



TAC Committee
May 22, 2024, 1:30 – 2:45 p.m.
Via Zoom

Meeting Notes

Attending:

Keith Baich – Explore Washington Park (EWP)
Rachel Burlington – International Rose Test Garden (IRTG)
Danny Dunn – Vibrant Communities (VC)
Kathy Goeddel – Arlington Heights Neighborhood Association (AHNA)
Ivan Ratcliff – Oregon Zoo (OZ)
Becky Schreiber – Hoyt Arboretum (HAF)
Jason Sipe – Portland Japanese Garden (PJG)
Marty Stockton – Portland Parks & Recreation (PPR)
Hallie Wilkerson – Explore Washington Park (EWP)

Partner Updates

- Kathy (AHNA): The neighborhood is very interested in the Portland Water Bureau (PWB) project with the reservoir. Waiting to hear more but sounds like Sacajawea BLVD might be closed soon and there are concerns about how it will affect traffic.
- Jason (PJG): The reservoir project is also a high concern for PJG at this time. Maintenance also recently found a broke pipe while repaving Kingston Ave, which will lead to an upcoming road closure that was not planned for.

Keith confirms that this sewer project was created by an issue found while repaving Kingston and the project could start as early as June 5, with the hopes to be completed before 4th of July weekend. There is a lot of unknown behind these projects because they cannot happen concurrently. Contacts from PWB include Grace Wilson and Nathan from Hoffman instruction.

Kathy highlights that when the PWB project initiated the first phase many years ago, communication to EWP, PJG, and PPR was much more effective and traffic plans were created months in advance. Communication this year feels less collaborative and solely between PPR and PWB.

Marty informs that she was not involved in this process as it was prior to her arrival with PPR. She is happy to convey any feedback along to PPR.

- Ivan (OZ): Summer hours begin this weekend, and the Zoo Night series will be starting up again on Fridays.
- Rachel (IRTG): It is tour bus season, so the construction plans have caused congestion and confusion amongst the different bus stops. It would be helpful for the Rose Garden Store to receive these types of updates as it has a major impact on their business.

Keith mentions that EWP field staff will be at their visitor service booth at their location next to the Rose Garden Store and they can help with congestion issues throughout the summer.

- Marty (PPR): Land Use Planner for PPR and reviews active development proposals throughout the west side of Portland. A proposal link has been dropped in the chat below regarding improvements at the main entrance to Washington Park, as well as an active proposal with the Oregon Zoo regarding their Master Plan.

The links below were provided in the Zoom chat by Marty:

1. <https://www.portland.gov/water/improvements/washington-park-reservoir-improvement/construction>
2. <https://www.portland.gov/bds/zoning-land-use/documents/notice-land-use-decision-lu-24-011981-ad/download>
3. <https://www.portland.gov/bds/zoning-land-use/documents/notice-land-use-hearing-lu-23-111078-cums-ad/download>

Major Maintenance Priorities

Danny begins his major maintenance presentation. Each year, \$300,000 is granted for major maintenance items throughout Portland parks.

These projects are prioritized by public safety concerns and risk of outsized expenses if ignored. High priority projects include the sinkhole on the intersection of Kingston Dr and Knights,

culvert repair at the west of Zoo Gate J, and the retaining wall on Stearns canyon. Any questions or feedback is welcome.

Keith highlights that PJG is highly interested in converting the soccer field into a parking lot, which is currently low priority in the major maintenance list.

Kathy stresses the fact that Stearns Canyon trail is one of the main entrances for Park visitors and it is in very rough condition with potholes and drainage issues. It seems like a safety hazard even though it is a low priority on the major maintenance list.

Becky questions if the money allocated towards major maintenance is enough to tackle the high-priority projects this year.

Danny states that the high-priority projects are likely to occur within the next couple of years and the current next steps are to look into cost estimates and funding. It is a question for the 5-parties to discuss.

Since the \$300,000 is devoted towards transportation to help visitors move in and out of the Park, Becky asks whether there is opportunity to look outside of the transportation bucket to find funding for these large items.

Marty states that she leads the capital project selection process for growth projects, which are funded by System Development charges. These projects are funded by System Development charges. This year, \$3 million is the citywide funding for FY 25/26, which is a low dollar amount compared to other years. Residential permits at market rates are currently down, and Dan Ryan donated a significant amount of money to the North Portland Aquatic Center. There is potential for some of these projects to be put into the growth funding category.

Keith suggests the committee members prioritize the major maintenance list within their organizations to provide as feedback. He will compile the lists and pass them along to PPR.

Transportation Access Plan – State of Mobility

Keith provides an overview on the Washington Park Strategic Operations Plan (WPSOP) and how the Transportation Access Plan (TAP) fits into this effort. EWP has hired a consultant organization to complete this plan, called Nelson Nygaard (NN). He presents their draft presentation on the current state of mobility for the Park and is looking for any feedback to bring back to NN.

In order to define the current state of mobility, NN will utilize data from the 2023 Parking Toolkit, the Master Plan, the WPSOP, multiple Annual Transportation Reports, historical parking and mobility data, park attendance, staff transportation needs, and feedback from stakeholders.

Danny asks what NN's role s in helping the EWP Board decide mobility goals and priorities.

Keith states that NN will likely bring their recommendation based on data and feedback and present it to the EWP Board. The EWP Board can then agree or disagree on their findings. Keith shares the slides, presenting the connection of One Park principles to this priority and particular goal. He then reached some slides prepared by consultants which give bullet point initial findings for current state of transportation (highlighting congestion levels, current usage trends, and other initial data points and findings regarding state of mobility).

Slides will be shared with the committee via email and feedback is welcome.

Kathy recommends there be some thought behind visitor capacity overall within the Park and how it affects the visitor experience.

For the next steps, Keith will create a shared document for feedback so the committee can see each other's contributions. Passi from the Oregon Zoo has provided feedback already and these comments will be included in the shared document.