

Safety & Security Committee
November 2, 2023, 10:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.
Meeting Notes

Attending

Keith Baich – Explore Washington Park (EWP)
Sofia Chavier – Portland Parks & Recreation (PPR)
Danny Dunn – PPR
Anna Goldrich – Hoyt Arboretum (HA)
Rowan Lockett – Portland Japanese Garden (PJG)
Sean Sherrodd – Oregon Zoo (OZ)
Ian Stewart – TriMet (TM)
Chuck Wiley – World Forestry Center (WFC)

Guests

Joe Furia – WFC
Cynthia Haruyama – PJG
Heather McCarey – EWP
Victor Sanders – PPR
Hallie Wilkerson – EWP

Introductions

The group introduces themselves and Keith provides an overview of the meeting agenda. There will be new security data presented during this meeting, which prompted the invitation of the EWP Board members who do not typically attend these committee gatherings.

Partner Updates:

- Chuck (WFC): Usual activity safety and security activity, such as folks camping to stay out of the rain. The Timberland Investment Conference was attended by protesters from different organizations throughout Portland, some of which caused physical damage to the campus, breaking the glass of 40 windows. Overnight spray painting and tagging was an issue throughout the conference as well as littering of sawdust on the last day. Police and private security were on-site throughout the days of the conference. Staff is continuing to sort through this data to help mitigate these issues for next year.

There was an incident this morning involving an unclothed gentleman who was found in front of the Discovery Museum around 8am. He was shivering, mostly unresponsive displaying no motor function, and very confused. Immediate actions included providing a blanket to help get him warm. Ranger Judd was contacted and responded quickly with an emergency blanket. Portland Street Response arrived quickly after starting at 8am. This incident was witnessed by five uniformed private security guards from Allied

Universal, which are contracted through TriMet. The individual was ejected from the lower TriMet elevators with no clothing in 50-degree weather. Chuck has requested the contact information from TriMet's Public Safety Director.

Next steps include Ian Stewart's assistance, who was not present in the meeting at this time, for contact information of this TriMet team. Sofia asks to be CC'd to that email.

Joe revisits the Timberland Investment Conference protests and vandalism issue, which involved protesters blocking entry and attempted violence towards attendees. Portland Police and the Mayor's office stepped up during the daylight incidents. There was questioning behind mutual assistance for at-need moments in the Park. There has been a lot of uncertainty behind security needs throughout the Park and there is a clear need for this conversation.

Sofia states that there are local jurisdictions present that dictates what rangers are able to do. However, park rangers are present for any events. The main goal is to be public service resources.

- Rowan (PJG): Peak fall colors at the Garden and it has been very busy. Parking continues to be a challenge and the Park shuttle has been very beneficial for this reason. Garden hours have been reduced, and there are no recent security incidents to report on.
- Sean (OZ): Appreciative of the detailed GroupMe report from the summer and would like to see it on a regular basis. The Zoo is preparing for soggy weather and flooding in certain areas. Outside of Gate J, there is a drain that needs to be looked at on a regular basis as it has been checked hourly by Zoo staff. Continued preparation for Zoo Lights and Zoo Brew is coming up on 17th and 18th, with roughly 5,000 attendees each night. The Zoo's public safety officer, Ben, has been promoted to a leadership role.

Keith includes that per previous seasons, EWP will be in the parking lots monitoring traffic, starting with Brew Lights. The staff will not be out there for safety and security purposes but will serve as extra sets of eyes in the parking lots during the dark.

- Ian (TM): On Sunday November 5th, the entirety of the service day, which runs from 3:15 a.m. to 3:15 a.m. the following morning, there will be no MAX Service in Washington Park. There will be buses running from Sunset Transit Center to Providence Park to accommodate, but there will be delays. The TriMet Plaza, sections of the WFC, and Parking Lot C will be taken over for the exercise from 9am – 4pm. Perimeter security will be present to keep the public out and the station will remain closed until the end of the service day. There is plenty of space for tours and observations in the afternoon if anyone wants to see demonstrations such as chemical attack and active shooters drill.

Rowan and other employees of PJG are interested in observing these exercises.

Ian will include the information of the logistics coordinator in the chat.

Express observing/touring to the following contacts:
mike@sensemakersllc.com
stewarti@trimet.org

Keith mentions that EWP will be prepared to run off-site operations during this disruption.

