

**Tuesday, July 12, 2022**

5:00pm – 7:00pm

1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Room 216 and Zoom Virtual Meeting

**Members Present**

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Erin Zollenkopf, Dr. C.N.E Corbin, Mike Elliott, Adrienne Feldstein, Ali Berman, Adam Lewis, Sabrina Wilson, Casey Mills, Nova Newcomer, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, Crys O’Grady, Randy Gragg (Ex Officio)

**Members Absent**

David Staczek, Paul Agrimis, Alejandro Orizola

**City Staff Present**

Adena Long, Serin Bussell, Michelle Tran, Todd Lofgren, Maximo Behrens, Tonya Booker, Margaret Evans, Jenn Cairo, Tim Collier, Kenya Williams, Lauren McGuire

**Others Present**

Erin Graham, Preston Greene, Russell Ratto

**Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

**Call to Order/Social Time**

Bonnie called the meeting to order at 5:02pm.

**Announcements:**

No announcements at this time.

**Approve June Minutes**

There was an amendment to the minutes made by Erin. Casey moved to approve minutes, with amendment, and Mike seconded. All voted in favor, with no opposition, and the motion carried.

**Director’s Report**

Council Update:

On July 20, we will authorize one or more competitive solicitations for professional, technical, and expert services price agreements in support of Portland Parks & Recreation Capital Improvement Program in the aggregate amount for all contracts of up to \$17.9 million.

Urban Forestry will also be presenting an ordinance to amend Title 11 Tree Code that will address technical and minor policy changes. Sister bureaus have been involved throughout the process; public hearings have been held and support letters received from both the Urban Forestry and Planning and Sustainability Commissions, and the City Attorney, City Auditors, and the Development Advisory Review Committee have reviewed the proposed amendments.



On July 27, we will request City Council authorize a two-year grant agreement with the Portland Parks Foundation to support their Small Grants Program in partnership with Portland Parks & Recreation in an aggregate amount not to exceed \$30,000 in both this and next fiscal year.

The Community Relations team is working diligently in outreach and engagement around the \$1.5M allocation to increase access to aquatic services in North Portland; wrap up their work with the Mill Park Project Advisory Committee who expressed overwhelming support for the final design; held a final community open house for the Berrydale Park Project and the first open house around the Errol Heights Park Project. They also kicked off the renaming of "A" Park and Wilson Pool on June 28<sup>th</sup>. Also, thank you Dr. Corbin for serving on the advisory committee. There will be a public call for names in July and August, deliberations by the committee in the fall, with a final recommendation expected by the end of 2022.

[portland.gov/parks/renaming](http://portland.gov/parks/renaming)

Recreation and Environmental Education summer programming has kicked off – this includes Recreation summer camps, Nature Day Camp, Youth Conservation Crew, Teen Nature Team, Fitness in the Park, Family 5K Runs, outdoor pools, Summer Free For All, and Lunch and Play. Despite challenges related to recruitment, all programs started on time this season. For Recreation, we've had to modify our program offerings and hours and prioritize open swim and swim instruction in outdoor pools and focus on lap swim in the indoor pools. To paint a picture - we've hired 340 of the desired 415 summer aquatics staff - that's a 20% decrease from last year. Despite this, the program is on track to offer swim lessons to 1,500 more registrants than the 5,500 originally estimated.

The Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland (HPPH) Listening & Learning team has completed a number of Wave II engagements and supportive data-related work about draft Mission, Vision, Values, Racial Equity Statement, and Outcome statements in June. In addition to the board, members of the Community Engagement and E&I teams have engaged the Parks Accessibility Advisory Committee, and community members at the Portland Pride Festival, Good in the Hood, Sunday Parkways, and a Black Swimming Event at Broughton Beach. Also, this month, Community Engagement will host two of the four planned Listening & Learning Open House Workshops at Parks sites - they will be at Dawson Park on July 16 and Mt Scott Park on July 30.

The Sustainable Future conversation is moving forward with the formation of a Ballot Initiative Task Force. The Task Force will include Parks Board representation - Casey (w/ Bonnie as his alternate) and Paul (w/ Mike as his alternate) and staff will also be sharing information and providing opportunity for input from the full Parks Board.

