadline for applications was extended to April 16. They have received 14 applications and the committee will review them after the deadline.
- Pat noted Paul and Bonnie are eligible to serve another term as Chair and Vice Chair. If others are interested, please let Pat know. The Executive Nominating Committee will make a recommendation at the May meeting.





Finance Committee Update (Pat Frobes)

- Pat echoed Kendall and Gladys, stressing the need to continue the Sustainable Future work. They will not be able to sell anything to the public about PP&R until they step back and think about what PP&R looks like in a post COVID world with substantially restrained resources. This is an opportunity to reinvent what PP&R does with a blank slate. The PP&R board can help with that.
- Paul agreed that they need to reinvent how they think about PP&R. Inequities are more apparent than they used to be. They have an opportunity to address them if they act now. It will take a lot of work. The board is a group that can help tackle that. They can help create a system that works better for more people.
- Pat noted the biggest challenge is to accept that as they move through the event they cannot go back to normal. It will be a new normal.

Land Use/Infrastructure Update (Jim Owens)

- Jim shared that in addition to I5 Rose Quarter the working group is looking at a wide variety of projects. They include the Broadway Corridor, Green Loop, South Park Blocks and how to best connect that with the Tillikum Crossing. They continue their work reviewing the South Reach Plan led by the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability and proposing a variety of northeast park facilities.

Wrap-up and Request Future Agenda Items

Paul invited members to think about and share what they would like to add to future meeting agendas.

Parks Board Meeting Adjourns

The meeting adjourned at 9:41am.

Next meeting is Tuesday, May 12, 2020.

