



**PORTLAND PARKS BOARD
MEETING MINUTES**

February 11, 2020 | 8:00 - 10:00 am
City Hall - Lovejoy | 1221 SW 4th Ave

**Board Members
Present:**

Paul Agrimis, Mike Elliott, Pat Frobes, Bonnie Gee Yosick,
Jenny Glass, Katy Holland, Randy Gragg, Tamara Layden,
Lorena Nascimento, Jim Owens, Paddy Tillett

**Board Members
Absent:**

Kendall Clawson, Michelle Dedeo, Ian Jaquiss, Lee Novak,
Gladys Ruiz, Erin Zollenkopf

**PP&R/City Staff
Present:**

Maximo Behrens, Jenn Cairo, Claudio Campuzano,
Margaret Evans, Brooke Gardner, Adena Long, Lauren McGuire,
Everett Wild

**Board Coffee
Conversation**

Board Chair Paul Agrimis called the meeting to order at 8:03am.

He noted that Mary-Margaret Wheeler Weber has signed up and invited her to share public comment. Mary-Margaret thanked board members for their service on the Budget Advisory Committee (BAC). She asked the board to support the advocacy for the Columbia Pool and for their advice. Mary-Margaret and advocates for Columbia Pool are focusing their efforts to reach Mayor Wheeler with their message. They would like to have a budget hearing in North Portland and for the budget meetings to be more meaningful. The board thanked Mary-Margaret for her comments.

Paul led the group in a social activity.

**Approve January
Minutes**

Paul asked if the board had any comments or questions on the January meeting minutes. He asked for a motion to approve the minutes. Paddy made the motion, Mike seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Director's Report

Director Adena Long shared that just the day prior, the majority of PP&R downtown staff moved back into the Portland Building. There will be an open house on March 19 and invited members to attend.

Adena announced that the new Community Relations Manager, Tim Collier, has been hired and will start on Friday, February 21. Other personnel updates included: the horticulture manager





position has closed; the maintenance manager position is still open; and the environmental planner position just closed that week.

Adena shared that PP&R staff have been working to refresh the Parks Race and Ethnicity Project (PREP). This project enabled staff to collect demographic information from PP&R users, mostly those registering for classes. The practice ended in 2016 following the election. Staff would like to revive the program as knowing who is being served helps identify who is not being served well. This information helps to drive decision making and programming work. Adena will be inviting the community development work group to share their input and attend the next meeting.

The PP&R Budget Council Work Session is scheduled for March 16. The finance committee has been fully briefed on the PP&R FY 2020-21 Requested Budget, and emails describing the approach have been sent. More information on the Requested Budget is available online.

Adena reviewed the changes to the Adopt-a-Bench program. The program is a PP&R fundraising tool for the maintenance of benches throughout the city. The program was on hiatus because staff didn't have the capacity to run it. The program is being rebooted, and it will align with similar programs throughout the country. One change is the establishing of a time limit for bench adoptions. Bench adoptions will expire after 10 years. Adena proposed moving away from the practice established by a former Director of gifting park benches to board members who have served two full terms. She offered in its place a unique custom PP&R branded cutting board.

Paul shared that he received Michelle Dedeo's resignation letter. She has accepted a position in Seattle and will not be able to continue her service on the Board.

Pat asked if the board will be taking a position on Columbia Pool. Bonnie asked for clarification of Columbia Pool funding. Claudio confirmed that in the PP&R FY 2020-21 Requested Budget the pool is not funded. The Mayor could include it in his budget.

Paddy noted that they need to look at pools and how they are maintained citywide to prevent future closures. If they are going to replace the pool, they need to look at it now. He stressed the





need to maintain the level of service. Staff should outline the cost to maintain the level of service so they know what it would take to maintain the pool until there is a replacement.

Katy continues to support keeping Columbia Pool open. She added that moving community members to a new location won't work especially due to capacity issues.

Jim clarified that the BAC adopted the position that the pool should remain open with interim funding while the comprehensive work is being done. They don't want the pool to be closed in June if there is will be an evaluation that may lead to keeping the pool open. This input has been submitted by the BAC. Other than the board's representation on the BAC, no additional input has been submitted by the board. Jim raised two questions - how does the board lobby for more comprehensive evaluation of the pool and keep it open in the interim? And how does the board engage on the budget?

Bonnie stated that the BAC has weighed in on the PP&R Requested Budget. She suggested that if the board doesn't take a position, that would be an omission. Maintaining continued access to aquatics programming throughout the region is the position that the BAC took. She would like the board to take a position.

Randy noted that he often receives the question about why System Development Charges (SDC) cannot go towards maintenance. Randy suggested the SDC program can be changed and that it would be good for the board to have a discussion on changing the SDC program. Jim agreed that using SDC funds for maintenance is desirable, but state law determines how SDC funds can be used. It does not appear to be a legislative priority for the City of Portland.

Claudio noted that PP&R is always looking at ways they can utilize SDC funding. The SDC program impacts roads, water, and sewer, as well. The challenge with the limited SDC funding uses is not just a PP&R issue. When PP&R can use SDC funding, they do. Lauren noted that during the work of the bond program they added a whole new playground at a park using SDC funds rather than the bond funds.

