

Tuesday, August 11, 2020

8:00 – 10:00 am

Zoom Virtual Meeting

Board Members Present

Paul Agrimis, Mike Elliott, Bonnie Gee Yosick, Jenny Glass, Randy Gragg, Katy Holland, Ian Jaquiss, Tamara Layden, Casey Mills, Lorena Nascimento, Alejandro Orizola, Juan Piantino, David Staczek, Paddy Tillett, Erin Zollenkopf

Board Members Absent

Punneh Abdolhosseini, Alejandra Cortes

City Staff Present

Maximo Behrens, Jenn Cairo, Claudio Campuzano, Riley Clark-Long, Tim Collier, Margaret Evans, Brooke Gardner, Todd Lofgren, Adena Long, Lauren McGuire, Nicola Sysyn, Everett Wild, Kenya Williams

Call to Order/Social/Check-in

Paul called the meeting to order at 8:03am. He prompted members to share the last park they visited and what they observed. Members reflected on their experiences.

Review/Approve July Minutes

Paul asked if there were questions regarding the July meeting minutes. With no questions, he requested a motion to approve them. Erin made the motion, Paddy seconded, and they were unanimously approved.

Director's Report/Levy Referral Debrief

Adena shared her recent park experiences and a debrief of the levy referral. On July 22nd, City Council referred a parks operating levy to the November ballot. It will be on the ballot as measure 26-213. She thanked the board for their support, both in preparation for the work session with Council in November 2019 to begin a conversation about the bureau's service levels and financial realities, and for their support in leading up to the referral by City Council. Without the foundation of the work last November, it is unclear that they could have pivoted so quickly when the financial reality changed due to COVID-19 in order to put together a funding measure for voters to consider this November. Adena thanked Bonnie who testified on behalf of the PP&R Board during the Council meeting. There was a 3-0 vote to approve the referral by our City Council, with Commissioner Hardesty not attending for the vote. Adena acknowledged Commissioner Hardesty's comments on the engagement that PP&R had with her office. City Council has been involved in the Sustainable Future work since November of 2019, and PP&R and the Mayor's office have been engaged with Council members throughout this process. The next day, Commissioner Hardesty shared an email with all City employees apologizing for her behavior. PP&R and the Mayor's office will continue to work with all City Commissioners. Adena shared that leading up to the referral, PP&R held many conversations with the community to



learn more about how the park system serves Portlanders, and where PP&R has work to do. These conversations are critical and a priority regardless of funding levels. PP&R must do better to serve all Portlanders, especially Portlanders of color, Portlanders experiencing lower incomes, youth, our indigenous communities, and immigrants and refugee communities. One of the last community conversations had about 150 participants who were members of immigrant and refugee communities, or organizations that provide services to immigrants and refugee communities. COVID-19 has exposed and broken the Recreation program's funding model. The pandemic will have significant impact on the City's general fund.

As PP&R moves forward, over the next months the bureau will be focusing on providing information about what the park system could look like with, or without, a levy. They have already gotten questions, and they know they will continue to get questions, about exactly what it could look like – for recreation and programming, for maintenance, and more – if a levy is passed by voters. They are also developing an engagement plan that continues the community conversations that began over the last few months, to better understand how Parks can serve ALL Portlanders. The bureau has a lot to learn from the community it serves and will be developing an engagement plan that provides a space to listen and share, and to ensure that future budgets – whether or not a levy is supported by voters – center equity and are responsive to community feedback.

Juan asked for clarification about what advocacy the board can do. Todd reminded the board that as individuals they can do what they please. They can talk about the levy or give donations or time, but they should not state that they are a PP&R board member while doing so. It is the same for city employees. During work time, they cannot do work on the levy except respond to questions with unbiased information. PP&R has their responses and remarks regarding the levy reviewed by the City Attorney's office. During personal time, they are free to do advocacy. Everett emphasized that even saying that they are a board member may be going too far. When doing advocacy, it is safer for members to not refer to their position on the board. Everett responded to the question in the chat about board members responding to someone asking them to acknowledge their board membership when advocating for the levy. He noted that they should be sure to state clearly that they are not speaking on behalf of the board.

