

Tuesday, December 13, 2022

5:00pm – 7:00pm

1120 SW 5th Ave, Room 216 and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Board Members Present

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Casey Mills, Mike Elliott, Paul Agrimis, Crys O’Grady, Dr. C.N.E. Corbin, Alejandro Orizola, Adam Lewis, Ali Berman, David Staczek, Adrienne Feldstein, Erin Zollenkopf, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, Randy Gragg (ex-officio)

Board Members Absent

Sabrina Wilson, Nova Newcomer

City Staff Present

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Jeremy Nelson (Land Services Manager), Nicola Sysyn (Strategic Program Coordinator), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Ken Rumbaugh (Senior Community Engagement Coordinator), Robin Johnson Craig (Capital Project Manager), Bob Del Gizzi (Finance, Performance, and Analysis Manager), Chris Silkie (Asset Management Program Manager), Ross Swanson (Capital Growth Program Manager), Margaret Evans (Workforce Development Manager), Melissa Arnold (Community Engagement Manager)

Others Present

Jill Howdysshell, Kathryn Jarrell (Future Work Design)

Call to Order/Social Time

Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

Public Comment

Jill Howdysshell submitted a request for public comment. Ms. Howdysshell shared her experience taking her children to the pool at Mt. Scott Community Center during play swim sessions on Fridays. Some of these sessions would be closed on days when Portland Public Schools were also closed. In one instance, there was very bad weather, and they were made to wait outside. She asked that the Community Centers look at school calendars and try to accommodate days where there is no school in order to anticipate an influx of children participating. Ms. Howdysshell also acknowledged that PP&R is experiencing understaffing in the aquatics department and requested that the bureau better communicate that staff shortage, the impacts and what it is doing to address the shortage.

In response, Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager) apologized for the challenges with the programming at the Community Center and said he will work on adhering to the posted swim time updates. He confirmed that program schedules do take into account the Portland Public School calendar.

Margaret Evans (Workforce Development Manager) added that Workforce Development is in the process of recruiting an Aquatics-specific Talent Acquisition Specialist. Interviews started this week, and they intend to have them onboarded in the coming new year. This new Specialist will partner with the existing Talent Acquisition Specialists and focus entirely on recruiting for the Aquatics team. There will be events in January where Workforce Development will table, including Portland Public Schools and universities with Parks-specific recruitment. Also, tomorrow at Council, there will be an ordinance to

ratify the Labor Agreement that is extremely significant for recruitment. This agreement includes raised wages for positions in Aquatics and will enable Parks to be a leading Aquatics recruiter in the market.

Announcements

There were plans for the new Parks Board liaison for the Commissioner's Office, Angela Rico to be introduced, but she was unable to attend and will be meeting the Board another time.

Approve November Minutes

Paul Agrimis (Board Member) had a comment on changing some of the wording. Casey Mills (Vice Board Chair) moved to approve the amended minutes, and Paul seconded the motion. All voted in favor (with Elana Pirtle-Guiney abstaining due to absence), and the motion passed.

Director's Report Q&A

City Council held a work session on November 29 to review the proposed state and federal legislative agenda for the City of Portland. While the City has many items on the Federal and State agendas, PP&R submitted one item for the State agenda, the proposal to modify the Oregon Revised Statutes to allow a Parks & Recreation Special District to be governed by a City Council. Washington State passed similar legislation in 2002 and Seattle passed a Parks District in 2014.

On December 14, two emergency ordinances will be before the Council to ratify a successor collective bargaining agreement between the City and Laborers Local 483 representing Recreation and Seasonal Maintenance Workers for the terms and conditions of employments of represented employees. This is significant improvement and will include increased wages and hopefully, improved recruitment and retention.

That day, City Council will also adopt "Human Resources Administrative Rule, Employee Work Location," to define allowable work location and related criteria, which essentially requires City of Portland employees to live in Oregon or Washington. This new Rule is accompanied by a new Future of Work policy that will require employees who are currently serving in roles that allow for remote work, to report to work in-person at least 20 hours or half time each week.

The PP&R Park Ranger program is working on a project to update Title 20, the city code responsible for park rules. The project was identified in the PP&R Park Ranger Strategic Plan, and seeks to clarify ambiguous or complex language, make appropriate updates, remove outdated references, and update codes to comply with new local and state laws. The project is also an opportunity for the Bureau to codify the roles and responsibilities of Park Rangers, including Ranger authority. The Park Ranger program expects to present the proposal to the Parks Board this winter, where they will seek feedback.

The Stipend Standard Operating Procedure development project continues. The Parks Board can anticipate receiving drafts for feedback in the coming weeks.

Adam Lewis (Board Member) asked about the Return-to-Work policy (i.e. Future of Work) and whether staff has given feedback about the change.

