

## Parks Board Meeting Minutes

### Meeting information

Tuesday, May 9, 2023

5:00-7:00pm

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

#### Board members present:

Casey Mills, Adam Lewis, Dr. C.N.E. Corbin, Erin Zollenkopf, David Staczek, Crys O'Grady, Ali Berman, Mike Elliott, Paul Agrimis, Sabrina Wilson, Suenn Ho, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, Sabrina Wilson, Adrienne Feldstein

#### Board Members absent:

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Randy Gragg (ex-officio)

#### City staff present:

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director), Joey Furuto (Chief Coordinator), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Brett Horner (Planning Manager), Tonya Booker (Land Stewardship Division Manager), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Lauren McGuire (Assets & Development Division Manager), Victor Sanders (Safety & Security Coordinator III), Cameron Simmons (Hatfield Fellow), Robin Johnson Craig (Capital Project Manager), Ken Rumbaugh (Senior Community Engagement Coordinator)

#### Others present:

Girl Scout Troop 11487, Liv W, Richard Smith

Meeting called to order at 5:02pm.

### Agenda Items

#### Public Comment

Girl Scout Troop 11487 gave public comment and shared a presentation regarding the Bronze Award. In order to earn a Bronze Award, the troop has to create a project that would give a positive impact on the community. The troop proposed that they add a Fairy Door Scavenger Hunt at Gabriel Park. Director Long responded to the troop and said it was a great idea.

#### Approve March Minutes

Paul Agrimis (Board Member) moved to approve the minutes, Mike seconded. All voted in approval and motion carried.

#### Director's Report Q&A

This past weekend held a good turnout at the groundbreaking for the long-awaited Parklane Park. Commissioner Ryan, many staff, project advisory committee members, neighbors and even former Commissioner Amanda Fritz joined the festivities. On Sunday July 11, PP&R will be cutting the ribbon at the Columbia Children's Arboretum to celebrate the recently completed improvements.



The Mayor's Proposed Budget was released on Thursday, May 4. The PP&R budget was largely as expected with all items from the requested budget included. Also included was an anticipated increase in General Fund for labor costs totaling \$2.4 million. This reflects collective bargaining agreements finalized during this current fiscal year.

The Work Session on the Mayor's Proposed FY23-24 Budget was held this morning at 9:30 and there will be public hearing for testimony on May 11 from 6:30-8:30pm. The Approved Budget Hearing is time certain for 2:00pm on May 17. The Mayor's Proposed Budget also includes \$1.5 Million of General Fund resources as a fund transfer to the Water Bureau for the restoration of the Elk Fountain. These funds will construct the fountain and re-install the elk in its original location.

The following changes are expected to be included in the 'Change Memo' which is an omnibus amendment to the Approved Budget that gets little to no discussion.

- Levy Transfer: Reduce Parks Levy reimbursement by up to \$15 million to reduce any underspending.
- Maintenance Mechanic Trainee: Add one full time employee (FTE), funded by the Parks Levy to increase job pathways and increase capacity.
- Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) Planting: Technical changes include in FY 23-24 the 5 FTEs that were approved as part of the Spring BMP.
- Site Security: Convert security contract dollars to personnel to fund 3 Security Specialists to monitor PP&R maintenance sites.
- Pioneer Courthouse Square: Working with PCS to confirm amount to ensure maintenance, security, and cleaning of restrooms.

PP&R is writing a Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland report, which will be a public report sharing the bureau's new mission, vision, values, and equity and anti-racism commitment. The report also shares the bureau's work at a high level, challenges, and some of the measures used to track progress. The report will be shared with the community in June, possibly at the June Parks Board Retreat. The first draft of the Actions & Results Framework is nearly completed. Next steps are that the bureau will conduct a gap analysis and prioritize work to fill gaps related to performance and results, with a focus on serving centered communities.

Casey Mills (Vice Board Chair) asked about some context behind the vandalism number in the monthly report, as it reported 71% vandalism. Lauren McGuire responded that the Amenities shop (one of four shops) tracks work orders and that's what the percentage refers to.

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin (Board Member) asked about an update on the Title 11 Heritage Tree 26 request for delisting. Director Long responded that they the UFC met for a second meeting and conducted a second vote, and as a result, voted to take the tree off the list. This item will then go to Council and be voted upon by Council.

## Working Group Reports (Q&A only)

### *Board Affairs*

There were no questions.

### *Community Engagement*

There were no questions.



### *Financial Sustainability*

There was no FSWG meeting this past month.

### *Nominating Committee*

Elana Pirtle-Guiney (Board Member) reported that there are 17 applicants for the 3 vacant spots (additional vacancy was due to Alejandro Orizola resigning since the April meeting). There will be a review of all applicants by the Committee this week and there will be a discussion on interviewees.

### Land Use & Infrastructure

David reported that he drafted a letter regarding the Elk Statue and allocating the \$1.5million construction cost from the General Fund and not affect the PP&R budget. Mike Elliott (Board Member) suggested that since this is in the Mayor's budget, there should be a change to update the letter to acknowledge as such. Paul moved to accept the letter as drafted with the comments from Bonnie and the change from Mike. Mike seconded the motion. All voted in approval and motion carried.

