

Tuesday, February 8, 2022

9:00 - 11:00 am

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Adrienne Feldstein, Alejandro Orizola, Ali Berman, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Casey Mills, David Staczek, Dr. C. N. E. Corbin, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, Nova Newcomer, Paddy Tillett, Paul Agrimis, Sabrina Wilson, and Randy Gragg (ex-officio)

Public Attendee

Pete Abram

Other Attendees

Jessica Green

Members Absent

Mike Elliott, Erin Zollenkopf

City Staff Present

Adena Long, Bob Del Gizzi, Claudio Campuzano, Kenya Williams, Lauren McGuire, Margaret Evans, Maximo Behrens, Rita Alves-Stone, Robin Laughlin, Sarah Huggins, Serin Bussell, Stephan Herrera, Tim Collier, Todd Lofgren, Tonya Booker, Vicente Harrison

Social Time/Call to Order

The group shared their favorite silly, quirky thing about Portland.
Called the meeting to order at 9:22am

General Announcements

Bonnie Gee Yosick noted that the Toulan School of Urban Studies and Planning at PSU will host an online presentation and discussion entitled, "Complicating Olmsted in Portland: Challenges, Lessons and Opportunities". Dr. C.N.E. Corbin will be part of the Olmstead series, presenting on Feb 24. Bonnie Gee Yosick encouraged Parks Board members to attend, and asked Dr. Corbin if there were other details they could share. Dr. C.N.E. Corbin indicated that they would be there as a speaker and was looking forward to looking back and talking about Olmstead and the Olmstead company's impact on Portland, and other cities moving forward. Would really love to take that journey to examine what future parks look like and what community members need moving forward.

Approve January Minutes

Bonnie Gee Yosick asked if there were any questions or comments about the January meeting minutes. Paddy Tillett noted a minor correction to the January Board Meeting notes. This change was sent to Serin Bussell. Serin Bussell indicated that they had received the correction from Paddy Tillett and would incorporate into the January meeting minutes.



Paddy Tillett moved to approve minutes, as corrected.
Seconded by Paul Agrimis.
No discussion.
The meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

Director's Report

Budget Work Sessions

Director Long recognized that Mike Elliott (or whomever would be providing the working group report in his absence) would provide a report for the financial sustainability working group, but provided a brief update on how City Council has requested the Bureaus present their budget requests for FY22-23. Typically, in March, City Council has a number of work sessions to discuss bureau requested budgets. Historically, these work sessions have been done on a bureau-by-bureau basis. This year, however, they are being organized by priority area. PP&R will be participating in four of those priority area sessions including: Climate Mitigation and Resiliency, Resilient Infrastructure, Re-envisioning Community Safety While Acting with Urgency, Supporting Livable Neighborhoods. We will share the schedule with this group. These are public meetings and you are welcome to tune in, online or on YouTube channel ([Watch a City Council Session | Portland.gov](#)).

COVID-19

Despite the State continuing the face covering mandate through the end of March, Omicron did not spare the bureau and has impacted staff and operations. Since January 1, we have experienced: 175 case intakes of exposed or sick staff, requiring investigation by the Safety Team; 64 confirmed positive cases, resulting in over 2,500 hours of lost time in January alone; and 2 workplace outbreaks at recreational facilities. Recreation has experienced the majority of the programmatic impacts, including: 17 multiple-day cancellations of recreation programming due to COVID exposure or illnesses in the course; 41 single-day cancellations due to staff illness or potential COVID exposure/illnesses in the course; and 4 full-course cancellations, due to high-risk factors in the program or in the instructor. Overall, cancellations have impacted over 600 participants in January. We anticipate with the decrease in hospitalizations, as reported by OHA, that we are over the surge and hopeful we can continue to serve the public without many further interruptions.

Upcoming PP&R Related Council Items

February 9th - we will request City Council authorize an Asset Purchase Agreement with East Portland Solar, LLC for the purchase of the solar facility at East Portland Community Center for \$23,000. In 2008, the City entered into an agreement to install and operate a Solar Facility at East Portland Community Center. The solar facility generates electricity that is sold to PP&R at or below the energy rates charged by its current utility providers. The license agreement outlined a process for selling the Solar Facility to the Bureau, which will be purchased for \$23,000 and paid for using funds from Recreation's utilities budget, as ownership of the Solar Facility will result in a reduction in utility costs.

