

Parks Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting information

Tuesday, October 8, 2024

5-7pm

Portland Building Room 216 and Zoom Virtual Meeting

Board members present:

Matt Shipkey, Ali Berman, Suenn Ho, Patti Miles, Casey Mills, Sabrina Wilson, Jessica Green (ex-officio), Allison Snopek, Erin Zollenkopf, Sameer Kanal

Board Members absent:

Dr. C.N.E. Corbin, Casey Mills, Bill Van Bang, David Staczek

City staff present:

Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Tonya Booker (Land Stewardship Division Manager), Robin Laughlin (Assets & Development Division Manager), Jenn Cairo (City Forester and Urban Forestry Division Manager), Amanda Manjarrez (Equity & Inclusion Manager), Margaret Evans (Workforce Development Manager), Claudio Campuzano (Finance, Technology, and Property Manager), Rachel Felice (City Nature Manager), Mara Cogswell (Communications and Marketing Supervisor), Danny Peters (Workforce Development Analyst)

Others present: n/a

Meeting called to order at 5:01pm with roll call following.

Agenda Items

Public Comment

There was no public comment.

General Announcements

Crys O'Grady (Board Member) encouraged Board Members to attend the public meetings for Harborton Meeting. The next meeting is in-person on October 24 at the Linnton Community Center.

Suenn Ho (Board Member) gave public testimony at Council representing herself on the Burnside Bridge project. There is some interest to add greenery to the bridge as well as the connections from the bridge to the park.

Approve August Meeting Minutes

Due to having absences from last meeting and this meeting, there would only be 6 members that could vote on the minutes this month. As such, the vote on the minutes will be postponed to the next meeting.



Director's Report

With Director Long out of office, Todd Lofgren gave the Director's Report.

A reminder that this Saturday, October 12, PP&R's Urban Forestry team will be having their annual Arbor Day Celebration at Glenfair Park from 10am-2pm. This is a FREE family friendly event that will have community tree planting starting at 10am. From 12-2pm, there will be activities such as:

- Bucket-truck rides
- Bánh mis, tamales, fry bread, and cider (FREE)
- Annual Yard Tree Giveaway
- Farm fresh vegetables from [Sun Moon Fields](#)
- Stories with [Nikki Brown Clown](#)
- Face painting from [Mystique's Fancy Faces](#)

The bureau will also be honoring the legendary Mr. Ed Washington, who is this year's recipient to the 2024 Bill Naito Community Trees Award. Mr. Washington has been lifelong civil rights activist in the community, as well as a crucial advocate for our Urban Forest. His work in social and environmental justice has created awareness and support for tree canopy equity and preservation in the community. The award ceremony will begin at 12pm.

There has been some interest in the media about having turf at Powell Park for Cleveland High School. To clarify, there has not been a formal request to implement such a project by Portland Public Schools. There were informal discussions with PPS, post Grant Bowl, by our Property team, but we have yet to hear from PPS.

We had presented on both the Large Tree Amendment and Title 20 Amendments to the Board in September hoping to bring this to Council in October. We have been requested by Council to bring this forth after elections in mid-November.

In June, PP&R staff noticed that water was falling rapidly at Pier Pool, causing for a closure to happen during the start of the summer season. There was an investigation with dye tests and isolations of various plumbing, which revealed that there were multiple leaks in the system and resulted in needing to close the pool for the rest of the summer. Some of the plumbing system dates back to the 1940s, and will be replaced. There will also be repairs and resealing to large cracks to prevent water loss. The pool deck will also be patched after the plumbing repairs. After repairs, there will be continuous testing of water levels to be confirm that the repairs are complete.

Our project manager and communications team will be updating the Pier Pool webpage every two weeks to keep community notified of our progress. Currently the PM is:

- In negotiations with consultant design team (finalizing scope of work and fee)
- Coordinating with Pier Pool Fence Replacement project
- Conducting assessment of mechanical systems at Pier Pool, which are at risk of failure. Determining amount of funding needed to address mechanical issues (in addition to pool shell and piping leak issues), as well as schedule impacts if mechanical systems were addressed as part of this project.
- Researching permitting requirements
- Multiple PMs are also researching to see how we can make these repairs happen as soon as possible as an emergency procurement using the legal mechanism available to the City.



In the past year, there has been great progress on the Light Pole Safety project! All of the milestones that were originally identified in the project are complete. This includes: Colonel Summers, Sellwood, Sellwood Riverfront, Irving, Montavilla, Mt. Scott, Wallace, Woodstock, Mt. Tabor, and Lair Hill. Ladd Circle is technically still in progress. Though all 4 light poles are installed, one of the fixtures came damaged, and so 3 of 4 light poles are currently operational. The last fixture is expected to be shipped to us in November. During this project Pittock Acres and Couch Park was identified as additional locations that needed light pole replacement. There was a change order in Couch Park due to finding faulty structural anchoring in 9 light poles. The last of these parks are dependent on waiting for shipments of materials. To date, PP&R has donated 2 fixtures to the Oregon Historical Society, 10 fixtures to the Architectural Heritage Center, and 130 fixtures to Habitat for Humanity ReStore.

