

**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD  
MEETING MINUTES**

January 14, 2020 | 8:00 - 10:00 am  
Eastmoreland Golf Course | 2425 SE Bybee Blvd

- Board Members Present:** Paul Agrimis, Kendall Clawson, Mike Elliott, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Jenny Glass, Katy Holland, Randy Gragg, Ian Jaquiss, Tamara Layden, Gladys Ruiz, Paddy Tillett, Erin Zollenkopf
- Board Members Absent:** Michelle Dedeo, Pat Frobos, Lorena Nascimento, Lee Novak, Jim Owens
- PP&R/City Staff Present:** Maximo Behrens, Tonya Booker, Margaret Evans, Brooke Gardner, Vincent Johnson, Todd Lofgren, Adena Long, Lauren McGuire, Everett Wild
- Call to Order/Approve December Minutes** Board Chair Paul Agrimis called the meeting to order at 8:06am.
- Paul led the group in a social activity. After the activity the group shared their reflections and appreciation of Commissioner Fish and his leadership. Members would like to recognize him in some way. The Board has sent a letter to his wife and posted a statement on the Parks Board website. They will continue to look for ideas to recognize his work.
- Paul asked for a motion to approve the December meeting minutes. Paddy made the motion and Ian seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Director's Report** Adena shared that the search for the new Community Relations Manager is underway with second interviews happening that week. The Equity and Inclusion Manager search failed and will reopen soon. She asked the Board for assistance in recruiting by reaching out to their networks.
- Budget development is underway. Adena thanked those serving on the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC). Adena noted that the downtown staff will be moving into the Portland Building with Feb 10th being the first day in the building. Meeting locations will be adjusted.
- Adena shared that Parks collected demographic data in recreation classes and in other parts of the bureau when community members register, but this practice was ended in 2016. A group of





staff members from across the bureau met to discuss how to reengage in that effort and how it impacts decision making. It will be streamlined and there will be a uniform approach to this work across the bureau.

There will be a special election in May to fill the Commissioner's vacancy. Parks will continue to work with Sonia and Everett. Adena shared that she discussed with the Mayor her desire to continue the work Commissioner Fish started – to ensure a Sustainable Future for Parks and improve environmental services and forestry practices in collaboration with the Bureau of Environmental Services.

Adena shared that the new replacement bridge on the Springwater Corridor will open that week.

## **Golf Program Overview**

Paul invited Vincent Johnson, PP&R Golf Manager, to share an overview of the Golf Program. Vincent welcomed the Board to the Eastmoreland golf course. His overview included background and review of the various programs within Golf, activities and opportunities for the broader community, as well as the land stewardship provided by Golf staff on the courses. He reviewed the Golf budget, the 2019 Golf Audit, the 2019 Golf Customer Survey, and the Golf Strategic Plan.

Mike asked if there are fewer young golfers now, how will that affect the Golf program in the future. Vincent shared that there is some uncertainty, but they are working to keep folks engaged and have strategies to engage young adults.

Randy asked if the Red Tail operations presented any difficulties or existential concerns since it's not within Portland city limits. Vincent highlighted that Golf is an enterprise fund that supports itself and noted that Red Tail serves community members in SW Portland. Lack of time and transportation are some of the biggest barriers for folks, and Red Tail serves people in the surrounding community, including Portlanders. Vincent noted that they need to continue to educate the community about why they are there and what the opportunities are.

Gladys asked what ways the Golf program is increasing activity especially considering the cost barrier. Vincent shared that the Colwood golf course is a shorter course, so it can be played in half the time. They have a program for younger adults that better





serves their budgets. There are also different rates at different times of year. In addition, the driving range is more affordable than rounds. Gladys asked what Golf and Parks does to acknowledge the stolen land on which the courses have been built. There is an annual salmon celebration, but Vincent noted that they can do more. He acknowledged the historical exclusivity of golf and asked for the Board's feedback.

Katy asked Vincent to share more about what changes are coming to Eastmoreland and Crystal Springs Lake which is in the center of the golf course. The Native American Community Advisory Committee gave feedback on the plan. Vincent confirmed that there are plans to improve the waterway adjacent to the golf course and the garden. Todd shared in more detail the plan to improve salmon access to Crystal Springs which starts in Reed Canyon. The route for the salmon goes through the lake. Golf courses provide ecosystem services for the community.

Jenny noted that a few years ago there were conversations about Glendoveer golf course changing ownership from Metro to Parks. She asked if that conversation is still ongoing. Todd confirmed that conversations did occur on the topic, but nothing is currently moving forward on that front. Jenny stated that Parks would likely be better able to serve the community and expressed an interest in seeing the conversation be revisited.

