

## Board Meeting Minutes

**Tuesday, March 14, 2023**

5:00pm – 7:00pm

1120 SW 5<sup>th</sup> Ave, Room 216 and Zoom Virtual Meeting

### **Board Members Present**

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Casey Mills, Adam Lewis, Dr. C.N.E. Corbin, Erin Zollenkopf, Alejandro Orizola, David Staczek, Crys O’Grady, Ali Berman, Randy Gragg (ex officio)

### **Board Members Absent**

Paul Agrimis, Sabrina Wilson, Elana Pirtle-Guiney

### **City Staff Present**

Adena Long (Bureau Director), Michelle Tran (Executive Assistant), Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director), Maximo Behrens (Recreation Division Manager), Jenn Cairo, Claudio Campuzano, Sarah Huggins, Lauren McGuire, Margaret Evans, Kenya Williams, Jeremy Nelson, Jonathan Simeone

### **Others Present**

Nathan Fry, Linda Walker, Suenn Ho

### **Call to Order/Social Time**

Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Chair) called the meeting to order at 5:00pm.

### **Public Comment**

Nathan Fry and Linda Walker (guests) submitted public comment regarding the light pole removals. Nathan wanted know what the specific reasoning for which light poles will be removed. They submitted photos comparing another image of a light post.

### **Letter Request to the Senate for earmarked funding:**

PP&R requested the Parks Board write a letter to the Senate regarding funding for the light pole project. Mike Elliott (Board Member) moved to approve submission of a letter to the Senate to request funding for the removal and replacement of the light poles. Crys O’Grady (Board Member) seconded. All voted in approval, and the motion carried.

### **Approve February Minutes**

Alejandro Orizola (Board Member) moved to approve minutes; Ali Berman (Board Member) seconded. All voted in approval, with Mike Elliot (Board Member) abstaining due to absence, and the motion carried.

### **Director’s Report Q&A**

Thanks to the board for the quick turnaround on the **Congressional Direct Spending support letter for the Light Pole Safety Project**. In addition to the \$5M reallocation of Major Maintenance funds, the \$10M earmark request, there also is a pending \$2M Metro Bond application and the bureau is investigating other means by which to fund the gap so that they can expedite removal **and** replacement. Director Long sent out an email to the Board to recruit members for the Parks Levy Oversight Committee. As a PLOC member, you would be advising PP&R on Parks Levy-related program implementation, transparency and communication, and fiscal accountability. Members meet quarterly,



serve 2-year terms with the option to reapply, and can expect to commit 7 hours quarterly (including the 2-hour meeting). Recruitment for new members is open, and applications are due Monday, April 3.

Tomorrow, Suenn Ho's mid-term appointment to the Parks Board will be voted on at City Council, Time Certain 10:05am. Also tomorrow, the City Council will vote to delist 7 Heritage Trees and to designate 6 new Heritage trees. The Heritage Tree program was designated by City Council through Title 11, 30 years ago. The program recognizes and protects trees of significant size, age, historical association, or horticultural value.

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability's Off-Road Cycling Master Plan was belatedly published late last week. The plan will guide future decision-making on the best places to expanding off-road cycling opportunities in Portland. It is important to note that building these facilities will require significant additional site-specific planning, community involvement, environmental review, and funding. PP&R will incorporate these off-road cycling projects into their Capital Improvement Program, so that they can be considered for future funding.

Alejandro Orizola (Board Member) asked if there was any communication plan in place for the Off- Road Cycling Master Plan. Director Long answered that a transmittal letter was processed, and the Bureau of Planning and Sustainability webpage updated. There is currently no additional communication is planned

Dr. Corbin (Board Member) asked about the Board's role in the NPAC project. Although there will be a report out at the Land Use & Infrastructure working group, Dr. Corbin commented that she would like more Board involvement in such a large project. This should be seen at the board level rather than just working group level. Lauren McGuire (Assets & Development Division Manager) shared that there will be a Community Workshop on April 27 to solicit public feedback on the 3 designs presented. Director Long suggested that we can have a report out at the next Board meeting in April or May. Lauren confirmed that this would go well with the timeline for public feedback.