### Internal Board Procedure for Public Comment

Dr. Corbin presented an internal document on how the Board will react to public comment. Its intention is to give an introduction on public comment, how the Chair will operate, as well as a proposed script. Corbin asked for a vote to record a consensus that this is now the procedure the Board will use going forward. Ali Berman (Board Member) moved, with Adam seconding. All voted in favor and the motion carried.

### Officer Nominating Committee

The Officer Nominating Committee has met and nominated Dr. C.N.E. Corbin as Chair and Elana Pirtle-Guiney as Vice Chair. As chair of the committee, Casey moved to appoint Dr. C.N.E. Corbin and Elana Pirtle-Guiney as Board Chair and Vice Board Chair respectively. Ali seconded. All voted in approval and motion carried. This appointment is effective tomorrow.

### Portland Parks Foundation

Randy was absent for the PPF report. There was a discussion on what Parks Board member could become the liaison for PPF once Mike Elliott's appointment is over. Director Long will reach out to Jessica Green from PPF for a deadline when they need to appoint the liaison.

### Title 20 Update

Victor Sanders gave an update on the previous presentation on revising the Title 20 Amendments.

Code Update Bucket 1 is updating text to have more plain language and reduce excess language in these rules.

Code Update Bucket 2 is minor clarifying changes. This includes changing appeal structures if a permit is denied, clarifying that all animals brought by humans to the park must be leashed, authority to manage drones and similar objects in park spaces, and waste disposal processes.

Code Update Bucket 3 is major/substantive changes. This includes temporary memorials, codifying park ranger authority, structure related offenses, usage of vehicles and wheeled devices, and replacing Pioneer Courthouse Square code.

This update would enable better responsiveness and problem solving to park rule violations.



Paul asked about cannabis usage and authorization on what was allowed. Dr. Corbin suggested adding some clarifying language on what was considered active and passive recreation. She also wanted to see how the Parks Board could support the bureau with implementing new rules and regulations.

Suenn asked about providing signage in plain language at the parks about the rules. Victor responded that with a full communications team staffed, there has been discussion on universal signage that could educate the public.

Elana asked about the substantive changes and how they would affect the work. Would we need more rangers, or more rangers patrolling downtown for example? Victor responded that the hope is that this would actually make the work for rangers and also Parks staff a lot easier. Elana then asked about whether there was going to be a public comment period. Victor replied that there is some anticipated public comment at City Council, but that outreach is mostly internal.

Ali asked about what the current drone rules are and what is not allowed. Victor said that the law around it was vague, but it would be able to provide updated code that drones are not allowed in parks, which is the current rule.

Paul asked about permit rules and enforcement. Victor said that one improvement is to provide an easier avenue on what solutions can be provided online. Director Long also commented that there would not be too much signage because that would enable sign pollution.

Dr. Corbin commented that she thought it was a good idea to have public comment on some of the process updates. For example, if there was a permit denied, that it could be brought to discussion at the Board. Elana added that it would be useful for the Parks Board to understand the rules thoroughly so they could comment. Casey asked if he could be sent the full list of amendments and updates in Title 20 to review.

She also asked if there could be a rollout plan on permissions and what are the costs for these permits. Elana added that with the concern for a public process, perhaps it would be a good idea to reach out to PP&R partners and institutions to see if there are community members who would want to give feedback.

### North Portland Aquatic Center Update

Robin Johnson Craig and Ken Rumbaugh gave a status update on bringing the North Portland Aquatic Center to a community that otherwise does not have a pool. They are currently on Phase II, which means choosing a site to build, designing, and permitting.

Ken presented on the results of the three Community Workshops that have taken place. The top three sites so far voted from these workshops were University Park, Northgate Park, and Columbia Park. There were also focus groups formed for specific demographics.

Sabrina Wilson asked if there was a narrative on the project and other observations. Ken answered that he will share the Community Engagement Summary for the Board.

Adam Lewis asked about what has been done differently to have such high community engagement and whether this outreach could be replicated in other areas. He then asked about the recreational places.



Dr. Corbin asked about dedicated programming at this point in the project. Also, how the bureau is going to use this facility to eliminate barriers in accessing said programming. Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager) replied that base program planning (e.g. swim lessons, lap swimming, family swim programs) will be implemented at NPAC, with staffing assisted by the Parks Levy. The programs at Columbia Pool will help inform the new programming and be scaled accordingly. The Access Pass will also include NPAC as a facility. They are also soliciting feedback from both current users and non-users who would be interested in the facility when it opens.

Ken also added that he has had personal conversations with athletic directors and physical education teachers in nearby public schools and how involved and excited they were in having public schools benefit from NPAC. It is a central focus in the community engagement work being done.

### Public Comment

There was no public comment.

### Meeting Adjourned

Casey Mills (Vice Board Chair) adjourned this meeting at 6:59pm.

