

Tuesday, May 11, 2021

9:00 - 11:00 am

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Members Present

Erin Zollenkopf, Mike Elliott, Casey Mills, Paul Agrimis, Paddy Tillett, Randy Gragg, David Staczek, Alejandro Orizola, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Ian Jaquiss

Members Absent

Lorena Nascimento, Juan Piantino, Katy Holland

City Staff Present

Brooke Gardner, Adena Long, Tim Collier, Lauren McGuire, Todd Lofgren, Kenya Williams, Laura Lehman, Maximo Behrens, Nicola Sysyn, Tonya Booker, Vicente Harrison, Jenn Cairo

Call to Order/Public Comment

Chair Paul Agrimis called the meeting to order at 9:02am. Community member Kay Hall introduced themselves and shared their involvement with Mt. Tabor Park and the long block. Kay asked that the long block be preserved in the upcoming Mt. Tabor Yard project. Assets and Development Manager Lauren McGuire thanked Kay for her interest in the long block property and shared that the community garden will remain. The Mt Tabor Bond project planning has been underway since 2017, and there are many features incorporated into the project because of the community engagement process. Construction is set to start this summer.

Approve April Minutes

Paul asked for a motion to approve the April minutes. Erin made the motion, Mike seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Board Social Time

The Board and staff shared their favorite flowers this time of year.

Director's Report

Director Adena Long highlighted some of the citywide items included in the Monthly Report provided with meeting materials. The Bureau has been participating in a Permitting Process Improvement Taskforce led by Commissioner Ryan and a City-wide workgroup to develop an action plan and best practices for hiring, recruitment, promotion and building in racial equity goals in performance evaluations of Directors. The Sustainable Future Parks Levy Oversight Committee application has closed, and applications are being reviewed. The Sustainable Future team is working with the Marketing team to ensure information about Levy is included in our communications. Commissioner Rubio's office recently announced the projects that will be allocated System Development Charges funds. They include projects throughout the City including funding for the design of a North Portland pool. Bonnie requested an update on how workforce development and Levy recruitment ramp up are going. She highlighted the



opportunity to emphasize the health benefits of parks and recreations programs and additional funding available through American Rescue Plan funds.

Recent Resignations + Community Engagement Working Group

With three members recently resigning from the Board, Paul asked the Board to discuss how they can create a more inclusive culture. Paddy noted that the working group discussions happened away from the full Board. In the future the work group should reflect the Board with frequent reports to the Board. Erin pointed out that there was a request to have time on the monthly agenda for a discussion about the working group's plan that wasn't provided. Paul added that there were misunderstandings and miscommunications about the approach to bring a conversation to the Board. Bonnie added that the request was to set the working group framework at the full Board meeting. Other working groups do not have those framework discussions at the full Board meeting but bring regular reports.

Randy noted that the Board hasn't been in the role of initiating things and asked if it is made clear during recruitment that the Board is an advisory body. He asked if the Board should initiate policy change. Alejandro echoed Randy's observation that the Board is reactionary. The working group was asked to do work that doesn't fit into the working group structure. Equity work is not a straight line. Expectations need to be set for working with PP&R staff and how the work impacts or informs the work that PP&R is doing.

Casey noted that the topic was the working group not the equity statement. Tamara's comments that there is a systemic problem with not hearing all people on the Board would result in an audit in other industries. One of the charges of the Board is to be a forum for public discussion and fits within the working groups goal. Casey asked if the Board would use or discarded the working group proposal that is now before the Board. Paul would like to discuss how they can take what was proposed and use what they can in their role as an advisory body. At the last retreat the Board set an intention to provide more public forum.

Erin would like to discuss the internal aspect of the Board taking on racial equity and being proactive in creating an inclusive environment. Setting expectations about the Board's role is something they can do now. Paul added that members are encouraged to attend the racial equity 101 trainings offered through the City. Erin asked that they go deeper than the equity training.

