

**Tuesday, August 10, 2021**

9:00 - 11:00 am

Zoom Virtual Meeting

**Members Present**

Paddy Tillett, Paul Agrimis, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Mike Elliott, Erin Zollenkopf, Casey Mills, Alejandro Orizola, Juan Piantino, David Staczek, Ali Berman, C.N.E. Corbin, Adrienne Feldstein, Elana Pirtle Guiney, Sabrina Wilson, Randy Gragg, Lorena Nascimento

**Members Absent**

Nova Newcomer

**City Staff Present**

Maximo Behrens, Tonya Booker, Jenn Cairo, Tim Collier, Margaret Evans, Brooke Gardner, Todd Lofgren, Adena Long, Lauren McGuire, Kenya Williams

**Call to Order/Social Time**

Chair Bonnie Gee Yosick called the meeting to order at 9:01am and led participants in a social activity. She noted changes to the meeting agenda including the postponement of the Fire Risk Reduction Efforts and Staff Safety Trainings presentations.

**Approve July Minutes**

The July meeting minutes were approved as amended.

**Director's Report**

Director Adena Long shared that the Listening and Learning Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland (HPPH) team has completed the first wave of workshops and will be working on analyzing the data from these and past listening sessions. This information will inform the work of the other teams. The Decision Support Tool (DST) team created a prototype tool that is being piloted with the Fall Budget Monitoring Process (BMP) and includes the recently created Racial Equity Lens. After the Fall BMP, the DST team will evaluate the pilot and revise the tool for use in the FY 22-23 Requested Budget. Adena reviewed the work planned for the two additional teams that will be kicking off soon: the Mission, Vision, Values, and Racial Equity Statement Team and the Actions and Results Team. A Parks Board representative is invited to serve on each team.

The group discussed the York Statue that had been placed at Mt Tabor Park and was recently vandalized. The Regional Arts and Culture Council owns and maintains the City's public art and is receiving a lot of community input, and PP&R is remaining tangentially engaged in those conversations.

Discussion also included the recent unapproved park modifications and open survey regarding sport courts, misinformation in the media and the bureau's work to address the misinformation, and request for an update on recent hiring efforts which will be coming in the fall.

## **Working Group Reports**

### *Community Engagement*

The working group is scheduled the third Thursday of each month, 10-11am, beginning August 19. Erin Zollenkopf is tracking attendance and getting this new group established with staff support from Tim Collier and Kenya Williams.

Erin is serving on the Mill Park Project Advisory Committee (PAC). The undeveloped property is next to Mill Park Elementary School. The PAC held two meetings via Zoom, and there was a community gathering on August 3.

### *Financial Sustainability*

Mike Elliott reported that while the FY 20-21 budget included several rebuilds and a supplemental budget to access a bridge loan for the Parks Levy build out. The Bureau didn't need to access that loan and underspent on its General Fund allocation. The Bureau exceeded the conservative adjusted revenue budget. Revenue in past years was about \$20M each year, and last year revenue was about \$5M. System Development Charges funds for last Fiscal Year totaled just over \$16M, which was higher than budgeted but still a seven-year low. At the working group's last meeting they received an overview of the Bureau's 5-Year forecast. Adjustments will be made over time and the Bureau will build in a cushion against likely General Fund reductions. Parks Levy commitments are informing the Fall BMP request which will be submitted on September 9 with Council approval expected in October. The PP&R Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) meetings are being scheduled. The BAC is comprised of Parks Board members, labor representatives and additional community partners. It is typically more involved with the Annual Budget, but with the significance of this year's Fall BMP, the plan is for the BAC to be more involved in this year's Fall BMP. The working group and staff are looking into American Rescue Plan Grant opportunities.

### *Land Use/Infrastructure*

The working group received a presentation on the Bureau's Graffiti Abatement Plan and discussed O'Bryant Square. Paddy Tillett reported concerns with the changes being made to the County's Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge project due to budget cuts. The South Park Blocks Master Plan was approved by Council despite significant misinformation spread about the plan. Board members suggested that Bureau leadership review how to avoid such misinformation in the future and discussed how the Bureau may combat misinformation and consider a debrief discussion at the working group level.

### *Potential New Working Group*

Vice Chair Casey Mills noted that Board governance and ad hoc policy issues have been covered by individual members or existing working groups and proposed formation of a new Board Affairs Working Group. The group may look at updating the composition matrix and define the areas of interest, support the revision of the Board's mission, and capture and maintain the Board's working group rosters. Bonnie suggested that the new group also support the functions of the Nominating Committee. Those interested should contact Casey.

### *Process Improvement Ad Hoc*

Bonnie reported that PP&R and Bureau of Environmental Services staff members have been reviewing the management plan for 11 East side natural areas that had been comanaged by the Bureaus. While some sites need further evaluation before a management recommendation is made, other less complex sites are moving forward with clear management direction for frontline staff. The hope is to replicate this process at other natural areas beyond these sites.

### *Parks Levy Oversight Committee*

Paul Agrimis is serving on the Parks Levy Oversight Committee which met on July 12 and will be meeting quarterly. The committee includes five community members and five staff. They will be developing a charter and bylaws to determine how they operate. At their recent meeting they received a briefing on the Fall BMP and brainstormed priorities.

### **Portland Parks Foundation Report**

Randy Gragg reviewed the plans for the Foundation's Paseo which includes artists and mutual aid groups and over 40 sponsors. The 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Poster sales are going well. There is interest in honoring a couple newer parks with a poster. The Foundation is looking for poster sponsors and Black Indigenous People of Color (BIPOC) designers. Randy reported that conversations with PP&R about their relationship going forward continue.

### **Extreme Heat Protocols**

Todd reported that with extreme heat anticipated for the region concern rises when the temperature lows don't get below 70 degrees. When this event happens, there is action to support community members in cooling down. The City and County are planning a joint emergency response providing cooling centers, misting stations, and water. The City and County are using the Heat Risk Index which includes many factors beyond temperature. Decisions to close were previously based on temperature, but going forward closures will take place when the Heat Risk Index reaches the level that indicates an impact to all.

OSHA adopted new temporary rules regarding shade, cool water, and breaks to protect workers during high heat, and enacted temporary wildfire smoke rules that will require employers to provide N95 masks to employees when the Air Quality Index reaches more than 101. Both new rules took effect on August 9 and are in effect for 180 days.

The Bureau sends regular emails to all staff communicating how to stay safe and cool including safety guidance and techniques. PP&R must consider other variables within pool operations (i.e., unshaded outdoor pools, pavement temperatures, and unair-conditioned indoor pools) and make closures to protect visitors and staff. City-wide administrative rules for heat are being developed.

PP&R is supporting the community by opening Charles Jordan Community Center as a cooling shelter and identifying parks for misting stations which include Lents, Knott, Mt Scott, Eastmoreland, and others.

Board members suggested focusing support on elderly community members and those in housing with limited protection from heat, ensuring people have access to cooling centers if transit shuts down, making community centers resiliency centers, and focusing on ADA access when identifying cooling center sites and using specific language in promoting these sites so the community doesn't have to get in touch about their needs.

### **September Meeting Agenda**

The Fire Risk Reduction and Staff Safety Trainings topics will be pushed to a future agenda. The group discussed potential social gathering opportunities at upcoming PP&R events.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:00am.