Bonnie asked for the revenue breakdown of the Golf Program. Vincent shared that greens make up about 65% of their revenue, and 35% is ancillary. They are focused on increasing greens revenue by improving the programming, making it simpler and hopefully increase participation.

Kendall highlighted her concern with the video poker in the restaurant at Eastmoreland. She questioned the benefit of having video poker on public sites. They may be adding to addiction which would require more services funded by the public.

Kendall recommended looking at the cost to maintain greens, noting their large consumption of water. She noted that the courses were built to serve a certain community and asked if there is something else that could be done with the land that might better use resources to serve a broader community. Lauren shared that they are looking at ways to make golf courses more accessible. Folks use pathways in courses. Vincent could not say





how much it costs to maintain a park versus a golf course. Currently, Golf courses are not using any public money for their maintenance. It is a big complex question to answer. Everett highlighted Eastmoreland's proximity to the MAX and bus lines. It does serve communities that otherwise would not have access.

### **Land Use/ Infrastructure Update**

Tate White, Parks Senior Planner, was out sick so her presentation on the South Park Blocks Master Plan would be postponed.

Paddy shared that after Tate presented to the working group, they wondered how the parks relate to one another and communities.

Bonnie shared that there are three concepts that were presented. There are two districts in the South Park Blocks area: the University District (South) and the Cultural District (North). The concepts address different issues.

Randy asked what Parks role has been in the Green Loop. Lauren shared that Parks has been involved in the process. The Green Loop is on the street, in the park, or in both.

Mike noted that the choice is not necessarily between A, B or C, but there are design elements that can be taken from them and used to create a design that is taken forward.

Gladys asked what is expected of the Parks Board. Paul shared that it was an opportunity to comment on the plan. Brooke noted that there was Parks Board representation on the Project Advisory Committee and will send out a link to the concept plans if available for distribution.

### **Finance Committee Update**

Mike and Bonnie reviewed the Parks requested budget which include requests for ongoing funding to address the major maintenance backlog, funding for 1-FTE to continue the Sustainable Future work, and the required operations and maintenance funding request. The BAC is reviewing their letter that will be included in the requested budget document that will be submitted at the end of January. They will reconvene after the Mayor's proposed budget comes out. Advocacy should come before the Mayor's proposed budget as the Mayor is now serving as the Parks Commissioner-in-Charge.

Kendall asked what the advocacy strategy is and how the Board can help. Todd shared that they are still working with





Commissioner's staff who are working directly with the Mayor's office on the staff level. Todd suggested the Board invite the Mayor to come to one of their meetings prior to the release of his proposed budget. Kendall offered the Boards assistance as needed.

**Public Comment  
Policy Update**

Paul noted that Pat is out sick, and time is limited, so they will bring the Public Comment Policy Update to the following Board meeting.

**Board Recruitment**

Tamara noted that the Board will have five vacancies in July and those who are terming off have been great leaders on the Board. Gladys shared that a work group focused on recruitment has met to discuss recruitment efforts and materials. She asked members to review the Board Composition Matrix in their packets which includes suggested updates that they would like to adopt. Tamara asked members to fill out the matrix to ensure their fields are filled in accurately. Gladys asked the group to pair up to discuss what is missing or any other changes the Board might offer.

Paul suggested that they may want to add government experience. Jenny suggested removing caucasian and replacing it with white. Katy asked if marketing was necessary to include in the areas of expertise section. Ian shared that he appreciated the great work on the matrix updates.

Kendall asked what the intention of the document is so they can have a better understanding of what they should be capturing. Gladys noted that the main purpose has been for recruitment. It isn't currently being used for Board work. A conversation about how they want to use the document in the future is needed.

Todd reminded members that Parks is updating its demographic data collection practice and can share that with the Board so it is consist with the bureau. He noted that senior programing isn't listed in areas of interest. If the areas of interest reflect the bureau, that can bring it into alignment.

Adena would like to see the geographical areas expanded on the West side to reflect the changes made for the East side. She suggested adding NW, SW, and Downtown.

Gladys requested more time at the next meeting to discuss who is leaving the Board, what their skill sets are, and to talk about Board





recruitment beyond the work group. Adena noted that it is not only important to look at what the Board is losing but also where the gap is currently.

Kendall asked if the Board wants to do something to acknowledge the Commissioner's service. Everett shared that the Commissioner's family is open and encouraging the community to honor Commissioner Fish if they wish and plans do not have to be approved by the family. Adena shared that there will be a housing unit named in the Commissioner's honor. Todd invited members to the public memorial service on Sunday, February 16, at PSU's Smith Memorial Student Union, 3<sup>rd</sup> floor ballroom. Kendall encouraged the full Board to attend.

**Parks Board Meeting  
Adjourns**

The meeting was adjourned at 10:08 am.

**Next meeting is Tuesday, February 11, 2020.**

