

Tuesday, August 9, 2022

5:00pm – 7:00pm

1120 SW 5th Ave, Room 202 and Zoom Virtual Meeting**Members Present**

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Casey Mills, Mike Elliott, Adam Lewis, Dr. CNE Corbin, Alejandro Orizola, Ali Berman, Erin Zollenkopf, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, Adrienne Feldstein, Sabrina Wilson, Crys O’Grady, David Staczek, Paul Agrimis, Randy Gragg

Members Absent

Nova Newcomer

City Staff Present

Adena Long, Todd Lofgren, Michelle Tran, Serin Bussell, Sarah Huggins, Jenn Cairo, Tonya Booker, Maximo Behrens, Kenya Williams

Public Comment

No public comment at this time.

Call to Order/Social Time

Bonnie called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

Announcements:

No announcements at this time.

Approve July Minutes

Mike moved to approve minutes as presented, and Casey seconded. There was no discussion. All voted in favor, with no opposition.

Director’s Report

There will be an upcoming council item on August 24, 2022 regarding authorizing a contract with Oregon Forward firm for Janitorial Services at Parks sites.

The City provided three facilities to use as 24-hour emergency cooling shelters - the Portland Building, East Portland (EPCC) and Charles Jordan (CJCC) Community Centers during last week’s heatwave. Parks carpenters and electricians helped support the installation of temporary commercial portable AC units at the two community centers and Urban Forestry maintenance facility. The City also provided Misting Station Sites at Glenhaven Park, Harney Park, Mt. Scott Park, Knott Park, Lents Park, and East Portland Community Center. Drinking Water Filling and Misting Stations are also at Lents Park, McKenna Park, Big Four Corners, and Lynchwood Park. Splash Pad hours were open from 10am-8pm, which is an extension of two hours for the entire summer.

Park Rangers were assigned to support portable AC units, staff safety at Cooling Centers, and provided distributed cooling towels, ice packs and water to vulnerable communities. Oregon OSHA has new heat rules that requires mandatory breaks per hour based upon heat index, hydration, and designated shade areas to cool down.



Based on the projected temperatures and associated heat index, the Bureau put our Heat Safety Plan into effect last week, which impacted operations and programming. Field staff were offered earlier morning shift starts, all programming at both East Portland and Charles Jordan was cancelled for a full week, and outdoor programming for Recreation and Land Stewardship was modified or cancelled depending on heat index and staff availability. The Portland Bureau of Emergency hired a consultant to make assessments and produce an after-action report. The Bureau will participate in that effort and has already drafted an impact statement to help inform our feedback.

The Workforce Development Team will be launching the PP&R Employee Survey in October 2022. The last Bureau-wide employee survey was conducted in 2019. Data from that last survey helped reinforce the importance of topics like employee safety, equity at the Bureau, and professional development/training – all areas that the Bureau has since invested in via the Parks Local Option Levy. Throughout 2022 the Workforce Team has drafted survey content and received helpful feedback from teams across the Bureau. This upcoming survey will focus on topics of Safety/Security, Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Anti-Racism, and Employment Experience (including training, professional development, and workspace). The survey will close in early November 2022 and the Workforce Team will be reporting out on findings and next steps throughout Winter 2023. The Parks Board will be included in this report out.

After a year of piloting two financial assistance programs (Pay What You Can for registered activities, and the Access Discount for passes and drop-in admission), PP&R will move forward with a combined Access Pass model for fall activities and programs. The new model begins October 3. Data from the pilot programs, post-use surveys from customers, input from staff, and a non-user community engagement survey informed the decision to move forward with the improved model. The Access Pass is a single program to reduce cost as a barrier that will apply to passes, drop-in admissions, registered activities, personal training, educational preschool, and afterschool programs. City of Portland residents can register for a free Access Pass to receive reduced pricing up to 90%. The pass is valid for 12 months from the date of enrollment. Users have the ability to opt-in and self-select the depth of discount that will reduce cost as barrier for them and their family. No proof of income is required. Information will be launched to the public in mid-August with a promotional campaign. Specific communications will be designed for past users of both the Access Discount and Pay What You Can so they will know what to expect and how to use the new option as well as partner organizations so they will be prepared to educate their communities.

