

Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting information

Friday, June 23, 2023

9:00am-4:30pm

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

Board members present:

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, David Staczek, Suenn Ho, Paul Agrimis, Randy Gragg (ex-officio), Bonnie Gee Yosick, Ali Berman, Crys O'Grady, Adam Lewis, Casey Mills, Erin Zollenkopf

Board Members absent:

Sabrina Wilson

City staff present:

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

Others present:

Matthew Schick, Patti Miles, Jonathan Beckhart, Matt Shipkey

Meeting called to order at 5:02pm.

Agenda Items

Public Comment

Matthew Schick gave a public comment regarding permitting and the usage of public drones in the commercial film industry. On Saturday May 27 at 8am, a large drone appeared over their backyard, and he thought it was a police drone. It landed in Ladd's circle and a film crew showed a permit from PP&R. They were planning on landing in the park area but mostly filmed in the residential areas. There was no public communication on how long that they were filming, and which residential areas would be filmed.

He had asked follow up questions on site plans and filed a public records request on the permit details. He asked for a more detailed flight plan and permit specificity, as well as a notification to residents if the film crews were going to leave the parks area during filming.

Approve May Minutes

Suenn Ho (Board Member) noted there was a typo on the date for the opening ceremony for the Columbia Children's Museum (June 11 instead of July 11). Casey Mills (Board Member) moved to approve the minutes, and Elana Pirtle-Guiney (Board Member) seconded. All voted in approval with Bonnie abstaining due to previous absence.



Director's Report

Commissioner Ryan had a press release announcing Northgate Park as the selected park for North Portland Aquatic Center.

Summer programming and operations are ramping up - outdoor pools have opened for the season. In addition to Summer Free For All programming (SFFA), which kicks off next week, PP&R plays host to hundreds of permitted events throughout the City.

PP&R has focused efforts to proactively activate, manage, and attract new events into the downtown core. Specifically, the permitting team has reached out to large production vendors and third parties to help support or manage the multitudes of smaller events that received small grants this year, incentivizing permitting and rate structures through new programs and fee waivers, releasing open Request for Interest (RFI) solicitations for event company(s) and partner activations at various sites, and having more Parks staff available for site visits pre and post events.

Through strengthening partnerships and soliciting third party contracts to activate more downtown sites such as Waterfront Park, O'Bryant Square, Director Park, Eastbank Esplanade, the bureau anticipates doubling the number of permitted events downtown this summer.

The Healthy Parks Healthy Portland (HPHP) Report was finalized and is available on the PP&R website. The team is working on plans for how to use its Actions & Results framework each year to lead conversations about goal setting, strategy, and budget decisions. This is meant to be an ongoing cycle of work each year.

Listening and Learning Wave III will be activated this summer and will be focused on Recreation. The Community Engagement team has drafted survey questions and is preparing the schedule of Summer 2023 tabling and community organization sponsored sessions. Staff has reached out to the Community Engagement Working Group (CEWG) to invite board members to participate as volunteers.

In May, PP&R conducted group interviews for new Parks Levy Oversight Committee (PLOC) members. New members have been identified and will join the PLOC starting July 1, 2023. Thank you to Casey Mills, who will serve in a liaison role on behalf of the PP&R Board.

The bureau is reviewing and updating the 2004 Cost Recovery Policy. The final draft of the policy was reviewed and accepted by the Commissioner. Director Long will be formally adopting the policy and the policy will be filed with the City Auditor Office.

Next steps will be the development of Standard Operating Procedure process and template for cost recovery practices; this work will be managed by Division leads and the bureau's Chief Policy Analyst.

Crys O'Grady (Board Member) wanted to commend PP&R for their park ranger presence at Delta Park Powwow. She wanted to know more about how PP&R will manage the other events happening next year besides the Powwow (e.g. softball tournament, soccer games). Director Long replied that this is actually going to be the last year the softball tournament is going to be held and even less soccer games permitted in that weekend. The increased park ranger presence was in response to past incidents of harassment directed towards the Native community from sports games attendees.



Suenn asked why the final decision for NPAC was Northgate Park, rather than University Park, which was the clear favorite. Director Long commented that the Commissioner was moved by the diverse community in Northgate as well as the lack of city amenities in that area. There were also more schoolchildren that would be served in that area.

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin (Board Member) asked what was being done for those schoolchildren and ensure that they would be able to stay in those areas, i.e. the start of gentrification. Director Long replied that there was collaborative work with the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability. Suenn added a comment that she hoped that the construction would be mindful of small businesses and how they would be disrupted. Ali Berman (Board Member) followed up and said that when Cornell tunnel was closed, there was no notice or signage to help navigate. Lauren replied that there is an equity contract in place for contractors to have to give notice. There is also work specifically on local communities and businesses to stay in the neighborhood. This may become a future Board presentation.

Ali Berman asked about the ADA annual report – Director Long clarified it was going to be citywide. Lauren McGuire replied that she will send the report out to the Board. Director Long offered the possibility of having it be a board presentation.

Working Group Reports (Q&A only)

Board Affairs

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

Land Use & Infrastructure

David did not have a report but commented that there will be a date adjustment so it will be easier to have all information to the Board in a timely manner.

Casey asked why the North Park Blocks project is no longer on the list to be watched. Lauren replied that they are combining on the Broadway Corridor and North Park Blocks into one project.

