

Tuesday, October 13, 2020

8:00 - 10:00 am

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Board Members Present

Punneh Abdolhosseini, Alejandra Cortes, Mike Elliott, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Jenny Glass, Randy Gragg, Katy Holland, Ian Jaquiss, Tamara Layden, Casey Mills, Alejandro Orizola, Juan Piantino, David Staczek, Paddy Tillett, Erin Zollenkopf

Board Members Absent

Paul Agrimis, Lorena Nascimento

City Staff Present

Maximo Behrens, Tonya Booker, Jenn Cairo, Claudio Campuzano, Tim Collier, Margaret Evans, Brooke Gardner, Vicente Harrison, Todd Lofgren, Adena Long, Chris Silkie, Kenya Williams

Call to Order/Social/Check-in

Board Vice Chair Bonnie Gee Yosick called the meeting to order at 8:02am and led members in a social activity.

Review/Approve September Minutes

There were no comments on the September minutes, and Bonnie asked for a motion to approve them. Mike made the motion, Erin seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Director's Report

Adena asked if members had questions about the PP&R Monthly Report. The PP&R Natural Areas that were closed for two weeks due to fire risk have reopened. The levy one pager and postcard were approved by the Oregon Secretary of State for distribution. City Council will be meeting next week to review the Fall BMP. Adena highlighted the coming up Urban Forestry Yard Tree Giveaway and No Ivy Day events. The Lincoln and Roosevelt statues in South Park Blocks were toppled on Sunday night. Staff worked to have the statues safely removed, and they will be stored until a decision is made about the future of the statues.

Working Group Reports

Community Development

Over the past few months Tamara, Alejandra, and Punneh have discussed making equity and policy the focus of the work group. They would like to hold a larger group discussion prior to the November Board meeting. Members discussed the disconnection that can happen between engagement and policy development. Adena suggested having a PP&R manager attend the discussion to understand how this work may intersect with bureau work.



Financial Sustainability

Now that the Fall BMP has been submitted, the work group is using their meetings to learn more about PP&R financial approaches. Topics have included tax and fee revenues, Recreation scholarships, and access models used in other cities. The work group is interested in seeing how discount cards, sliding scales, and other programs may be utilized in Recreation. Currently scholarships have no funding source, so if they are granted, there is a revenue loss. In FY 18-19, about \$600,000 in scholarships were awarded to 4,000 individuals. Recreation is working on a pilot program that will offer low pricing and options to select lower to higher price points.

Land Use/Infrastructure

There was no update from the Land Use/Infrastructure working group.

Process Improvement Ad Hoc

The final PP&R/BES Tree Planting process improvement group of advisors meeting took place the end of September. The discussion focused on the shared values of two bureaus, ways to decolonize the system, and what metrics are needed. Emphasis was on improving outcomes for people of color and low canopy neighborhoods and integrating outreach, policy, and workforce development with community partners. Cross bureau collaboration and community engagement will continue. A summary will be shared with the Board. Members discussed the importance of centering indigenous people when talking about decolonization.

Portland Parks Foundation Report

The Foundation hosted 130 participants at the Friends & Allies Summit on September 26. Randy reviewed the Summit agenda and noted the focus on diversifying Friends Groups and creating new groups in underserved neighborhoods. There were seven groups deployed to parks for a Friends of Day of Service. They will try another service day in the Spring. The Foundation continues supporting the levy and doing fundraising. The Foundation's Board membership has doubled in the past year, and they have refreshed their vision and mission.

Board Meeting Schedule

Bonnie reviewed the results of the poll, and she asked PP&R senior managers and Board members who have not completed the poll to complete it. Members discussed possibly having a 9:00 – 11:00 am option to consider as some individuals have morning childcare obligations.

Approve Board Bylaws

The Board revised the changes to the bylaws made since their previous review. The new version includes a section that says the Board will follow their Affirmation of Equity statement as it conducts its work. Members discussed the language directing work groups to bring reports to the Chair. This allows them to not overload Board meetings and to stay within Oregon Public Meetings Law requirements. Bonnie asked for a motion to approve the revised bylaws. Paddy made the motion, Casey seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Affirmation of Equity

Bonnie noted that with the revised changes to the bylaws, the Board needs to review its Affirmation of Equity Statement to ensure it meets their vision and needs. The Board divided into breakout groups to review and discuss the statement.

Jenny's group noted the statement reflects a previous era and doesn't have clear concise language. They would like the statement to be more aligned with the bureau's equity work and the City's new Results Based Accountability (RBA) framework. They would like to include goals they can measure and identify opportunities to continue this discussion, possibly through bureau RBA reports at Board meetings. The group suggested that the Community Development working group lead the effort to update the statement.

Tim's group had general issues with the statement's language and concerns around how the Board can help diminish barriers, possibly through advocacy. They noted that some traditionally marginalized communities are not included in the statement. The group noted that the Board could be more general or more specific. For instance, the City focuses on racial equity. The group also discussed how staff, hiring, recruitment, and diversity in leadership impacts the people they serve. Margaret noted over the past four years staff have been working on the Five-Year Racial Equity Plan (REP) goal to and have increased the racial diversity of the bureau workforce. Work on this goal continues, and staff will report out at the end of the REP.

November Agenda Conversation

Bonnie asked if there were any agenda items that members would like to bring to the November meeting. Tamara asked what the plan was moving forward with the Affirmation of Equity Statement and having more accountability on the Board. Bonnie suggested a smaller group of Board members drill down on the points mentioned and it could be an item the Community Development work group takes on. Kenya suggested that the Board consider creating or adopting an equity lens.

Bonnie thanked members for their engagement and adjourned the meeting at 10:01 am.