At the June retreat, there were some inquiries about the status of the City's Land Acknowledgement. Over the last two years, the Land Acknowledgement Workgroup, convened by Tribal Relations, conducted a series of focus groups with City of Portland staff and external partners, to gain a better understanding of the kinds of resources needed to successfully craft and deliver land acknowledgement statements. The City is currently contracting with Warm Springs GeoVisions to conduct an analysis of the political, historic, and cultural interests that Native American peoples have with the Portland area, which will inform the land acknowledgement language and guidelines.

Once the community feedback and research has been gathered and analyzed, the City will work with Tahoma Peaks Solutions to develop a guidance document for City staff and language for a land acknowledgement to be used by the City of Portland. Until this process is complete, the Tribal Relations Program would like to encourage City staff to avoid using land acknowledgements.

Bonnie asked for more information about the contract for Janitorial service specifically about size of contract and locations.

Serin answered that we have all community centers cleaned by a janitorial contractor, as well as the Community Music Center, Multnomah Arts Center, Portland Loos, and some outdoor bathrooms. The contract is anticipated to be 5 years in duration, spending roughly \$7.5 million. We partner with an Oregon Forward Program company, Northwest Success, to complete this work. Oregon Forward companies work with, train, and hire folks with barriers to employment.

Adrienne asked about whether there was some data on usership in the Pay What You Can/Access Pass program.

Maximo answered that generally 5% of our overall programs access use a scholarship program in some capacity. Jamie Sandness will be presenting an entire report to the Board on this program in September. Todd also added that we provided \$1.1 million in financial assistance to 79,000+ participants. Because of COVID, the numbers were lower than anticipated. We expect them to be much higher in the coming year.

Elana asked: As you are looking at the impact of shutting services during the heat wave, are you able to account for those who could not access typical community center services?

Director Long replied that we know the exact number of programs and users that were impacted, including losses from class cancellations, etc. It's very important to quantify and qualify the impact due to work that wasn't done to support the cooling centers. Our Community Centers would have provided that service, but the need to have them open 24/7 for 6 consecutive days was the biggest impact.

Erin asked how the discussions with consultants are executed.

Director Long answered that for emergencies like this, we defer to the Portland Bureau of Emergency Management and subsequently the county since they are the lead. There is a deficiency in homeless shelters for cooling as well as an opportunity for emergency management teams to explore the use of public school spaces, large retail spaces, and office buildings that are currently not occupied and are not being investigated. We're bringing forward the message that this is counterintuitive. At this point, these are not one-time emergencies because climate change is happening, and we need to shift overall expectations. If there's an opportunity for the Board to provide feedback on this topic, we will include them. Erin added that this would be a good topic for the Board to have a robust conversation and advocate for the Bureau on. If so, we would need to get some more information and have some designated time. Director Long asked that this be added to our "Parking Lot" topics for discussion.

Sabrina asked if the Bureau had info on who is utilizing the shelters.

Director Long answered that from her own observations, it was mostly single men, with some families and couples that used the cooling shelters. They were mostly houseless individuals with a few different people there during day-time operations.

Sabrina then asked what do families and young children do when these programs are happening?

Director Long replied that this is why we are tracking usage of emergency shelters and how they impact programming, so the information can be provided to policy and decision makers.

Corbin said: 'I think we should shy away from "who needs it the most" and creating a hierarchy. I would like to see how these cooling shelters are configured during the day.'

Director Long replied that we will be providing the consultants with a comprehensive list of community center programs and a complete review of the impacts from the heat event.

Todd added that we've had a history of providing cooling and warming spaces, but lately our Community Centers have been turned into 24-hour cooling shelters specifically.

Working Group Reports

Board Affairs

Casey reported the following: We are continuing to work on a draft mission for the Board and will be reviewing in the next meeting. We will also be assessing the need of additional working groups. Casey has asked Board members to provide a list of external organizations that Board members are involved in.

