

Tuesday, November 8, 2022

5:00pm – 7:00pm

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

Board Members Present

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Dr. C.N.E Corbin, Adam Lewis, Paul Agrimis, Casey Mills, Mike Elliott, Crys O’Grady, David Staczek, Randy Gragg (Ex-Officio), Alejandro Orizola

Board Members Absent

Ali Berman, Elana Pirtle-Guiney, Erin Zollenkopf, Sabrina Wilson, Nova Newcomer

City Staff Present

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Tonya Booker (Land Stewardship Division Manager), Nicola Sysyn (Strategic Program Coordinator), Lauren McGuire (Assets and Development Division Manager), Jenn Cairo (Urban Forestry Division Manager), Tim Collier (Community Relations Manager), Durrelle Singleton (Recreation Strategies & Initiatives Manager), Dr. Kenya Williams (Equity & Inclusion Manager), Melissa Arnold (Community Engagement Manager)

Others Present

Jeff Mills

Call to Order/Social Time

Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:01pm.

Public Comment

Jeff Mills gave public comment regarding the gate on the east side of Pittock Mansion. When there is road closure on Burnside, there is no other option to access the roads from his neighborhood. He requested for a change in policy on opening the gate during road closures, having access to gate overall, or key access during certain times. Director Long replied that Parks Security is aware of the gate being closed, and she will have them investigate the matter. Bonnie thanked Jeff for his comment.

Announcements

Dr. Corbin wanted to thank staff for changing the agenda format to accommodate some of the previous requests.

Approve October Minutes

Mike Elliott (Board Member) made a motion to approve the minutes. Dr. Corbin (Board Member) seconded the motion. All voted in favor (with Casey abstaining), and the motion passed.

Director’s Report Q&A

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland will allow Parks to build a strategic framework that ties what PP&R does and how the bureau spends money to tangible outcomes for the community and to their purpose as an organization.

Over the last two months, the Project Team and Division Managers held two work sessions where they prioritized and refined Outcome Measures and reviewed each Division’s prioritized Actions for measure



development. Work on Actions and Outcome Measures will be finalized by the end of this month. At the January Board Meeting, the project team will ask Erin Zollenkopf, who serves on the MVVR team, to provide an update and they expect to finalize the bureau's statements in February of 2023.

On October 26, City Council unanimously voted to accept the 2021-22 Parks Levy Annual Report (and accompanying Executive Summary) and the Parks Levy Oversight Committee Annual Report. PP&R shared the reports by email to the Parks Board and they are posted electronically via the City's website. Staff also provided an update on the Parks Levy annual report, with a focus on financials reporting, at the Financial Sustainability Working Group October subcommittee meeting.

[2021-22 Parks Levy Annual Report \(full report\)](#)

[2021-22 Parks Levy Annual Report: Executive Summary](#)

[Parks Levy Oversight Committee Annual Report](#)

In a unanimous vote, Portland City Council approved amendments to City Code that restructures the Portland Clean Energy Community Benefits Fund (PCEF). The new legislation enables PCEF to make investments at a greater scale, while continuing to prioritize climate action for low-income communities and communities of color. Proposed near-term PCEF community investments include \$40 million for urban tree canopy and \$30M for Resilient Community Centers, both Government and non-profit owned. The Bureau has begun discussions with the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability and PCEF about how Parks can partner with them, and the community, to leverage these investments.

At the Oregon Recreation and Parks Association conference this weekend, PP&R also received an award for the South Park Blocks master plan.

There were no questions from the floor.

Working Group Reports Q&A

Board Affairs – There were no questions.

Land Use & Infrastructure

Dr. Corbin asked what measures are in place to provide housing when campers are made to vacate SE Oak? Director Long answered that when camps are scheduled for removal, individuals are offered services including shelter options. This is part of the Street Services Coordination Center, which is a new office that was created by the Mayor, per his emergency declaration from earlier this year. Lauren mentioned that there is a plan available for viewing regarding SE Oak Street. She commented that staff gives a lot of warning beforehand as well as options for alternative places for camping, in addition to the offers for housing. Lauren shared her screen to show design plans for Oak Street, which included a skate element and bike pump track and pickleball courts. The street vacation is going to take about six months.

Dr. Corbin also commented that it would be a good idea for there to be a standardized report template so that working groups have a more consistent format. Bonnie said this could be a project for Board Affairs.

Mike Elliot asked whether the SE Oak Street is existing Portland Bureau of Transportation (PBOT) land being transferred to Parks or whether Parks is managing the area for PBOT. Lauren answered that this is PBOT Right of Way and Parks will take it on, on the interim. There is a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that gives Parks the Authority to act as if it's a Parks site.

Casey Mills asked about the Portland Clean Energy Fund (PCEF) and whether Parks is required to administer the fund. Director Long answered that there were more funds generated than anticipated. PCEF will release a Request for Proposal (RFP) for community groups and Parks will likely work with them directly on multiple projects. There was more funding, with a lower capacity for implementing projects. Lauren McGuire said PCEF expects to raise \$650 million over the next five years. \$30 million is specifically dedicated to resilient Community Centers (CC's). Casey Mills asked for more clarification, specifically whether Parks is being advisory to the funds. Lauren McGuire replied that Parks will be applying to use the funds to fulfill their intended allocations. Bonnie Gee Yosick added these funds are focused on the community center resilience as an example.

Crys O'Grady asked about the Community Centers, such as EPCC, and how other CC's are considered for being a resiliency island. Since this is in partnership with PSU, will there be an expansion of EPCC? Director Long clarified that PSU led the study. EPCC is currently being used as an emergency shelter and is one of the newest facilities, which is why there is more interest there. There aren't levels of criteria created yet on how to apply.