Erin thanked Todd and Everett for their explanation. She asked with regards to Commissioner Hardesty's comments, what the PP&R can do to ensure that Council members are in the loop. Todd responded noting that he and Adena, as the bureau liaisons to Council offices, offered briefings prior to the November 2019 Council work session. They followed up on work session questions with Commissioners. Commissioner Hardesty did not participate in the work session in November 2019, and they met with her in March to share an update. The bureau received direction to zero in on either a levy and/or bond. As they prepared to do polling, PP&R engaged Portland Fire & Rescue and Commissioner Hardesty's office regarding their polling process. PP&R offered Commissioner Hardesty a briefing to discuss polling results and the meeting was scheduled over three weeks later, on June 30. Everett works to ensure that Commissioners are familiar with everything that comes to council. Todd will double down with communication and sharing materials. Everett added that there were conversations on the staff level. How staff

communicate information with the Commissioner is a function within their office. Todd explained that the Council Chiefs of Staff meet each Friday to review upcoming Council items. Each Monday Commissioners' policy staff discuss items going to Council that week. There are no surprises at Council.

Paul noted the need to be very clear with communication and messaging. He asked what the top three priorities are for PP&R if the levy passes and if it doesn't pass. Adena responded noting that discussions about what the next steps are and what the process will look like are under way. The plan will need to be reviewed before sharing, but the board will hear more about next steps prior to the September meeting. Todd noted that the PP&R Budget Advisory Committee is meeting later in the month to help the bureau submit a balanced budget. That budget will give the board a sense of what the bureau will look like going forward without a levy. Paul stressed the importance of having bullet points, so they can be clear and concise when communicating.

Katy thanked Director Long for joining the Native American Community Advisory Committee recently and for sharing information that is important for their community.

Working Group Reports

Community Development

Tamara noted that there are not many changes with the Community Development working group. She will have Alejandra and Punneh lead a brainstorm session with a bigger group to help craft what they want the group to look like. There may be two groups as there is a lot of interest in this work.

Financial Sustainability

Mike shared that the bureau came out of FY 2019-20 within budget. Golf had a record year, while the Portland International Raceway (PIR) struggled with the closure. System Development Charge funds have gone down over the past few years, so the bureau may not do as many new projects. The bureau sent the Mayor's office a memo last week that primarily focused on three items: there should be no reductions to full time permanent staff; the bureau would like to maintain a flexible approach to Recreation programming in FY 2020-21; and if the levy passes, the bureau will request a bridge loan to allow them to get set up properly for Summer 2021 programming. The working group is focused on understanding where proceeds would go if the levy passes. Right now, it looks like one third would go to subsidizing fees and improving access for community members on low income, and the other two thirds would go to taking care of parks, natural areas, and the urban forest canopy.

Everett added that the Mayor's office has received the memo from PP&R and is in the process of reviewing it. He anticipates that there will be support, and there may be additional feedback or clarity about how the bureau approaches its budget.

Land Use/Infrastructure

Paddy shared updates on the projects the work group is monitoring. ODOT is doing a study with a contractor on the I-5 Rose Quarter project. The study on lids has not begun. The South Park Blocks Masterplan is focused on replacement of trees in the park that are nearing end of life and incorporating the Green Loop. The Downtown Neighborhood Association nominated the park for historic designation in attempt to stop the plan from proceeding. There is no update on the South Reach Plan. There is support for limited retail and habitat on banks. The issue being discussed is the destructive wakes from wakeboarding. This is not an issue for PP&R or the City but for the State Maritime Board. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is working on the Off-Road Cycling Plan, and Paddy does not expect anything new to come to the PP&R Board until the end of 2020 or early 2021. A new Forest Park entrance is being proposed by Montgomery Park. It would be adjacent to a planned new streetcar route. OMSI is developing a master plan for their properties, and they are working with the City looking at restoration of plants and habitat along the river's edge. The area would be accessible to the public. The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is meeting soon to discuss the West Portland Downtown plan for the SW Corridor.