Margaret Evans (Workforce Development Manager) and Director Long said that most staff have shown gratitude to have more than the originally intended six-week lead time to plan. If we had to implement the policy tomorrow, there would be very few fully remote employees and it is usually because they have an exception. The bureau received the news less than a week ago, so there is still processing.

Director Long said that Parks has about an 80/20 ratio of folks working in the field vs. in the office, which is higher than the city's average.

Dr. Corbin (Board Member) asked clarification about a potential future Parks Special District being run by City Council. Director Long replied that Park Districts are independently managed from the rest of the city as its own entity. Oregon currently doesn't have legislation in place that allows for that structure, but it has been a subject that has been brought up in different alternative funding task forces in the last few years.

Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Member) added that Oregon has allowed special districting services for other areas. For example, Tualatin Hills has its own districts. Current legislation would not allow City Council to be the governing body, it would be managed by an independently elected body. This legislation would allow the city to be a governing body. Elana Pirtle-Guiney (Board Member) added that this would determine who would be allowed to be the governing body.

Dr. Corbin (Board Member) asked if this was done with a purpose for long-term planning. What would be the impact of this? Paul Agrimis (Board Member) replied that PP&R has a \$500 million deferred maintenance backlog. Currently, the Parks Levy does not create a significant reduction in the backlog. A Parks District would give the entity more power to raise money. Seattle recently adopted this model, and it has been very successful so far. At the moment, even if the Parks Levy was renewed, we would still have a significant need for more funding to address the backlog. Dr. Corbin then asked if this would create a privatization of Parks – in Seattle, it's still a public entity and publicly managed.

Casey Mills (Board Member) had a question about the North Park Blocks finally moving forward. Who is managing it? Director Long answered that this is PP&R's project and that it was stalled. It was brought to the Land Use and Infrastructure Working Group this past month. Ross Swanson (Capital Growth Program Manager) added that this was through the IGA with Prosper Portland and Portland Bureau of Transportation. There is a mix of private and public space, there will be a discussion on property management next week. As far as design, the Request For Proposal is out.

Randy Gragg (Ex-Officio) asked if there was consideration on extending the timeframe on responses to the RFP. He has been hearing that it was difficult to get bids during this time of the year. Ross said he would inquire further.

Working Group Reports Q&A

Land Use & Infrastructure – There were no questions.

Financial Sustainability – (The report was submitted today following the Budget Advisory Committee meeting the night before.) Adam Lewis (Board Member) asked for clarity regarding impact sources and funding between Aquatics and Recreation access. Mike Elliot (Board Member) said that Aquatics is solely dealing with staffing in Aquatics and Recreation access is more about the fees charged. Director Long said these are two distinct budgeting packages.

Dr. Corbin (Board Member) asked about reducing costs as a barrier – does this include community event permitting in parts. Director Long said that this particular package does not. It's more about Community Center fees and program packages.

Community Engagement – There were no questions.

A Park and Wilson Pool – Dr. Corbin (Board Member) reported that the Committee made a recommendation to rename the pool to Ida B. Wells Barnett Outdoor Pool. They decided to split the naming committees so that the A Park naming committee can focus on doing more outreach to the Native American Community Advisory Council for a potential indigenous-focused naming. She recommended that going forward, there should be separate naming committees in order to better focus on each one and members of the committee.

Board Affairs Working Group

Casey Mills (Board Member) stated that there is a draft purpose statement attached to the BAWG report and asked that members review the draft and provide him with any questions, comments, and changes by the end of the year.

Board Affairs Working Group had a standalone agenda item related to the question of standardizing the working group reports for consistency. During that discussion, there was then a suggestion for the working group report to be made publicly available. This suggestion was forwarded to the City Attorney's office, so the Board will defer a vote on this item, while it's being reviewed internally, but Casey asked for comments on this proposal now.

Historically, the working group reports were given orally so they were always given on the record. Only recently the Board has been sending out written reports before the Board meeting in order to give Board Members the opportunity to have more time to review information.

Paul Agrimis (Board Member) spoke to Jim Owens, a past Board member about how this system of working groups developed. The working groups were formed because a lot of items within the LU&I topic were very long and would hold up the meetings themselves. This work was taken offline and then worked on in-between meetings. Paul also mentioned that for working groups and their relationship to Parks, these meetings are less formal and do not require quorum. Another part of this was to help empower the Board to create agenda items as opposed to just city staff developing the agenda.