Land Use & Infrastructure

David reported the following: We had updates on 3 separate projects: 1) Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project, specifically discussions about the types of ramps that are being considered. These options still need to be presented to bike committees and other public groups. 2) The I-5 project is moving forward and 3) there may be a new park on Hayden Island. There are 3 new trails that will be funded by the Regional Trail Grant – parts of Kelly Point, parts of Cathedral, and additional crossings on Columbia Blvd. We'd like to get an update on how Land Stewardship is faring. We got some responses from OMSI to questions posed during the last meeting, and David will send them out to the board. Paul added that there is a proposed PGE line through Forest Park, and we will get an update in the near future.

Financial Sustainability

Mike reported the following: We did get final numbers for the past fiscal year, which was accurate to what was assessed last month. There are three dozen project proposals that will be reviewed and are fairly high level. HPHP will help determine priorities for this project. We also had the second Ballot Task Force meeting, and Sarah will be giving us a more thorough update later this meeting.

Community Engagement

Erin reported the following: In the past year, we've updated our meeting time and public comment process. This year, we assessed this year's objectives. The biggest one is getting awareness in the community about the Parks Board. Our next priorities include community groups that work with PP&R. We're also creating an external handout that Parks Board members can physically own and have on hand to give out. We would also like an internal handout that would have information and talking points about what the Board does and what our role is. This would also be helpful for future board members.

We are also trying to identify which community partnerships that we could work with on outreach. Other things on our plate include producing internal guidelines on public comment in addition to external guidelines. This is to provide a process on follow through in response to external comments. Also, we have ex officio positions open right now and we are looking at different organizations to see who can fill those available seats.

"A" Park and Wilson Pool Committee

Dr. Corbin reported the following: She has attended 1 of 3 meetings so far. Parks is currently accepting name suggestions and have received more than 75 recommendations. We are mostly looking at suggestions that honor Indigenous communities and other historically relevant groups. The PP&R website does have an overview of the naming committee as well as the name recommendation survey if you'd like to complete it. We plan on doing a site visit in the future. Casey asked if this group is being

used as a beta test for future park names. Director Long said no, the committee is specifically just for these two parks.

Parks Levy Oversight Committee

Paul accidentally reported on the Ballot Initiative Task Force and will be reporting out on PLOC next month. Todd added that there will be a report that will be sent to the Board specifically in the next few months about the Levy.

Portland Parks Foundation

Randy reported the following: There aren't any concrete numbers on Paseo participants, but Portland Art Museum had their free day and saw a high number of visitors. This is PPF's first event of this scale, supporting over 100 artists and vendors as well as Parks related groups and tabling.

They did a lot of work in advance in providing food and water to those participating in the festival. There were three stages, including an art stage and an Indigenous space. Overall, it was a success. Surveys for the event have been extremely positive so far. The biggest takeaway was prioritizing an equity lens on planning, with diverse leaders, and focusing on welcoming all participants.

PPF has a retreat coming up on September 30 that will be looking at a larger picture of the foundation and strategic planning.

Tree Planting Update

Jenn Cairo was present to answer questions posed by the Board at last month's meeting.

Erin had asked: Why couldn't the original contract be transferred from BES to Parks?

Jenn noted that PP&R and BES have negotiated tree planting responsibilities and resources for many years. We are working on completing an intergovernmental agreement (IGA), and funding is a part of that conversation. Once an IGA is in place, we will be happy to share details with the Parks Board, our tree planting partners, and the community. The contract from BES is separate from the one that Parks has with Friends of Trees. We cannot transfer due to procurement rules. Erin asked for clarification on street tree planting. Jenn confirmed that Urban Forestry is taking over street tree planting. The goal of the IGA is to clarify the responsibilities of both bureaus.

Adrienne had asked: Is PP&R capable of doing what FoT was doing in the interim?

Jenn answered that we will at least match the tree planting.

Erin added FoT offers watering services and volunteer wellness checks. Does UF provide similar services?

