

Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting information

March 11, 2024

5-7pm

Portland Building Room 202 and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Board members present:

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin, Ali Berman, Suenn Ho, Sabrina Wilson, Casey Mills, Allison Snopek, David Staczek, Crys O'Grady, Matthew Shipkey, Bill Van Bang, Adrienne Feldstein, Erin Zollenkopf, Jessica Green (ex-officio)

Board members absent:

Patti Miles

City staff present:

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Todd Lofgren (VCSS Deputy Director), Joey Furuto (Chief Coordinator), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Jenn Cairo (City Forester and Urban Forestry Division Manager), Claudio Campuzano (VCSS Finance, Property and Technology Manager), Tonya Booker (Land Stewardship Division Manager), Lauren McGuire (Assets & Development Division Manager), Brian Landoe (Urban Forestry Strategy and Planning Manager), Belinda Judelman (Planning and Policy Analyst)

Others present:

Anika Garman, Michael Hernandez, Kevin Xu, Jillian River

Meeting called to order at 5:00pm with roll call following.

Agenda Items

Public Comment

Michael Hernandez returned for public comment to advocate for Portland Bike Polo, a 501c3 nonprofit. They are in the early stages of starting active fundraising to resurface and/or improve courts. He would like to build a relationship with PP&R to learn the process of how to move that forward.

Anika Garman also returned for public comment to support Michael's comments about starting a partnership with PP&R.

Kevin Xu submitted public comment to advocate for Portland Bike Polo, having recently moved to Portland in order to play bike polo. Portland Bike Polo has a strong presence internationally.

Jillian River submitted public comment to advocate for Portland Bike Polo. They are president of Portland Bike Polo and also moved to Portland in order to play. The organization has been playing in the court in Alberta Park since 2005. The club is hoping to expand the court and have amenities like light installations.



General Announcements

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin (Board Chair) noted that the PP&R Board Annual Report was submitted to City Council. She is hoping to start a relationship with the Councilors directly.

Approve February Meeting Minutes

Matt Shipkey (Board Member) gave a correction to note that he was present at the February meeting. Matt moved to approve the minutes, with Suenn Ho (Board Member) seconding. All voted in approval, with Sabrina Wilson (Board Member) and Bill Van Bang (Board Member) abstaining due to absence, and the motion passed.

Director's Report

PP&R's Metro 2040 Planning and Development Grant for \$750K to fund a national design competition that would develop a new vision for the Tom McCall Waterfront Park Bowl was recommended by the Grants Screening Committee and endorsed by the Metro Chief Operating Officer on March 3. The proposal will be considered for funding by Metro Council on March 20. Human Access Project and Portland Waterfront Pavilion are community partners, and the application includes letters of support from the Portland Art Museum, Prosper Portland, and the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability.

PP&R was selected to receive a nearly \$200,000 grant from ODOT's Innovative Mobility Program to implement a Forest Park / Washington Park community connector shuttle. The public list of other selected proposals is [here](#). The grant was written by and the project will be managed by Liv Brumfield, Renew Forest Park Coordinator.

A City of Portland Hearing Officer approved PGE Harborton Reliability project plan. The public, including neighborhood associations and non-profit organizations can appeal - deadline is 3/21 at 4:30pm. If there is an appeal, a Council Hearing will be scheduled. Acknowledge Parks Board and staff focus on the topic.

During the week of February 24 in advance of the City Administrator's Preliminary Budget release, Division Managers held discussions with impacted staff. Those budget recommendations were released publicly on February 28. Due to the timing of the regularly scheduled FSWG meeting, the group reconvened to review the City Administrator's preliminary budget - report included in packet and assume discussion during working group report out.

The City still has a big gap to close, and the City Administrator has indicated that additional reductions will be needed. This draft budget is a starting point for working with the Mayor and Council on what will eventually become the Adopted Budget. Along the way, there will be listening sessions in the four council districts to get input from community as well as work sessions at City Council to discuss the challenges and approaches to gap-closing. This will lead up to the Mayor's Proposed Budget, currently scheduled to be released on May 1. Between that point and June 11, City Council will amend and adopt a balanced budget. Internally, we are holding All Employee gatherings tomorrow and Thursday, where we will go over the preliminary budget. Budget Listening Sessions by district in March and April followed by multiple City Council Work Sessions dedicated to Budget

Matt asked about next steps regarding PGE Harborton. Director Long said the biggest concern was that if an appeal was filed, how soon Council would be able to hold a hearing since PGE



was hoping to start work by end of March. Ali Berman (Vice Chair) suggested organizing a Harborton ad hoc meeting to determine how the Board can contribute as soon as possible.

Dr. Corbin asked about programs in PP&R that are impacted by federal funding. The following are federal grants that are tied to PP&R:

| Grant | Grantor | Funding Type | Program | Award Amount |
|---|--------------------------------|---|-------------------------|---------------------|
| Environmental Education Programs; expires 8/2025 | U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service | Federal | Environmental Education | \$ 107,000 |
| Charles Jordan Community Center HVAC System; expires 7/2026 | USDOE | Federal | Capital Projects | \$ 602,650 |
| After School Meal Program; renewable | OR DEPT OF EDUCATION | State managed, Federally Funded (USDA CACFP) | Recreation | Variable |
| ODDS Employment Alternatives; renewable | ODHS | State managed, partial Federal funding (Medicaid) | Recreation | Variable |
| Applications / Upcoming | | | | |
| Portland Parks Light Pole Safety Project - FY24 Grant; <i>in negotiations</i> | HUD | Federal | Capital Projects | \$ 500,000 |
| Friends of Trees <i>Subaward</i> ; expires 5/2029 | Friends of Trees | Local managed, Federally funded (Inflation Reduction Act) | Urban Forestry | \$ 998,316 |

Crys O'Grady (Board Member) asked about whether there was citywide impact on federal funding and what the impact would be on the general fund allocations? She was concerned about the city having to move general fund allocations around to cover gaps, which could further impact the bureau.