- Anna (HA): Some larger incidents include someone building a fire under the cover of the visitor center, using the maps as fire starter, as well as banging on the building with a sign. Rangers and Portland Street Response were contacted. A Knife was pulled on a trained volunteer who confronted an individual who was using spray paint along the trails. Volunteers are trained not to confront individuals, and further training will occur.

Keith asks if there was any description of the individuals who pulled the knife.

Sofia informs that the person was contacted by a police officer and the report states that the knife was sheathed but not pointed in a threatening manner. Rangers do not make contact with individuals with weapons as this is a police issue. It was two males and one female without a good description.

- Danny (PPR): Camping has been fairly standard and there are increased ranger patrols behind WFC as this problem persists. As we transition into fall there will be day service rangers, without a swing shift until Zoo Lights. There will be additional coverage over Thanksgiving weekend as this is a prominent time for vandalism in the Park. Vehicle break-ins have been a continuous problem and increased messaging continues. There was a portable camera set out on the corner of Kingston to see if there was a change in behavior. There were no break-ins on camera during this time. Camera findings include \$2,000/month for the unit, captures photos but hard to identify details, and it takes a lot of staff time to review footage.

Keith thanks Danny for reporting on the camera experiment and questions if it was successful enough to revisit the idea.

At this point, the experiment was informational and there is no budget or request to move forward with the effort at this time.

Dannys adds that there is an increase in demand for public services all across Portland, including Washington Park. When this program started, rangers were the go-to contact to deal with minor incidences. The Park is now seeing incidents that require services that are outside what rangers can offer, such as violent individuals. Danny shares an incident contact process to ensure proper actions are taken per incident and will share this with the group.

Keith suggests adding this process to a future agenda to be discussed further.

GroupMe Safety and Security Data

Erin begins her presentation on the safety and security data that has been gathered from GroupMe, which includes security highlights of the peak-season. It is broken down by car break-ins, welfare checks, individuals in crisis, and general disturbance. 100% of weekend days have some type of report, and 67% of days have some type of report.

The goal of this data is to compare safety incidents historically and to get a better sense of the time and location to align with service demands and resources. Portland Police Bureau (PPB) data has been included, but it is broken down by neighborhood.

The data from PPB does not specify vehicle break-ins, and Danny will send over the data he has that calls this out.

Rowan circles back to the camera tower and wonders what is most helpful to report to PPR folks to prompt action.

Danny emphasizes that the more information to the rangers, as well as PPB, the better. If something is not appropriate for GroupMe, it can be shared via phone.

Anna thanks EWP and Erin for pulling this together so there is a starting point for this conversation.

Keith calls out that this safety and security data is captured from GroupMe. Incidents that are not reported on GroupMe may not be included. Hoyt only uses GroupMe for parkwide concerns, and often contacts the rangers directly.

Chuck requests details on the incident reporting guidelines for rangers and if there are reports that do not get recorded.

Victor shares that rangers do have required reporting for most information that is given to them.

Ranger Quick Capture Data

Danny shares his presentation of ranger quick capture data which is ArcGIS program that logs incidents with location and timestamp. It is in partnership with the Bureau of Technology Services and is a new effort throughout the City. This presentation dates to July 2022 and topics include ranger Park visits, nuisances, camping issues, public engagements, dog off-leash issues, and parkwide safety issues.

Heather suggests merging the security data efforts of EWP and PPR to see what information can be combined for more details. Maybe all reporting can be done via GroupMe to ensure it is all transferred to the data report.

Danny thinks there needs to be conversation behind what this group is trying to achieve and not creating new work for everyone. GroupMe was not created for data reporting, but instead reporting incidents.

Victor states that the 311-dispatch center will be open 7 a.m. – 8 p.m., seven days a week, starting next week. This will be a huge improvement regarding ranger service and can be utilized by this group for incidents in the Park. It is a low barrier process and will create the record of public service. City rangers are being trained for Washington Park so they can respond to these incidents.

Rowan wonders if there is a digital component of the 311-dispatch to include photos.

There will be an online form that serves as a 311-dispatch submission. This will be a city-wide effort and will provide a more robust non-emergency response system.

Heather follows up with appreciation of training citywide park rangers being trained in Washington Park but is curious if Washington Park will have specific rangers.

It is too early to say, but Washington Park is its own district so rangers who are assigned to the location will not be patrolling anywhere else during this time.

Keith will be sending out a follow-up email to further connect with Rowan, Sean, and WFC safety and security staff to coordinate efforts and resources. He thanks everyone for their participation and the meeting is adjourned.