### **Portland Parks Foundation (PPF) Report**

Randy Gragg (ex officio) reported that nominations for the Joey Pope Awards are open. Self-nominations are accepted but he recommends also bringing this to other community members in the Board members' network. There are nominations also open for Parks Champions, who are volunteer leaders.

All entities involved in downtown activation and safety/cleaning will be brought together to discuss downtown and O'Bryant Square. There is also a taskforce of 30 different arts organizations that was created to promote programming at the Parks.

### **Working Group Reports Q&A**

*Board Affairs* – Casey Mills (Board Co-Chair) reported that there is ongoing discussion on the roles and responsibilities of the Board and the BAWG. Michelle will be meeting with various working groups on the workplan that she and Director Long are working on.

*Land Use & Infrastructure* – Lauren McGuire (Assets & Development Division Manager) gave an update on the Capital Selection Process as well as the Holman Dock. Lauren clarified that Parks may actually take on the Holman dock but there are still outstanding discussions to be held with Prosper. Design team for NPAC will be doing test fittings at the 3 possible sites. Lauren also wanted to answer Bonnie Gee Yosick's (Board Chair) previous inquiry about pool length at NPAC, which will be 25 meters. There

was a briefing on the light pole safety project after their meeting with the Historic Landmarks Commission.

Erin Zollenkopf (Board Member) had a question regarding SDCs, the waivers, and converting commercial real estate into housing and the possible foregone revenue. Bonnie answered that she had the same question in the past and after speaking with Daniel Ramirez-Cornejo (SDC Manager), she said that though there will not be revenue generated, but there may be match in areas with grants. Lauren added that the SDC waiver was to incentivize some of the building conversion. Claudio Campuzano (Finance, Property & Technology Manager) also added that this is part of the 90-day resolution that the Mayor's office is trying to move forward. They expect somewhere around 15 properties will be part of this and it is difficult to measure the impact of this.

Dr. Corbin (Board Member) asked what kind of residential housing is being built. Claudio answered that there isn't any requirement for low-income housing.

*Financial Sustainability* – Discussion included change in budgeting structure and using levy fund as placement rather than replacement of general fund.

*Community Engagement* – CEWG is reviewing a second draft of the Board's public comment procedure so that expectations can be set for what staff need to do to respond to public comments during meetings. Staff said that they're willing to build a system (might be added to the Smartsheet as a project) so that there's a spreadsheet recording all of the public comments submitted.

*Nominating Committee* – Elana Pirtle-Guiney (Board Member) was not present but wanted to let the group know that there will be a meeting for the committee upcoming to get the process going.

*Parks Levy Oversight Committee* – There were no questions, though Corbin had a request for further racial disaggregation for more than just a "BIPOC" and "white" label. Margaret Evans (Workforce Development Manager) answered that further info can be provided to the Board. Dr. Corbin (Board Member) added that she would also be interested in breakdowns in other areas. Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director) added that Parks is also tracking application pool, candidate pool, full-time vs. casual staff.

**Spring BMP Report** (Claudio Campuzano - Finance, Property & Technology Manager)

The bureau is submitting the Spring BMP Report to the City on March 16. Typically there is not a lot in the Spring BMP, and there are two general fund requests. One is an amount set aside for general fund bureaus that usually goes to the cost of living adjustments (COLA) and health benefit increases. Last year, with the Levy, it was treated differently because when the Council looked at PP&R's budget, it was seen as underspending. In order to preserve the Levy, the bureau will spend the general fund first, and then supplement with the Levy. Labor agreement costs is the second fund – general fund bureaus will receive an increase to their general for their labor costs. The levy spending issue also applies here. The other big change made is an adjustment to the Levy balance and reducing the budget for the Levy. They will be reducing the reimbursement so that the budget will not show as underspending. The team is working with the Commissioner's office on that request.