February 16 - We will present for City Council's acceptance, the Year Six Bond Oversight Committee Report on the \$68 million Parks 2014 General Obligation Bond. No spoiler alerts as Robin Laughlin will be presenting on this topic later this morning.

February 23 - We will request City Council accept and appropriate a \$750,000 grant from the State under the federal American Rescue Plan Act Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund for the purpose of Red Electric Trail Design and Planning. As part of this Fund, each Oregon State representative received funds to allocate for projects and investments in their districts. Senator Ginny Burdick chose to allocate \$750,000 to fund further the design and development of unbuilt sections of the Red Electric Regional Trail, which will ultimately connect the Beaverton area to the Willamette River Greenway Trail. The development of the Red Electric Trail is identified as a desired facility in the City's Comprehensive Plan, the Bureau's Regional Trail Strategy, Metro's regional trail system, and within community-based organization priorities.

March 9 – We will be presenting a report on the status of the Tree Canopy here in Portland and we will work with Council to craft an associated Resolution that demonstrates the City's commitment to growing and managing the urban forest. This will also be presented at the Urban Forestry Commission on 2/17. And if the Parks Board or Land Use and Infrastructure Working Group would like a presentation, we can make an arrangement for that to happen, and Director Long can talk to Bonnie Gee Yosick and Casey Mills to schedule.

PP&R Events

Yesterday, there was a ribbon cutting of the newly relocated and restored Mill Ends Park. Would have invited you all, but seeing as how it's the world's smallest park, we had some capacity limitation. There were many people on the median and they received lots of honks from motorists. Please keep an eye out for media coverage of this.

Upcoming events are listed at the end of the meeting agenda, including links to bring you to a page to RSVP. Two upcoming ribbon cutting events on 2/12 and 2/19, and a Winter Tree Identification course on 2/26.

Question: Paul Agrimis noted in the Director's Report was reference to the Forest Park Entry being completed by the end of March, but this was originally scheduled for the end of 2022, as agreed upon with DEQ. Was the new date negotiated with DEQ so there was no change in the fine status for PP&R?

Answer: Lauren McGuire answered in the affirmative. Yes, we did negotiate that and PP&R is all set.

Question: Adrienne Feldstein wanted to put in a plug for this group to hear about the Urban Tree Canopy Report, in addition to hearing at UF Commission. Despite many great efforts, there is a net loss of canopy. The skills in this group and what Parks can contribute to the solution is important.

Answer: Director Long – The next Parks Board meeting is the day before the Tree Canopy Report will be presented to City Council. If Jenn Cairo and staff are available to present on that day and there aren't competing agenda items, we can make that happen. Director Long and Serin Bussell will meet with Bonnie Gee Yosick and Casey Mills to discuss when this will fit best on the Parks Board agenda. There is also the option of presenting the Tree Canopy Report to the Land Use & Infrastructure Working Group, so that one way or the other, this information gets to the Parks Board.

Working Group Reports

Community Engagement

Casey Mills provided the Community Engagement Working Group report, as Erin Zollenkopf was absent due to illness. Casey Mills indicated that the CEWG has been primarily focused on the Board's public comment procedure. Overall, the group is putting, what is hoped to be a complete package together, to bring to the Board for its approval. The language to be distributed to the public on inviting comments and how comments are taken by Board has been approved, as has the much more detailed process for how the Board will receive and address public comments. The group is presently working on dates and times for Board meetings, the Community Outreach Strategy, and how to measure progress in increasing community engagement by the Board. After those items are completed, there should be a complete package to bring to the Board for approval, hopefully in March. The group is also monitoring the response by Commissioner Rubio's Office on a proposed procedure to address the Park Blocks statutes issues. The next meeting is February 17th.

