

Tuesday, April 12, 2022

9:00 - 11:00 am

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Casey Mills, Alejandro Orizola, Erin Zollenkopf, Dr. C.N.E Corbin, Mike Elliott, Adrienne Feldstein, Nova Newcomer, David Staczek, Randy Gragg, Paul Agrimis, Ali Berman, Sabrina Wilson, Elana Pirtle-Guiney

Members Absent

Paddy Tillett

City Staff Present

Adena Long, Serin Bussell, Michelle Tran, Todd Lofgren, Lauren McGuire, Tim Collier, Tonya Booker, Maximo Behrens, Claudio Campuzano, Stephan Herrera, Kenya Williams

Call to Order/Social Time

Bonnie starts with icebreaker. Meeting starts at 9:30am.

Announcements:

No announcements from the floor.

Approve March Minutes

Casey wants to make sure that the bid for the golf courses is regarding management of the golf courses, not the courses themselves. Casey moves to approve, as amended, and Mike seconds. Elana abstained. Motion passes.

Director's Report

HPHP is beginning Wave 2 of Listening and Learning – this will be soliciting feedback for our MVV and Racial Equity statement. We are planning to come to the next Board meeting to update everyone on the entire project and review more at the June retreat. Thank you, Erin, for representing the Board on the L&L team.

Director Long will be creating workshops to get feedback. The Actions and Results team is creating a framework on how we're using community investments to create change in Portland. Thank you to Adrienne and Sabrina for serving on A&R.

Council items: Appointing 2 UF Commission members tomorrow and also presenting Metro Bond Local Share project. Following approval, this will go to Metro Council. Bureau will be presenting 5 single site projects.

Regarding in-person parks meetings, effective May 1, City of Portland will need to provide in-person and virtual meetings. The Portland Building have the ability to hold the space for this.



Tonya was going to answer the nesting birds question posed by Ali at the last meeting re: seasonality/wildfire preventions and when those are scheduled so that we don't disturb nesting animals. We follow the Migrating Bird Act – there's often competing goals and we're engaged in Wildfire prevention but Tonya will get back to Ali about the decision on why this was done in spring rather than fall.

Maximo – Prep for summer registration is underway. This will include camps, movies in the park. We're focused on hiring – looking to get summer staff hired by 24th of April so that we can be onboarded and trained for the summer. We have 18 hiring events happening in April, including a virtual hiring fair happening this afternoon.

Tonya would like to highlight that Lands has environmental education programs that are aligned with Recreation. There are two registration periods this year, an early registration for community partners, and a general registration period. We have been working with community partners so that folks who haven't historically had access can have a chance to register.

Dr. Corbin – Asked if free or low-cost opportunities were being offered? And if programs were reflecting non-traditional park users? Can folks afford programs and are the programs reflecting different communities?

Tonya addressed the question – we have a 'pay what you can' model and a percentage off sliding scale, giving people the opportunity to say what they can pay. In terms of looking at the diversity of who is participating, that is what these efforts are about. We have leveraged relationships with community partners who have been able to help people register, and this has helped to expand the diversity of the attendees. As age appropriate, the curriculum has changed to expand and be more diverse, including environmental justice, as part of the Teen Nature Team program.

Maximo added that the Summer Free For All program is free for everyone, concerts in the park are made in collaboration with community partners, and also have 'pay what you can' for registration.

Elana – noted for a future conversation topic. Would like to have a conversation around where expansion of programs fits with strategic planning for Parks and where Parks Board can be helpful. Director Long noted that this is definitely something Parks will be incorporating into the HPHP discussion, so appreciated the feedback.

Sabrina – does Parks track ethnicity or demographics of program participants? Maximo – yes, do collect demographic information for registered programs. But for drop-in programs, like Summer Free For All, we don't have capacity to track demographics. Director Long – noted that for a long time demographics were collected, but with the previous Presidential administration the City stopped collecting, but we are collecting again now. Noting because the gap has made it difficult to see trends over time, so we are now back at a baseline.

Working Group Reports

Financial Sustainability

Mike – 22-23FY Budget process continues as scheduled. Work sessions completed. CBO has issued recommendations – recommended all Parks requested packages funded with Levy funds. Parks had

three package requests that would have been funded with General fund resources. Because of constraints on General Funds, CBO did not recommend \$5M Capital Set Aside for Pier Park ADA upgrades, also did not recommend \$500,000 for Capital Major Maintenance. Parks also requested \$2.5M for HVAC upgrades at Peninsula Parks and Pathway Lighting funding. \$1.5M was recommended for HVAC upgrades. Next step is for Mayor to release proposed budget. Proposed budget will include ARPA funding recommendations. Parks has four package requests in for ARPA requests that total close to \$15M.

