

PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES
January 8, 2019 | 4:00 - 5:00pm
Congress Center | Room 513

Board Members Present: Paul Agrimis, Kendall Clawson, Pat Frobles, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Jenny Glass, Randy Gragg, Katy Holland, Ian Jaquiss, Tamara Layden

Board Members Absent: Tonya Booker, Michelle Dedeo, Lorena Nascimento, Joe O’Leary, Jim Owens, Gladys Ruiz, Paddy Tillett

Commissioner’s Staff Present: Todd Lofgren

PP&R Staff Present: Claudio Campuzano, Margaret Evans, Brooke Gardner, Sarah Huggins, Lauren McGuire, Kia Selley

Call to Order/ Approve December Minutes Pat Frobles, Board Chair, called the meeting to order at 4:03pm.

Pat requested a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Paul Agrimis made the motion, Kendall Clawson seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Approve Ex-Officio Members Mary Ruble and Randy Gragg Pat asked the Board to approve the appointments of Randy Gragg, the Portland Parks Foundation (PPF) Executive Director, and Mary Ruble, the PPF Board Chair, as ex-officio members of the Board. Pat noted that the PPF Executive Director has served on the Parks Board in the past and that the PP&R Director and Parks Board Chair serve as ex officio members of the PPF Board. To reinforce the special partnership between Portland Parks Bureau and the Parks Foundation, and establish parity between the two organizations, Pat recommended that the Board add the PPF Board Chair as an ex-officio member.

Pat asked for a motion to approve Randy and Mary’s nomination to the Board. Bonnie Gee Yosick made the motion, Jenny Glass seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.





Pat noted that the Member Nominating Committee and Office Nominating Committee will be established in February. Two Board members (Jenny Glass and Paddy Tillett) are eligible for reappointment to a 3-year term and one vacancy needs to be filled. Pat asked the Board members share names of community members who may be interested in serving on the Parks Board.

Pat reminded the Board that the next Budget Advisory Committee meeting was moved to January 24, 2019.

Director's Update

Interim Director, Kia Selley thanked the Board for coming today and for coming to the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC) meeting on January 24. Parks staff are working on reduction proposals to bring to the BAC. They are also working to keep the Board and staff informed during the process of developing the Budget. Kia asked the Board to share suggestions for the budget and be the Bureau's eyes and ears in the community as the process moves forward.

Kia gave an update on the impact of the state's Pay Equity Act of 2017. The goal of the Pay Equity act is to ensure that employees who are doing comparable work are paid similarly. The State regulations were released in November 2018 and the Bureau of Human Resources, with the City Attorney's office, has worked to comply with the regulations by the required deadline.

Kendall asked what the effects of Pay Equity are on Parks and if there are talking points for the Board in case they are asked about this. Kia shared that the City is in compliance and there is an estimated \$440,000/year financial impact on Parks. There is a contingency plan to cover this year's budget impact and solutions are being considered for next fiscal year.

Katy Holland asked what the engagement with the public will be on the proposed budget. Kia noted that there is potential for new public engagement opportunities with the new process. In the past there have been town halls and listening sessions for Council to hear feedback on the budget process, though Kia noted she has not heard what the plan is. The





Office of Community and Civic Life is developing a public engagement process. After the proposed Parks budget is submitted, there will be a listening process. The Mayor submits his requested budget in April which will be reworked before approval by Council in May. The FY2019-20 budget will be adopted in early June.

Kendall noted that it would be helpful to have a summary of the Commissioner's vision for this process. The BAC doesn't have a lot of time to review proposals and make informed decisions. It would be helpful to know what he is looking for from the BAC. Kia noted that Todd Lofgren should be able to provide this at the meeting on January 24. Parks has been working in lock step with Commissioner's staff Todd Lofgren and Sonia Schmanski.

Pat noted that some stakeholders may not be happy with the Requested Budget and would like to know what the Board's role is in communicating with those stakeholders.

Randy Gragg asked what is driving the gap. Claudio noted that Parks cannot rely on revenue as the personnel and other costs are rising more rapidly than our revenues.

Kia noted that these challenges are only going to get worse the next fiscal year. In the past, we have raised fees to cover revenue shortfalls, but there are limits to how much fees can be raised. The revenue shortfalls can no longer be solved with short term strategies. Rather the Bureau must put in place long term cost reduction strategies. Kia stressed the Bureau's commitment to achieving financial sustainability.

Kia shared that the Parks Bureau received an award from Green Roads International for the Sellwood Bridge Trails and Greenways.

Parks Board Letter to PBOT

Paul shared that ODOT is developing plans for I-5 improvements through the Rose Quarter that include widening the highway and making surface street connections over the highway. The Parks Board Infrastructure & Land Use



working group has reviewed the project with PBOT and Albina Vision representatives.

Paul noted that the project illustrations show some green surface street connections above the freeway which look like park fragments. The group identified several concerns.

The work group recommends that the Parks Board: 1) request an extension to 90 days of the proposed 30-day public comment period on the Environmental Assessment; 2) request that PP&R notify ODOT that the proposed cap will not be accepted as parks/open space to be managed/maintained by the Parks Bureau; 3) support PBOT funding of a review by an urban design team of alternative capping scenarios to make this a beneficial project to the community and to address the displacement caused by the construction of I-5 through the Rose Quarter.

Pat asked if the Albina Vision would be essentially killed by ODOT's plan. Paul noted that it would be greatly affected.

Pat asked the Board for a motion to approve the submission of a letter asking for an extension of the comment period to 90 days and to approve a request that the Bureau notify ODOT that the green spaces as currently defined will not be accepted as parks/open space to be managed/maintained by the Bureau. Bonnie made the motion, Katy Holland seconded, the motion was approved unanimously.

Pat asked for a motion approving a letter urging PBOT to fund a review by an urban design team of alternative capping scenarios. Katy made the motion, Jenny Glass seconded, the motion was approved unanimously.

SDC Overview

Sarah Huggins, System Development Charge (SDC) Program Manager, introduced herself and reviewed her updated summary. She shared that SDCs are a significant financial resource and can be used to fund capacity-increasing capital projects that further the Bureau's goals and policies. As development occurs in Portland, the intent of the SDC program is to have development pay its fair share for



expansions to the park system required to meet the needs generated by the new development.

Sarah will be providing annual updates to the Parks Board on the state of the SDC program. Two Parks Board members are participating in the Bureau's updated capital project prioritization process – thanks to Jim Owens and Paul Agrimis for participating this year.

Following Sarah's presentation Pat and Randy asked how Parks spend the central city SDCs. Sarah noted that SDCs can be used to improve a field, add active recreation, adding uses, enhancing streetscapes/event space. These improvements mean more people can use the park/facility for longer.

Randy asked who determines what SDCs can be used for. Sarah shared that a City Attorney usually reviews them.

Bonnie asked about the disaggregation of the data. Sarah noted that SDCs should be a tool to free up resources. Formerly the general fund was used for acquisitions. The idea was that the SDCs would free up general fund revenues for other uses. Unfortunately, this has not materialized. However, SDCs allow us to grow the system. The Board should keep this in mind as one of the financial tools available to the Bureau as it develops its Strategic Plan, budget and 2035 Vision. The Board thanked Sarah for her presentation.

Parks Board Meeting Adjourns

Todd Lofgren, Staff to Commissioner Fish, shared that a new director has been selected. The new director will be starting in late February. The official announcement is being developed. He thanked those on the Board who participated both formally and informally. He shared that an email will be going out regarding the appointment that evening.

The meeting was adjourned at 5:13pm.

Next meeting is Tuesday, February 12, 2019.