Paddy made a motion for the board to ask staff to formulate a program with the objective of maintaining and improving access to





aquatics throughout the city, while at the same time looking further into how SDC funds might be leveraged to enable the program.

Everett reminded the board that the bureau has identified SDC funds for a new pool with Charles Jordan Community Center (CJCC) as the potential site. CJCC is the only large center that doesn't have a pool. He noted additional examples of how the bureau has been leveraging SDC funds. He offered to share more information regarding the bureau's use of SDC funds.

Adena shared that staff have been looking at what accommodations can be made to address needs if Columbia Pool closes. Providing these accommodations is what they can do to address needs in the short term. In the long term, the Sustainable Future work is how the bureau plans to provide the service that the bureau, board, and community wants.

Adena noted that during last year's budget process the entire board served on the BAC. Having the whole board included was onerous. This year the board decided to engage in the budget process with a more limited representation on the BAC. There were seven board members on the BAC this year. Adena asked that if there is another BAC make up that members would like to see in the future, to please share now. The bureau is looking at engaging the BAC more year-round.

Paul noted that it may take up to five years for CJCC to get a pool. Paddy's motion was to find a way to bridge the funding for Columbia Pool. Paul asked if anyone seconded the motion. Jim seconded and clarified that essentially the board was asking for bridge funding for the pool. The motion passed unanimously.

Parks Board Recruitment

Tamara noted that with Michelle leaving the board there will be six vacancies. The board will be losing a lot of strong voices and diversity. It is almost half the body. Tamara passed out the board composition matrix and asked members to update their row on the form. She asked them to review the highlighted members who will be terming off and think about who they might want to recruit to the board. The matrix will be evolving as the bureau's PREP work continues. Feedback on this document is welcome. Tamara asked members to discuss the matrix with a neighbor and to share what they discussed.





Paddy shared that the matrix is helpful in identifying topics that are not currently being discussed. It also provides areas of expertise that will be lacking.

Adena agreed that there will be a loss of institutional knowledge and racial diversity. She suggested that since there will be so many vacancies, the board may look into staggering the appointments, rather than filling them all at once. The matrix is a good tool to utilize.

Mike noted the loss of people with political connections and racial diversity.

Jenny echoed the loss of institutional knowledge. Members who are terming off may support the board in other ways. They may serve on committees or provide board member mentorship.

Katy noted the limited number of folks from the west side and the loss of folks focused on equity and inclusion issues. She noted that the board could use equity training. Katy pointed out that education is a big part of PP&R and is not represented on the board as much as it could be.

Lauren shared that Jim has been a huge asset to the Assets & Development Division. The board may consider reaching out to Emily Roth who recently retired from the planning team.

Jim noted that if there is concern about having six members with identical terms, the board might consider changing term length which would require prompt action. Bonnie noted past board discussion about recruiting youth. A 3-year term might be a long term for a high schooler.

Tamara stated that if they have six excellent candidates, then they should snatch them up. She asked the board to think of three people they are going to ask to join the board.

Tonya noted that when she joined the board, they had an onboarding training on equity, a board buddy system, and regular engagement from the bureau. Tamara asked members who would be willing to be a point of contact for new members who might have questions. Paul, Bonnie, and Pat offered to support new members.





Brooke shared an update on the appointment process, what materials are being provided, and how the application process will be managed this year. Jim requested that the schedule to be sent out to the full board.

Land Use/ Infrastructure Update

Jim reviewed the Work Group update. He noted that the Off-Road Cycling Master Plan will be coming back to the board soon.

The River Plan South Reach will be going to the Planning Commission on February 25. The Work Group had several presentations and they generally support the plan. In their draft letter they highlight some areas that they especially support. One area they looked at was the limitation of retail space within parks. The board made the recommendation to allow retail that is supporting park uses, is equitable, and limited in nature. This has been included. Jim would like to bring their draft letter to the commission as board testimony. Bonnie made a motion, Paul seconded, and the testimony was approved unanimously.

There has been a lot of attention on PP&R with regards to ODOT's I-5 project and its impact on the East Bank Esplanade. Paul and Jim have been contacted by activists regarding this project. There was an assertion that the bureau approved ODOT's project. The land use/infrastructure work group is concerned about this project and suggests a full environmental review. Adena will keep the board updated on any new information.

Jim introduced Tate White, PP&R Senior Planner, who shared a presentation on the South Park Blocks Master Plan update. Her presentation included the site context and history; engagement overview; design objectives; tree analysis; kit of parts approach; and design concepts.

Lorena thanked Tate for her presentation. As a PSU student the South Park Blocks is her backyard. She appreciates the pedestrian pathways and art. Lorena suggested including intersection paintings to slow down traffic and increasing opportunities for events in the park blocks.

Randy asked Tate to highlight the Green Loop issue. Tate explained that the Green Loop will bring bikes and scooters into the park blocks and this will be a challenge. Faster cyclists may use Broadway and more recreational cyclists will use the Green Loop. They are navigating the conversation. Another issue is the loss of





parking that will occur as a result of adding the Green Loop. There will be continued conversations after the master plan update process.

**Parks Board Meeting
Adjourns**

Agenda items that weren't covered will be added to the start of the next meeting agenda.

The meeting adjourned at 10:06am.

Next meeting is Tuesday, March 10, 2020.