The Sustainable Future program is also advancing projects to ensure we meet voter commitments for the Parks Levy, one of which was to strengthen community partnerships. I'm excited to announce that on June 29, City Council authorized \$1.32M in grant awards to 21 recipients of the Community Partnership Program and Teen Collaborative Initiative Awards. The selections were made based on recommendations from PP&R staff and Subject Matter Experts.

In addition to the events that were included on the meeting agenda, I wanted to remind folks to check the website for the 42+ events being offered through Summer Free For All. Also, the Tree Inventory Project returns this summer to update our census of the over 218,000 street trees in Portland. The project will span the next 3 years, but volunteers are needed for the five community inventory events

this summer. No experience is necessary; training and tools provided. Any additional info is on the monthly report.

Bonnie asked what the numbers were regarding the waitlist for the swim programs, considering staff shortages. Maximo did not have them on hand and said that they will get back to the Board with that information. Adrienne commented whether there was a way to gather information on swim capability by age and other similar statistics. Director Long commented that those types of numbers are the types of measurements that Healthy Parks Healthy Portland will be using in the Actions & Results phase.

Dr. Corbin asked how Parks was preparing for climate change and heat waves, which ended up closing some services last year. Director Long replied that we have proactively opened our spray showers, water features, and splashpads earlier in the season and they will stay on for an hour earlier and an hour later for the entire summer.

Dr. Corbin then asked if there would be any accommodations for infrastructure in place for times where it was even too hot for lifeguards to operate. Todd replied that OSHA took a new look at the current rules for all employers in regard to heat. It's focused on heat index, rather than just temperature, which is now closely monitored by the city. We now send notices via both email and text that warn about upcoming high heat temperatures. The OSHA guidelines now have requirements for employers to provide for workers, such as having an air-conditioned place to cool down, extensions to breaktimes as the temperatures get higher, and access to fresh cool water. We've also added misting stations for the lifeguards on the pool decks and made some improvements to keep the pools cooler.

## **Working Group Reports**

### *Board Affairs*

Based on suggestions from the Board retreat, the BAWG is investigating the potential to add 1-2 more working groups to cover topics such as climate resiliency, environmental justice, ecosystem services, recreation, environmental programming, and habitat. He said that the discussion on the Board Mission will be saved for the retreat recap. Bonnie added that there was discussion with Adam about Recreation programming since that is his expertise and not a subject covered in the current working groups.

### *Land Use & Infrastructure*

David was absent, so Lauren provided a recap. LU&I was given a presentation regarding the I-5 bridge replacement for the Columbia River Crossing by Patrick Sweeney from PBOT. Both governors support the project and there will be collaboration with ODOT and the Washington Department of Transportation, as well as nine other agencies. A 5-7 year construction duration is expected. There was also talk about rate tolling that will help pay for the bridge. This presentation will go to Council tomorrow, July 13, and then present to an executive steering committee on the 21<sup>st</sup>. Currently, they are in the environmental assessment phase, which should be completed in 2023. More information can be found at [interstatebridge.org](http://interstatebridge.org).

There was also an overview on the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge Project with possible enhanced access to and from the bridge to the East Bank Esplanade. There is currently an elevator planned for ADA access, but the Assets & Development team is currently getting pricing for constructing a ramp.

Randy gave an overview on the Thompson Elk Fountain. The designs for different options are forthcoming and will include opportunities for public input for the design process.

#### *Financial Sustainability*

Mike reported the FY21-22 fiscal year ended on June 30 and though the books are not quite closed out yet, it appears that there is underspending in the budget of about \$20 million, a large portion of it due to hiring challenges and lower personnel expenses than what was budgeted.

The FY22-23 budget has been approved. Council added a note that allows Parks to carry over any underspending from last fiscal year to this fiscal year. This is in conjunction with the Levy, and the note requires that Parks work with the CBO and Controller to develop a report a shared resolution on how to deal with leftover budget resources for the remainder of the year.

Parks staff provided a draft of concepts for the FY23-24 budget for Director Long's guidance. The purpose was to inform Parks division managers on the budget priority so that they can submit their own proposals as informed by the guidance. It has been released internally and the Board should see it shortly. One significant change is that there will be more time allocated to focus on the link with Healthy Parks Healthy Portland.

Dr. Corbin asked about the vehicle budget and the types of vehicles purchase. Director Long replied that there was a priority for purchasing electric vehicles where possible. Mt. Tabor Yard will be installing electric chargers for the upcoming electric fleet.

