



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

September 10, 2019 | 8:00 - 10:00 am
Charles Jordan Community Center

**Board Members
Present:**

Paul Agrimis, Kendall Clawson, Michelle Dedeo, Mike Elliott, Pat Frobes, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Jenny Glass, Randy Gragg, Katy Holland, Ian Jaquiss, Tamara Layden, Jim Owens, Gladys Ruiz, Erin Zollenkopf, Lee Novak

**Board Members
Absent:**

Lorena Nascimento, Paddy Tillett

**PP&R/City Staff
Present:**

Tonya Booker, Maximo Behrens, Jenn Cairo, Claudio Campuzano, Brooke Gardner, Brian Landoe, Todd Lofgren, Adena Long, Lauren McGuire, Nicola Sysyn

**Call to Order and
Approve August
Minutes**

Board Chair, Paul Agrimis called the meeting to order at 8:02am.

Paul asked members if they had a chance to review the minutes from the August meeting and if there was a motion to approve them. Jim made the motion, Kendall seconded, and the minutes were approved.

Public Comment

Paul invited Mary-Margaret Wheeler-Weber to share her comments. Mary-Margaret shared with the Board the importance of providing an indoor pool for year-round use in the Portsmouth neighborhood. She shared the questions that she provided to the bureau. Mary-Margaret would like the bureau to avoid closing the pool at Columbia Park until there is a suitable replacement in place.

Gladys Hall was invited to share their comments. Gladys shared her experience using the Columbia pool and the importance of aquatics for seniors. Gladys would like to see there be continued pool access in North Portland neighborhood.

Lee Cannon was invited to share their comments. Lee shared that he is the President of the Portland Aquatic Club which





focuses on competitive swimming. Lee shared how access to pools supports students and explained his concern with the limited capacity of pools for students.

Director's Report

Director Long shared the following report:

Personnel

Posting for the Equity & Inclusion Manager went live September 9. Part and parcel to that recruitment, is a realignment of the Community Engagement team back to the Community Relations Team; the E&I team will report to the new E&I Manager, as it was originally structured.

Michael Oliver joined the Land Stewardship team as the City Nature East Supervisor.

PR&R/BES Process Improvement Project

Land Stewardship and Urban Forestry continue to be highly engaged in the PP&R / BES Process Improvement Project and completed a Kick-Off event in August as well as a steering committee meeting and focus groups.

Finance Property Technology

Three small community center transitions are well underway.

- We have completed a long-term lease with the French immersion school at Fulton. They will be managing the permittees going forward – as well as the capital needs.
- Friends of Sellwood Community House took over operation of the Sellwood Community center on 9/6. They have a one-year lease with the expectation that they will make an offer to purchase the facility in the near- to medium-term.
- We received three proposals for uses at Hillside Community Center. A panel including members from the neighborhood association reviewed those proposals and are moving on to the next phase of the selection process. In the meantime, the existing, regularly permitted users will continue to activate the facility.



We finished the year under budget and with sufficient resources to fund costs that carried over from the prior year. More will be reported by the Finance working group.

Partnerships

As noted on the agenda, the Friends of Patton Square Park are celebrating the refresh of the playground including new play pieces to the playground that were funded through a combination of funding sources, including SDCs and private funding.

Along similar lines, the Friends of Wilshire Park have raised approximately \$15K to replace a failed playground play piece—timing for the installation is still pending.

Total volunteer hours for last fiscal year are 446,392 - 380 of which can be attributed to the Parks Board.

She hesitated to put a dollar value on the hours because the roles are so varied, but we can conservatively set the value at \$5,674,177.

Urban Forestry

PPR has proposed content for the Mayor's Climate Emergency Declaration and have been asked to contribute towards a more robust Climate Action Plan, which also include a community engagement piece for stakeholders.

The Annual Tree Summit is on October 26 at the Floyd Light Middle School. UF staff and tree volunteers will share the results of the first-ever inventory of trees in developed Parks, as well as the latest research and ideas for improving our neighborhoods' urban forests [Tree Summit | Tree Inventory Project | The City of Portland, Oregon](#)

Adena invited the Board to subscribe to TreeBark to receive information like this on a monthly basis:

<https://www.portlandoregon.gov/parks/article/557126>





Asset Management

The Systemwide Pathways condition assessment of over 200 miles is 95% complete.

PP&R is participating in the annual Capital Set Aside Citywide process and working with the City Budget Office future *Build Portland* rounds to pilot a Triple-Bottom-Line (3BL) evaluation for infrastructure investments.

The process for selecting growth capital and major maintenance capital projects for funding in FY 20-21 has started with expected completion by November 2019.

Development Program

Gilbert Primary Park Playground opening event will be in late September. Glenhaven Park Playground opening event will be in early October. Riverplace Sidewalk is scheduled for replacement this fall.

Planning

A successful South Park Blocks Design Charette occurred on 8/6 for design ideas for the blocks.

Staff continue to work with Prosper Portland on the future Broadway Corridor plans, the OMSI plans and the Culinary Food Carts at Ankeny Square.

Professional Repair and Maintenance Services

PRMS staff is working with Land Stewardship to erect a shelter structure at Gabriel Park in the Sustainable Landscape's Nature Patch.

PRMS cut the bureau's work order backlog by 30% in 16 months.

