

Board of Directors Meeting
Thursday August 11, 2016
Oregon Zoo – Sunset Room

MINUTES

Attendees:

Mike Abbaté – Portland Parks and Recreation (PP&R)
Don Moore – Oregon Zoo
Heather McCarey – Explore Washington Park (EWP)
Cynthia Haruyama – Portland Japanese Garden (PJG)
Michael Wallace – Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association
Ruth Shelly – Portland Children's Museum
Eric Vines – World Forestry Center
Inessa Vitko – TriMet
Peggie Schwarz – Hoyt Arboretum Friends
Steve Cole – at large

Visitors:

Jerry Moore – Hoffman Construction (HC)

Lindsay Wochnick – Portland Water Bureau (PWB)
Thomas Gilman –PWB
James Allison – PP&R
Victor Sanders –PP&R
Jessica Van Raden – EWP
Lewis Kelly – EWP

Absent:

Dave Malcolm – Sylvan Highlands Neighborhood Association

The meeting started at 8:00 a.m. Eric Vines chaired the meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- WFC is holding a blood drive on August 17, 2016. Eric encouraged board members to pass information onto their staff for blood donations.
- Ruth announced that the Children's Museum is holding a Say Hey event for Partners in Diversity. They are expecting up to 500 participants and will occur on August 11, 2016.
- Cynthia announced the O-bon Festival will begin on August 17, 2016. Hours are 7:00-9:00 p.m.
- Michael Wallace announced that a joint neighborhood meeting will be held on August 11, 2016 from 1:00-4:00 p.m. for Sylvan Highlands and Arlington Heights.
- Peggie announced that \$101,000 was made at Forage in the Forest event.
- Don announced that a new polar bear will be coming to the Oregon Zoo. The cub is scheduled to arrive sometime in September and is on the Zoo's Facebook page.

Reservoir Project

The goal of this discussion is to review road closures and construction updates in the Park beginning September 2016 for the Reservoir Project. PWB and HC presented the Board project updates including maps.

On September 22, 2016, set up will begin off of SW Jefferson (below reservoir 4), and will continue throughout the end of that week. This will include equipment staging and general set up for construction that begins in September. The first road closure is scheduled for September 12, 2016. 212 Trees need to be felled along SW Sacajawea Blvd. and SW Sherwood Rd. prior to September 12. During this time, the intersection at SW Kingston will be closed to through traffic. Jerry from HC and Thomas from PWB will be the on-site contacts for any questions or concerns. The Board received a packet that includes a 4-week look ahead that will be updated weekly.

For the next two years, construction will entail shoring 40 feet down, along with pile driving and constructing a concrete tank for the new reservoir. There will be no visible features until 2022. A hotline is being provided to impacted neighbors and Park stakeholders. Reader board signs will go up at the end of August. There will be signage at the MAC, SW Tichner Dr. off of W Burnside St. and SW Fairview Blvd. that will notify people of road closures. HC anticipates using the reader boards through the end of September. Full-time flaggers have been hired to assist with traffic and will be positioned at SW Sherwood and SW Rose Garden Way.

No parking will be available on SW Sherwood Blvd. from SW Kingston Dr. and the soccer field during the closure. The only vehicles allowed through this area will be Park employees, shuttles, buses and tour buses. SW Sherwood Blvd. will convert to two-way traffic, using the soccer field area as the turnaround for large buses. Vehicles that ignore signage of this road closure will be ticketed and/or courtesy towed to a safe area of the Park if needed. Cynthia has some concerns about this closure as PJG's grand opening is on April 2, 2016. Planning ahead and clear communication will be required as this date approaches.

HC and PWB are open to making changes to the plan as needed once construction begins. The general consensus is that we will need to wait and see how the plan works, communicating through weekly meetings that specifically target traffic management and stakeholder feedback.

Mike Abbate strongly recommended very clear signage for bike riders coming down SW Kingston Dr. and SW Sherwood Blvd. Heather requested that a flagger be placed in this location as well. It is a critical intersection that will require personnel to ensure traffic is routed correctly. It was discussed that EWP could provide a flagger/customer service representative for that location. The added element of customer service is important as there will be confusion and congestion in this area. HC stated that they would prefer using one of their flaggers instead, due to liability issues. PWB is concerned with the cost of this flagger. HC one could be used only during critical months and heavy traffic times. The group will revisit this issue as we get closer to peak season.