Process Improvement Ad Hoc

Bonnie shared that the tree planting process improvement group met for the first time on July 29. The meetings are facilitated by Jennifer Allen and Vivek Shandas. There will be a series of three meetings. At the first meeting they talked about goals, priorities, and what is important to the community regarding tree planting. They discussed the positive elements of the current program and further improving equity, accessibility, and efficiency. The remaining two meetings will be held in August.

Bylaws Update

Paul welcomed Pat Frobes to the meeting to review the bylaws. Paul, Brooke and Pat met with City Attorney Linda Law to review the changes, and they were sent out on Friday along with a cover memo. Pat shared that this project started over a year ago. The motivating forces for the update were to streamline the bylaws to make them more consistent with how the board operates, to make explicit the board's commitment to equity and inclusion, and to conform as much as appropriate with the new Office of Community and Civic Life template and guidance provided for all city advisory bodies. The two significant items in the template that were not included in the final draft was language giving the Commissioner-in-charge the ability to dismiss any member for any reason at any time and language stating that only the Commissioner-in-charge could approve bylaw changes. Pat stated that these are not consistent with the independent nature of the board. The changes include making clear that the board's role is to ensure the bureau is adhering to the Racial Equity Plan in addition to the Vision Plan. They also changed the officer terms from a renewable one-year term to one two-year term. Last Fall, the board reviewed the proposed changes and voted to move forward for City Attorney review. Two items require a vote. They are the changes to the bylaws that the board has authority to change and the proposed changes to City Code which City Council would need to vote on to change. Paul thanked Pat and Brooke for their time, and asked members for questions or concerns.

Casey suggested that rather than adding a bullet point on equity they create a separate section that indicates that equity should be included in everything they do. He noted that the bylaws do not require the chair to provide working group findings to the full board. Paul shared that his approach is to be transparent and disclose what happens in working groups. The regular working group reports at full board meetings are how they are providing this information. These changes can be made and brought for a vote at the September meeting.

Bonnie clarified that there are some items the board can vote on to change on their own and other items that the board can vote on but will need Council approval to change.

Alejandro shared that while he appreciates including the equity lens in the bylaws, he has concern about the board's capacity to achieve the goal. It is a statement with no action attached. He asked if they could include a staff commitment to support the board's equity work or equity trainings available for the board. Paul encouraged members to take advantage of the City offered equity trainings. Tamara noted that these have been offered but not everyone has taken them. She asked if they could require that members commit to taking these or another training. Pat indicated that the board could require members to take a training as a term of their membership and that staff will provide trainings as they become available.

Paul will see that the changes are made and brought back for a vote. He will have an offline conversation about the trainings offered by the City or a training to be brought to the board. He thanked the board for the great conversation and feedback.

Portland Parks Foundation Report

Randy shared that the Foundation has done a series of forums, the most recent with City Council candidates Dan Ryan and Loretta Smith. They will hold another with Chloe Eudaly and Mingus Mapps. The Foundation is holding a fundraiser with PPF Board member and Timbers player, Jack Jewsbury, and PP&R Security and Emergency Manager and children's nature book author, Vicente Harrison. The Friends and Allies Summit will be held virtually on September 26 and will focus on the levy, how to start a friends group, and a break-out session on inclusive culture. A steering committee has been formed to plan the event. The event will include a day of service, likely on Sunday, September 27, where small groups of ten or fewer can work in an underserved park. The Foundation continues to work on the levy, and if members of the board are interested in getting involved as private citizens, they can contact Randy.