At the last FSWG meeting, Sarah Huggins provided an update on Sustainable Future, including the progress of the early workplan and the efforts to set up the Levy for success. Work to date has included documenting processes, establishing funding approach which blends General Fund with Levy Funding, ensuring tools are in place to meet community involvement and oversight objectives, and coordinating the significant amount of hiring that will happen throughout the year. Sarah also provided an update on initial work related to identifying future service needs and setting up a roadmap for exploring funding options over the long term. Parks staff is engaging with Commissioner Rubio for guidance on how she would like to move forward for future funding mechanisms. The FSWG is looking at how to incorporate the work of the BAC, including reviewing what state and local policies will apply to members. There will be a lot of integration planning that will need to happen.

Corbin – Asked for clarification on how the Board decides what happens in Working Groups versus what comes to the full Board? Bonnie indicated that bulk of work happens in Working Groups, and Working Groups decide if there are items that should come to the full Board, either for information or decisions. Corbin suggested rethinking decision-making strategy in terms of keeping information transparent and open to the public. Bonnie noted that any Board Decision must be taken by the full Board, recommendations can come from Working Groups, but not decisions. Casey indicated that this issue will be brought to the Board Affairs Working Group. Paul noted that one of the reasons for Working Group reports was to be more transparent and include update from the Working Groups in the Board minutes. Sabrina suggested that it would be beneficial to have more time built in for questions to the Working Groups. Bonnie noted that she is open to more time for Working Group reports with time built in for questions.

Land Use/Infrastructure

David – They received updates on topics they were mostly updated on. The first item was the Metro Bond Local Share list. There has been a lot of public involvement to address concerns and priorities for the community. Highest priority has been safety and accessibility, but access to the river was much lower. All of the public involvement has helped prioritize lists. Next step is to take the project list to Council. Second topic was OMSI Master Plan update. OMSI has been working on this since 2018. They have been working with the affiliated Tribes in conjunction with the Central City 2020 Plan Review on how interpretation and education could be a component of their Master Plan. PP&R is part of the technical advisory committee, so staying very connected with this work. LU&I will propose having the OMSI Master Plan presentation to the Board. Third project was Cathedral Park testing. Now have EPA funding for testing on that site. Commissioner Office is aware and will be monitoring that project. Fourth topic was unauthorized community-built park improvements at Feral Cat Cove and Creston Park. Engineering staff is looking at it from a safety perspective. PP&R is establishing relationships with community. At the moment, no one wants to tear it down, but make

sure it is safe. Last topic is the Thompson Elk structure. It was removed for safety, not permanent removal. The Foundation submitted and got funding to do a study on how to put the statue and its base back safely. The study will trigger a Type II design review process which will enable public engagement and feedback on the proposals for putting the sculpture back. It was suggested at the LU&I meeting that the Board craft a motion of support for the study.

Bonnie responded to support the Foundation's study, as well as OMF's efforts to do a comprehensive community engagement process. Randy noted that there are multiple Bureaus involved in the placement of the statue, so having an outside third-party consultant can be helpful. Foundation is working with Bureaus, as a technical advisory committee, and they are going to form an independent project advisory committee. An RFQ will hopefully go out this week, looking for firms to do a detailed assessment of the fountain parts and developing scenarios for accommodating the fountain and address safety concerns for bikes, pedestrians, and vehicle traffic. It is unclear how much it will cost to put the fountain and statue back in place, which is why the consultant will be providing an assessment and estimate. Then, political decisions can be made based on the outcome of the assessment.

Corbin asked what the letter of support from the Board will be 'in support of', specifically, and what the deadline for the letter will be. Bonnie noted that the letter would be a general statement that the Board supports a comprehensive analysis of the options and supports meaningful community engagement in the process. In reality, the Parks Board doesn't really have a say and PP&R is a supporting player in this because OMF is leading this process, while consulting PBOT, Parks, BDS, and BES. The Parks Board would be supporting the study to understand the full implications surrounding the fountain, statue, and its placement. Supporting a letter for the analysis. Corbin asked for clarification on our jurisdiction, what our positionality is as a Board, and whether we have reached out to community members for their thoughts, and what the deadline would be for feedback, and if the Board does not unanimously support the letter, is that alright? Bonnie noted that community members have reached out to Board members for information on the statue and when it would be replaced. In terms of timing on a letter or position that the Board takes – there isn't a hard deadline.

Randy indicated that what would be most helpful to the Foundation would be an endorsement of the independent analysis, that the Parks Foundation is capable of facilitating this type of study and has the best interest of the City in their mission. As far as a deadline goes, a design hearing has not been set, but anticipates having a letter be submitted before June/July. Corbin requested having time at an upcoming Board meeting to have members of the public provide feedback before a letter is drafted. Randy indicated that there isn't any independently analyzed information available at the moment. Corbin stressed the importance of doing due diligence to better understand what the community is saying about the statue and its placement. It should be part of the larger Parks Board strategy of having open, transparent engagement with community. This will ensure that whatever is written is backed up by a process of community engagement. Bonnie noted that other City Bureaus will be having formal community engagement activities related to the fountain and statue.

