

Tuesday, May 12, 2020
8:00 – 10:00 am
Zoom Video/Conference Call

Board Members Present

Paul Agrimis, Kendall Clawson, Mike Elliott, Pat Frobes, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Jenny Glass, Katy Holland, Ian Jaquiss, Tamara Layden, Lorena Nascimento, Jim Owens, Gladys Ruiz, Paddy Tillett, Erin Zollenkopf

Board Members Absent

Randy Gragg

City Staff Present

Maximo Behrens, Asha Bellduboset, Tonya Booker, Jenn Cairo, Claudio Campuzano, Tim Collier, Margaret Evans, Brooke Gardner, Vicente Harrison, Sarah Huggins, Adena Long, Todd Lofgren, Lauren McGuire, Everett Wild

Call to Order/Approve April Minutes

Board Chair, Paul Agrimis called the meeting to order at 8:03 am. He requested a motion to approve the April minutes. Mike made the motion, Pat seconded, and the minutes were unanimously approved.

Parks Board Nominations

Tamara reviewed the candidates that the nominating committee recommend for appointment, they are Juan Piantino, David Staczek, Alejandra Cortes, Casey Mills, Alejandro Orizola, and Punneh Abdolhosseini. There were 20 applicants and the committee interviewed 10 candidates. It was a strong pool. Paddy made a motion to approve the appointment of the six candidates, Jim seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Two members are up for reappointment Paul Agrimis and Mike Elliott. Jim made the motion to approve their reappointment, Paddy seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Pat shared that the officers nominating committee included Jenny, Mike and herself. They felt that Paul and Bonnie have risen to the challenges over the past year in their role as chair and vice chair. They have been receptive to feedback to make the board more inclusive. The committee recommended that the board approve their reappointment as chair and vice chair. The committee recommended the following priorities for next year: continue conversations on how the bureau will offer services in a post COVID environment and how the board is involved; develop board leadership; work to expand the board role to develop the agenda to be more interactive and less one-way presentations from staff. Erin made a motion to reappoint Paul and Bonnie as chair and vice chair, Paddy seconded, and they were unanimously approved.



Tamara asked the board to breakout into small groups to discuss how they should welcome new members. Some suggestions included having new members meet with their board buddy before their first board meeting; do an activity to do show personality; do a virtual tour; have short or smaller meetings with new members to get to know each other; meet physically distantly at a park; share favorite park or facility; include senior staff at first board meeting to familiarize with key players in parks; share PP&R org chart, rules for open meetings, and retaining documents; create a short video to introduce themselves, maybe with a pet and a park; and do a social hour with new members.

Tamara asked that members continue to share ideas or let her know if there is strong opposition to any of the suggestions. Tamara asked for board buddy volunteers. They will need six buddies.

Working Group Updates

Financial Sustainability

Pat shared that the financial sustainability work group met the day prior. The FY 2020-21 Proposed Budget included funds for the gap caused by COVID response, carryover for Multnomah Arts Center and Community Music Center, and carryover funds for sustainable future work. Columbia Pool will open when other indoor pools open. The General Fund will be impacted by COVID and bureaus have been directed to make a \$4.1m cut. The citywide cost-saving measures reduce this cut by \$2.6m, so in the Fall, Parks will have a \$1.5m reduction target. Claudio's team is working on revenue projections when parks and facilities reopen. Permitting will start up faster than recreation programming. Urban Forestry permitting will be impacted substantially next year. The budget is balanced, but there will be reductions going forward this fall and beyond due to adverse revenue impacts.

Land Use/Infrastructure

Jim noted that the land use/infrastructure group met last Tuesday and focused on the Oregon Department of Transportation I-5 Rose Quarter project. They are engaged in Portland Bureau of Transportation staff conversations on Green Loop connections between the Tillikum Crossing and the South Park Blocks. Paddy noted the main concern is that if there is not alignment, then there will be limited opportunities due to continued development. They encouraged bureaus to look at what works and put a route on the map. Jim shared that the group will be revisiting the River South Reach Plan at their June meeting and discuss a statement to support a no wake zone around Ross Island. It is recommended by the plan and the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability shared that it would be helpful for the Parks Board to submit a statement of support.

Erin asked what the position of these projects will be if we go into a recession. Paddy noted that there is no time limit on the Green Loop, but it's about acting on a policy level. That line on a map prevents anything else from going in that space. The Green Loop will be implemented in parts and pieces over years. Erin responded that they have been discussing huge problems and

these projects are not addressing the other issues. Paul noted that there are all sorts of challenges and this is an opportunity to weigh in on plans that impacted parks issues.

PP&R/Bureau of Environmental Services (BES) Process Improvement Project (PIP)

Bonnie will be reviewing a report the PIP team shared just before her meeting with staff. She will report more in future meetings after she has a full opportunity to review the materials.