Adam Lewis (Board Member) asked about O'Bryant Square, particularly for Randy Gragg (ex-officio) from Portland Parks Foundation (PPF) regarding an update on funding and next steps. Randy replied that the Property team in PP&R helped move things forward. Deadline for submissions on proposals for the space is June 28. Lauren commented that there will be 3 potential submitters. If not, Assets & Development is ready to work with Portland State University and PPF.

LU&I has drafted a letter to ODOT regarding the I-5 project and has asked for a vote for the Parks Board to support this letter.

Lauren commented that there is work with Albina Vision and IFCC. She and Brett regularly attend meetings on what happens to Albina Vision.

The letter that was sent out in the board packet had a gap of information, so this will be pushed to July's meeting. There was going to be additions to add green infrastructure when available, that there would be a social justice portion, as well as alignment with Albina Vision Trust. David Staczek (Board Member), Paul Agrimis, Dr. Corbin, and Lauren will collaborate to create the language.



Paul updated the letter during the meeting and the entire Board spent time reading the letter. There was discussion to have a conversation with Albina Vision Trust on this letter to have them review. Casey made a motion that if Albina Vision Trust did not provide changes to the letter after review, that the Board Chair has permission to submit the letter as is with the discussed edits. Bonnie seconded. All voted in approval.

Financial Sustainability

There were no questions.

Community Engagement

There were no questions.

Parks Levy Oversight Committee

Paul did not have a report but gave an overview of PLOC for the new members. With Paul leaving, Casey Mills will be stepping in as liaison for the Board.

Portland Parks Foundation

Randy reported that they have started planning for the annual Paseo Festival. Rather than have a full weekend, they will actually have three consecutive Sundays. PPF gave out second annual Joey Pope Award and reached their fundraising goal of \$500,000+. One of the awards went to Black Futures Farm.

On Saturday June 17, there was a celebration for the Rose City Playground. They are going to select the next playground (maybe more than one).

Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Member) asked regarding the RFI (Request for Interest) on O'Bryant Square. What are the plans to respond to these submissions? Director Long and Deputy Director Lofgren answered that this was more to solicit ideas for activation to see what the community was interested in. It's a nontraditional approach to let the private sector provide their ideas. Dr. Corbin commented that it was a good idea to use this as a flex space and that it could be a good approach for other park spaces.

Healthy Parks Healthy Portland Report Discussion

Todd gave an overview of HPHP to have more follow up on future events that Parks Board could be more involved. One of the main events coming up is a community survey that is in collaboration with PSU. Todd asked if Parks Board Members could come to these events to help facilitate with PP&R staff.

Dr. Corbin asked if there was going to be tracking of projections of the incoming multifamily homes being built next to park areas. There is data that has said that those with single family homes and backyards use PP&R resources very differently than those who are in multifamily.

Elana asked if there are metrics on the density of parks usage – even if parks are within a half mile, the usage of assets could mean less space available and quicker deterioration of assets. Bonnie also followed up with how things like garden plots have a 2,000 people waiting list, which shows that there are those who aren't being served.



Adam asked about access to recreation activities, specifically regarding reservations in fields/spaces and what's accessible to community. Another example is skate parks – those are not often reserved so how is usage measured?

Ali made a comment about the priorities of wildlife in parks. Todd answered that it's a great topic, though the bureau would like to see how the board would like to approach that work. Wildlife does not currently belong in any particular working group area, so there would need to be a discussion on competing priorities.

Board Affairs - Intro to Board Duties and New Language

In 1999, Park Vision 2020 was developed and led into development of the Parks Board. Now that 2020 has passed, the BAWG has been working on solidifying language on its new purpose. The BAWG is proposing a new purpose statement that would need a vote to bring this to Council to amend the Parks Board. Casey moved, Crys seconded. All voted in approval.

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

Meeting Adjourned

Corbin adjourned this meeting at 11:35pm.



Board Retreat Discussion and Visioning

Board members reviewed a handout that Corbin formed. There was a discussion on timeframes of responses amongst the Board. They agreed on expectations that responses would be within 3 days, with no expectation to respond during the weekend and after hours. There was also discussion on how to best utilize the shared folder that the Parks Board had access to. Capacity-wise, they agreed that 6-10 hours was agreed upon for the amount of time spent on Board work, including board and working group meetings. For events, there was agreement to attend at least 2-3 Parks Board events.

Corbin also introduced a sign-up spreadsheet on events for Parks Board members to attend.

Have a conversation with Comms team on a bigger name tag/lanyard for identification.

Questions being asked for discussion:

What are your hopes and dreams for PP&R, community and Board?

What does the future of parks look like? What does a 21st century park look like?

What does leading with diversity, equity, inclusion, justice and belonging mean and look like at Board meeting and/or within the work of the Board?

At what level should the Board operate?

What should be the top 3 priorities for the Board?

Group 1:

1. Priority of increasing public engagement with the Board
2. Have a space to have holistic conversations (whether at working group or Board level)
3. Advocacy
4. Leverage Board Member connections outside of the Board

Group 2:

1. Diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging
2. Consider how the board will be integrated into new city structure
3. Bring community into Board process
 - Sustainable Funding
 - Activity/recreation goals tied to outcomes

Final list:

1. Diversity, equity, inclusion, justice, and belonging
 - a. Ensure entire board is on the same level within DEI journey
2. Increase opportunity for public engagement, internally and externally.
- 3.

