

Explore

WASHINGTON PARK

Board Meeting

Thursday, August 12th, 2021

<https://zoom.us/j/95361381932?pwd=amN5bmNBbVVoeFJzL29BWklMQmdUZz09>

Minutes

Present:

Steve Cole – At Large (“AL”)

Kathy Goeddel – Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association (“AHNA”)

Anna Goldrich – Hoyt Arboretum Friends (“HAF”)

Cynthia Haruyama – Portland Japanese Garden (“PJG”)

Adena Long – Portland Parks & Recreation (“PP&R”)

Dave Malcolm – Sylvan Highlands Neighborhood Association (SHNA)

Heather McCarey – Explore Washington Park (“EWP”)

Billie Moser – Travel Portland (“TP”)

JC Vannatta – TriMet (“TM”)

Guests:

LeiLani Barney - Explore Washington Park (“EWP”)

Danny Dunn – Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R)

Sarah Horton – World Forestry Center (WFC)

Sergio Garcia Vega – Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R)

Ivan Ratcliff – Oregon Zoo (OZ)

Victor Sanders - Portland Parks & Recreation (“PP&R”)

Colleen Shoemaker - Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association (“AHNA”)

The Board Meeting commenced at 2:02 Anna Goldrich (HAF) chaired the meeting with a quorum present.

Introductions

Danny Dunn (PP&R) has recently taken on the role of Coordinator for Washington Park. He previously had worked for Explore Washington Park for three years.

Sergio Garcia Vega (PP&R) the Maintenance Supervisor for Washington Park, a position he has held since January 2021.

1. Partner Updates

Ivan Ratcliff – OZ Ivan is the Visitor Services Director for the Oregon Zoo and attended the meeting in behalf of Heidi Rahn, the newly appointed Interim Director who was away on vacation. The Zoo began hosting private events August 1st. Attendance has been solid over the past few months and they are preparing for the new required mask mandate beginning on 8/13/21. The Zoo is also beginning preparations for Zoolights this coming winter.

Cynthia Haruyama - PJG The Portland Japanese Garden has seen robust attendance. The July 2021 attendance was 95% of visitation in July 2019. PJG is still struggling to rebuild their organization including staffing needs. They have 76% of 2019 staffing levels serving 95% of visitors which causes challenges to guests and staff alike. PJG is also preparing for the upcoming required mask mandate. They are working on heat related issues in connection with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) and creating policies regarding guests and staff. PJG continues to move forward to acquire a second campus in NW Portland (White Shield Center of the Salvation Army) and are in the due diligence phase. This acquisition is projected to close on the property in December and begin extensive renovations. PJG was granted Federal funds of \$1,750,000 for renovations and are grateful for the assistance of congressional leaders who helped this to happen.

Kathy Goeddel – AHNA The Sylvan Highlands and Arlington Heights Neighborhood Associations have partnered with historic rail groups and the Oregon Zoo to create a business case for the reestablishment and operation of the Oregon Zoo train. The first step is to hire an engineering firm at an approximate cost of \$10,000.

Billie Moser – TP Hotel occupancy is increasing and TP is working on their winter marketing campaign. Staff is planning to return to the downtown office on Tuesday, September 7th, 2021 in an effort to support and revitalize downtown Portland.

JC Vannatta – TM A marketing campaign has paused due to virus variants and safety. TriMet is focused on expressing ridership appreciation. They are in need of bus drivers and finding challenges in hiring. A Comprehensive Service Analysis is planned which will analyze the entire network of buses and trains to see how TriMet can better serve the community, especially since the pandemic has brought changes.

Sarah Horton – WFC Employees of the World Forestry Center have recently changed to working from home if desired. Private event bookings are increasing. World Forestry Center leadership are using this time for strategic planning in every aspect of the organization; Joe Furia (World Forestry Center Executive Director) plans to reach out individually to all Board members to share what the impacts and partnership opportunities may be.