Community Development

Tamara shared that the community development work group is still looking inward especially with new members coming on. Their focus has been on how to welcome new members, how board members can engage them, and make transitions as seamless as possible. She echoed Erin's statements - a shift in priorities is needed. There are a lot of important issues that need attention. With new board members, the full board should look at their priorities at the retreat or elsewhere. The group has discussed connecting with Director Long and staff to see what staff support is available during the new board year. The group has been looking at how the board operates, how they take on new members, and what projections they can make.

Public Comment Procedures

Pat shared that the public comment procedures were revised based on board comments from two months ago. Basically, the ten-minute public comment period is preserved, but the chair can waive any requirement and the board can advance. The board will publish an annual calendar with revisions quarterly so members of the public can see what is upcoming. The board will remain flexible. The hope is to respond to community members more constructively and provide an opportunity to engage with the public in a more meaningful way. The new procedures need a vote for approval and will be posted to the website. Jim made the motion and Paddy seconded. Mike asked if the process would be affected by virtual meetings. The board discussed accessibility needs for public meetings and staff will contact the Office of Equity and Human Rights regarding this need. The updated procedures were unanimously approved.

Letter to Metro Supporting Albina Vision

Jim summarized the boards involvement and position in the I-5 Rose Quarter project review and the Albina Vision. The board has not taken a position on the Albina Vision itself which the land use/infrastructure work group sees as key. It is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to create a vibrant urban center and right some wrongs from the past. Jim proposed that the board take a position to support the Albina Vision and issue a statement of support for a waterfront park, as part of Albina Vision, be included in Parks' discussions with Metro.

Gladys asked if a riverfront park is a want and need of the community that was directly impacted by the relocation. Jim responded noting that the Albina Vision suggests this is a priority for the community. Paddy added that it is a priority to reunite communities that were divided by the construction of the freeway. The Albina Vision looked at what is best for the neighborhoods.

Jenn noted that this is an area of the city with one of the lowest tree canopy areas, which leads to poor air quality and the urban heat island. She would like more tree infrastructure regardless of the plan.

Gladys stressed that if the board is supporting this, it should be what the community wants and needs.

Tamara added her appreciation for the community involvement that has taken place. She would like the statement to include language that encourages local community involvement throughout the project development. Gladys noted the importance of thinking about parks as part of community connection, so the community remains an integrated part of engagement. Continue to be focused on the people as connection to the parks.

Paul made a motion to approve boards support of a waterfront park project as part of the I-5 Rose Quarter project. Tamara clarified that this includes a statement to continue engagement with the community. Bonnie made the motion, Paddy seconded, and it was unanimously approved.

Director's Report

Adena shared that the City Council FY 2020-21 Proposed Budget work session will be held that morning. The Parks Budget Advisory Committee will be meeting later in the week. She thanked the staff team and the finance committee for their work. The Sustainable Future work continues amidst the COVID response. BES and Parks staff and directors meet later in the week and there will be a report back on this project. The bureau has been advised by the City Attorney's office to rescind the recent social service permitting requirements as a result of a lawsuit. Adena noted that Todd and Vicente will share more about the PP&R COVID response. She has been forwarding information about COVID with the board regularly. It is a sad and challenging situation, and the PP&R team has stepped up and demonstrated the best part of humanity, care, compassion, creativity and integrity. During the beginning of May, Adena served as the Incident Commander at the City's Emergency Command Center (ECC), and several other PP&R staff have taken on leadership roles at the ECC. This was a good opportunity to see how the city responds collectively.

PP&R COVID-19 Response Update

Vicente Harrison, PP&R Security and Safety Manager, shared that the PP&R Incident Command (IC) has been activated in response to COVID-19. IC is a standardized structure for cooperative and organized response to activities without compromising the authority of local command. The City's Emergency Command Center (ECC) is active and located at PBEM 911 center.

IC was activated on 3/17 and remained active for about 50 days. IC met via a daily call to review strategy response to issues and conduct status reports. IC started at The Portland Building, transitioned to East Portland Community Center for two weeks, and then moved to

Eastmoreland Golf Course. There is a staff liaison at ECC as well as at Multnomah County's emergency center. Many staff circulated in and out of IC. Staff volunteered to serve as IC technology liaisons for their work groups. IC was deactivated on 5/13. IC leadership is transitioning to the traditional model of the Senior Management Team. Adena served as the City's ECC Incident Commander 5/4-5/8 and reported to PBEM at that time.

During activation of the IC primary objectives included: setting up temporary shelters at three community centers; providing 24-hour restroom access at key park sites; installing and replacing signage as needed; creating multilingual signage; redeploying staff as Park Greeters; tracking and responding to park hot spot updates; internal and external communication planning; and recovery efforts. Staff are in the process of debriefing, gathering information, and improving the process for the future.

