

## Parks Board Meeting Minutes

### Meeting information

Tuesday, July 11, 2023

5:00-7:00pm

Charles Jordan Community Center and Zoom Virtual Meeting

### Board members present:

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin (Board Co-Chair), Elana Pirtle-Guiney (Board Co-Chair), David Staczek, Suenn Ho, Randy Gragg (ex-officio), Bonnie Gee Yosick, Ali Berman, Crys O'Grady, Casey Mills, Erin Zollenkopf, Matt Shipkey, Patti Miles, Jonathan Beckhart, Sabrina Wilson

### Board Members absent:

Adam Lewis, Adrienne Feldstein

### City staff present:

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director), Joey Furuto (Chief Coordinator), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Lauren McGuire (Assets & Development Division Manager), Jenn Cairo (City Forester), Claudio Campuzano (Finance, Property, and Technology Manager), Margaret Evans (Workforce Development Manager), Dan Ryan (City Commissioner)

### Others present:

Matthew Schick, Patti Miles, Jonathan Beckhart, Matt Shipkey

Meeting called to order at 5:02pm with roll call following.

## Agenda Items

### Public Comment

Matthew Schick submitted public comment via email due to technical audio problems at the beginning of the meeting. It was a follow up to the previous month's comment regarding PP&R permitted drone usage in non-parks property.

Melinda Miniell gave public comment as the owner of a nonprofit called A+ Lunch Co. whose mission is to fight hunger. She was interested in the procurement process of becoming a vendor for food programs to keep a hunger free Oregon. She is a vendor for the state of Oregon, but would like to be one for the city of Portland.

### Approve June Minutes

Suenn Ho (Board Member) had one correction regarding a note about Albina Vision Trust working with Portland Public Schools to find a new location for Harriet Tubman School. This was incorrect, Albina Vision Trust is working with PPS to develop the PPS headquarters.

Dr. Corbin (Board Co-Chair) had one correction on page 4. In the last paragraph, there should be a change to read "built next to park areas."



Crys O'Grady (Board Member) moved to approve the minutes with the amendments, with Ali Berman (Board Member) seconding. All voted in approval and the motion was carried.

## Director's Report

Mayor Wheeler and Commissioner Dan Ryan introduced a proclamation to **rename O'Bryant Square to Darcelle XV Plaza**. Darcelle XV Plaza honors the remarkable legacy of the legendary drag performer and LGBTQ+ icon, Walter Cole, known by the stage name Darcelle XV. According to the Guinness World Records, Darcelle held the honor of being the oldest living drag queen performer. The renaming proclamation for Darcelle XV Plaza will take place on July 13, 2023 at 2:00pm in Council Chambers. Members of the public are cordially invited to attend this historic occasion and join in the celebration.

Last month, there was discussion on how best to activate the city's downtown park spaces. Last week, Clean and Safe, with whom PP&R has an agreement to manage Director's Park, held an event to welcome folks back to the park and introduce the new partnership. Reminder that while PP&R will continue to provide the same level of service in terms of park care and security, this partner will offer programs and events, activate the kiosk and provide enhanced care as needed.

There is an update on some components of the City Charter Transition work. The programmatic assessments, city organization, and future improvements have been led by CAO Michael Jordan, the OMF Transition Team and the Executive Leadership Team (ELT), which is made up of directors of City bureaus and offices. The Board will receive an email on the verbal report this week.

Programmatic assessments are well underway. Service area assessment teams have issued Phase I reports which reflect the conversations the ELT and Council offices have had so far. The reports are not decisions or recommendations, but a step in this collaborative and iterative process.

Other programmatic assessments, such as the Natural Resource Service Delivery Programmatic Assessment, which were also directed by City Council through [Resolution 36709](#), are occurring concurrent to the aforementioned efforts.

Bureau Directors and subject matter practitioners from Portland Parks & Recreation, and the Bureaus of Environmental Services (BES), Water, Transportation (PBOT), and Planning & Sustainability (BPS) reconvened on June 26 to develop a preliminary vision for a coordinated natural resource delivery model for the city of Portland.

Together with facilitators from Catalysis, the group reviewed the asset inventory analysis completed and presented by ECONorthwest. This inventory assessment included a review of nearly 140 different planning and budget documents, reports, and agreements documents for all work units providing natural resource services.