Adrienne Feldstein (Board Member) asked about whether PP&R would respond to the series of Willamette Week articles about Urban Forestry that were published last week. Director Long replied that at the moment, PP&R will correct any relevant factual inaccuracies but will otherwise only respond if prompted.

Dr. Corbin asked about Charles Jordan Community Center being used as a shelter during the snow in February and how that went. Maximo replied that programs disrupted include their Teen Force programming, their preschool programming, all drop-in activity, and Meals on Wheels.



Corbin asked for quantitative details in order to continue to advocate for community centers during weather events.

Dr. Corbin brought to the Board whether to advocate for the city to reaffirm the Paris Agreements despite the federal administration. Director Long replied that they can reach out to the Chief Sustainability Officer (CSO) to see if there is interest. Dr. Corbin sought a motion to seek out the opportunity to speak to Council and the Mayor about reaffirming the Paris Agreements and getting support from PP&R staff to do so. Allison Snopek (Board Member) seconded the motion. Casey Mills (Board Member) made a comment that the letter should include the effect that climate change has on parks and parks systems. Erin Zollenkopf (Board Member) and Ali shared some reservations due to this being symbolic rather than seeing how it affects PP&R and City policy. Director Long added that she has reached out to the CSO to see her interest. Todd also shared the City's climate emergency workplan. As a result of the discussion, the vote will be tabled for the next meeting.

Working Group Reports (Q&A only)

Board Affairs

There were no questions.

Land Use & Infrastructure

There were no questions.

Financial Sustainability

Casey asked that Board Members read both reports sent by FSWG. There is a \$23 million cut currently, but it could get a lot worse due to the proposal assuming that the Levy will be renewed at the requested rate. He asked that Members stay vigilant of the budget process and participate in public meetings with our City Council such as the public listening sessions.

Community Engagement

There were no questions.

Nominating Committee

Michelle submitted the request for the online listing for Board Members to get posted mid-March. Once posted, emails will be sent out to Members to be able to promote.

Portland Parks Foundation

Jessica reaffirmed Casey's statements about continuous advocacy for PP&R and getting external stakeholders to make their voices heard to City Council regarding the budget. Portland Parks Foundation and Intertwine Alliance are building a coalition of support surrounding the ballot referral for the Parks Levy.

PPF has several small grants that are accepting applications. They are awarding ten \$2,000 grants, \$20,000 total. Applications are due April 15. Nominations for the Joey Pope Award are also open, with the deadline being March 30.

The Friends and Allies Spring Summit is May 21 at the Laurelhurst Club. All Board Members are invited, and the event is free.



Portland Urban Forest Plan

Belinda Judelman and Brian Landoe from Urban Forestry presented on the draft Portland Urban Forest Plan, which is out now for public comment. The first plan was created in 2007. There were robust community meetings and discussions to get feedback from multiple communities.

Belinda shared the three goals laid out in the plan:

1. Every neighborhood will have at least 25% canopy cover.
2. Increase canopy cover over streets to at least 35% in 20 years.
3. Increase tree canopy cover citywide to at least 45% in 40 years.

There are seven recommendations to help achieve the three goals:

1. Prioritize the preservation and care of the urban forest.
2. Reduce the cost of tree care for Portlanders.
3. Design and create new space for trees and other vegetation.
4. Expand the urban forest through planting, stewardship, and collaboration.
5. Provide inclusive communication, training, and education about the urban forest and tree care.
6. Use data, tools, and monitoring to support climate adaptation, meet canopy goals, and equitably distribute canopy.
7. Improve City codes, standards, and guidelines to support community resilience and urban forest health.

Suenn asked about why the river areas had a goal for a 20% tree canopy, which was lower than other areas. Belinda said that the area consists of a lot of heavy industrial usage, landfills, and protected natural areas. Brian Landoe added that despite it being a lower percentage than other areas, it's still a significant amount with the challenges present in the area.

Dr. Corbin asked what the plan b option was for plantings that fail. Jenn Cairo answered that there are a lot of factors that could explain the failure, and that is heavily monitored by the UF team as well as UF contractors.

Ali asked about the native habitats that don't necessarily need trees as part of their habitats. Brian answered that the goals being set took those considerations, with the additional feedback of natural area managers in PP&R and other bureaus like Environmental Services. UF uses the citywide tree planting plan as a guide on where to plant next.

Erin Zollenkopf asked about neighborhood areas and streets that weren't initially designed for tree planting and have low tree canopy. What's the plan to proceed? Belinda answered that there are two different pilots happening right now to address that. There is the Trees in the Curb Zone program and the Street Tree Planting program that targets streets that are unimproved. Brian added that the species chosen for planting is very specific in order for the plantings to have potential to grow the tree canopy and succeed over time.

Matt asked about the role of community partners as part of the tree planting. Brian answered that there are formal partnerships like ones with PCEF. There are also both for-profit and nonprofit organizations that will be involved, such as contractors and community organizations like Friends of Trees and Portland Bird Alliance.

Suenn asked about community members and/or small businesses that may not want trees, whether due to maintenance, cost, etc. What are some of the strategies that take that into



consideration? Brian answered that this is feedback that is given often during community meetings and to staff. PCEF has provided enough funding so that the responsibility for maintenance of the trees are on the City and UF, not the property owners. There are also plans for bringing on a program for assisting private property owners with maintenance, especially for low-income households.

Public Comment/Other Business

There was no public comment.

Meeting Adjourned

Corbin adjourned the meeting at 7:00 pm.