Michael Wallace asked HC and PWB what type of work will be occurring during the next two years. The reservoir will be in process of being built during this time period. This is also the settlement period. There will be no visible aesthetics and roads will operate as normal during this time (after an 18-month closure). Additionally, the pedestrian path will be maintained and usable on SW Lewis and Clark Way.

James Allison and Mike Abbate both raised questions about SW Kingston Dr. and access to Rose Park Rd. Mike asked HC how SW Rose Park Rd. will be accessed, as it is the most popular entry to the Rose Garden. SW Lewis and Clark Way will be converted to an outbound road, which has the potential of creating confusion and congestion. James raised concerns about the SW Kingston Dr. closure and traffic back up and congestion. The shuttles will get stuck in this traffic, which will delay pickups at designated shuttle stops. He further suggested that a traffic study be conducted by PBOT to see if there are any alternative closures that could work. Heather explained to HC and PWB that a different plan was presented to the Board at the last meeting and also agreed that PBOT and PP&R try working through another plan of entry that might reduce congestion. HC explained that the road will close and there is no way to avoid the buildup of traffic. This specific plan is for September through March, so the hope is that in off-peak season it won't impact traffic as much as it is during peak season. If it presents an unreasonable amount of congestion, HC is open to change and modification of the current plan.

The group unanimously decided that weekly meetings with EWP and PWB are critical to discuss these challenges. The next update is scheduled for early September. Ruth suggested a formal review in January or February. Heather raised two points with HC and PWB. First, safety is the biggest concern during construction and congestion must be seen as a safety issue. When people are frustrated and stuck in traffic they tend to act aggressively, which can compromise safety. Second, the shuttle will stop running 7 days a week after Labor Day and will be cut to weekend service only.

Inessa is highly concerned about the entry of SW Tichner Dr. off of W Burnside St. being the entry point for bus line 63. If the buses get stuck in that traffic, they will be late to their stops within the Park which is a big concern. She asked how to alleviate traffic and congestion as construction vehicles will use this entry as well. HC and PWB have been in contact with PBOT to push a longer light signal for vehicles turning into the Park, but as of now they have only been given a few extra seconds. Peggie recalled that a discussion took place at the last Board meeting that supported placing flaggers at this intersection and Don strongly agreed. PWB did not give a firm answer on the question of flaggers, so it should be revisited at the next meeting.

Inessa asked what was being done with the felled trees. PWB and HC stated that the lumber and trees would be given to the subcontractor that is removing the trees for income and merchandising. The Board showed concern, as TriMet experienced the possibility of legal backlash when they fell 22 trees and PWB is going to remove 212 trees and plans to give the lumber to the subcontractor for financial gain. The Board strongly encouraged PWB to donate the lumber to Habitat for Humanity or to a local low-income firewood program. Heather wrapped up the discussion with a question to Mike Abbatè about where PP&R is in the process of the PP&R-PBOT memorandum of understanding (MOU). Mike said they still have a little way to go, but should be complete within the next week or two.

Inessa left the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the PWB and HC presentation ended.

Transportation Management Plan (TMP) Goals – Objectives and Strategies

Discussion turned to the TMP goals. Red, yellow and green cards were passed out to the Board to identify (red) “stop”, (yellow) “proceed with edits” and (green) “approval of goal without edits”. The Board provided feedback on the objectives and strategies related to Goals 8-11. Heather will then present a revised plan to the Board in September or October.

Heather announced that a temporary staff of field personnel will begin the 2016 survey over the next two weekends. They will be grouped in pairs and located throughout the Park at all venue entry points. The goal is to collect 800 intercept surveys. Heather also gave an update on the August 9 Discount Tuesday. The Zoo recorded over 12,000 visitors that day and due to the extra signage at the Sylvan business lots and placement of flaggers, we received no complaints from neighbors. Heather also announced that the maps are being updated and will be distributed in September. She will order 10,000 maps for the off-peak season. The formatting will remain the same and any changes should be sent to her as soon as possible.

Cynthia asked the Board if during the construction and road closures, if tour buses could be banned from the north end of the park. Mike Abbatè said that the Board could put the word out, but it may end up being a council ordinance that could still be ignored by tour bus operators. Mike advised that EWP should be the messenger regarding the tour buses.

July Financial Reports and Meeting Minutes

The July 2016 meeting minutes of the board, which had previously been distributed to the board, were unanimously approved.

The financial statements for July, 2016, which had previously been distributed to the board, were unanimously approved.

Meeting adjourned at 9:34 a.m.