



PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATIONSM

Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland

REPORT TO COUNCIL

DATE: October 11, 2018

TO: City Council

FROM: Portland Parks Board

SUBJECT: Accept Portland Parks Board Annual Report to Council

I am pleased to submit, for your consideration and acceptance, the Parks Board Annual Report. In following Portland Parks Board By-Laws, the Portland Parks Board has prepared this report which summarizes the Board's activities during the year and identifies the major issues facing Portland Parks and Recreation and the Board's recommendations for addressing these in the coming year. This report covers the 2017/18 Parks Board activities, accomplishments, and upcoming issues.

Please see the report attached.

Administration

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Portland, OR 97204
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PORTLANDPARKS.ORG

Nick Fish, Commissioner
Kia Selley, Interim Director



Sustaining a healthy park and recreation system to make Portland a great place to live, work, and play.



Date September 11, 2018

To: Parks Commissioner Nick Fish
Portland City Council Members

From: Portland Parks Board

Re: Report on 2017/18 Parks Board activities, accomplishments and upcoming issues

Board Members

Patricia Frobes, Chair

Kendall Clawson, Vice Chair

Paul Agrimis

Tonya Booker

Michelle Dedeo

Jenny Glass

Katy Holland

Ian Jaquiss

Tamara Layden

Joseph O'Leary

Jim Owens

Gladys Ruiz

Paddy Tillett

Bonnie Gee Yosick

Jeff Anderson, Ex-Officio

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Commissioners Fish, Fritz, Saltzman, and Eudaly:

As you know the by-laws of the Portland Parks Board call for an annual report submitted to you summarizing the Board's activities during the prior fiscal year and identifying the major issues facing Portland Parks & Recreation, including the Board's recommendation for addressing those issues.

The Portland Parks Board was established in 2001 to advise the city with respect to its commitment to fulfilling the aspirations of the 2020 Vision; to advocate for high-quality park and recreation services and opportunities for all residents; and to provide a representative forum with a citywide perspective for discussions about parks-related issues. Currently the Parks Board is comprised of 14 Portlanders who represent the diversity of our city. One ex-officio member, representing the Portland Parks Foundation, also serves on the Board. We currently have one voting member vacancy that will be filled next fiscal year and one ex officio vacancy (Urban Forestry Commission) that will be filled this fiscal year.

All the Board's activities and recommendations are grounded in the importance of a thriving parks system to the economic vitality and livability of Portland. We believe that Portland's parks and open space system is unique in the United States and is as indispensable to the well-being of our residents as water, electricity and streets. We also know that there are parts of our city that are underserved and in which the aspirations of the 2020 Vision remain unfulfilled. All the Board's work is informed by the importance of equity and inclusion and the necessity of expanding and extending our parks system in and to underserved areas. We believe to be a great city we must have great parks and open spaces, equitably distributed and accessible to all.

Parks Board major activities 2017/18:

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Reorganization: In July 2017, the Board refined its organizational structure with a goal of freeing the Board to effectively focus on strategic, system-wide issues and creating smaller working groups to analyze issues of more limited scope and develop alternative actions for Board consideration. The working groups established by the Board for 2017/18 focused on Homelessness, Infrastructure and Land Use, Community Development and Financial Stability.

Board Activity: Consistent with the desire to focus on system-wide strategic issues and in its role as informed advisor and advocate, the Parks Board's 2017/18 major activities included:

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- In depth review of and commenting on PP&R's 2020 Strategic Plan. The Board spent a substantial amount of time testing whether the Plan included meaningful performance measures that, if met, would reflect substantial progress in any given area. The Board was particularly concerned about the criteria used to measure success in meeting defined goals for increased equity and inclusion in the PP&R workforce. As a result of the Board's discussion, staff reevaluated and refined the Plan's objectives, incorporated the priorities of the Bureau's 5-Year Equity Plan into the final Strategic Plan and made additional efforts to develop meaningful performance measures.
- Weighing in on significant policy matters that affect parks, including the City Comprehensive Plan update and the Washington Park Master Plan. The Board was assisted in its efforts by the Land Use and Infrastructure Working Group.
- Actively participating in the Budget Advisory Committee process, including advocating for adequate funds to address the effects of homelessness on parks. Specifically, the Board advocated for funding to cover the costs of cleanup, additional parks rangers and additional staffing and training to implement the S.A.F.E. Task Force work addressing employee safety. In addition, the Board advocated for funding for long range planning in the form of the 2035 Vision. The Board was assisted in its advocacy by the Homelessness and the Financial Stability Working Groups.
- Review and commenting on the draft Off-Road Cycling Master Plan (ORCMP) produced by the Bureau of Planning & Sustainability. The Board heard public comment on the draft ORCMP over 6 months and reviewed hundreds of pages of written testimony submitted by interested citizens. The Board submitted its comments on the draft ORCMP to BPS in April 2018. The Board will provide comments to City Council on the final ORCMP when submitted. In addition, in

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the course of its review, the Board identified many areas of concern relating to the implementation and funding of the Plan. If the ORCMP is approved by City Council, the Board will revisit its concerns in advising PP&R with respect to implementation. The Board was assisted in its efforts by the Land Use and Infrastructure Working Group.

