

Board Meeting Minutes 2023-01-10 draft

Tuesday, January 10, 2023

5:00pm – 7:00pm

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

Board Members Present

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

Board Members Absent

Nova Newcomer, Mike Elliott

City Staff Present

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director), Dan Ryan (Council Member and Commissioner), Kellie Torres (Chief of Staff), Karen Guillén-Chapman (Senior Policy Advisor), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Melody Brooks (Chief Policy Analyst), Jenn Cairo (Urban Forestry Division Manager), Vicente Harrison (Safety & Security Manager), Claudio Campuzano (Finance, Property, and Technology Manager), Tonya Booker (Land Stewardship Division Manager), Lauren McGuire (Assets & Development Division Manager), Margaret Evans (Workforce Development Manager), Kenya Williams (Equity & Inclusion Manager), Victor Sanders (Coordinator III), Cameron Simmons (Fellow)

Others Present

Phyllis and Warren

Call to Order/Social Time

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

Public Comment

Phyllis and Warren made public comment regarding the renaming of Kelley Point Park. They remarked that the figure behind the naming of the park had an unsavory history. The park naming process is complicated, but they felt that this park is an example of a name that should be changed more quickly than usual. They suggested the renaming honor indigenous communities that lived in that area.

Announcements

Commissioner Dan Ryan and his staff members Kellie Torres and Karen Guillén-Chapman attended the beginning of the board meeting to introduce themselves to the Parks Board and PP&R staff. Commissioner Ryan gave board members and staff an opportunity to share their biggest priorities for PP&R.

Commissioner Ryan gave an introduction to his background and intent for PP&R. In addition to PP&R, he will be working with the Arts Portfolio, Children’s Levy, Office of Community & Civic Life, and Office of Equity & Human Rights.

Approve December Minutes



Erin Zollenkopf (Board Member) moved to approve the minutes, and Adrienne Feldstein (Board Member) seconded. All voted in favor with no opposition, with Alejandro Orizola (Board Member) and Sabrina Wilson (Board Member) abstaining due to absence. The motion carried.

Director's Report Q&A

Director Long wanted to make an update to changes in the Council agenda. The Urban Forestry Commission Appointment item is being pushed back two weeks. On January 31, the city will be holding a work session (i.e. not public) regarding citywide infrastructure and investments. Director Long then ceded her time to Claudio Campuzano and Elana Pirtle-Guiney (Board Member) for a Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) and Financial Sustainability (FSWG) update.

Working Group Reports Q&A

Board Affairs – There were no questions.

Land Use & Infrastructure – There were no questions.

Financial Sustainability – FSWG has been meeting as the BAC – with increased membership including community members and labor representatives – over the last three months. The last meeting occurred the night before the January Board meeting. Meetings included review of Director's budget guidance and priorities, financial forecast, and proposed new investments. The final meeting included a review of all the investments that the bureau planned to bring to the Commissioner in Charge in preparation for the FY 2023-24 Requested Budget. The City Budget Office forecast included \$6.5 million in general funding, which means there will be a lot of competition for this funding. There is going to be a general fund process. PP&R presented final recommendations to BAC, the details of which are included in the document sent to the board surrounding the subject. BAC membership is in process of drafting an associated letter detailing their recommendations.

Community Engagement – There were no questions.

Portland Parks Foundation Report

Randy Gragg (Ex-Officio) reported that Portland Parks Foundation (PPF) is working on a community visioning project for the reimagining O'Bryant Square. Because of the SDC process, there are limited expansion opportunities. It's a very complicated site, politically and socially. PBOT will be overseeing the demolition and leaving it "park ready". Randy believes it's an opportunity to experiment with the space. PPF has engaged the Loeb Fellows who will be working pro bono. PPF will be reaching out to a large range of stakeholders for input.

PPF is planning for the upcoming Friends & Allies Summit. They are guided by a steering committee which has a few openings. Randy asked for volunteers from the Board if interested. The commitment involves attending a few meetings and includes a stipend.

Adam Lewis (Board Member) asked about what the timeline will be on gathering input for community members. PSU's Center for Public Interest Design will be providing ideas for the public to give feedback. There will be workshop sessions on March 8 and 9.

Charter Commission Phase II Proposals

Casey Mills (Board Vice Chair) reviewed the upcoming revisions to the city's charter. In Phase II, the Commission has recommended changes to the section that describes the city's park and recreation system. Natural areas and green infrastructure were left out of the former description. The proposed

changes clarify language and cover a broader level of service. This modification modernizes the language that describes services that PP&R provides, such as green infrastructure, ecosystem services, natural areas, etc. Director Long recommended that the Board approve these changes and show support to Council by letter, appearance, or both.

Casey moved to authorize the Board Chair, Vice Chair, and the members of the Board Affairs Working Group to write such letters to and make such appearances before City Council as they deem appropriate to support passage of the Charter Commission's Phase II recommended changes as they pertain to Portland Parks and Recreation. Adrienne seconded the motion. There was no discussion. All voted in approval and the motion carried.

Casey will draft a letter to the Board Affairs Working Group for review.

