

**Saturday, June 4, 2022**

9:00am - 5:00 pm

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

**Members Present**

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Alejandro Orizola, Erin Zollenkopf, Dr. C.N.E Corbin, Mike Elliott, Adrienne Feldstein, David Staczek, Ali Berman, Paddy Tillett

**Members Absent**

Sabrina Wilson, Paul Agrimis, Casey Mills, Nova Newcomer, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, Randy Gragg (Ex Officio)

**City Staff Present**

Adena Long, Serin Bussell, Michelle Tran, Todd Lofgren, Maximo Behrens, Tonya Booker, Margaret Evans, Stephan Herrera

**Others Present**

Crys O'Grady

**Public Comment**

No public comment at this time.

**Call to Order/Social Time**

Bonnie called the meeting to order at 9:03am.

**Announcements:**

No announcements at this time.

**Approve May Minutes**

There were no changes to the May minutes. Paddy moved to approve the minutes, Mike seconded. All voted in approval. Motion passed.

**Working Group Reports**

*Nominating Committee*

Erin reported that the Nominating Committee has selected two candidates for recommendation to the Board – Adam Lewis and Crys O'Grady. Ali moved to submit both candidates for Council appointment. Adrienne seconded. All voted in approval. Motion passed.

*Board Affairs*

Ali reported that there will be more in-depth discussion during the breakout groups, but there will be a process laid out on how the Board will approach their Mission and Vision. If time was available, there would also be discussion on amending the bylaws regarding work outside of Board's scope, e.g. fundraising for ad hoc projects.

*Community Engagement*

Due to Oregon Public Meeting Laws that went into effect in May 2022, hybrid meetings are now required. Due to technology capabilities at various Park sites, the only location immediately available for simultaneous in-person and online Board meetings is the Portland Building. Parks' IT team is working on getting the appropriate A/V technology set up for other proposed meeting locations. Per the vote in May 2022, the monthly Board meeting time will be 5-7pm going forward.

### *Financial Sustainability*

Parks has been working with Commissioner Rubio's office to develop a funding plan for when the Levy expires. PP&R will involve the Financial Stability working group and the rest of the Board for input.

Parks now has the schedule and funding requirements for the North Portland Aquatic Center. There is a \$25 million funding gap for the facility, and the full funding plan is expected to be finalized by next spring in order to secure lottery funding from the state. It is projected to take 5-7 years to complete the construction of the Center, with approximately 18-24 months each for programming and design, then land use approvals, then building permitting, and then finally construction.

With regards to PP&R's Sustainable Future, Todd added that there are many funding options to reevaluate, since the last Task Force was created in 2019, which proposed the Levy. The last Task Force was composed of individuals from various stakeholder groups and the goal was to get feedback that represented multiple interests (e.g., high-income vs low-income stakeholders, business community, etc.). The schedule for the Sustainable Future Task Force will be a series of three meetings, from July-Sept. If there is interest from the Council for a Fall Work Session, we anticipate that it would include the public for input. The Ballot Initiative Task Force has been approved by Commissioner Rubio and we will be reaching out to invite participants soon.

### *Land Use & Infrastructure*

In reviewing the purpose of the LU&I working group, the Board found itself reactive to projects that would come up rather than proactively tracking them. They aim to more closely keep track of upcoming projects and their progress. For example, North Portland Aquatic Center is a significant ongoing project, as well as the future work to be done at O'Bryant Square. Other locations being looked at include the South Park Blocks, which has a lot of engagement from downtown neighborhood associations, and the Rose City Playground project. There is discussion on how the Board can intervene sensitively without dampening people's enthusiasm. Director Long reminded everyone that the Bureau monthly report always has an extensive list of capital projects in progress.

### *Sustainable Future Task Force*

Todd posted a link to the Sustainable Future website (<https://www.portland.gov/parks/news/2019/11/21/portland-parks-recreation-sustainable-future-city-council-work-session>), which includes the 2019 Council work session video. Todd indicated that the 2019 Work Session included a thoughtful discussion about the funding options for Parks. Sarah Huggins and many others have been doing a lot of research looking into best practices that Council has not yet had the benefit of seeing. For example, some tax options are more regressive than others, but at the moment all options are on the table, as PP&R is in the feedback stage, not recommendation stage. The Parks Board, however, will be asked to give recommendations on how we proceed when we get to that point. In terms of timeline, the earliest Council Work Session

would likely be in the Fall. PP&R is being thoughtful and taking our time to analyze all options and receive feedback, so that there isn't a sprint to get in the right direction. Todd recommended that during the September or October Board meeting, Parks could bring back a report to the Board so members would have all the information that was collected over the summer.

Erin asked if the Task Force would include the same constituents that were involved last time and whether the Board would be informed of who the members of the group are. Todd replied that they are still recruiting but everyone will be informed of who is on the Task Force. The team was specifically looking at those who were close to the Parks system and willing to volunteer (since this is unpaid). Other possibilities included those in private business or involved in the local economy. Director Long recommended that Board members watch the 2019 Work Session to give everyone more context for the upcoming Task Force conversation.

Ali asked about the list of deferred maintenance items, noting that transparency about them could inspire community partners to mobilize on Parks' behalf. This is what Sustainable Future is trying to address. However, if we keep trying to be positive and aspirational, without being transparent about the reality of the deferred maintenance need, Ali was concerned that having Parks assets in disrepair could actually erode the trust that the community has with Parks on whether we solve problems or not. Dr. Corbin supported the idea of partnering with community partners for advocacy around Sustainable Future funding.

At 9:51am, Bonnie called for a break before the Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland session with Melissa and Kathryn. The Board reviewed several proposals for PP&R's Mission, Vision, and Values and provided feedback. PP&R's Community Engagement Manager, Melissa Arnold, will be summarizing the discussion and will follow up with the Parks Board separately via email with materials and next steps for the Board. This session was followed by a break for lunch.

At 1:02pm the Board reconvened for Mission, Vision, Ideation discussion. Ali gave an overview of the discussion topic. Originally conceived in 1999, the current Mission and Vision was intended to last for 20 years. Since it has now expired, the Parks Board is tasked to create their new Mission and Vision for the future. It will align with Parks' Vision, which is still in development through Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland work. The overall goal was 1) increasing our advocacy and education for improving Parks, and 2) increasing engagement with the community. This session was followed by a short break.

During the first Breakout session, small groups were formed to review the previous Mission statement to determine what parts needed to be updated. Some of the common points included making sure that the public knows what the Board can and can't do so that if they come to the Board they are aware of how their time is used. There were also a few suggestions to operationalize and systemize Board values. It was also noted that staying high level in the next mission would be more timeless and would likely not need revising 20 years from now.

At 2:45pm the Board reconvened for a discussion on Board Priorities. Erin introduced the session, which was followed by the second breakout room discussion. The premise was: Instead of having the Board be reactionary, would like to set specific priority areas that the working groups can work around. Priority can come from personal experiences and passions. What are some areas that we

can work on and make a difference in (especially with our role as advisory and advocates)? During the report out, some of the focused topics included aligning board priorities with Parks staff, equalizing the involvement of staff amongst working groups, creating a new working group for Recreation and similar programs, and looking for gaps that the board could fill. Detailed breakout session notes will be emailed to the Board following retreat. They are included below for reference.



Breakout Session 1  
Notes.docx



Breakout Session 2  
Notes.docx

This session was followed by brief closing comments and a reflection on the activities for the day. There was no public comment.

### **Meeting Adjourned**

Bonnie adjourned the meeting at 4:54pm.