- Building our knowledge of PP&R initiatives and initiatives sponsored by others outside of PP&R, including presentations on the Community Needs Survey, insights generated by the Poet's Beach swimming experiment and the potential of the Albina Vision Project.
- Expanding and deepening the Board's relationships with the Mayor's office by holding the first of now regularly scheduled meetings with the Mayor.

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Parks Board looks ahead to 2018/19:

We believe that the parks system and, therefore, PP&R, is at an inflexion point. The decisions we make, or fail to make, over the next several years will determine whether the legacy of our 100-year-old parks system will be preserved and expanded or will slowly deteriorate and fail to reach underserved residents. It has become increasingly clear that reliance on general fund revenue to maintain the system is not sustainable, particularly as the system expands to serve underserved and new residents. The 2020 Vision is about to expire. We need a new, compelling Vision that reflects Portland's increasing diversity, density and rapid growth. And, we need to recruit a new director for Portland Parks & Recreation who can be a leader in the creation of Vision 2035 and in the drive for financial sustainability in a manner consistent with the overriding values of equity and inclusion. In that context, the Board has established the following priorities for the 2018/19 fiscal year:

- Director recruitment and on-boarding: The Board expects that it will play a significant role in the selection and on-boarding of the next director of the Bureau, bringing to the process both the diversity of the Board's membership and its city-wide perspective. One of the Board roles, as articulated in the 2020 Vision, is to provide continuity when transitions occur in the PP&R Director position. The Parks Board intends to be an active participant in helping the new director understand the urgent challenges and opportunities faced by the Bureau and in providing support for the new director in his or her transition.
- Vision 2035: The Board will spend the majority of its meeting time over the next year learning about and helping to shape both the process for creating the 2035 Vision as well as the building blocks for the Vision, including the level of

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service analysis and recommendations, the cost recovery policy, financial stability report, and the allocation of system development charge funds.

- **Advocacy and education:** Given the challenges and opportunities facing the parks system, there is an increased need to demonstrate to decision-makers the indispensable contribution a great parks system makes to the well-being of the city, starting with the Mayor and City Commissioners. To that end, the Board intends to create opportunities to deepen its relationships with the Mayor's office and individual commissioners through one-on-one and small group meetings.
- **Building partnerships:** One of the key roles the Board can play is in the building of partnerships with, and among, parks advocates and users, starting with the Portland Parks Foundation and various Friends groups. The Board has already begun to actively collaborate with the Parks Foundation on issues related to advocacy and financial sustainability. The Board intends to learn more about, and create ways to support and encourage, key Friends groups that contribute hundreds of thousands of hours to maintaining the parks system. The support of these and other community groups will be vital to the success of alternative forms of financing parks through bond measures and/or a parks district.

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The Parks Board looks forward to meeting with each of you in the coming year to discuss these priorities in more detail. In addition, we welcome each of you and your staff to attend any of our meetings – held on the second Tuesday of every month from 8:00-10:00am. Thank you for your support and commitment to our parks system.

Respectfully submitted,
Portland Parks Board

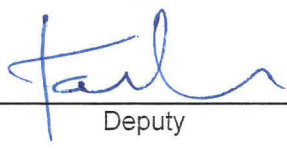
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Agenda No.
REPORT
 Title

Accept Portland Parks Board Annual Report to Council (Report)

<p>INTRODUCED BY Commissioner/Auditor: Fish</p>	<p>CLERK USE: DATE FILED <u>NOV 06 2018</u></p>
<p>COMMISSIONER APPROVAL</p> <p>Mayor—Finance & Administration - Wheeler</p> <p>Position 1/Utilities - Fritz</p> <p>Position 2/Works - Fish</p> <p>Position 3/Affairs - Saltzman</p> <p>Position 4/Safety - Eudaly</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Mary Hull Caballero Auditor of the City of Portland</p> <p>By: <u></u> Deputy</p>
<p>BUREAU APPROVAL</p> <p>Bureau: PP&R Bureau Head: Kia Selley</p> <p>Prepared by: Brooke Gardner Date Prepared: 10/5/2018</p> <p>Impact Statement Completed <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Amends Budget <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>City Auditor Office Approval: required for Code Ordinances</p> <p>City Attorney Approval: required for contract, code, easement, franchise, charter, Comp Plan</p> <p>Council Meeting Date 11/14/2018</p>	<p>ACTION TAKEN:</p> <p>NOV 14 2018 ACCEPTED</p>

<p style="text-align: center;">AGENDA</p> <p>TIME CERTAIN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Verbal Request from Fish</i></p> <p>Start time: <u>10:15</u></p> <p>Total amount of time needed: <u>5</u> (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p> <p>CONSENT <input type="checkbox"/></p> <p>REGULAR <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> <i>Per Brooke/Betsy</i></p> <p>Total amount of time needed: <u>5 minutes</u> (for presentation, testimony and discussion)</p>	<table border="1" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr> <th style="width: 30%;">FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA</th> <th colspan="2">COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:</th> </tr> <tr> <th></th> <th>YEAS</th> <th>NAYS</th> </tr> <tr> <td>1. Fritz</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>2. Fish</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>3. Saltzman</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>4. Eudaly</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td></td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wheeler</td> <td style="text-align: center;">✓</td> <td></td> </tr> </table>	FOUR-FIFTHS AGENDA	COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:			YEAS	NAYS	1. Fritz	✓		2. Fish	✓		3. Saltzman	✓		4. Eudaly	✓		Wheeler	✓	
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