PP&R Policy Framework (Melody Brooks)

Melody Brooks (Chief Policy Analyst) presented the new PP&R Policy Framework, which analyzes current bureau policies and creates a system to develop new policy. This is an important project for onboarding new staff, transparency, and inter-bureau functionality.

Melody provided a few definitions: A City Charter defines the organization, powers, functions and essential procedures of City government; a City Code is a local law adopted by City Council; City Administrative Rules are used to enforce code and policy and are adopted by Council, and; Bureau Administrative Rules are used to enforce code and policy and are adopted by the Director or City Forester.

Policies are broad guidelines that reflect the principles and objectives of the City and/or Bureau. Policy guides decisions, actions, rules, and procedures. They should be general and broad in nature. Specific actions are reserved for Standard Operating Procedures. Right now, there is not a lot of separation between the two and the lines are blurred, which creates confusing policies. Policy explains the "why?", and SOP explains the "how?".

Practice is a regular activity that you do in pursuit of maintaining something; an ongoing pursuit of a goal or interest. Process is detailed instruction on how you implement that practice.

This Spring, there will be a Division inventory. The first step will be making sure the bureau has all policies written and making sure any unwritten policies be documented. There will also be some training on Melody's part in order to ensure the collection during inventory is done correctly. There will be a Smartsheet that will lay out all of our policies that will then help determine what policy projects need to be taken on.

Part of this inventory includes discussing with both internal and external stakeholders. The Parks Board will be involved in reviewing new policy requests that are going to be sent to the Director for approval.

Ali Berman (Board Member) asked about what happens with the "broad launch" and how that will be communicated and implemented. Melody replied that E&I will be working with the Communications team on developing a communication plan. Director Long asked Ali for any guidance and ideas since this is in her area of expertise.

Crys O'Grady (Board Member) suggested having a policy worksheet that simply breaks down equity impact, social impact, etc. since this is a complex project. Melody replied that this is part of the

communications plan so community members can better understand this information. Crys also asked about the database for searchable policy. Is this internal and external? Melody replied that they are going to start internally.

Dr. Corbin (Board Member) asked about the wheel graphic in the presentation – is there opportunities for the Board to give input? She also asked about Title II and VI – is Title IX also being considered? Melody said yes to all of the above as well as XXIII.

Casey Mills (Vice Chair) wondered if it was possible to use the Decision Support Tool and apply this to the wheel graphic. Todd answered that Decision Support Tool looks at geographic coverage surrounding race, economic factors. That information might be applicable.

Title 20 Proposed Amendments

Victor Sanders (Coordinator III) gave a presentation on the Title 20 Proposed Amendments. This is work that has been needed for a long time, but the team only recently had enough staff capacity to work on this.

Title 20 is regarding permitting, what's allowed in parks, not allowed, what the Park Ranger roles and responsibilities are, and the overview of tools used to enforce these rules.

Park Rangers are non-sworn park rule enforcement. In 2021, they responded to 1800 calls, resolved over 8000 park rule issues, and 98% of these responses are resolved without police or fire intervention. In most instances, education is what helps gain compliance. Park Rangers handle civil and non-criminal rule violations. Ejections or exclusions can be issued, depending on the violation type.

The intention for Title 20 is to solidify Park Rangers' role and responsibilities in City Code and update the code for clarity and compliance, establishing civil penalty options for certain park code violations instead of the court system.

The Safety & Security team is looking for ongoing committee involvement to provide representation in guiding this project. They are asking interested committee members to meet periodically for the next 4-6 weeks. They are looking for 4-6 members and anticipate less than an hour a week.

Alejandro Orizola (Board Member) asked whether there is going to be a revision of Rangers' goals. Victor replied that they are interested in learning what the biggest pain points that interfere with compliance.

Adrienne Feldstein (Board Member) asked, to what extent are they engaging with mental health issues and harassment? Is there a gap within Portland Street Response? Victor answered that the Portland Street Response and Portland Street Coordination Services have been immensely helpful for having a much faster response time. Engagement with populations is trauma-informed and trained in de-escalation. Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director) added that Park Rangers are doing the most referrals to shelters than any other entity in the city and the county.

Paul Agrimis (Board Member) asked, what are the key things that you think the rangers should be doing that they are currently unable to do? Victor answered that Parks is part of the community safety spectrum and the biggest issue is the volume of calls vs how much our rangers can respond. Vicente Harrison (Safety & Security Manager) also added, the rangers focus on park community safety, resource protection, and community engagement. Resource protection is not focused on as much because they

are constantly responding to the other instances. Todd also commented that the additional recent hires are from federal funding, which is a one-time event. There still needs to be discussions on how to maintain funding for these positions.

Ali Berman (Board Member) asked about outdated signage around the city. Victor said that with the Communications team now fully staffed, there is a lot of talk within the internal team in updating signage and changing the language around it.

Erin Zollenkopf (Board Member) commented on the need for having holistic view of safety and the broader value of safety. Victor replied that with the Levy, they have been able to grow their safety program, though it's still in its infancy. He suggested looking at some statistics such as workers' compensation, which is indicative of the work they're doing. Vicente added that in 2020, safety was at the forefront, and they enhanced the exclusion model to respond to activities in parks and community centers.

Bonnie adjourned the meeting at 6:58pm.

Meeting Adjourned