Bonnie asked if the Parks Board could host a separate meeting, outside of the Parks Board meeting, to have a listening session related to this topic? Corbin suggested having the first 20-30 minutes of Parks Board meeting as time available for community members to speak and share their feedback

on any topic. Bonnie reminded the Board that community members are allowed to speak at the beginning of every Board meeting, but no one has submitted a request for time. It has been noted that community members may not know about the opportunity to speak, but that is another topic to discuss as well. Adrienne suggested also reducing Icebreaker time so that members of the public can share feedback at the beginning of meetings.

Adrienne put forward a motion that the Board draft a letter of support for the Foundation to assist with the assessment of options. Adrienne also noted that there should be a mechanism to collect community input on the options that come out of the assessment, which could be highlighted in the letter. Paul seconds.

Discussion: The letter will be reviewed by the Board before it is sent out, or not, and voted upon. The letter will be drafted by LU&I. Alejandro, Adrienne, Paul, and Elana volunteer to write the letter with David. Nova noted that there should be a process for when the Board is asked to take a position on something. Elana noted that there probably isn't a need to vote on drafting a letter, but they can vote if they choose. Elana indicated tentative support of a letter and noted that there should be a process for things like letters of support, because there hasn't been discussion of why the Board should draft a letter and what the Board's role is in the process. Suggested additional discussion on what purpose we are achieving by engaging and making sure the full Board has the same understanding.

Sabrina asked for clarification on process – what does the Board, as a whole, decide what letters are written for? Can anyone ask for the Board to write letters of support for any issue? What is the purpose of this specific letter and the substance of it? Randy indicated that the subject of a letter was spontaneous and came out of the current Board meeting. He suggested LU&I draft a letter and bring it to the full Board in May.

Motion was withdrawn from the floor.

Corbin suggested that if an organization or person requests a letter, they should put a proposal together for the Board to review before agreeing to write something. That way, if another person or organization needs a letter of support, it will provide a process for them to get on the agenda and have the Board hear the proposal first.

Board Affairs

Casey – Parks is moving to a hybrid meeting model, starting May 1. The Board can continue to meet electronically. If the Board chooses to have meetings in-person, electronic means of participating and providing testimony must be provided to the public. Bylaws required that any Ex-Officio members be appointed by the May meeting. If you have suggestions, please send to Bonnie and Casey as soon as possible. A Board Matrix survey was sent out. Please respond to the survey by April 29.

Portland Parks Foundation Report

Randy noted that they are going out for a public campaign for Rose City Playground and only have \$22,000 to raise, so please spread the word. Small Grant applications are open until April 15, 2022.

Friends and Allies Summit is on May 12, 2022. Will be a fun celebration of volunteerism and leadership in parks, hope to see you all there.

Randy put the following in the chat:

- In other Portland Parks Foundation news: Rose City Playground
 - <https://www.portlandpf.org/rosecityplayground>
- PPF Small Grants
 - <https://www.portlandpf.org/grants-program>
- Friends & Allies Summit
 - <https://www.portlandpf.org/spring-2022-friends-and-allies-summit>

Community Engagement - Revised meeting schedule proposal and enhanced community outreach

Erin – Nominating Committee – The application is open and closes on April 29, 2022. Please share the application as you see fit, and hopefully we get a good group of applicants. Will be sending a reminder to everyone as the deadline approaches.

Community Engagement Working Group has been working on a number of different items. Suggested if the public comment proposal can be voted on today, then have a vote, but if there is discussion then Erin requested having more time at the May meeting to have a full discussion. The CEWG is proposing time for members of the public to testify at the beginning and end of each meeting. People can either make comment in writing or show up to a meeting, either virtual or in-person, and there isn't any approval needed for people to make comments beforehand. There will be protocol for how the Board can handle responding to comment. Paul noted his appreciation for the work done and is in favor of the proposal put forward. Bonnie also noted appreciation as well and agreed with the proposed changes.

Paul made a motion to accept the public comment procedures as proposed by the CEWG. Elana seconded. No discussion. Motion passes unanimously.

Erin requested that everyone please review the enhanced community outreach proposal for discussion at the next Board meeting. Erin also thanked the whole CEWG for their work on these proposals, including Tim, Kenya, Corbin, Sabrina, Ali, and Casey. It's been a great process thinking through these proposals and bringing them to the Board.

Nova made a motion to suspend the Icebreaker for the next meeting in order to discuss the community outreach proposal from the CEWG. Sabrina seconds. No discussion. Motion passes.

Meeting Adjourned

Bonnie adjourned the meeting at 11:02am.