

Friday, June 11, 2021

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Board Chair Paul Agrimis called the meeting to order at 1:02pm. Adena welcomed new members and noted that there are many senior managers in attendance to support the Board's work at the retreat. Bonnie shared her excitement to support the Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland work and Board working groups for the year ahead.

Check-in - What Matters About Parks & Recreation to Us

Meeting participants each shared their experience with, and what matters to them about, parks and recreation.

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland and Board Role Conversation

Director Long reviewed the Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland (HPPH) framework working draft and the work teams that have or will be assembled to keep the HPPH work moving forward.

Future Work Design Consultant, Stephanie Gioia reviewed the community graphic that was updated based on Board feedback. Participants discussed the need to include youth and older adults as not all are well served, moving the community into the center of the visual, how the arrows show the community connection to PP&R, and the contradiction of centering community voices and the governance and advisory aspects.

Melissa Arnold reviewed the listening and learning sessions with partners that have been completed and are upcoming. Board members asked how the codesign is going to be inclusive and how the bureau will close the gap communities feel when engaging in processes like these. The Community Engagement team is using language translation and interpretation services identified by partners, and they are considering the community's culture while developing questions. They expect to learn and adapt throughout this ongoing process. Trust takes time and when mistakes are made, the bureau will own them, apologize, and do better. Parks Levy funding will help us show the community we heard them and are responding to give them what they asked for.

Corbin stressed the importance of early engagement with communities, so they feel that this is for them. Adrienne asked to include trees in the conversations with the community.

Melissa shared that we know that we are not the only organization asking these communities for feedback, and to express our appreciation for their time and expertise, we will support participation financially through our partner organizations. We are creating materials based on feedback with a quick turn around and hope that will build trust.

Kathryn Jarrell led the Board in an activity to respond to a question in Menti: what are specific examples of what an equitable park system should be like in the short term and in the long term?



Adena thanked Kathryn, Stephanie, Melissa, and the Board for their time and feedback. There will be regular updates at their monthly Board meetings.

How We Work Together

Paul reviewed the City Code that defines the Board’s purpose as an advisory body. The Board meets once a month, has fifteen voting members appointed by Council, and currently has two ex-officio members. Members, appointed to three-year terms, are considered public officials and are held to public ethics laws. Board members are expected to attend monthly Board meetings, participate in at least one working group, follow public meetings law, and respect different perspectives.

Working Group Overviews

Community Engagement (Erin Zollenkopf)

This working group has not been meeting regularly and there has been a gap in staff support. Erin will be the new Chair of the group and encouraged members to join who are excited about community engagement. Erin has been reviewing the public comment procedure, who has access, and who to engage with in the community. Kenya Williams and Tim Collier will be available to support this working group going forward.

Financial Sustainability (Mike Elliott)

This working group is the conduit between the full board and bureau staff who provide monthly updates on finances including the annual budget processes, fall and spring Budget Monitoring Process (BuMP), System Development Charges, Bond, Parks Levy, and Sustainable Future activities. Members of the group participate in the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) and the HPHP Decision Making Tool team. They provide information to the Board, so they can make decisions as a full board.

Land Use/Infrastructure (Paddy Tillet)

This group keeps their ears open to identify what may be relevant to the board regarding land use and infrastructure, and they gather information to report to the full board. There are several land use/infrastructure projects that the group learns about and recently they have been looking at the Master Plan for the South Park Blocks, the Willamette River South Reach project, Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge, 15 Rose Quarter, Highway 30 access to Forest Park, and Grant Park Lighting.

Initial Working Group Assignments

Paul reviewed the intention to have break out rooms by working group to identify topics to pursue over the next year. Paul hopes that the Board can “do less, better.” Paul clarified that these groups typically meet monthly between Board meetings.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:00pm and will reconvene on June 12.

Saturday, June 12, 2021

1:00 - 3:00 pm

Paul called the meeting to order at 1:00pm and participants reviewed themes and take aways from the June 11 meeting. Randy raised the point that the board should be thinking about how to engage politically. Paul reminded the Board that they are required to disclose conflicts of interest.

General Board Duties

Paul shared that Board leadership has a quarterly meeting with Commissioner Rubio. The Board's relationship with the PP&R Commissioner and the Parks Foundation is key. Paul asked how and with whom the Board should develop relationships. Bonnie would like the Board to be a resource to the community, bureau and Commissioner. She would like to see the Board book updated with skills and interests and shared with staff leadership and Commissioner.

Adrienne identifying a potential outcome of the Community Engagement working group which could be a recommendation to staff who they should partner with. Corbin would like to do deep hang outs with the community at events and work sites to build relationships with the community and staff. Showing up builds trust.

The group discussed how the bureau will engage in information sharing with other organizations asking similar questions and the importance of compensating folks for their time and expertise.

Paul reviewed the relationship of the Board to the BAC and the potential to recommend a different engagement with the BAC. The intention is to make the Board's engagement more meaningful while continuing to provide engagement for Labor and Community interests. The desire to make the experience more meaningful for Board members is to keep the engagement more consistent with the level that the Financial Sustainability working group interacts with PP&R and not to "water it down" as much as the current BAC practice requires.

Working Group Reports

Community Engagement

Paul suggested that this group focus on just one or two goals for the year as they are just getting started up again.

Financial Sustainability

The Financial Sustainability group is learning about the continuous budget processes. Fiscal Year 2020-21 is wrapping up. Community Centers are closed through end of June and Recreation will be operating at a lower level. Ramp-up for summer was slower than expected so they are well within the budget. The Fiscal Year 2021-22 Budget has been adopted and it includes an increase in Ranger funding. The bureau fall BMP request is currently being developed. It will be submitted in September and approved by Council the end of October.

Land Use/Infrastructure

This working group works with staff to put together the salient information to report to the Board. When looking at the Level of Service study the Board has recommended including a metric that incorporates density not just distance to PP&R assets. The Board has also reviewed the I-5 Rose Quarter project which had the highway covers marked as public open space. The Board shared their concerns with this and other design details with ODOT. This group and the Board fulfill part of their advisory role by reviewing these kinds of proposals and identifying missteps or how things could be better than proposed.

Working Group Breakouts – Priorities for 2021/2022

The Board used breakout rooms to discuss working group priorities for the 2021-22 Board year.

Priorities Vote

Erin reported out for the Community Engagement group. They are focused on learning what PP&R is doing with their Racial Equity Lens and Equity Statement. They want to get to know group members' knowledge and experience and have space to develop their priorities.

Casey reported out for the Financial Sustainability group. The group would like to be involved with the budget development earlier, monitor the Levy budget, reporting, projects, and framework. They want to investigate alternative resources that can be sustained beyond the Levy and report these to full board. They would also like to review the Board's relationship with the BAC and membership of the BAC and how it works.

Paddy reported out for the Land Use/Infrastructure group. This group would like to give more attention to infrastructure projects. He highlighted the Green loop, Columbia Boulevard Bridge, and the Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge projects. In their review of these kinds of initiatives, they want to ensure they are not negatively impacting vulnerable communities. Lauren added that there is need to continue addressing the bureau's more than \$500 million Major Maintenance backlog and the opportunity for the Board to work with the bureau in developing a capital Bond.

The Board discussed the potential for meeting in person. With voluntary staff reentry into City facilities beginning in July there is potential to reconvene in person later this summer.

Paul thanked meeting participants, and the meeting was adjourned at 3:03pm.

Next Parks Board Meeting – Tuesday, July 13, 9:00-11:00 am