Todd Lofgren summarized the three goals of the IC: to protect the health of the PP&R staff; activate opportunities to keep the community healthy; and use an equity lens to serve those most in need. Recreation created a new program called Stay + Play that is accessible by the Parks' YouTube channel. Operations are going to be significantly impacted due to the revenue impacts of closures. Outdoor pools and community and art centers are closed through summer, which would receive 850,000 visits during a typical summer. In addition to this loss, summer camp registrations fees are also lost. The bureau had to lay off about 750 seasonal casual staff and would usually have about one thousand seasonal casual staff hired for summer. Recreation staff will support the Free Lunch + Play program that will be modified this year to partner with organizations and other bureaus to mobilize food distribution and potential play opportunities. Usually PP&R provides 100,000 lunches, but we anticipate serving as many as 500,000 lunches this summer. There is a high demand for food support, and we continue to provide food through SUN Schools and Meals on Wheels continues to distribute food out of East Portland Community Center. Leadership is working to get clearance to hire seasonal staff to properly manage food distribution. The program will run from June 22-August 31. For those who are interested, we can send out the map of locations for distribution.

The board thanked Todd and staff for making sure folks have access to food. Bonnie stressed the importance of working closely with the school districts to ensure there are no gaps in the schedule.

Sustainable Future Update

Todd noted that in addition to keeping mission critical work on track, staff are also working to keep PP&R's doors open. It's a tricky time to think about a new ballot measure, but the need is urgent for many of the services that PP&R has traditionally provided. Funding levels are far more severe if we cannot find additional resources. Recreation programming has the largest funding gap to be addressed. Summer and the Lunch + Play programming will be impactful. Recreation's hiring process for summer staff typically starts in February and March. If Parks does not have additional funding identified in November, there will be major impacts on

summer of 2021 which would mean two summers with impacts to services we usually provide. The bureau is looking at the viability of a five-year operating levy and/or capital bond.

Sarah Huggins shared that PP&R has hired a pollster who is helping to develop questions. Polling is planned shortly after the May 19 primaries. Election results will determine if they do polling. If they proceed, they will have poll results at the end of May, and by early June the consultant will produce a report with their advice for the most viable measure. The bureau intends to have Council documents ready by early July, for Council to determine if they would like to refer the measure to the ballot at their July 22 meeting. There would then be a campaign period after Council referral. If a levy is passed in 2020, funds would be available November 2021, allowing PP&R to offer services in summer 2021 with the knowledge those funds are coming.

Todd added that at Wednesday's board finance working group meeting, they will review the poll questions.

Board Retreat Agenda

Paul thanked members for their ideas for welcoming new members. The retreat will not be longer than 2-3 hours. There will be a homework assignment before the retreat including reviewing the minutes from last year's retreat. They are striving to improve the process and have heard the feedback. There will be time for brainstorming.

Pat would like to discuss what the board's role can be in financial discussions both with Sustainable Future and plans for next year's financial situation.

Jim would like the board to move forward with Vision 2035 and identifying elements of that vision the board can be working on now rather than waiting for the bureau to pick up the work. The board could have a discussion about what the minimum service level should be. The board should start those conversations now and see what kind of policy direction could be implemented.

Tamara would like to welcome new members and say goodbye to those terming off. She would like to take time to learn what new members' interests are. She would like to work on the next board meeting agenda together, looking at interest and knowledge gaps and go from there.

Gladys would love to have a conversation about the connection between parks and people including both positive and negatives impacts of parks on communities. They are operating as if it is business as usual, but there will be a new normal after this first wave of COVID 19. She would like to talk about what meeting virtually means for an advisory board that struggles with community building. She asked what ways the board can maximize having different conversations.

Paul noted that the purpose of a vision plan is to have a guiding north star. The retreat is focused on goal and priority setting. Adena's goal is to have a five-year horizon. Her preference

is not to do something visionary, but more concrete and focused over the next five years. Erin noted that the board's purpose is to provide the long-term vision as opposed to short term. She asked - without a vision plan what is the board's revised purpose? Todd noted that staff are working on the conclusion of the Vision 2020 Plan, Strategic Plan and Racial Equity Plan updates and these could be shared at the retreat. They would help inform the trajectory for future planning. Paul agreed that it would be good to have the wrap-up of these plans before working on the next plan. Tamara noted that a number of candidates asked this question during the interview process. It would be good to have clarification about vision planning. The board will wait to discuss vision planning until after members get on board.

Public Comment:

Paul invited Catherine Thompson to share public comment. Catherine shared her interest in learning more about the board. She requested that draft board documents be shared in advance of meetings and noted that there is a delay in posting the meeting minutes to the website. She thanked the board for their earnestness in addressing the issues Parks is facing right now. Bonnie noted the delay in the posting minutes is due to the need to vote on them the month later. Brooke Gardner offered her assistance to Catherine regarding draft board materials.

Paul offered a soft goodbye to Pat, Jim, Gladys and Kendall. The board shared their appreciation for their commitment to Parks and being amazing leaders on the board. Bonnie will circulate letters to thank members.

The meeting adjourned at 10:02am.