Jenn answered that our contracts require that we have a watering program, which was not required by BES. We have some volunteering and community engagement activities for tree planting. Street tree planting is based on an opt-out model that would be difficult to have volunteers execute. If we're looking at a 1:1 comparison between trees planted through UF and FoT's tree planting, it's not as high in 2022, but we will match those numbers in 2023.

Mike asked: At the end of the day, are paid employees doing the work that volunteers did through FoT?

Jenn replied, no, the actual planting is done by contractors, with some city employees involved in the work, but they do not do the planting.

Sabrina asked if UF is looking to hire more people or is UF planning to have more contractors?

Jenn clarified that Parks has always regulated street trees. BES has a permit to do street tree planting through contractors, which included FoT. We will be staffing more, not necessarily to plant the trees, but to run programs that would have contractors and volunteers plant the trees in the future. This would depend on the Levy funding we'll be getting in the future.

Sabrina asked if Parks is asking BES to help with funding.

Jenn answered yes.

Alejandro asked about the current procurement process.

Jenn reiterated that Parks does have a contract with FoT. The contracts will be expiring so we're creating new RFPs and asking folks to apply. One of our goals is trying to make the RFP as broad and accessible as possible, and that could include FoT. Past contracting practices have resulted in lucrative contracts given to larger, established companies and we'd like to have partnerships with smaller and/or BIPOC organizations that may not have had the opportunity in the past.

Elana asked if this change means that the work will be done by contractors instead of volunteers, and the shift to contractors from volunteers will mean an increase?

Jenn said she'll respond to this with more detail in the future. In general, forest managers have volunteers, contractors, and staff planting trees, but we make an assessment on all three's priorities and all three will continue in the future.

Ali asked: FoT took a financial hit with the loss of this contract, are we doing anything to soften this impact?

Jenn answered that BES had extended the contract (that technically had already expired) by a year in order to mitigate that loss specifically.

Sustainable Future Update

To start, Sarah provided an overall review. The Parks Ballot Initiative Task Force is a limited-duration, limited scope PP&R advisory group to:

1. **Review** alternative funding options for Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R) to support a financially sustainable parks system; and
2. **Provide advice and consultation** to PP&R Director Adena Long on the alternative funding options and sequencing of potential future ballot initiatives, which Director Long can consider in collaboration and coordination with the Parks Commissioner.

This Task Force is one of a few ways that we are gathering input. We have had, and will continue to have, broader conversations with the community and other PP&R advisory boards about our funding position and funding needs as well.

Our bureau has a history of using tax measures to support our work. Over the last 120 years, we have gone to the voters many times for operating levies and capital bonds.

Most recently, voters passed a 5-year operating levy in 2020. Voters also passed a \$68 million bond measure in 2014, replacing a 1994 bond that was retiring. This support has enabled creation of the system we have today.

At our first Ballot Initiative Task Force Meeting, we invited staff from Trust for Public Land to join us and share a bit about park funding from a national perspective. In the Trust for Public Land's experience over

the past 25 years, local governments that create funding via the budget process provide substantially less funding than those that create dedicated funding through ballot measures.

Fiscal Year 2021-22 was the initial year for the 5-year Parks Levy. The program worked to develop procedures, programs, and partnerships to ensure successful delivery of Parks Levy-funded services for the community.

Corbin asked if Capital Growth includes land acquisition for park development and increasing the number of community centers?

Sarah answered yes, it does include acquisition for developing and expanding parks, and new facilities as well.

Potential Funding options are categorized as: 1) Fees or other non-tax revenues, including SDC, Park Utility fees, Grants/donations, new market tax credits; 2) Property taxes; 3) Specific tax (e.g. Sweetened Beverage Tax).

Corbin asked: Is there a consideration for things like a Park Penny Sales tax or a change roundup program?

Sarah answered that we would have to consider what mechanisms are in place to execute the ideas. For example, we considered a soda/sugary beverage tax.

Corbin asked about COVID related funding and how far that went.

Director Long answered that we have pursued that route but have not received a large amount. Todd added that it is often on a project basis. Every year, we're competing against other City bureaus to capture some of the money set aside for infrastructure.

Public Comment

There was no public comment during this time.

Meeting Adjourned

Bonnie adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.