Financial Sustainability

Casey Mills provided the Financial Sustainability Working Group report, as Mike Elliott was absent due to travel. No meeting held this month and the written report was provided to Board members. The meeting schedule has been shifted to the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2pm, so the next meeting is on February 24th. Oral report included the status of the FY22-23 budget and ARPA requests – For the existing budget, FY ends June 30, revenues from recreation were tracking ahead of budget but after Delta/Omicron impacted fall/winter, revenues fell about \$350,000 behind. However, anticipated that expenses will be lower than revenue loss because of lower casual staffing requirements partially due to COVID related restrictions. Overall, Parks is performing slightly better than budget. Status of FY22-23 budget – proposed budget includes \$17.4M in increased funding, which includes 7 additional positions. The majority of the increase of \$9.2M is from Levy funds, and the majority of that (\$6.8M) is for reducing cost as a barrier to programs. \$475,000 in Levy funds are also being allocated to support community partnership programs and expand Parks capacity to reach underserved communities and center equity. Budget also requests a General Fund Capital set aside to eliminate ADA at Pier Park and meet Climate Action goals of replacing lighting and mechanical systems. In January, the Budget Advisory Committee met and reviewed the increases, and provided a letter in support of the budget. On January 26, Parks submitted the budget to the City Budget Office. In March, the City Council will hold a series of Work Sessions to discuss Bureau budgets. In late April, early May, the Mayor releases the proposed budget which leads to an adopted budget in June, ready for a July start of the fiscal year, and then the Fall BMP procedure starts. Lastly, there has been a

request for ARPA funds. Parks requested nearly \$15M in ARPA funds to enhance the scope of Mt. Scott Community Center project, to increase planting of trees in underserved neighborhoods, increase staffing for the Ranger program, and continue converting bureaus inventory of top-loading garbage cans to side-loading ones, thus enhancing staff health and safety.

Land Use/Infrastructure

Paddy Tillett – LU&I met a week ago and covered 3 topics. 1) Flood Plain Resilience Plan – This is a plan that is looking at the Willamette through Portland. Takes into account FEMA’s 100-year flood plan and information from 1996 inundation photos. It’s focused on protection of habitat for salmon, steelhead, and other species. Recommendations draw from FEMA’s implementation materials. Flood management proposals include updating to zoning and building codes to accommodate this. Riparian buffer zones and there is a special focus on the South Waterfront area. A preliminary draft report will be submitted to the Planning and Sustainability Commission in the Spring. We expect more detail than 2) Albina Vision Trust – Discussed what had changed in the clearance in 1958. This has been a public engagement exercise with 52 events to date. The vision for the area includes hubs in public places, commercial and housing opportunities, and examines the consequences of different types and densities of development. Still in early phase, but idea is to have complete transformation by 2050, so a long-term plan. 3) Levy-Ready Columbia – there are 5 drainage districts along the Columbia which are maintained to prevent flooding of the former Willamette Delta. The Peninsula Drainage District is the most westerly of these, next to I-5. There, the Army Corps of Engineers has requested reinforcement of the levy, which is also the railroad embankment. Since this would entail suspension of rail service during construction, the railroad has refused to cooperate. The alternative is a setback levy or flood wall built inside the embankment. In addition to being very expensive, this would also impact some activities of PIR and the Golf Course, so discussion continues. Process has taken about 10 years and a satisfactory solution has yet to be achieved.

Board Affairs

Casey Mills – Reported that the group had to change meetings to the 4th Tuesdays of the month at 4pm. February meeting devoted to Board’s revised mission. New mission is required as Board is beyond its original Mission. Reminder, a new Mission will require City Council approval and revisions to the ordinance that created the board. Submission of the Board’s revised Mission will take place about the time Parks has approved its new Mission under Healthy Parks/Healthy Portland. The discussion on the Board Mission has been centered around the Board increasing its advocacy, when legally allowed, and education at all times for improving Parks financial situation. Discussion has also centered around Board creating a forum to engage in a wide array of communities as partners with Parks. Also ongoing discussion on use of Parks Board members by Parks for those Parks Board members’ expertise. If you would like to contribute your thoughts, please contact Casey Mills. Next meeting is February 22nd.