PP&R Progress Reports

Strategic Plan

Nicola provided a high-level review of the Strategic Plan and report. The plan is a three-year Strategic Plan that is accompanied by the 2020 Vision created in 2001 and five-year Racial Equity Plan which will expire in 2021. Nicola highlighted some major changes to the bureau since 2017. There have been three directors, three Commissioners, six out of eight senior managers are new, and they faced a budget crisis. They moved out of--and back into--the Portland Building, and this past Spring, transitioned the entire operations to respond to the

pandemic, conducted polling, and went to Council for a levy referral, all while managing the staff and park impacts of community activism for Black Lives Matter.

The Strategic Plan has four focus areas, nine outcomes, and 36 strategic initiatives, 18 of which are from the bureau's Racial Equity Plan. When Adena came on board, the plan was revised by senior managers to update their approach and determined what to prioritize. Nicola shared that 67% of the items are either complete or on track, and 33% are on hold or not started. She reviewed each focus area and its status. If the board is interested in diving deeper, staff would be happy to provide that.

Racial Equity Plan

Riley shared that the five-year Racial Equity Plan (REP) was developed in 2015. The Office of Equity and Human Rights worked with all city bureaus to develop equity plans. The bureau engaged staff and as a result they came out with a robust document. The plan was launched in 2016, so its final year is 2021. It outlines six objectives which align with the city equity goals, 22 strategies, and 100 action items. The plan is aspirational and has a wide scope. Riley reviewed the plan's objectives, themes, and broke them out by division. Some of the progress made as of FY19-20 includes: hiring a training coordinator; integrated racial equity best practices; increased percentage of full time employees who are people of color from 17% to 29%; constructed new parks to address deficiencies in underserved areas of Portland; and contracted with Disabled, Minority, Women, Emerging Small Business, Veteran (DMWESBV) owned construction and professional services firms at 46% which is double the city goal.

Kenya shared that during his prior tenure on the PP&R Equity and Inclusion team, there was no true tracking or reporting mechanism. As the bureau wraps up the REP there are items that may not have started. Part of the evaluation is thinking about what needs to be tabled and what items in process should be implemented as bureau wide best practices. The plan is a guide not a check-the-box process. There is an opportunity to look at the next five years and take advantage of staff who can support data collection and analysis. Kenya would like to create a plan that echoes current affairs. Development of the current plan focused on immigrant and refugee communities, and a lot of work was done there. Now Kenya would like to look at the current state of affairs with BIPOC communities. He also wants to look at how they help the entire bureau do this work. The Equity and Inclusion team is small, and the next plan should serve as a guide for everyone in the bureau to do equity work. In the next iteration, divisions should take proper ownership and think about how they can apply equity to their work as experts in their fields. The team will go back to the drawing board to look at how to develop the next plan to reflect the energy of the moment and push equity and inclusion throughout the bureau.

Juan asked how the bureau does equity in contracting. Lauren shared that they work with the City Procurement office who help facilitate contracting of DMWESBV owned businesses. Staff within Procurement work with the State to identify groups and create a list of consultants that meet that standard. They also go to the community and offer meetings to share what projects

are upcoming to encourage participation. Claudio added that the group within Procurement at the Office of Management & Finance are working to expand the pool of diverse contractors.

September Agenda Conversation

Paul asked what members would like to see for the September meeting agenda besides the bylaw conversation. Adena shared that a Director's Monthly Report was sent with materials prior to their meeting. She asked members to take a look at the report as it may inform future topics. She will use this approach to save time at meetings for board business. Tamara would like some feedback or insight from staff working on the ground and cleaning up in parks, and to hear from staff who could share their perspective about the REP progress. Adena shared that the bureau held two listening sessions in response to recent murders of Black people. Riley has compiled the comments made at these sessions as well as the employee survey responses. This information may be shared with the board in the future when it is complete and can provide staff anonymity.

Paul asked the board to feel free to send him recommendations or suggestions for future meetings. Adena thanked Nicola, Riley and Kenya for their reports. The executive summary will be shared with the board when it is finalized.

The meeting was adjourned at 9:59am.