Budget and Performance Update: Urban Forestry

Urban Forester and Urban Forestry Division Manager, Jenn Cairo with UF Staff Brian Landoe presented their UF budget and performance update. Their presentation included information about the city's canopy, number of park and street trees, the value of the green infrastructure, and the support the community has for trees.





They reviewed the structure of the division as well as the FY 2019-20 budget. Budgeted revenue comes primarily from General Fund, Development Permit & Inspection fees, Non-Development Permit & Inspection fees, Interagency, and Title 11 fund transfers. Budgeted expenses are primarily Personnel, Internal Materials & Services, and External Materials & Services costs.

They reviewed the Tree Planting & Preservation and the Urban Forestry Funds as well as the Urban Forestry Management Plan Goals.

Jenn and Brian reviewed the key challenges facing UF which include the inequitable access to urban trees, lack of proactive park tree maintenance, insufficient tree code enforcement staffing, the cost of street tree maintenance, and limited capacity of supervisors.

They shared the efforts that UF has made in Diversity, Equity and Inclusion. This includes the Citywide Tree Planting Strategy, UF Language Access Plan, Division DEI Plan, hiring and UF Commission membership.

Bonnie asked about the land acquisition piece of the Tree Planting and Preservation fund. Jenn noted that the fund is currently used for canopy and has not yet been used for land acquisition.

Erin asked about street trees and if there is interest in the city taking responsibility for them. Jenn noted that there is interest from the community in this. Brian noted that 70% of respondents to the survey conducted during the development of the citywide tree planting strategy said they would like the city to take on street tree responsibility.

Gladys asked Jenn to expand on the DEI work UF has been doing. Jenn shared that this work was based on the bureau's REP and efforts were focused on the tree planting strategy, language access plan and hiring. Support from the city is needed for expansion and protection of the tree canopy on



the east side. Brian noted that UF is doing targeted outreach to communities that are low income or less likely to feel able to plant or advocate to plant trees.

Kendall encouraged Jenn to look at public private partnerships with organizations particularly concerning seniors and health related issues. There are cross sector collaboration opportunities.

Jim noted that the challenges UF is facing are related to the need for additional funding. He asked if funding needs and expenses have been projected out. Brian responded that when they look at the revenue funds from permits and fees, particularly non-development, they need General Fund support to keep non-development permits affordable. It will be an issue down the road. Todd noted that they are looking at different funding scenarios now. Jenn noted that they are working on building a trust fund to fill the funding gaps.

Pat suggested that the bureau consider providing more funding for volunteer efforts and requested that it be an item on the agenda as budget discussions begin for the next fiscal year.

**Alternative
Funding Task Force
Update –
Meeting 1**

Paul shared an update on the Alternative Funding Task Force. The group is looking at seven different options to consider, including: a levy, tax districts, a bond, a cell phone tax, a lodging tax or a restaurant tax. They reviewed three scenarios – current funding (which will mean more cuts), no cuts (which will require more funding), and equitable services (which require much funding). The next meeting of the task force is that evening, September 10.

Board members raised questions about the task force membership and the meetings being closed. Adena responded that there have been discussions at past Board meetings regarding the formation of the task force and explained that the meetings are closed as there is a lot of material to get through. The Council Work Session is scheduled for November 19, 2019, in Council Chambers 9:30-11:30am. Board members are encouraged to tune in.





Parks Board Workplan

Paul reviewed the work plan document developed out of the goals set at the Board Retreat. He asked that members review the work plan and identify how they might achieve the goals that the group would like to work on going forward. He asked that they look at what hasn't made progress and how they would like to address that. He asked them to discuss the barriers and what they need to get past them.

Michelle shared that the housing and homelessness working group would like to continue. The challenge the group faced was the departure of their dedicated support staff, Trang Lam, former Deputy Director. If the Board is interested in this work, the group should continue. They need a staff member to support the group. Erin supported keeping the group active as these policy issues affect the whole city.

Tamara noted that this is a huge city-wide issue, and it may not be the best way for the Board to be effective as an advisory body to the bureau.

Gladys shared that the group supported the dialogue that the bureau was having about houselessness. She stressed the importance of focusing on both safety and empathy. Kendall expressed interest in joining the working group.

Jim asked if there would be an update on the social services permitting that the bureau was working on. Adena responded that they are still working on scheduling a meeting, but they would like to receive feedback from the working group on the effort.

Jim recommended that the blanks in the work plan be filled in. Paul asked who would be willing to be the point person to fill in the blanks.

Gladys suggested that next time they might consider having small group discussions on the work plan. Adena offered that rather than having a division update at the next meeting they free up time for the work plan discussion.





Randy asked that clarifying the boards role be a top agenda item at the next meeting.

**Bylaws/Public
Comment Update**

Pat shared that she is working on the bylaws update and more will be forthcoming.

**Finance Working
Group Update**

Pat shared that they are asking to learn more about what the bureau is doing to manage expenses.

Paul noted that the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) formation this year will be a mix of Board members, Labor and Community Representatives. They are looking for 6 Board members to serve on the BAC.

Gladys noted that it would be helpful in deciding to serve if they had the timeline and dates in advance. She also suggested adding the BAC to the work plan.

**Land Use/
Infrastructure
Working Group
Update**

Jim shared that due to limited time remaining in the meeting, they would send out an email to the Board with recommendations from the Land Use/Infrastructure working group to review prior to the next meeting.

**Parks Board
Meeting Adjourns**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:05 am.

Next meeting is Tuesday, October 8, 2019.