Portland Parks Foundation Report

Randy Gragg provided a brief introduction to Jessica Green, the Program Director of Portland Parks Foundation. Jessica Green presented on the Friends and Allies Initiative. As a citywide Parks nonprofit, PPF sees themselves as a conveyer, connector, and resource for the hundreds of parks friends groups and parks-adjacent groups. Looked at what PPF has been doing for these groups and putting it into one initiative.



Friends and Allies
2022 Overview PPB.p

Friends & Allies Initiative 2022 Overview, included here:

Year Six Bond Oversight Committee Report Presentation

Robin Laughlin, Capital Renovation Program Manager, presented the Year Six Report for the 2014 Parks Replacement Bond. The 2014 Parks Replacement Bond provides \$68M for repairs and replacements in Parks Community Centers and facilities across the City.



Bond Report Year 6
Parks Board PPT.pdf

The Year Six Bond Report presentation is included here:

Question: Nova Newcomer – Would love to understand what a “Yard” is? And curious what is driving overhead costs to be lower than expected? Is there anything in the delivery of the Bond that is causing administrative costs to be lower? Important for government to have administrative support, so important for voters to understand that there is administrative and overhead costs.

Answer: A “yard” is a maintenance facility. Will find welders, electricians, plumbers, storage for mowers and other services – lots of storage for equipment for parks maintenance at “the yard.” Regarding administrative costs, part of it is being efficient in how we do the work – by being project manager and doing management/administrative work. Part of overhead costs get folded in to project expenses, such as support from Procurement.

New Membership Recruitment Process

Bonnie Gee Yosick noted that there is 1 board member that will be rolling off after a long and distinguished service, Paddy Tillett – thank you! There were also 2 board members who stepped off the board early. Typically open the applications for a month or 6 weeks. Before that happens, there is a Nominating Committee convened, which Erin Zollenkopf has agreed to Chair. They meet to discuss the application questions, along with the Director’s office and Commissioner’s Office. We want new and old Board members and cross-disciplinary involvement. If you are interested, Bonnie Gee Yosick encouraged folks to participate. Parks Board will also leverage Board member connections to share the opportunity far and wide. Applications will be open 4-6 weeks. Then the applications are reviewed, followed by an interview process. Goal is to get a slate of candidates, present it to the Parks Board at the May meeting, and then file for the June City Council agenda. City Council has the ultimate say and technically nominates and approves new Board members. If you have bandwidth to participate,

we would love to have you. The Board Skills and Interest Matrix will be sent out. It helps the Nominating Committee to see what skills might be rolling off the Board and what skillsets the Parks Board may be interested in recruiting for.

There is currently only 1 Ex Officio Member on the Parks Board. Bylaws state that the Parks Board can have up to 4 Ex Officio members. We see this as an opportunity to utilize Ex Officios in a way that allows us to do better work, more meaningful work, and help expand the Parks Board role in being a partner to the Parks Bureau and the Parks Commissioner's Office. Casey Mills added that unlike full members, Ex Officio members are selected by the Parks Board and don't have to go to Council for approval. The only requirement is that they are people in the judgement of the Board, that will assist the Board in carrying out their duties. There is a broad spectrum of who can be asked and be extremely creative, as there are slots for up to 3 additional people. Asked that Parks Board and Parks staff think about people who may benefit the Board and representation on the Board as Ex Officio members. Please think of organizations beyond those typically associated with Parks. For example, youth participants, seniors, Parks employees, groups that support diversity. If folks have ideas, please send to Casey Mills and Erin Zollenkopf and they can put together a slate to be discussed later.

Bonnie Gee Yosick suggested discussion regarding ideas of where the Parks Board members could recruit for Ex Officio members, for examples folks with lived experience of houselessness. Asked if there were ideas from Parks Board member neighborhoods or networks.

Elana Pirtle-Guiney suggested opportunity to think about where we are building out infrastructure in Parks across Portland, suggested individuals from organizations that Parks is currently partnering with on new development. Dr. C.N.E. Corbin suggested Outdoor Afro.

Nova Newcomer recommended recruiting people who have a sports and recreation background or interest. Nova Newcomer felt like there needed to be more sports representation, especially since there is access issues in sports and the Parks Board needs those voices in the conversation, particularly around equity and access.