Adena – PP&R Portland Parks & Recreation is participating in a unified command with Multnomah County regarding citizen help due to the extreme heat. This includes hosting cooling centers, misting stations and extended hours of splash pads, as well as cancelling events when prudent. They are preparing for the fall budget monitoring process which this year includes requesting the first allocation of the local option parks levy. Portland Parks & Recreation continues to emphasize their motto of “Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland” and the

next steps in strategic planning. Unlike linear planning, PP&R is taking a different approach including an iterative, community driven process, with hired consultants and is well under way. The City of Portland had a soft re-entry into working at city buildings with a planned full re-entry in October. This is currently on hold due to the vaccination and testing mandate.

Steve Cole – At Large Steve is currently in Kansas City, Missouri with a heat index in the one hundreds.

Dave Malcolm – SHNA With the oppressive heat and summer weather thoughts have crossed his mind about fire danger. Dave commends the Fire Bureau on preventing fires and campers in the Park.

Heather McCarey - EWP Heather had a good conversation with Joe Weston regarding the future of the parking lot at the Sylvan Building. Mr. Weston plans on donating the property to his foundation upon his death. Explore Washington Park is in the final phases of hiring a Senior Project Manager.

Anna Goldrich – HA The Arboretum has hosted two pleasant musical events with Portland Opera a la Cart. These events were wonderfully received with member and though not fundraising events they were superior than fundraising. The first heat wave caused a loss of \$1,000 of conifers even though they had irrigation and regular hand watering by volunteers. Half of the conifers managed which provides research that we can learn from, especially regarding what plants and vegetation can live for the next one hundred years. Hoyt Arboretum is developing a master irrigation plan.

2. Agenda, Minutes and Financial Reports

The Board discussed the meeting's consent agenda, June 10, 2021 Board minutes, and May 2021 and June 2021 Financial Reports.

Motion: Approve the Consent Agenda and the May 2021 and June 2021 Financial Reports

Steve Cole (AL) moved to approve, JC Vannatta (TM) seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

3. Portland Parks & Recreation Service Delivery Plan

Victor Sanders, Program Coordinator PP&R presented a review of Portland Parks & Recreation's Service Delivery Plan for 2021/2022; the FY 2021/2022 parking trust fund status; a review of the South entry project timeline; a review of possible future plans for the vacant building formerly used as the Portland Children's Museum.

Discussion:

JC Vannatta (TM) – Is noticing a great deal of “tagging” (graffiti) and queried how quickly PP&R is able to respond. Victor Sanders (PP&R) related it to the “broken window” theory. If they are able to quickly clean and repair it will discourage further destruction. Victor offered to perhaps talk offline concerning this issue as TriMet also deals with it. PP&R crews try to remedy the situation and clean up tagging every day. They also spend funds to replace the sign plate which often works.

JC Vannatta (TM) Park rangers encounter situations of crisis which require de-escalation and crisis training. Do they have the tools they need? Adena Long (PP&R) Rangers complete trainings in de-escalation, handling a mental health crisis, and verbal judo. Victor Sanders (PP&R) The Ranger Academy was recently held at the forestry center. Heather McCarey (EWP) Thanked Sergio for the great work they are doing on cleaning up the tagging. Anna Goldrich (HA) offered her appreciation as well.

Dave Malcolm (SHNA) Asked if it was more cost effective to replace the signs rather than to clean? Victor Sanders (PP&R) Perhaps not cost effective, however, the more a sign is cleaned it degrades which leads to replacement. They also consider the cost of staff hours spent in cleaning. Kathy Goeddel (AHNA) Asked if there was a specific plan for the general funds that are allocated to the park, and budgeted to maintenance, are spent. She wanted a high level of understanding where these funds were going. Victor Sanders (PP&R) Replied that one thing PP&R can do (as part of the master plan process) would be to create the ideal scenario (what will it take to maintain this Park in the most excellent manner) and work backwards to set priorities.

Motion: Approve the Portland Parks & Recreation Service Delivery Plan

JC Vannatta (TM) moved to approve. Kathy Goeddel (AHNA) seconded and the motion passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

4. Washington Park Trust Fund Financial Report

Victor Sanders (PP&R) shared a presentation. The Trust Fund remains healthy though it is a lower amount than where we want to be, but in general we are okay. The loss of winter revenue from visitors to the Portland Children’s Museum will be impactful. Summer 2021 revenue is very good, winter revenue is to be determined and we are hesitant to make any projections.

No discussion or questions.