Adrienne Feldstein asked that given the importance of the clean energy fund with PP&R, what has the experience been in working effectively with them? Is there a framework to put together going forward and move efficiently? Director Long answered that PCEF has been targeted exclusively for community-based organizations until now. This is all new for the bureau with lots of initial conversations since the city wasn't going to be involved from the beginning of the program. There is a lot of sensitivity around using the funds outside of the community.

Dr. Corbin commented that there are opportunities for shading structures, misting stations, and wi-fi access for the community when considering resiliency for Community Centers.

Financial Sustainability – There were no questions.

Community Engagement – There were no questions.

A Park and Wilson – Dr. Corbin reported that an agreement has not been met with A Park and Wilson pool. CEWG's report will have more details on the last meeting.

PLOC Report – There were no questions.

Portland Parks Foundation (PPF) Report

PPF had their Fall Friends and Allies event – this is one of two summits. For the Day of Service, this was held at Whitaker Pond in partnership with the Columbia Watershed Council. There was also a Day of Service at Leach Botanical Garden. At the summit, keynote speaker Dr. Terry Cross, who spoke on the Relational Worldview Model as a citizen of the Seneca Nation. This was the first Fall summit done in person. 77+ partner groups were represented. There is also the Fall 2022 Grants Cycle, there were 22 applications received.

The Thompson Elk Fountain Feasibility Study was completed and released at the Landmarks Commission. PPF also hired two historians to consult on the history of David P. Thompson and the Elk Fountain. Randy shared some more social context about the history of protests that were surrounding the fountain. PPF will also get some of more stories from those present at the 2020 protests to build

upon the history. Design objectives include restoring to its original location as well as improve access to the fountain to be safer. Costs are estimated to be \$1.3 million, not including overhead and “soft” costs. Once the design moves forward, PPF will consult disability advocates for input on accessibility to the fountain.

Stipend Pilot Program (Melissa Arnold)

Melissa Arnold clarified this is not necessarily a review of the Stipend Pilot, but more surrounding the SOP process. Parks Community Engagement (CE) has been discussing the need to address the policies on stipends/incentives for volunteer advisory community members. Director Long mentioned that there were also discreet stipend projects for other advisory groups. This is a program that could inform city-wide policy, hence the need for input from the Board.

This Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) was created for the bureau until city-wide policy is established. The goal is to have the SOP be similarly aligned to the city’s future policy. The procedures must also be navigable by staff who may not regularly engage the public.

Dr. Corbin commented that she did not really understand why transactions was a concern. There should be a distinction between community consultants and volunteerism. She also said that the phrasing of “anecdotal feedback” was not a good choice of words, and that perhaps they should be labeled as exit interviews, in order to not diminish the importance of the feedback received.

Paul Agrimis commented that he agreed with Dr. Corbin on being aware of the distinctions of expertise and also that the stipend should be as simple as possible and not underestimate the value of other incentives in place. Previous committees have had services such as childcare and food to help with those participating.

Randy Gragg commented that when discussing Paseo and its planning – it was important to have the discussion be as holistic as possible. He also said that the notion of volunteerism sounds more “one and done”, rather than expertise sought out over time with consultants. Melissa acknowledged that trying to define volunteerism vs. consultants will be very difficult. There are recommendations on types of service distinctions.

Dr. Corbin also added that regarding incentives, there is a legacy of distrust with the government. The desire to engage and participate is not necessarily due to incentive.

Regarding the need for Social Security numbers, Dr. Corbin asked about what the methods for payment would be for those who were undocumented or unhoused. Melissa Arnold answered that the gift card recommendation as well as a possible partnership with an organization such as PPF would help address the concern of participation for unhoused or undocumented community members.

Melissa Arnold shared that a lot of this program is outside of the bureau’s purview and as such, the biggest ask of the Board is for advocacy for the program to city leadership, especially since this is a program that the city does not really prioritize. Also, would like to hear considerations and input on missing elements of the programs.

Adrienne Feldstein asked about the range of stipend being discussed. Melissa answered that it would start at \$25/hour for up to three hours, or \$40-80/meeting, or \$100-150 for events like a raffle.

Dr. Corbin asked if there are limits based on income – wealthier community members should either be given the option to refuse the stipend or not even be offered. Melissa Arnold answered that there wasn't feedback yet on an income threshold.

Casey Mills commented in the chat that it would be helpful to get a timeline for providing comment and advocacy from the Board.

Discussing the role and duties of the Parks Board

Dr. Corbin started the discussion with the need for clarity on what the process can be for Board member engagement with Parks staff and how the Board can respond to report outs and presentations.

Director Long said that her vision was creating a template to be clear on what type of item at what level needed to be reviewed. The template would help distinguish whether an item would go to the working group or the full Board. She would work with division managers to review workplans and the large projects for the year and identify projects in advance. Corbin added that in this process, part of the Board duty would be to provide a forum for public discussion. There would be transparency and opportunity for community comments in order to better support Parks and their work.

Randy Gragg commented that it may be helpful for Parks to think about what the Board and other advisory committees have actually influenced, as it can be hard to see a measure of influence and meaningful change. Director Long replied that though there is no vote, there should be documentation on whether the Board acknowledged/reviewed/validated an item.

Dr. Corbin said that as an advisory committee, that there should be language on how the advisory body should be acting. Paul thanked Corbin on leading this discussion and commented that the most gratifying experience that he had was in working groups with detailed conversations.

Bonnie Gee Yosick closed the discussion by reminding members to review the document sent out by Director Long. The Board will review again in future meetings.

[Public discussion was invited at 6:45pm, but no one responded.]

Meeting Adjourned

Bonnie Gee Yosick adjourned the meeting at 6:59pm.