

Board Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 14, 2023

5:00pm – 7:00pm

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

Board Members Present

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Casey Mills, Adam Lewis, Elana Pirtle Guiney, Dr. C.N.E. Corbin, Ali Berman, Erin Zollenkopf, David Staczek, Alejandro Orizola, Sabrina Wilson, Crys O’Grady, Randy Gragg (ex officio)

Board Members Absent

Mike Elliott, Adrienne Feldstein, Paul Agrimis

City Staff Present

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director), Tonya Booker (Land Stewardship Division Manager), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Margaret Evans (Workforce Development Manager)

Others Present

Suenn Ho, Henry Rhone Jr.

Call to Order/Social Time

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

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Approve January Minutes

Casey Mills (Board Member) moved to approve meeting minutes, and Alejandro Orizola (Board Member) seconded. All voted in favor with no discussion, and the motion carried.

Director’s Report Q&A

Two weeks ago, the City Council [voted on a resolution](#) designed to provide clear leadership and direction as the City seeks to implement voter-approved changes of Portland’s election system and form of government, while continuing to address the City’s most complex challenges.

Under the direction of Chief Administrative Officer Michael Jordan, a transition team will work closely with the bureaus and report progress to the City Council on budget and city code changes related to the transition for consideration.

The resolution also builds on bureau alignment in and across the five service areas that Mayor Wheeler created in January, which laid out focused priorities for the Commissioners-in-Charge to prepare their respective service area for management by a City Administrator.

The resolution establishes 90-day action plans for the five service areas. The action plan that most clearly includes PP&R states, "In partnership with Commissioner Mapps, the Bureau of Environmental Services, Portland Parks & Recreation, Portland Water Bureau, and the Portland Bureau of Transportation will initiate a process and develop a work plan to be delivered to the City’s Chief



Administrative Officer by Fall 2023. The work plan should include details and timelines for the integration of services related to nature, green infrastructure, watershed management, natural areas, urban tree canopy, and other areas of alignment, including a new organizational and reporting structure that reforms and enhances central service delivery, meets regulatory and financial requirements and best practices, and includes community engagement and consideration—in order to directly support the City of Portland’s commitments to addressing homelessness, community safety, economic recovery, and livability."

The City will also launch an internal cross-bureau Arts table led by the City Arts Program, in partnership with the Arts Liaison, to convene the Office of Equity and Human Rights, Procurement, Portland Parks & Recreation, Prosper Portland’s Office of Film & Events, the Office of Community & Civic Life, and other Bureaus to partner with and advise on City Arts service delivery.

Over the next couple of years, Director Long, Todd Lofgren, and a few other key staff will be called upon to support the transition beyond their usual responsibilities. Currently, they have been involved in Executive Leadership Team meetings with the CAO and transition team to develop a transition Service Delivery Scope of work that will include programmatic assessments. Melody Brooks, PP&R’s Policy Analyst is participating in the City Code and Charter Match Process, and Dylan Paul, PP&R’s Property Manager and Director Long are serving on the Mayor’s Cabinet related to Houselessness.

Ali Berman (Board Member) asked about what involvement Parks has in watershed management and whether Parks has specific expertise in the subject. Director Long answered that the watershed program is specific to the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES), and Parks does perform watershed management, citing Forest Park as an example. PP&R has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with BES in areas of work. This is to help find efficiencies and possibly change the current management structure.

Margaret Evans gave a brief update on the labor strike. 227 of the 600+ represented employees in city work in Parks. There was an agreement made and it will go into Council at the end of the month. These negotiations have been going on for a year. There have also been follow-up sessions to check in on employees.

Highlights on this page:

<https://www.portland.gov/omf/news/2023/2/5/city-portland-and-liuna-local-483-reach-tentative-agreement>

Portland Parks Foundation (PPF) Report

PPF is deep in O’Bryant Square work. An overview: This is a collaboration between PPF, PP&R, Portland State University (PSU) Center for Public Interest Design, Harvard Loeb Fellow Alumni. Loeb Fellows will be coming to Portland to take part in this effort with locals. This includes topics like youth engagement.

Next week, there will be a conversation around real estate and downtown businesses. The community brainstorm effort, the charette, will be held at the old Finnegan’s Toy Store. There will be deeper focus groups that will have more specific topics of engagement. More details can be found on the PPF website.

There will be a big shareout on Saturday, March 11. Community members will get the chance to give feedback on the work so far.

Working Group Reports Q&A

Board Affairs – There were no questions.

Land Use & Infrastructure – David Staczek (Board Member) gave a quick report for LU&I. There was a supplemental review of Rose Quarter I-5 project. They plan to get in touch with previous Board members Paddy Tillet and Jim Owens to get some more history on Parks Board involvement in this project.

The current design team for the North Portland Aquatic Center (NPAC) has identified 5 potential sites. This will likely be brought to the Board for a recommendation. Dr. C.N.E. Corbin (Board Member) asked about what PP&R was doing to mitigate gentrification. Director Long stated that the group did confer with the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability (BPS) and others, and those organizations were able to submit feedback on the process.

Financial Sustainability – There was not a Financial Sustainability Working Group meeting in the past month.

Community Engagement – There was not a Community Engagement Working Group meeting in the past month.

