

Tuesday, April 13, 2021

9:00 - 11:00 am

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Punneh Abdolhosseini, Paul Agrimis, Alejandra Cortes, Mike Elliott, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Randy Gragg, Ian Jaquiss, Tamara Layden, Casey Mills, Alejandro Orizola, Juan Piantino, David Staczek, Paddy Tillett, Erin Zollenkopf,

Members Absent

Katy Holland, Jenny Glass, Lorena Nascimento

City Staff Present

Maximo Behrens, Tonya Booker, Jenn Cairo, Claudio Campuzano, Tim Collier, Kyle DeHart, Brooke Gardner, Vicente Harrison, Britta Herwig, Todd Lofgren, Adena Long, Lauren McGuire, Kenya Williams

Public Comment

Chair Paul Agrimis called the meeting to order at 9:02am. Paul welcomed community member Mary-Margaret Wheeler-Weber to share public comment. Mary-Margaret is a parks advocate and thanked the Board for their support of the Parks Operating Levy. They are hopeful to hear soon what the next steps are for aquatics in North Portland. There is a wide range of people who depend on the pool at Columbia Park. Director Long shared that there will be an announcement soon regarding the pool in North Portland.

Call to Order/Approve March Minutes

Paul asked members and staff to share what they are inspired by recently.

Paul asked for a motion to approve the March meeting minutes. Paddy made the motion, David seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Director's Report

Director Long shared upcoming engagement opportunities on the Mill Park Project Advisory Committee and the Parks Levy Oversight Committee. She announced new hires and promotions within PP&R including Claire Flynn, the new Levy Coordinator, Ron Huegli, the new Portland International Raceway Manager, and Julie Fuduka, recently promoted to Supervising Tree Technician. The new Community Engagement Manager will be announced soon. Director Long shared an update on the Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland planning framework and next steps. More about this process will be shared at a future meeting. She provided an overview of the recent Council action to increase funding for Park Rangers and a brief update on the Shelter to Housing Continuum code changes being considered at Council. Vicente Harrison shared how Rangers will be tracking their work as they receive increased program funding.



Forest Park Trailhead Oregon Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) Update

Britta Herwig, PP&R Capital Projects Manager, shared an overview of the Forest Park Entry Project. The project on the former industrial site includes a parking lot, trailhead, ADA trail, signage, stormwater management and more. Britta covered the project milestones, and the agreement to control contamination (not harmful to humans) with the parking lot structure. Funding was allocated and there was significant public outreach during the design development. Final approval on the land use was given in 2020. Currently the team is in the permitting phase and hope to have all the improvements complete next spring. The DEQ provided a consent order in 2014, a warning letter for the project to be complete by 2019, and thought the project kept moving forward, PP&R received a notice of enforcement from DEQ. The fine was reduced to \$20,000 if controls are place by later this year. Once PP&R receives the required permits, the bidding process can begin this summer with construction starting soon after. We hope to have stormwater controls complete in December 2021 and the entire project completed by next summer.

Erin asked if the cleanup was done by PP&R or the former owners. Britta said most of the cleanup happened before taking ownership. Kyle DeHart, PP&R Risk Specialist, added there are still some residual contaminants that need to be controlled. Erin asked what the opposition was received in the community engagement process. Britta shared that because the site is adjacent to Forest Park, it was perceived as a natural resource and the opposition to the project was from a conservation standpoint. Other feedback included desire for the project to serve all residents not just those on the West side.

Working Group Reports

Community Development

Tamara shared that the group met with Board and Bureau leadership in early March to discuss their proposal. They are processing that feedback, connecting with prospective members of the working group, and working on next steps. Tamara thanked those who have helped draft the proposal. Paul recommended holding a monthly meeting for this group to keep the work moving forward.

Financial Sustainability

Mike noted that on March 25th the bureau submitted the Spring Budget Monitoring Process (BMP) request. The Council Spring BMP Work Session is scheduled for April 13th. PP&R is requesting funding for unemployment costs due to layoffs last year because of COVID. Currently, the bureau is anticipating spending all General Fund allocation, and Levy spending is lower than what was conservatively budgeted. Golf continues to perform well and can build a reserve that will help when weather is poor. Portland International Raceway is relying on its reserves, but they anticipate the ability to rebuild reserve once reopening begins. The Mayor's Proposed Budget for FY 21-22 will follow the Spring BMP approval. PP&R staff are currently developing the Fall BMP process schedule.

Land Use/Infrastructure

Paddy noted that at the working group's last meeting they developed a letter on the Shelter to Housing Continuum that was sent to the Mayor and Commissioners. They learned that Chapman and Lowndale Parks are being renovated with fences going up April 12th so staff can do their work. Lauren McGuire added that the work is planned to be completed by late June or early July. The South Park Blocks Master Plan and the application of the Green Loop is moving along. They discussed the concern about lighting at Grant Park, a PPS property, and who can use it and when.

Process Improvement Ad Hoc

Bonnie reported that she is still awaiting communication on next steps. The Bureau of Environmental Services is undergoing operational changes, so this work is on hold.

Affirmation of Equity Statement

Alejandra shared that they are still in the process of amending the statement.

Nominating Committees

Erin noted that applications for vacant Board positions are due April 26th. She thanked those who shared the information with their peers and networks. Paddy reported that they will have the officer nominations ready by May for Board approval.

Portland Parks Foundation Report

Randy reported that the Spring Summit is coming up. They will be honoring their founding Board Chair, Joey Pope. They will also be honoring two Parks Champions who will choose a Parks organization to award \$1500. The Fall Summit will be focused on inspiring participants and providing technical assistance. The Foundation is still taking small grants applications. They will be giving \$20,000 this year to match the Foundation's 20th Anniversary. Randy is mostly focused on the Paseo that will be along the Park Blocks over either three consecutive Saturdays or three consecutive nights and will include food, markets, installations, and maybe a small stage for performances.

Shelter to Housing Continuum Update (S2HC)

Paul shared that with the goal of being advocates for parks, the Land Use/Infrastructure Working Group provided input on the S2HC with a letter to the Mayor and Council. The requested adjustments were made to the code change amendments. Bonnie emphasized that additional analysis on carrying capacity of both developed and vacant land is needed. The goal is to serve the entire community – housed and unhoused.

Board Retreat Planning

During a typical year, the Board gathers the evening before the retreat for a social event. Paul proposed doing an in-person park visit in advance of the retreat. He would like the virtual retreat to be broken up over a couple of days with some of the agenda focused on reviewing the vision, mission, and bylaws, determining the focus of the next Board year, welcoming new members and thanking departing members. Paul asked the Board for their feedback. Members

offered their support for the approach proposed by Paul if it is within public health guidance. One suggestion included doing a volunteer work party together. Adena offered that there may be an opportunity for a Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland planning framework touchpoint at the retreat.

Randy asked about the trees being removed on Naito Parkway. Jenn Cairo confirmed it is part of the Bureau of Transportation Naito Parkway Project, and unfortunately the project couldn't be completed without removing the trees.

The meeting adjourned at 10:50am.