

**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

July 9, 2019 | 8:00 - 10:00 am
City Hall | Pettygrove

- Board Members Present:** Paul Agrimis, Tonya Booker, Michelle Dedeo, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Pat Frobos, Randy Gragg, Tamara Layden, Lorena Nascimento, Lee Novak, Jim Owens, Paddy Tillett, Erin Zollenkopf
- Board Members Absent:** Kendall Clawson, Mike Elliott, Jenny Glass, Katy Holland, Ian Jaquiss, Gladys Ruiz
- PP&R/City Staff Present:** Maximo Behrens, Asha Bellduboset, Brooke Gardner, Art Hendricks, Todd Lofgren, Adena Long, Lauren McGuire, Josh Wells, Jennifer Yocom
- Call to Order** Board Chair Paul Agrimis called the meeting to order at 8:06am.
- Public Comment** No community members signed up for public comment.
- Director's Report** Director Adena Long shared that communication went out the night before announcing Todd Lofgren as the new Deputy Director and Tonya Booker as the new Land Stewardship Manager for Parks. They will begin on July 29.
- Adena shared that progress is being made on identifying the Alternative Funding Task Force members. The group will be looking at different funding scenarios and funding mechanisms to attain those scenarios. Their work will inform the Council Work Session and the effort has been named Portland Parks & Recreation: A Sustainable Future. Sarah Huggins, Parks' SDC Manager, will be the project manager for the Work Session preparation.
- Adena shared that there is a new effort underway with the Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) to examine the opportunities for collaboration and efficiencies in the work where BES and Parks has overlap. A consultant will lead the





work that is beginning later in July and will be completed in the Fall. Adena will report back on progress.

Jim Owens shared that he would like there to be greater representation of the Board on the Alternative Funding Task Force.

Paul noted that initially the invitation to the Board was for one seat. Paul will sit on the Task Force and there will be two alternates for this position. Paul stressed that the intent of the Task Force is to engage members of the community beyond the Board.

Jim asked what the opportunities will be to provide feedback to the Task Force.

Adena responded that the Finance Working Group has been reconvened. This will support the Board's involvement in the conversation. The Task Force is intentionally including members of the broader community because whatever comes out of the Task Force will likely require broad advocacy and campaigning.

Todd Lofgren noted that the Task Force will be looking at funding mechanisms, like a Levy, Bond, or Park District, not how the money will be spent.

Pat Frobes shared that she's glad the Task Force has been formed as this is an opportunity to do something fundamental and transformative. She would like the Board to have the opportunity to weigh in early and often. Pat suggested sending a letter to the Commissioner to thank him for setting up the Task Force and to encourage the group to think big and push the envelope.

Pat noted that the Board was founded by Council and should be at the center of the Task Force. The Board is a diverse representation of the community. She noted that the Board was at the center of the Budget Advisory Committee with other members identified to complete the committee. Pat





suggested that this may have been a better way to have formed the Task Force.

Erin Zollenkopf echoed Pat's comment about the formation of the Task Force. She asked what the role of the Finance Working Group will be and what the groups relationship will be with the Task Force. Erin asked if there would be an option for the Board to attend the Task Force meetings to observe.

Todd said they will look into the meeting requirements. Paul offered to make a statement at the first Task Force meeting. Adena noted that Paul will be serving on both the Task Force and the Finance Working Group. Staff will also connect the two. The Finance Working Group will then report to the Board on the work. She noted that the work of the Working Group is beyond the work of the Task Force.

Adena noted that a meeting will be scheduled for the Board leadership – current and past – to meet with Commissioner and herself in response to the request at the retreat.

Budget 101 - Recreation

Recreation Services Manager Maximo Behrens shared an overview of the Recreation Services Division. Josh Wells, an Analyst on the Performance and Analysis team, reviewed the FY19-20 Recreation Budget. They walked through the budget by fund type; budgeted expenses; and budgeted revenue projections.

Maximo shared that they are using performance measures to track how the division is doing in meeting their goals. Performance, resources and services are all interdependent. He reviewed the Strategic Plan Initiatives that Recreation is working on and where they currently stand. Josh described the details of the measures and walked through each one. Maximo wrapped up the presentation sharing the challenges and opportunities that the division faces.

Bonnie Gee Yosick recommended that they consider working with a different organization for aquatics certifications as this





may help with the staff shortage in that area. She also asked for more information about the funding for scholarships.

Lorena Nascimento recommended that Recreation look at the possibility of having a sliding scale option. Adena noted that this is something that staff is looking at in the Cost Recovery work.

