

Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting information

Tuesday, April 9, 2024

5:00-7:00pm

Portland Building Room 216 and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Board members present:

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

Board Members absent:

Sabrina Wilson

City staff present:

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Tonya Booker (Land Stewardship Division Manager), Lauren McGuire (Assets & Development Division Manager), Claudio Campuzano (Manager of Finance, Property, and Technology), Sarah Huggins (Sustainable Future Program Manager), Kellie Torres (Chief of Staff to Deputy City Administrator), Sonia Schmanski (Deputy City Administrator), Brian Landoe (Urban Forestry Analyst), Laura Lehman (Planner), Dawn Uchiyama (Director, Bureau of Environmental Services), Shannah Anderson (Bureau of Environmental Services), Ken Finney (Bureau of Environmental Services)

Others present:

Lauren Moreno (Catalysis)

Meeting called to order at 5:01pm with roll call following.

Agenda Items

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

General Announcements

Crys O'Grady (Board Member) reminded members that the listing for two open Board Positions is live and will be until April 25.

Sonia Schmanski and Kellie Torres introduced themselves as the Deputy City Administrator and Chief of Staff. At the moment, DCA Schmanski is still determining how frequent she will be interfacing with the Board.

Director Long noted that TJ McHugh will be stepping in as Chief of Staff to Commissioner Ryan and will provide an additional channel to the Commissioner's Office.



After introductions, Adrienne Feldstein (Board Member) commented that the Board and UFC have been concerned about trees not being seen as infrastructure within the Vibrant Communities service area. DCA Schmanski replied that the power of the bureaus and political perception are significantly levelled now with the new charter transition.

Dr. Corbin (Board Chair) commented that the Board is one of many advisory boards who are concerned about the future of these committees.

Approve March Minutes

Elana Pirtle-Guiney (Vice Chair) moved to approve the minutes, Crys seconded. Bonnie had a correction to the Financial Sustainability Working Group Report. CNE Corbin had a correction for the Gateway Green presentation and will email Michelle Tran the added note. All voted in approval, with Adrienne Feldstein abstaining due to absence.

Director's Report

The city transition team is completing updates to City Code to remove references of the Commissioner and other outdated language. The intent is for the Code to be concise, consistent and streamlined. The City Attorney's Office has reviewed the Board Affairs Working Group requested updates to the Parks Board Title 3 purpose and duties as part of this work and noted that much of the language is inappropriate for their purposes. Deputy City Attorney Linda Law has offered to attend the April 23rd Board Affairs Working Group to further discuss.

Later on in the meeting, Lauren Moreno of Catalysis will provide a review of the March 22 Subject Matter Expert (SME) and Advisory Body representative workshop, including feedback shared related to the Draft Workplan and Task List. The feedback received will be processed and the workplan refined - to reflect what we've heard. The Board are welcome to attend a UFC/PUB meeting scheduled for 11am on April 18th, where that refined version will be shared.

In advance of the FY2023-24 Spring Budget Monitoring Process (BMP) hearing this Thursday April 11, City Budget Office has posted their analysis and recommendations for City Council to consider as part of the BMP process on our website [here](#). City Council will held a work session on the Mayor's proposed Spring BMP this morning.

Additionally, the first of the three public listening sessions on the FY 2024-25 budget will happen tomorrow. Todd will put a link in the chat.

Casey Mills (Board Member) asked about comments by the Budget Office for the Spring BMP for PP&R. Claudio Campuzano answered that the bureau received comments yesterday. They have accepted the proposal of compensation set aside, which was a widely discussed topic in the past few BMPs. There were no questions from Council during the Monitoring Process today.

Elana Pirtle-Guiney asked about where PP&R is in the SDC budget and what buffer is available. Todd Lofgren answered that there is a buffer of \$10 million set aside, with an additional few million allocated for any possible acquisitions. The financial forecast is in good health for the next several years to produce new projects, the bureau is trying to execute these projects as quickly as possible.

Erin Zollenkopf (Board Member) asked if there is any political effort to change what SDCs are allowed to be used for since they cannot be used for deferred maintenance, only new development. Todd answered that the SDCs are present to accommodate the growth of the city



per capita. Jessica Green (Ex-Officio) asked about whether the future maintenance of new projects can use SDC funding. Todd replied that no, it is not currently set aside, it was mostly depending on bonds, specifically the last one that was voted on in 2017. This is what the Sustainable Future was developed for.

Elana asked if there were any updates on the bond conversation. Todd replied that Commissioner Ryan would like to wait and see what the results are on the May ballot to determine whether to propose the bond for PP&R in November.

Crys commented that she was interested in how to utilize Multnomah Preschool funding within the Recreation division. Director Long that they have broached the conversation but noted that the program is very small relatively speaking.

Dr. Corbin asked if the DEI training included trainings on restorative justice and cultural humility.

Working Group Reports (Q&A only)

Board Affairs

Jessica Green noted that she would like to meet with the group regarding meeting with possible candidates running for Commissioner.

Land Use & Infrastructure

There were no questions or comments.

Financial Sustainability

There were no questions or comments.

Community Engagement

There were no question or comments.

Programming Working Group

There were no questions or comments.

Portland Parks Foundation Report

Jonathan Beckhart will be starting in May as an ex-officio member on the Portland Parks Foundation Board.

Leadership Award Nominations and Small Grants programs are open until April 15. Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Member) will be part of the reviewing committee.

Friends and Allies Summit in May will be at the Laurelhurst Club, all are invited to join.

The Foundation is not doing Paseo this year in South Park Blocks. Land Back, which was part of Paseo, will still be taking place and growing the program on its own. Anticipated date to be in July.

There are three fiscal sponsorships currently ongoing, including Land Back, Kidz Outside, and the Tongan community for Tongan Day. PPF is working on developing a program on fiscal sponsorships so there is a process, rather than ad hoc sponsorships.



PPF is also continuing the work on the playground campaign for Portland Heights, George Park, and Raymond Park. Hoping to complete the fundraising campaign in 2024 with the build starting in 2025.

Natural Resources Service Delivery Workplan Update

Lauren Moreno from Catalysis presented on what was reviewed at the March 22 workshop that contained SME's and representatives from Advisory Bodies involved. The purpose was to collect information on the current workplan and further refine. Participants reviewed the major ideas in the draft and add feedback.

Ali Berman (Board Member), one of the Advisory Body representatives, commented that the meeting went really quickly and there was not as much time to discuss the ideas that were contributed. Dr. Corbin pointed out that it would be nice to see what other cities are doing this type of work and what successful models looked like in order to help determine outcomes. Both are looking forward to the next iteration of the workshop.

Crys commented on Outdoor Preschool coming in the next few years. There could be opportunity for greenspace and engagement with the Recreation division. Director Long replied that there are many highly educated staff, though the hindrance in growth has mostly been with space and venue capacity. Maximo Behrens and the Recreation team is starting to look into it.

Suenn asked for a presentation package for the Board to understand the demographics and needs of youth programming. Crys noted that early learning environments is a complex system of data.

Public Comment/Other Business

There was no public comment.

Note that this meeting is Elana Pirtle-Guiney's last meeting as a Board member.

Meeting Adjourned

Dr. Corbin (Board Chair) adjourned this meeting at 6:57pm.