Board Nominations

New Nominations + Renewing Membership

Paul thanked the committee for the work they did reviewing applications and conducting interviews in a short time. They received more applications than ever. Erin briefly reviewed the nominees: Ali Berman, Adrienne Feldstein, Sabrina Wilson, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, Dr. C.N.E. Corbin, and Nova Newcomer. Erin moved to recommend these six nominees for appointment, Paddy seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Officers Nomination

Paddy proposed the officer nominations of Bonnie serving as Chair and Casey serving as Vice Chair. Their two-year leadership term would begin on July 1. Paddy made the motion to approve the nominated officers, David seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Erin asked for volunteers to be Board Buddies with the new members.

Working Group Reports

Community Engagement

Erin will be checking in with the current members and following up at the next meeting.

Financial Sustainability

Mike reported that the bureau is tracking within budget this year. Council passed the Spring Budget Monitoring Process which included \$550,000 contingency funds for higher than usual unemployment costs and enhanced park maintenance funding. The Mayor's FY 2021-22 budget was released on April 28 and reflects City Budget Office's review. It includes the energy efficiency upgrades for East Portland Community Center, additional funding for enhanced park maintenance and the Parks Foundation pass through. Council will vote on the budget in June. The bureau is doing a funding restructure project that will help the bureau implement policies and processes to allow greater transparency.

Land Use/Infrastructure

The working group discussed the coordination with Bureau of Transportation on the South Park Blocks project and the historic designation of the Park Blocks. Staff will have fulfilled requirements outlined by the Department of Environmental Quality for the Forest Park Entry Project and will receive a reduced fine. The working group believes the length of time between purchase of the property and starting work is the cause for the misstep. The group also discussed lighting at Grant Park a project led by Portland Public Schools, and they will have an update next month on the I-5 covers.

Affirmation of Equity Statement

There are two statements - one modeled after the existing statement and a new one. The statements were reviewed by the bureau's Equity and Inclusion Manager for feedback and to ensure unity with the bureau's statement. The bureau is currently developing its new equity statement and it will be shared with the board when final. The working group will review it and provide an updated statement for board review.

Portland Parks Foundation Report

Randy shared the link to the Spring Friends and Allies Summit and encouraged Board members to attend. The goal is to have two summits each year. The Spring Summit is celebratory and will include a short program on Zoom, Parks Heroes Awards, and honor founding Board Chair, Joey Pope. They will also announce a new Parks Leadership Fund and Commissioner Rubio will join as well. Randy continues work on the festival to reactivate downtown with a steering

committee guiding the Paseo format. The dates will be August 27-29 and will take place at the eight South Park Blocks.

Board Retreat Planning

Paul noted that the regular June meeting will be cancelled as usual with the focus in June on the Board retreat. He proposed having an in-person social gathering at an outside park location the evening prior to the retreat – tentatively June 10. Paul asked members if they would be available to attend the virtual retreat if scheduled for 1-3pm on June 11 and 12. With few conflicts mentioned, Paul said he would confirm the meeting dates/times and invite the Commissioner and her staff liaison. Bonnie asked if there is interest in continuing the Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland (HPPH) discussion that will start at the late May work session.

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

Director Long reminded members to fill out the doodle poll for the May work session and reviewed the HPPH planning framework. Director Long introduced Stephanie and Kathryn from Future Work Design who are partnering with the bureau on the HPPH work. Stephanie reviewed the living documents being developed including the listening and learning process, decision-making tool, mission/vision/values/equity statements, and actions and results. This approach is a more agile form of planning that allows the bureau to be more responsive to the needs of the dynamic and changing community, to become an anti-racist organization, and to keep the focus on the goal. The current work is focused on developing the listening and learning process and more information on this will be shared at the May work session. Director Long shared the timeline and opportunities the Board has for involvement in this work.

Bonnie expressed concern about the Board's capacity and asked that staff think about ways to engage the Board within their capacity as volunteers. Adena suggested that Paul and Bonnie discuss what level of engagement the Board has capacity for and where the Board would like to be engaged.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:48am.