Erin echoed Lorena's comment as she knows community members can and are willing to pay more for some services.

Pat shared that it is not clear if the budget is aligned with the Strategic Plan. Adena responded that the Performance and Finance team is looking into presenting budgets in that way going forward.

Equity & Inclusion Manager Art Hendricks shared a progress report on the 5-Year Racial Equity Plan.

Bonnie asked how the SUN Program connects with recreation and equity. Josh shared that the SUN Program creates a hub at schools to help retention of kids – especially kids of color – which essentially creates community centers within school facilities that provide wrap around services for kids and families.

Randy asked Art to share what is working and what isn't including what data would help drive the equity work forward. Art responded that the Bureau should continue on the path that they have started down. They should raise staff voices and restart the Parks Race and Ethnicity Program (PREP) work.

Lorena noted that Urban Forestry is actively providing stewardship to East Portland. She suggested that staff look at ways to engage community members in recreation that goes beyond community centers. Art responded that the BES collaboration work may lead to opportunities to engage community members and connect them to nature, trees and the river.





The Board thanked Art for his leadership moving the Bureau and the Board forward on equity.

**Approve
Nomination of
Parks Board Chair
and Vice Chair for
the 2019-20 Term**

Jim reminded the Board that at the May meeting the Board decided to approve the nomination of Paul and Bonnie for Chair and Vice Chair. Their appointment needed to be formally voted on in July. Pat made the motion, Michelle Dedeo seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Approve Ex-Officio
Member Lee Novak**

Paul noted that Portland Parks Foundation Board Chair, Mary Ruble, will be stepping off the Portland Parks Board, and Lee Novak, Portland Parks Foundation Board member, has been selected to fill the Ex-Officio position. Jim made the motion, Pat seconded, and the motion was unanimously approved.

**Land Use/
Infrastructure**

Willamette River South Reach

Jim shared that the Land Use/Infrastructure Working Group would like to come to a future Board meeting to discuss a Board recommendation regarding the Willamette River South Reach Plan. More information will be distributed by email prior to the meeting.

Broadway Corridor

At a future meeting the group would like to bring to the Board the Broadway Corridor recommendations and look at potential impacts to Parks.

Downtown Parks

There are parks downtown that have been fenced off and they look bad. Jim noted that there may be opportunities to address these issues with the Green Loop development and SDCs. More to come regarding this topic.

Burnside Bridge

Multnomah County reached out requesting an opportunity to present to the Board their work on Earthquake Ready Burnside Bridge. The Working Group will prescreen the presentation and determine if it would be appropriate to bring to the full Board.



Retreat Follow Up

Meeting Locations

Paul suggested that meetings take place at other locations every other month starting in the Fall. (Even months at City Hall and odd months at other locations.)

Working Groups

The Working Groups have not all been active. Land Use/Infrastructure meets regularly. The Finance Group is starting up again, but with Tonya leaving the Board, they will need to identify new leadership. Pat noted that the Equity Group was dissolved prior to the current list of groups as equity should be involved in each group. Other groups are not currently active.

Erin shared that she is interested in the Equity 101 training and suggested making that training available to the Board.

Randy suggested that there be an update on the homelessness effort at a full Board meeting. PP&R engages with those experiencing houselessness often connecting individuals to social services and in some cases imposing park exclusions when appropriate.

Adena noted that once the Social Services Policy, which focuses on providing services such as feeding people in our parks, is finalized, staff can present to the full board.

Erin would like to see the Working Groups descriptions revisited and to clarify the roster and responsibilities of the chairs and participants.

Bonnie, Paul and Tamara Layden volunteered to work on this.

Jim noted that the key to the success of the groups is to have an assigned staff member.

The Board discussed whether to fill Tonya's position immediately. It was decided to wait until the next regular process.



Bylaws Updates

Pat will work with Brooke on the bylaws update. Pat will also work on updating the Board's Public Comment policy.

Jim asked for clarification around the engagement with Friends Groups. Adena noted that staff plan to come back in the fall to share an update on the Friends and Partners work.

Bonnie suggested that a Working Group of Board members could support staff in their work with Friends Group engagement.

Approve May and June Minutes

Paul asked for any edits or a motion to approve the May and June minutes. Jim offered an amendment to the last line on page two in the May minutes regarding the I5 Corridor – the Board did not take a position. Bonnie shared that there was a sentence in the May minutes she asked to be replaced.

With the above edits – Jim made a motion, Lorena seconded, and the motion was approved unanimously.

Parks Board Meeting Adjourns

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59 am.

Next meeting is Tuesday, August 13, 2019.