ECONorthwest also provided a best practices framework to consider as the bureaus strive to improve natural resource services delivery, and offered five opportunities for improved natural resource service delivery:

1. Keep the current organizational structure(s), while working to increase equity, consistent with City of Portland Core Values.
2. Consolidate equitable delivery of natural areas services into one organizational unit



3. Consolidate equitable delivery of green stormwater infrastructure into one organizational unit.
4. Consolidate equitable delivery of urban tree canopy services into one organizational unit.
5. Create a Natural Resources organizational unit., which could include some of the following: Access to nature, environmental education, and stewardship; climate resilience; environmental planning; fish and wildlife; green stormwater infrastructure; natural areas, remediation; urban tree canopy; and vegetation.

The ECONorthwest draft report, including the proposed opportunities, is being further considered by the group. Next steps will include incorporating the group's feedback into the draft report and presenting the report to a broader audience including leadership and stakeholders from PP&R, BES, and Commissioner's Offices.

The information and feedback received through these steps will be integrated with opportunities identified in the ECONorthwest report into a draft work plan report. The draft work plan report will describe the progress to date and lay out steps needed in order to refine and implement the opportunities that have been selected as preferred alternative(s). A draft of the work plan report is expected in August, which will then be refined and submitted to the Chief Administrative Officer (CAO) in the fall.

Erin Zollenkopf (Board Member) asked more about Clean and Safe and their work at Director Park, specifically as an entity of the Portland Business Alliance. Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director) answered that Director Park had a kiosk space that had been vacant since the pandemic. Clean and Safe was one of the proposers to activate the park as part of a pilot program. Currently there's an artist in resident there using Legos. The bureau expects that downtown retailers will be engaged to create "pop-up" opportunities at the space. This is being privately funded, not publicly funded by PP&R. Land Stewardship will still do maintenance and the park rangers will still patrol the park as part of their regular operations.

## Working Group Reports (Q&A only)

### *Board Affairs*

There was no meeting, but the working group (WG) worked over email to make revisions to the purpose statement.

### *Land Use & Infrastructure*

David requested adding two items to the tracking list - Broadway Corridor and North Park Blocks.

### *Financial Sustainability*

There was no meeting this past month.

### *Community Engagement*

There was no meeting this past month.

## Portland Parks Foundation

PPF is looking at 7 possible new locations for a new playground campaign. Additional promotional content is on the website.



Paseo planning is still underway. This year will have three consecutive Sundays rather than three days in a row within one weekend. There will be a stronger promotion in family friendly content as well as interactive content. Last year, the event handed each day to an individual curator from our steering committee. Portland's Insectarium (first Portland insect museum) will be there. There will also be community muralists and participatory sound experiences, including Portland's "youngest professional DJ". The last Sunday will be a land-back themed event with a focus on indigenous content. The event will be centered on South Park Blocks again.

### Continued Discussion of Working Groups

Dr. Corbin (Board Co - Chair) continued the previous month's discussion on working groups (WG), first starting with the topic of Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Justice, and Belonging. The Board determined expectations of their duties to help understand how the Board could be more accessible to the public. Crys added that the Board needs to highlight data from the Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland (HPPH) report to use the data and information to cultivate a sense of belonging. Suenn Ho (Board Member) gave comment about how in her short time, she has learned about the vast work of the bureau. She would like to see a way to bridge the work of the Board and the Bureau.

The second topic was about how to increase public engagement with the community. Dr. Corbin commented on how much she would like to see the Board out and about in public spaces. Elana Pirtle-Guiney (Board Co-Chair) suggested that being out at PP&R events could make more community members comfortable to submit public comment. Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Member) suggested educating younger folks, such as TeenForce. There could be a youth advisory board that ancillary and reports to the PP&R Board. This could also help getting them involved in future leadership opportunities. Ali suggested recording public comments in the moment when speaking with community members as it could be intimidating to give public comment in front of the full Board. Director Long also gave a reminder that there will be changes to engage with through Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland. There is also a future survey that will be conducted in collaboration with Portland State University.

The third topic was on advocacy. Elana made a comment about thinking more creatively about what advocacy is, for example, writing letters to organizations, since the recent letter regarding the I-5 Freeway project was effective.

Dr. Corbin and Elana then presented on their outline of the future working groups. This now includes a new working group around recreation and programming. There is also now a new format to the Board Affairs Working Group – the members of the WG will now consist of chairs (or co-chairs) of the other WGs. This set up should help keep all WGs informed of each other's work and help them decide on projects, such as ad hoc committees, etc. This group can also help keep the Board in alignment with the HPPH.

### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### Meeting Adjourned

Corbin adjourned this meeting at 6:59pm.