Mike also gave an update that the Budget Advisory Committee and the FSWG will be working more closely together so that overlapping work does not get duplicated. The groups will not be combined, but some BAC meetings will be happening in lieu of FSWG meetings if the content is the same. This should be more efficient and streamlined.

#### *Community Engagement*

Erin reported that the CEWG is reviewing their charge, which has not been updated for some years. One of their main priorities is increasing board visibility and actions that could be taken to make sure the community knows about public comment opportunities. Also, this summer there are a lot of opportunities to connect with parks users via the summer events being offered by PP&R.

Dr. Corbin asked if future agendas could hold a definitive space for public comment at the beginning and end of the meetings, rather than have it combined with announcements and other items. Bonnie agreed and indicated that would be included on future agendas.

#### *Portland Parks Foundation*

PPF was able to award 13 grants in the amount of \$25,000, with a portion of the grants funded by the Parks Levy. PPF was able to financially assist groups like Friends of Gateway Green, Pacific Northwest Council of Water Protectors, Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center, Rosemary High School, and others.

Randy gave a reminder about Paseo happening in the upcoming weekend. He shared a presentation about the various events and activities being held.

### **Board Retreat Recap**

Bonnie provided a Board Retreat recap. She noted that during the retreat, the Board was able to give feedback on Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland's Mission Vision process. Using that information, the Board was able to discuss priorities and goals. The ideas shared at the Retreat will be discussed in the Board Affairs working group. They will bring a draft to the Board by September or October.

Casey reported that the suggestions about the Board's mission will be considered by the BAWG. The group hopes to have a proposal to the Board by the September or October Board meeting

Erin noted that there was a lot of great ideas, but that it would perhaps be best to spend a full board meeting on discussing priorities. There was not enough time during the retreat. Casey commented that was a fine idea, so long as we had a representative from the Commissioner's office present for these discussions. Bonnie agreed that the Board could make time in a future meeting.

### **Tree Planting Update**

The climate crisis, and the need for increased tree canopy in Portland, has been receiving quite a bit of attention in the media.

Local non-profit tree planting organization Friends of Trees (FOT) has also been connecting with media outlets about the expiration of their tree planting contract with the Bureau of Environmental Services and advocating for their program.

Jenn Cairo gave some background context. Parks' Urban Forestry Division and the Bureau of Environmental Services have been working together to streamline and make city tree planting more effective and efficient since our tree planting programs were overlapped. Part of the process included prioritizing tree planting for BIPOC communities as well as low-income and/or low-canopy areas of the city. One of the results is clarification of roles – in that, PP&R is the city's entity that establishes street trees in priority areas and that BES's tree planting is focused on private property. An intergovernmental agreement on roles and responsibilities, coordination, and funding between the bureaus for tree planting has been proposed, but no agreement yet exists.

In the news, the focus has been on BES and their decision not to extend their contract with Friends of Trees, which was one of their contractors. BES had extended the contract for a year, and it has now expired. Parks' Urban Forestry Division has a current planting and establishment contract with Friends of Trees, which is a separate contract from the one between FoT and BES. When new contracts are required, the division prepares requests for proposals. We are aiming to make those opportunities for RFPs available and accessible to all interested parties, especially those who historically have experienced barriers to lucrative city contracts. Friends of Trees and all other interested parties are welcome to apply. UF approaches trees similar to other infrastructure assets like waterways and roads, in terms of holistic care and identifying opportunities and threats from many angles. For example, recently the emerald ash borer has been spotted in Oregon, which will decimate ash trees and significantly affect our tree canopy. In addition to street trees, the Emerald Ash Borer was identified as a threat by UF years ago, which is why planting permits require a diverse range of species, to account for resiliency.

Erin wanted to voice her frustration about the situation and media coverage surrounding Friends of Trees. The contract was through BES, but since BES is no longer responsible for that tree planting

program, FoT would not be able to renew it with BES anyway. This contract was \$1 million, which was a third of FoT's budget, which is concerning, especially since PP&R just reported \$20 million in underspending. She believed that the work of a small community-based nonprofit like FoT cannot be easily replicated by the city in a short amount of time.