**Special Parks District Discussion** (Sarah Huggins - Sustainable Future Manager)

Sarah went over a history of this bill and gave an overview of Sustainable Future to the Board. House Bill 3515 does not create a special district; it amends the statute to allow for an additional City Council governance option. This is similar to other district structures in Seattle and Olympia. Rep Travis Nelson

will be helping advocate for this bill. Park assets still belong to the city but. City of Seattle and Seattle Parks District signed an intergovernmental agreement (IGA) to ensure funds.

Mike Elliot (Board Member) asked if the bill allows for a city governance option. Sarah replied that it would be the entire City Council that would serve as the Special Parks District Council. Casey Mills (Board Member) then asked that after the Charter change, who will be the governing body. Sarah replied that it would be 13 City Council members.

Alejandro Orizola (Board Member) asked if this is one district for the entire city or multiple districts in different areas. Sarah replied that this would be to support the City Parks as a whole. Adam Lewis (Board Member) then asked who would decide what those districts look like? Is it the new 13-member Council or would it go to a voting ballot. Sarah then said the City Council would be driving whether it would be on the ballot.

Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Chair) asked if it would affect compression or any other factors on how we would reimburse organizations like Children's Levy. Sarah answered that whether it's city-governed or not would have an effect. With the Levy, it only compresses other temporary levies. Permanent property will compress others.

Bonnie then asked if Parks did this, could other bureaus also temporarily do this? Sarah answered that this chapter is specifically geared to Parks. Todd Lofgren (Deputy Director) added that as the largest bureau of the largest city, Multnomah County cannot govern Parks and the independent body option has a lot of different liabilities and complications. It's important to focus on governance rather than funding. The bureau does not have an option to provide consistent services at the moment. For example, the \$80 million general fund (i.e. the fund that is not the Parks Levy) is approved annually, and then once approved, the bureau has 3 weeks to operationalize it. At the moment, the City cannot guarantee that the \$80 million would be given next year. With this new bill, there would be a promise of funding expected for the subsequent years.

Adam Lewis (Board Member) asked about how the funding will be drawn and whether there are protections for communities like low-income neighborhoods. Sarah said that it could be argued that this is the protection for that. If we were to move forward with this governance option, it would be the city as a whole. He then asked if this district only for Portland city limits.

Mike Elliot (Board Member) commented that Parks needs a long-term financing and governance structure for the future. What is needed to be voted on is supporting having the option of the Parks District? Casey Mills added that this option takes the longest, and the state only meets every other year. The next time the bureau would be able to do this would be in two years.

Dr. Corbin (Board Member) asked for some examples of what worked for Seattle and Olympia as well as growing pains during this process. Sarah said she can follow up with that information.

Casey Mills (Board Member) made a motion for the Board to support passage of Bill 3515. Crys O'Grady (Board Member) seconded. All voted in approval, and the motion carried. Bonnie Gee Yosick (Board Chair) and Casey Mills (Board Co-Chair) will draft the letter.

### **Accessibility Champions**

Jonathan Simeone (Accessibility Analyst) introduced himself to the Parks Board and gave an overview of the Accessibility Champions program. This program will be a new and robust program of its kind to train PP&R staff to be compliant on ADA policies and proactive with accessibility accommodations.

One of the main points included that PP&R has been out of compliance for many years and currently, staff do not have knowledge and capability to become compliant. This program is going to train “champions” to create a faster implementation of compliance efforts. This will be a new program for most of the staff. This will be an add-on to staff’s responsibilities, and they will be the point people for addressing requests for accommodation.

Initial composition of the program will include one representative from the Director’s Office, at least three representatives from each division, and program-specific representatives based on service delivery, need, and project.

Ali Berman (Board member) asked how is the bureau going to find the champions? Also, will they be a cohort learning together? Jonathan answered that there will be training on a monthly basis, and staff will be able to engage with each other on Microsoft Teams. There is still discussion on who will be participating.

#### **Public Comment/New Business**

There was no public comment. Dr. Corbin (Board Member) commented for the need for an Environmental Justice Working Group.

#### **Meeting Adjourned**

Bonnie adjourned at 6:59pm.