5. Parkwide Impacts

Victor Sanders (PP&R) shared a presentation. Ivan Ratcliff (OZ) Why will trees be removed as part of the South Entry Project? Victor Sanders (PP&R) The trees are invasive or dying and those trees in the center planter are not in alignment with the new plans. Heather McCarey (EWP) – What’s the timeline now for the project compared to when it was first proposed? Victor Sanders (PP&R) BDS permit approvals are set for September 2021 – January 2022. Council approval to

submit construction contract is set for April 2022. The Bid Process/Intent to Award portion is slated for June 2022. Construction will begin fall of 2022 through winter 2023. Heather McCarey (EWP) Does the project still meet the code required improvements for the Victor Sanders (PP&R) Yes it does meet requirements (delayed with Covid). Heather McCarey (EWP) Will the entrance be fully closed anytime during construction? Victor Sanders (PP&R) The entrance should not be fully closed as there will be access through the Zoo Education Center. Ivan Ratcliff (OZ) We will keep everyone in the loop and work together. Victor Sanders (PP&R) Proposed to schedule a time this winter to think through camp, overflow, education center planning and other issues. Heather McCarey (EWP) TriMet Line 63 will not be running through the TriMet station during this time and suggested that we connect with TriMet to use their bay to ease traffic difficulties.

6. PCM Closure

Victor Sanders (PP&R) shared a presentation. Adena Long (PP&R) Commented that when you vacate a building there's cleaning and inventory that needs to be accomplished to keep the facility in good condition. Anna Goldrich (HA) Losing the Portland Children's Museum will have a significant impact on the Park as a whole; another issue we need to address is to update the 6 party agreement as we are now comprised of 5 parties. Anna stated that we would work on this in 2022, unless there were objections. At the same time we would review bucket allocations (funding). If we complete this in one process it will accommodate efficiency. Heather McCarey (EWP) How does this relate to the master plan? There will be a need for Portland Parks & Recreation to keep us in the loop. Adena Long (PP&R) That is a good point and is why an assessment needs to be completed. Portland Parks & Recreation will keep the group in the loop. Heather McCarey (EWP) We should think about what the plaza and entryway of the former Portland Children's Museum looks like (dead space, Portland Children's Museum signage on the freeway, other issues to think about and act upon). Anna Goldrich (HA) There are many things we haven't thought of.

7. EWP Core Identity

Heather McCarey (EWP) Shared with the Explore Washington Park Core Identity with the Board in February 2021. Additionally the Explore Washington Park principles were presented and approved by the Board in June 2021. Heather McCarey (EWP) proposed changes to the Explore Washington Park Core Identity to read as follows:

Explore Washington Park's mission is to provide an accessible, inclusive, and cohesive experience for all who visit Portland's destination park.

Discussion:

Dave Malcolm (SHNA) Liked the language change. Adena Long (PP&R) Liked the mission language change and commented that the original charge of the 6 or now 5 party agreement focused on traffic management. This process has really revealed how much more work needs to be done in the Park and she is concerned that we haven't specifically identified the roles and responsibilities of who is doing what. She has a concern and a desire to continued conversation regarding roles and responsibilities.

Motion: Approve the Explore Washington Park Core Identity

Steve Cole (AL) moved to approve and JC Vannatta (TM) seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

8. EWP Executive Committee Proposal

Heather McCarey (EWP) Proposed the implementation of an Executive Committee in order to streamline communication between the Board and the Executive Director. The Executive Committee would consist of the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Director. The committee would focus on the annual budget and work plan and would began as an advisory committee (no Board authority). The Executive Committee would meet every other month as needed.

Discussion:

Ivan Ratcliff (OZ) asked who would be on the committee. Heather McCarey (EWP) stated that the committee would include the Chair, Vice Chair, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Director. Adena Long (PP&R) asked if any other officers were missing from the committee. Billie Moser (TP) stated that every other Board she has served on has had an executive committee and was definitely in favor as it is a great support to the Executive Director.

Motion: Approve the Explore Washington Park Executive Committee Proposal

Dave Malcolm (SHNA) moved to approve and Cynthia Haruyama (PjG) seconded. The motion passed with all in favor and no abstentions.

Next meeting scheduled for October 14th and hopefully the Board will meet in person. Meeting adjourned at 3:01 p.m.