Nominating Committee – Elana Guiney (Board Member) reported that the group is looking to fill two appointment vacancies for the coming year. Interviews with the top candidates will start in April. She asked board members to use their own networks to find potential candidates. Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Member) noted that with Nova Newcomer resigning, the board is losing her perspective as a supporter of organized sports.

Midterm Appointment of Suenn Ho

Suenn Ho had applied in 2022 to be a Parks Board Member and though she did not get chosen for the two vacancies at the time, she was identified as the primary candidate in the event there was a mid-term vacancy. Suenn gave a brief introduction on her experience with public work as an urban designer.

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin (Board Member) moved to add Suenn Ho to the Parks Board, Adam Lewis (Board Member) seconded. All voted in approval and motion carried.

Next steps will be bringing this item to council for approval and appointment by the Mayor's office.

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland – Final Draft of Mission Vision Values and Racial Equity Statement

As part of its Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland planning initiative, PP&R has been working with the community since 2021 to renew the bureau's foundational statements. The team has undertaken two waves of Listening & Learning with internal and external audiences (including the Parks Board) and have engaged a Co-Design Team made up of staff and community members to create draft statements.

Thanks to Erin Zollenkopf (Board Member) for serving on the Co-Design Team that worked hard to create the recommended statements that were accepted by Division managers on January 25.

The goal was to renew Portland Parks & Recreation's mission, vision, values, and racial equity statement. During the process, the racial equity statement became an equity and anti-racism commitment.

PP&R's Listening & Learning engaged internal audiences and community, focusing on centered communities: Black people, Indigenous People, people of color, immigrants and refugees, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+ people, youth, older adults, and people living with low income.

When the Co-Design Team convened, it decided it wanted the bureau's foundational statements to be:

- Concise, yet specific
- Aspirational, yet attainable
- Memorable
- Easy to understand by many audiences
- Something the bureau can be measured against/accountable

The team worked with culturally specific and community-based organizations to hold listening sessions, including PP&R's East Portland Advisors, Home Forward, Immigrant and Refugee leaders, and included the Urban Forestry Commission, Portland Accessibility Advisory Committee, Parks Board and staff.

In December of 2021, they convened the MVVR Co-Design Team to hear what was learned during community listening, decide on a framework for foundational statements, and draft new statements to be considered by community. Over a series of 7 meetings, drafts were created.

From May through September of 2022, the team conducted Wave 2 Listening & Learning to get feedback on statement drafts, which included coming to the Parks Board on June 4 for review.

For Wave 2, they increased the number of voices that reflect centered communities, holding community feedback sessions in Dawson Park, Luuwit View Park, Mt. Scott Park, and conducted listening workshops with the Community Language Liaison Services Engagement team, Slavic Community Engagement, and through an open virtual workshop. They also spoke with the Board, UFC, and PAAC and PP&R staff. In addition, the community engagement team did tabling events at 7 community events, including Good in the Hood, East Portland Arts Festival, PRIDE, and more.

In December of 2022, the team came to Parks Board to share the process and results of the Wave 2 Listening & Learning report.

The Co-Design Team also reconvened to hear what community said about the draft statements. The Team met over a series of three meetings and finalized statements that they recommended to the Senior Management Team.

- On January 25, SMT accepted the recommended statements with two small changes.
- The statements were sent to be reviewed for language comprehension in Spanish, Vietnamese, Chinese, and Russian. Final statements will be fully translated into those four languages, but the team wanted to learn if there are any problematic words or concepts at this point in process.

Sabrina Wilson (Board Member) asked about the results on participation of community members. Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director) said that generally, people like city government coming to the community and giving the public an opportunity to give feedback. Todd added that at the events that he attended, he saw a lot of positive feedback, which community members including their own personal anecdotes. In addition, the biggest point of engagement for constituents was around the Actions & Results framework.

Casey Mills (Board Member) asked about the timeline after getting an endorsement from the Parks Board. Todd answered that this will be presented to Commissioner Ryan as the team fine tunes iterations of the content, specifically around translations. There are plans for this to go public in April.

He then asked if other bureaus do this or is this process unique. Todd answered that the City doesn't give much guidance around multi-year plans. The most unique trait is that the bureau is heavily public facing and had to approach a lot of community members for feedback.

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin (Board Member) asked about how the Racial Equity Statement and Mission, Vision, Values document are related to each other. Nicola said that the team felt it was important to specifically have a document addressing antiracism.

Adam Lewis (Board Member) asked about future timelines and whether this would be resilient through the Charter Reform. Todd answered that typically, the city will work with a five-year planning horizon. There will be a database that shows how the actions are linked to action measures. The next budget will be informed by the database. Parks will be in a strong position in the next few years as the bureau transitions to the reform. This next budget will be the last budget that the current Council will be involved in.

Erin Zollenkopf (Board Member) moved that the Parks Board endorses the two documents, MVVR and Racial Equity Statement, as it's considered. Corbin seconded. There was a discussion on how to ensure that both documents are endorsed together. To clarify, there will be minor changes and iterations as they go forward, and Parks Board will be continually updated. All voted in favor with no opposition and the motion carried.

Meeting Adjourned

Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Member) adjourned the meeting early at 6:22pm.