



Steel Bridge Skatepark in Old Town, PAC Meeting #2 Notes

Monday, November 17, 2025, 6:30-8:00pm, Virtual Zoom

Attendees

Project Advisory Committee (PAC) members: AJ Waters, Ben Wixon, Dean Dickinson, Hanako Wakatsuki-Chong, Isnardo (Nardo) Gandarilla, Jasmine Burch, Joanna Harrison, Margaux Mennesson, Nicole Tignor, Selma Urbina (**Absent:** Chris Adams-Nukala, Hope Huynh, Jesse Wilhite, Miles McGowan, Preston Harper, Stig Nilsen-Goodin, Stevie Moe, Titus Wade)

Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R) Staff: Aspen Brown, Travis Ruybal, Jenna Stathopolous

DAO Architects: David Horsley and Joann Le

Lango Hansen: Kurt Lango and Katherine Sheie

Grindline: Matt Fluegge

Dreamland Skateparks: Danyel Scott

Welcome, Settle, and Agenda Overview (15 mins)

- Welcome
- Group agreements and consensus reminder
- Agenda review
- Update on progress with ODOT, PBOT and TriMet
 - Headway with partner agencies and are ready to start moving into design work. Going to move through deal points.

Site Updates and Review (30 mins)

- Review site updates
 - New, larger Trimet substation and switchgear are planned. Architectural and Engineering (A/E) team looked at multiple options to relocate these, but costs would be much higher than what project could take on.
 - PP&R agreed that Trimet will be able to review all drawings and meet their approval. Are currently working with TriMet to refine substation relocation.



- Trimet as agreed to have PP&R and A/E team lead public art portion of the substation project, coordinating with RACC.
- To maximize pedestrian space near the substation, the project team would like to close NW 1st Avenue to public vehicle use and make it part of the public plaza. PP&R is working on this.
- Design team presented a Site Ownership Considerations Diagram showing ODOT maintainance access needs and possible routing.
- ODOT also requires a 10 foot easment alongside their overheard structure.
- Cooperative Information Agreement (CIA), provides ODOT resources from our project budget to compensation their staff to participate, review and coordinate with PP&R on project.
 - Anticipating under 30k for that CIA work.
- Similar to ODOT, PBOT has also asked for a 10 foot easement alongside their roadway ramps.
- PBOT staff proposed removing a traffic lane on NW Everett adjacent to the south side of the site and making it a sidewalk to provide better pedestrian and maintenance access. PP&R and PBOT are working on this.
- Due to the site's complex ownership, there are large partnership agreements on the project, impacting specific areas of the site.
- District Map
 - Shows initiatives projects and concepts the city is seeing for the district. Desire to connect Old Town to the waterfront and river.
 - Larger context to the waterfront
 - Flanders crossing
 - Park blocks expansion
 - Tom McCall Waterfront Bowl planning initiative
 - City of possibilities planning initiative
 - Among many others
 - Maximize opportunities within the site to draw people in to currently underutilized area.
 - Captialize on nearby amenities.
- Current vicinity map (DAO)

- Integrate the planned PBOT connection across Naito to the Flanders Greenway. This will be an important crossing into the park, carefully considered throughout the planning.
- Connection to the MAX stop at the SW corner of the site will be an important entrance, but will be complex to develop due to bridge structure, existing grades, and intersection specifics.
- Site ownership considerations (DAO)
 - In addition to the TriMet, ODOT, and PBOT items noted above, Above and below ground utilities in site area that will need to regularly accessed.
 - NW Glisan and NW Flanders has multiple access considerations.
 - Grade Change is significant from SW Corner at Everett and 1st to Flanders and Naito.

Review Survey Questions (20 mins)

- Priorities of the 2011 Plan have remained similar and are timeless. Skatepark design and skateboarding has changed in the past 15 years, and the updated plan will evolve somewhat. Focus on bigger picture and then dive into how to create skate centric features and terrain in later plan refinements.
- Feedback on the survey questions
 - These are questions for the broader community at the first community gathering in January or February. The questions are still in development though we're keeping them high level
 - We're asking for critique on the questions and will take this feedback to refine the survey and three design alternatives.
- Discussion
 - Review Question 8- Review modes of transportations
 - Notes for change ask in questions: how will you get to the park? What type of transportation will use?
 - Questions: How much of of the project site will be protected by rain or undercover?
 - As much as possible to make it available for year around use. Given easement that will be a challenge area, but other spaces are intended to be covered.
 - Should be noting this in the information and design boards at the first community gathering.

- Review Question 2: Wondered if there could be homage of the cultural importance of Old Town China Town and Japan Town, if there are notable skateparks internationally. Looking at architectural features that bring the essence of Asian design and culture that is also tied to the area in Portland.
 - Design team noted skatepark research will include many worldwide examples, casting a wide net for both cultural influences, skating terrain, and the skate park site context.

CE Updates (15 mins)

- Broad schedule – see slide with broad schedule that outlines cadence of PAC meetings, internal meetings, CE gatherings, focus groups, and the refinement of design at each of the three phases.
- First community gathering outline – We are planning for end of January or early February, with a high level focus. We plan to have three alternative designs, the survey, and hoping for a walking tour or self guided tour – early conversations with Vanport Mosaic and nearby groups.
- Recruitment and outreach for the first community engagement will start a month before the final CE gathering date.
- Feedback from PAC on language access recommendations from our professional community engagement liaisons or CELs.
 - **Spanish** – recruitment, interpretation, and translation of materials
 - **Mandarin Chinese** – recruitment, interpretation, and translation of materials
 - **Cantonese/Taishanese** – recruitment, interpretation, and translation of materials
 - **Russian** – recruitment, interpretation, and translation of materials
 - **Somali** – recruitment, interpretation, and translation of materials
 - **Black communities** – recruitment only
 - We will likely choose 3-6 communities with your recommendations considered and our given budget. Noted communities not considered yet, may be the Japanese

community, given the ties to Japan Town and the Vietnamese community which is as large as the Chinese communities.

- Hanako notes that many Japanese Americans with connection to old town area in the fourth and fifth generation, so might not need translation support. However there are immigrants coming from Japan, but they wouldn't likely have a connection to Old Town, would like to better understand the target audience to know if that language translation would make sense.
- Separate Note- ASL interpreters are important for future community events.
- Dean highlights the 2023 X Games Japan- notes their bowl and street area are incredible.

Next Steps, Questions, Feedback (10 min)

- Feedback on the survey questions and language access guidance will be open for two weeks so feel free to reach out to Aspen with any suggestions
- Aspen will send the notes and any relevant materials after this meeting
- We will begin outreach for the community gathering in December or January and ask that you share with your networks