Ali voiced similar concerns. The RFP process hasn't started, but there's a desperate need for trees and already problems with staffing for Parks. Ali also asked if Parks is capable of doing what FoT was doing in the interim? And, what the lag time is, and what does that cost the community?

Adrienne commented that one of the difficulties is that the communication has not been clear, considering the time and work spent negotiating this agreement. FoT is well-loved and has worked closely with the BIPOC community, can we support them somehow in the interim?

Dr. Corbin asked about whether we are responding in the meantime to shading opportunities and planning our tree planting. Many trees in the city are also planted to stand alone, rather than within the ecosystems of other plants and greenery. There are also a lot of exposed green spaces in many parks, so there are shading tree opportunities. We should make sure that our parks can be used during these hot days and create cooling opportunities for folks visiting parks.

Director Long asked Tim Collier to help explain the media responses. Due to internet connection issues, Tim will send out a response to the questions and concerns after the meeting so the meeting could move forward.

Jenn also added that we have 51,000 volunteer hours a year and Urban Forestry's work surrounds these volunteering efforts, including tree planting. There are still planting contracts in place, and they are good for a few more years. UF just extended them. Friends of Trees opted not to extend, but the other two providers did extend. Nothing has stopped and, in fact, we are increasing our volume of planting. In the coming winter, the city planting program expects to plant around four thousand trees in priority areas, which is an increase over what has been done in the past and higher than what FoT was planting in their contract with BES. There is no gap in planting despite misconceptions, and we expect to plant more thanks to levy funding. All of that said, the media focus has been around street tree planting, and we are doing much more in parks on an ongoing basis.

Kenya asked a general question about how the benefits of trees on private property could be measured. For example, how are the climate benefits of a tree measure, or at what point does a growing tree provide benefits? Jenn replied that the US Forest Service has a software called iTree. Many of the softwares are free and online, and it is used extensively by UF.

Due to time, Director Long suggested that Jenn and others will respond to the questions and comments after the meeting.

### **OMSI Master Plan**

Erin Graham and Preston Greene gave a presentation on OMSI's plan for an innovative neighborhood in the SE waterfront that would be involved with the indigenous and native community and have accessible housing. (attached)

Randy asked if there is an estimate on SDC (System Development Charges) generated from this project. Erin affirmed that yes, there is an estimate, both for Parks and PBOT.

Adam asked if the building of the park was contingent on the building of the larger development. He also asked who would be benefitting from this new development, and what are the criteria for equitably dispersing benefit to the partners, and making sure revenue is ending up in the hands of communities that are being represented in the park and the community? Erin replied that the park is not necessarily contingent on building out the district. OMSI received \$5 million from the State of Oregon to begin constructing New Water Avenue and some of those related roadways. They also expect to mount a campaign to fundraise for the development. This is also an opportunity to create an endowment that would increase access to science education for all.

Russell Ratto, a community member, asked if the train museum was proposed for removal. Erin replied that the Oregon Rail Heritage Museum will stay and OMSI is partnered with ORHM in this project.

Dr. Corbin asked if they knew the acreage of green space that will be created, including green roofs. She also mentioned that she would like to see that there would be public access to the green roofs. Erin said she will get back with the exact numbers and Preston replied that the plan is still in the design phase, so the number of green roofs is still conceptual. Erin said that public access is absolutely included in the existing plan.

Nova asked about the housing development prioritizing children and families and asked what the conversation has been regarding active play. Erin replied that there is a goal for active play, but they are not that far in the plan just yet. She also mentioned that yes, family housing was a priority, especially family housing for students, which is a real need.

Sabrina asked that since she is from the Rosewood Initiative in far East Portland, she wanted to know if there were considerations or partnerships for those who are further away to access OMSI and associated activities. Erin said that there are actually a few prototypes in the works. This includes providing educators in specific school districts, and an OMSI activity bus that goes out as far as Hillsboro school district to Eastern Oregon (e.g. Pendleton, La Grande). They also have remote facilities in John Day and Newport.

Ali asked in the chat whether the housing would make considerations for people with disabilities. Erin said they are not that far yet, but they are working with a group in Bend to make sure accessibility is on the forefront, including mobility, cognitive, or low sight considerations. These are already being made with their camps.

### **Public Comment**

There was no public comment during this time.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Bonnie adjourned the meeting at 7:15pm.