Bonnie Gee Yosick asked Sabrina Wilson if they had thoughts on the topic of sports and recreation representation on the Parks Board. Sabrina Wilson noted that sports and recreation, as a whole, is important and will put some thoughts into it. Alejandro Orizola noted that someone with climate change experience, resilience, and ecosystem services would be valuable partnership. Alejandro Orizola indicated that thinking about future of Parks system, messaging and storytelling of the department, it's critical to have climate change advocates on the Parks Board. Ali Berman will also give some thought to who may be able to provide climate feedback. Ali Berman also noted, with regards to houseless community representation, this is unpaid service and need to be cognizant of who is being asked and what is being asked of people.

Bonnie Gee Yosick noted that there has been conversation regarding stipends, but unclear if any actual compensation can be provided, as opposed to parking passes. Dr. C.N.E. Corbin suggested that we should find out what expertise is currently on the Board. Having a

comprehensive look at what skills and experience is currently represented on the Board is important, as we're not starting from scratch, and will inform what skills and experiences are desired in the recruitment process. Bonnie Gee Yosick noted the Skills Matrix and Board Bios as a starting point for understanding what skills and experiences are represented on the board, and encouraged Board involvement to update the Matrix and Bios.

Paddy Tillett noted that a good place to begin would be to look through the current Board Skills Matrix and Bios. David Staczek noted that they will keep an eye out in their circles. Ali Berman asked if there were other architects on the Parks Board, with Paddy Tillett rolling off of the Board. Bonnie Gee Yosick noted that not only is David Staczek an architect, but also works at Paddy Tillett's company, so a natural cover of that particular skillset, though others are welcome. Paddy Tillett noted that Landscape Architecture would be another relevant skillset to bring to the board. Paul Agrimis will be rolling off in the Summer of 2023 and currently the only registered Landscape Architect on the Board, so that may be a skillset to look for. Ali Berman noted that Vicente Harrison had mentioned more Tribal Nation representation, and Kenya Williams noted more youth, youth of color, and immigrant and refugee communities.

Casey Mills noted it would be important to have someone experienced in Accounting and/or Finance. Bonnie Gee Yosick mentioned that a few years ago, the need for Accounting and Finance is a skillset that led the Board to recruit Mike Elliott and Erin Zollenkopf. However, in a few years they will both roll off the Board at the same time, so would be good to have some overlap and continue to have that skillset on the Board.

Elana Pirtle-Guiney noted, regarding Ex Officio members, especially youth or someone new to board service may feel like they represent a particular organization or community. So reminded the Board to be intentional and mindful to ensure folks are able to bring their whole selves and themselves as individuals, not necessarily representatives a particular organization only. Giving people the space to share stories and personal lived experience is important.

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin noted that information for new board members is blank in the Skills Matrix. Casey Mills indicated that they would send out the Board Skills Matrix to everyone. Please send back to Casey Mills with the skills that best fit your experience. Bonnie Gee Yosick also indicated that the Board Bios would be sent out. Please update as needed and send back to Serin Bussell.

Kenya Williams mentioned conversation about compensation for Boards and Commissions. Different Bureaus do things differently. Kenya Williams will do some research to find out how other Bureaus are addressing stipends and compensation. Kenya Williams will do a check in with the Office of Community and Civic Life and their Advisory Bodies Coordinator, so will give a report back on the status of compensation for Board members.

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin asked when the new Board members would begin their services. Asked because if Board meeting times are going to change, this could impact who will apply, so wondering how the conversation regarding Board meeting times would line up with recruitment. Bonnie Gee Yosick noted that Board meeting times have changed over the years

and have dealt with it on an ad hoc bases, depending on what works for Board members and what doesn't.

Bonnie Gee Yosick indicated that if anyone is interested in participating on the Nominations Committee to please reach out.

March Meeting Agenda

If anyone has agenda items Board members want to request for the March meeting, please send to Bonnie Gee Yosick and Casey Mills.

Meeting Adjourned

The meeting was adjourned at 10:58am