

IMPACT STATEMENT

Legislation title: Accept the Portland Parks & Recreation Board 2019 Annual Report (Report)

Contact name: Brooke Gardner

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Presenter name: Paul Agrimis and Adena Long

Purpose of proposed legislation and background information:

In following Portland Parks & Recreation Board By-Laws, the Board has prepared this report which summarizes the Board's activities during the year and identifies the major issues facing Portland Parks & Recreation and the Board's recommendations for addressing them in the coming year. This report covers the 2018/19 Parks Board activities, accomplishments and upcoming issues.

Financial and budgetary impacts: None

Community impacts and community involvement:

This Parks Board is committed to recruiting and retaining board members that reflect the diversity of Portland, including geographic representation. The Parks Board plays a key role in providing space for public comment, community involvement and testimony. Communication from the public is also submitted through Portland Parks Board staff liaison at Portland Parks & Recreation.

100% Renewable Goal: N/A

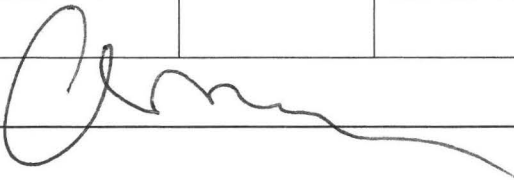
Budgetary Impact Worksheet

Does this action change appropriations?

YES: Please complete the information below.

NO: Skip this section

Fund	Fund Center	Commitment Item	Functional Area	Funded Program	Grant	Sponsored Program	Amount



9/4/19



Date: October 2, 2019

To: Parks Commissioner Nick Fish
Portland City Council Members

From: Portland Parks Board

Re: Report on 2018/19 Parks Board activities, accomplishments and upcoming issues

Board Members

Paul Agrimis, Chair

Bonnie Gee Yosick, Vice Chair

Kendall Clawson

Michelle Dedeo

Mike Elliott

Patricia Frobes

Jenny Glass

Katy Holland

Ian Jaquiss

Tamara Layden

Jim Owens

Gladys Ruiz

Paddy Tillett

Erin Zollenkopf

Randy Gragg, Ex-Officio

Lorena Nascimento, Ex-Officio

Lec Novak, Ex-Officio

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

Under its governing statute, the Parks Board is required to deliver to the City Council an annual report summarizing the Board's activities during the prior fiscal year and identifying the issues facing Portland Parks & Recreation, including the Board's recommendation for addressing those issues. This letter constitutes the Board's annual report for the 2018-19 fiscal year.

The Portland Parks Board was established in 2001 to, among other things, advise the City Council and Parks Director with respect to the city's commitment to fulfill the aspirations of the 2020 Vision to provide high-quality parks and recreation services on an equitable and inclusive basis to all Portlanders. Currently, the Board is composed of 14 voting members who represent the diversity of our city and 3 non-voting ex officio members, 2 representing the Portland Parks Foundation and 1 representing the Urban Forestry Commission. We have one voting member vacancy that will be filled next year.

All the Board's work is driven by the values of equity, inclusion and accessibility in delivering parks and recreation services and the necessity of extending those services to Portlanders who have been historically underserved. We believe to be a great city we must have great parks, open spaces and recreation opportunities, equitably distributed and accessible to all. We also believe that our parks system is facing an existential crisis. The current model for investing in our parks is not financially sustainable and, if not substantially changed, will result in the dismantling of a system that as recently as 2011 was a winner of a National Gold Medal. Accordingly, much of the Board's work over the past year has been focused on financial sustainability. The Board intends to maintain that focus in the coming year and increase its advocacy for a new and sustainable paradigm for maintaining and expanding our parks system.

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



Parks Board Major Activities 2018/19:

Consistent with its focus on financial sustainability and system-wide strategic issues, the Board's major activities in 2018-19 included:

- Serving as the Bureau's Budget Advisory Committee (BAC). In that role the Board identified four key values that guided the staff in developing the 2019/20 budget proposal: equity, inclusion and accessibility; maintenance, including deferred maintenance, of existing facilities; safety of park users and employees; and financial sustainability. The BAC found that the budget proposal submitted by staff attempted to minimize the equity impacts of the budget reductions and maintenance of existing assets, including deferred maintenance. However, the BAC could not determine whether the proposed budget adequately prioritized employee and user safety. More important, the BAC found that the budget did not align with the value of financial sustainability. While the budget represented an important step in stabilizing the Bureau's financial situation, it does not provide a solution to the structural deficit inherent in the Bureau's business and revenue model.
- Providing guidance to Bureau staff with respect to the building blocks for Vision 2035 including advice with respect to the Community Needs Survey, Level of Service study, revised Cost Recovery Policy and System Development Charge distribution priorities. These building blocks will be the foundation of any financial sustainability plan.
- Weighing in on significant policy matters that affect parks. For example, the Board successfully sought an extension for the public comment period on the Environmental Assessment of ODOT's proposed I-5 improvement plans through the Rose Quarter and supported PBOT's funding of an urban design team's review of alternative freeway capping scenarios. In addition, the Board recommended that green spaces included in ODOT's plan not be accepted by the city as parks or open space due to challenging access issues, noise, and environmental impacts from passing traffic volumes that would make them underused parks. PP&R subsequently notified ODOT that those green spaces would not be accepted, managed or maintained by the city as parks or open space.
- Deepening partnerships with other parks advocates, including Commissioner Fish's office, the Portland Parks Foundation and beginning a process to engage more with various Friends groups.
- Participating in the selection of the new Parks Director, Adena Long and assisting in her introduction to the Bureau and the City.

Parks Board Priorities for 2019/20:

At its Retreat in June 2019, the Board identified the following priorities for 2019/20:

- **Supporting Vision 2035 and Financial Sustainability:** Development of a path to long-term financial stability that will empower the Bureau to maintain and grow a parks and recreation system that is equitably distributed, accessible to all Portlanders and worthy of the National Gold Medal award. In that connection, the Board will continue to advise the Bureau on the Level of Service study and Cost Recovery Policy and, through its Financial Sustainability Working Group, will assist in the development of alternative service models for consideration by City Council.
- **Building Budget Expertise:** Providing advice on the Bureau's 2020/21 budget, starting with monthly sessions on individual budget components. It is the Board's intention to integrate budget discussions into each of its monthly meetings, in addition to participating in the budget advisory process at the end of the year.
- **Growing Advocacy:** Increased advocacy for parks, open space and recreation services, including advocating for a funding model that will deliver long-term financial stability to the parks system and support a system that delivers an essential city service on an equitable and inclusive basis.
- **Investing in Partnerships:** Continued investment in partnerships with other parks advocates, including the Portland Parks Foundation and working with staff to build relationships with key Friends groups.

We hope to meet 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 8:00-10:00. Thank you for your support and commitment to our parks system.

Respectfully submitted,
Portland Parks Board