Director Long added that Parks can inquire with Office of Community & Civic Life to see if other boards make their reports public, but since Parks probably has the most working groups, the answer is probably no. Bureau of Planning and Sustainability's working groups, for example, are actually dissolving into two different advisory committees in order to focus on specific subjects. Erin Zollenkopf (Board Member) commented that since we have historically not sent out written reports, we may as well post the reports with the Board Meeting minutes. Dr. Corbin (Board Member) added that since we are trying to promote transparency and we are not above being criticized, having that record and being transparent will promote trust between the community and the Board.

Portland Parks Foundation Report

Randy Gragg (Ex-Officio) reported that PPF recently distributed twelve \$2,000 grants. A teering committee that represented the community was convened to determine where the funding will be allocated. A portion of the grants were made possible through Parks Local Option Levy funds.

PPF will serve as a fiscal sponsor to the Friends of Gateway Green. They will be receiving a larger grant to continue their work. PPF will front load their money for expenses and then receive reimbursement from the City. This model was inspired by the Seattle Parks Foundation and their work with grant writing and financial assistance.

Jessica Green has been responsible for this work, including the Friends & Allies Collective.

North Portland Aquatic Center Update



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PB Presentation_FIN

Robin Johnson-Craig (Capital Project Manager) presented an update on the North Portland Aquatic Center (NPAC). The Parks 2020 Vision was to “develop a full-service community center... within three miles of every resident.”

NPAC would provide service coverage in the North Portland peninsula that would not be otherwise serviced within three miles. At the moment NPAC is at Phase II – site selection and permitting, which will end December 2023.

Parks recently held their first Community Workshop on December 10, which had over 100 attendees. Any further updates for the project will be posted regularly on the PP&R website by the Community Engagement team.

ELS Architecture and Urban Design is the architectural design firm that PP&R will be working on. They have specifically worked with designing pools and aquatic services. Prequalified sites under consideration: Pier Park, St. John’s Park, Northgate Park, Columbia Park, Columbia Annex.

Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) is currently promoting work in North Portland that Parks is hoping to overlap with. The public has given feedback that it was crucial that the area is walkable and bikeable. Potential site impacts include loss of canopy, loss of recreational amenities, increased traffic, possible noise, etc. Parks is soliciting feedback from community on what is the most important criteria for determining the final location.

Dr. Corbin (Board Member) asked about what capacity pools in Portland were trying to meet and how many people they can serve per day. Robin answered that Matt Dishman Community Center currently services 104,000 dwelling units, compared to Southwest Community Center, which services 26,000. Dr. Corbin has asked if this service level capacity is based on the current population or is there some forecasting. Robin answered that this projection is based on census projections that were shared with staff. This is a population projection, though not a geographic projection.

Casey Mills (Board Member) asked at what point does the bureau need to lock down financing before needing to delay the project. Robin answered that this will highly depend on which site is chosen. There is some wiggle room with funding. Currently, Phase IV is where the full funding is less predictable.

Erin Zollenkopf (Board Member) said that this pool is expected to be finished in 2029, to replace the current Columbia Pool. What are the needs of Portland in terms of pools in 2030 and onward? Are there more pools planned? Director Long replied that Commissioner Rubio allocated \$1.5 million to address the gap in pool services to the pools in proximity of North Portland as well as transportation opportunities, though it is for a short period of time. That being said, PP&R’s pools are at capacity now without even thinking about long-term planning. The larger conversation is also about level of service and growing Portland, and similarly how our community centers are at capacity with our population.

Adrienne Feldstein (Board Member) commented that it would make sense to have another site further northeast as shown in the map. Robin also commented that technically, this is not a replacement for Columbia Pool. NPAC would be providing all of the programs that Columbia offered and much more, as Columbia was not full service.

Dr. Corbin asked if Parks sees this as an amenity that doesn't add to gentrification. Parks is not responsible for the housing situation, but how is Parks thinking through that the communities are staying in place? Robin commented that this is a significant concern of the Project Advisory Committee – she and Ken Rumbaugh (Community Engagement Coordinator) have been working with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability's supervisor of the anti-displacement plan as well as members of the Equity & Inclusion team. They will all look at stabilization objectives and strategic thinking about where the center is located.

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland Wave 2 Update



PPR_ListeningReport_Wave02_v03.pdf

Kathryn Jarrell from Future Work Design presented a truncated report on the results of the Wave 2 Listening & Learning sessions. There were many methods employed to engage community members and staff.

Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Member) paused the discussion to check if there was any public comment at 6:45. There was no public comment.

Ali Berman (Board Member) asked how far apart staff feedback were from public, based on the varying perspectives? Kathryn replied that staff were about a half point lower.

Bonnie asked how the percentages added up if it didn't equal 100% - Melissa Arnold (Community Engagement Manager) answered that there were instances where the "tokens" given to community members that were used to score the mission statements were either lost or unspent.

Meeting Adjourned

Bonnie Gee Yosick adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.