PP&R's Bus Tour is back on this year – Parks on the Road! Though this was initially created for staff, we will have a couple spots available per tour for interested Board Members, with our newest Board Members considered at higher priority. Our first date is October 16 from 1-5pm and will have additional subsequent tours that will explore properties in North and Northwest Portland. Itinerary for the tour includes:

- Native Gathering Garden and Cully Park
- Heron Lakes Golf Course, with a drive by of Portland Expo Center
- Peninsula Park and Community Center
- Dawson Park
- Matt Dishman Community Center
- Normandale Park

Working Group Reports (Q&A only)

Board Affairs

There were no questions.

Land Use & Infrastructure

There were no questions.

Financial Sustainability

There were no questions.

Community Engagement

There were no questions.

Culture, Nature, and Recreation

Ali Berman (Vice Chair) mentioned that the working group will be starting up again in January after doing some more on focusing on the goals of the group itself.

Portland Parks Foundation Report

Jessica reported that the organizing of the candidates' forum will become a survey sent out to candidates. There will be questions that were vetted by the PPF Board as well as Director Long. Jessica will send out the questions to the Board as well.



Adrienne Feldstein (Board Member) asked how the results will be shared. Jessica replied that PPF will be sharing with their newsletter (approx. 13,000 recipients), as well as community partners and the Board itself.

Recreation Summer Recap

Mara Cogswell and Maximo Behrens gave a presentation and report reviewing Summer 2024 and its successes in participation and hiring.

Sabrina Wilson (Board Member) asked about how the numbers helped indicate about how Recreation determined staffing and programming, especially with waitlists and swim lessons for example. Mara replied that signing up for waitlists was often encouraged in order to help them determine demands for programming. She added she could provide more data on class participation, fill rates, and waitlists.

Suenn asked about clarification from the term “unique user” or “unique participant.” Mara replied that “unique users” are referred to those who use their community center pass. “Unique participant” is usually referred to those who sign up for programming. Suenn then asked adjusting staffing in real time and how effective it was for those who are on the waitlists. Maximo replied that there were determinations of additional classes based on staff availability as well as facility availability.

Adrienne commented that interests in swim classes in being active swimmers will often skew white and higher income. She would be interested in the demographics of aquatics with race over time. Systemic requirements for kids learning to swim in school would be effective. Maximo replied that the two sessions of Schools to Pools has been very successful so far. There will be a third session planned and the program includes swimming and safety to water. By leaning into programs like Schools to Pools, Recreation is hoping to improve the systemic demand for swim lessons. Another path is the certification program for certifying lifeguards for youth, which includes reducing cost for these programs.

Patti Miles (Board Member) asked about family swim. Mara replied that there is family swim all-year round and there are partnerships with organizations like Black Swim Initiative that host open swim times for families so they could be accommodated. There aren't any family swim lessons together, but there are youth swim lessons that happen simultaneously with adult swim lessons. Maximo added there is also a lot of scheduled private or semi-private lessons that include family units.

Crys added that this data would be extremely helpful for the Financial Sustainability Working Group and Sustainable Future work. She asked whether this could be used for that future work. Todd replied that there is the Parks Levy Annual Report that will be going out to City Council in January, and it includes this kind of data to show how the levy is used.

Environmental Education Summer Recap

Rachel Felice gave a summer recap on the Environmental Education team's work as part of the Land Stewardship division.

Ali asked about whether there is tracking of youth hiring to full-time hiring. Rachel replied that there is tracking and there are notable Youth Conservation Crew and Teen Nature participants



that have been Seasonal Maintenance Workers, Utility Workers, Full Time Employees, including those in management.

Matt asked about Environmental Education's unmet demand. Rachel replied that the applicant pool is often 4-5x higher than the amount of available positions. For the programs, there is encouragement to join a waitlist in order to track areas of demand for programming. The programs work with different community partners and organizations. Most of them are within city limits but occasionally there are trips that occur in Mt. Hood and others.

Patti noted that often the signups are first come, first served – is there a possibility for a lottery system instead? Rachel said that there isn't necessarily a lottery, but there are priorities made with community partners and making space for Title 1 schools and Head Start programming.

Workforce Development Dashboard Demographics

Danny Peters gave a presentation on the data around the PP&R workforce. The webpage is available to all Board Members and they can use it to see different demographics that work for PP&R.

Public Comment/Other Business

There was no public comment.

Meeting Adjourned

Ali adjourned the meeting at 7:00pm.

