

April 17, 2013

Concerned Citizens Regarding the 65' Trail Section Design Options

Good morning. My name is Kelly Pergande and I have been a resident of Portland since 1999 and have lived in St. Johns since 2001. I realize that in the past few weeks, you have heard from other members of our group of concerned citizens regarding the impact on the Giant Sequoia as a result of the new Pier/Chimney Bridge construction. We have also spoken about the necessity to have a completed ADA trail that will allow access for all to the new bridge. I appreciate your attention again today.

Thank you, Commissioner Fritz, for attending the recent St. Johns Neighborhood Association General meeting as an observer. As you no doubt recall, at that meeting a passionate debate took place among members of our community. We have good news to report! After that meeting ended, our group was approached by the npGreenway group, requesting that we join them at the Budget Hearing last week. We attended that meeting as a unified voice to request funding for a completed ADA trail from the new bridge through the park. In the near future, we will be joining with Friends of Pier Park, the St. Johns Neighborhood Association, and the np Greenway group to discuss how to best accomplish the task of making the bridge accessible while also considering the integrity of Sequoia Grove. Neighborhood unity is becoming a reality!

I am here today to impress upon you how important it is to consider other options for the design of the 65' trail section on the south side of the bridge. PP&R stated that they never considered *any* alternatives regarding this 65' section. We have ideas that we feel would resolve the design challenges that have been only recently identified and acknowledged.

As you stand in the Sequoia Grove, you can see that it was planted in two sections - front and back. The trees in the front section were planted in a circle and while we do not currently know the significance of the circle, it is unique and may have historical significance. The 65' trail section as it is currently drawn is a straight shot that lands right in the middle of this circle. For an ADA compliant trail to continue, it would need to go through several sets of trees. One of our proposed alternative routes for a completed ADA trail directs it between the two grove sections, keeping both intact and minimizing the number of trees affected. But the current 65' section design doesn't work well with this alternative route.

Designing the trail in pieces simply doesn't make sense. If options for this trail section can't be considered at this time because of budget constraints, we ask that construction of this 65' section be delayed until the END of the bridge project. By that time, there may be adequate funding available to redesign the 65' and design the remainder of the ADA trail at the same time.

Why should the City consider making changes regarding the 65' trail section when this project has already been planned, funded, and permitted? Why should the City consider delaying construction of this section until the rest of the project has been completed?

Because we are convinced that at least one of the several alternatives we want to propose would cost the same, or considerably less than the current plan. We are also convinced that we have viable ideas for creatively funding this project. The 65' section off the bridge is the beginning of a completed ADA trail, and will be a part of Pier Park for many generations. The City and PP&R need to consider all possible options *before* construction of the 65' trail section begins. It's important that the entire trail, from where the bridge touches Pier Park to it's end, be designed as a whole, with careful consideration for practicality, tree health, grove integrity, and aesthetics.

Thank You,


Kelly Pergande

An email we received from Joe Adamski/npGreenway Group

From: Joe Adamski <jgadamski@gmail.com>

Date: April 15, 2013 6:51:25 PM PDT

Subject: Re: Parks meeting with Sequoia Grove Group

The immediate thing I took away from the last SJNA general meeting, where Dennis Keepes and I went toe to toe on the trail vs the trees is that the room was pretty evenly divided. The second thing is that both groups want the same things, but felt threatened on the things they valued most.

We were in opposition just one week ago. I think we are taking tentative steps to walk back from rancor.

We all want to do the right thing. The right thing really is both building the bridge/ADA trail, and preventing damage to the sequoia grove, creating some special place-making there.

Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong is correct. This will take a bit of time and money in a time where both are in short supply. Lets take a breath. And while we do that...

Before we start banging the drum, perhaps we collectively meet, and try to figure out not just possible ADA trail alignment, for those interested, but also ideas of placemaking, coalition building and community. Lets figure how we can advocate for funding, sooner, not later. How to have such a powerful coalition that we could not be ignored, but at the same time have a clear picture of what we want, how we get it and, most importantly, how to honor those things we value: Pier Park, North Portland, St Johns and safe access to our community for everyone.

Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong's guesstimate for the complete ADA trail from the end of the stub through Pier is about \$200,000. Not pocket change, but not insurmountable. Our odds for getting funding are much better when an entire community pulls together. A consensus developed respectfully and advocated for in unity is where I want to go.

What are your thoughts about a gathering of interested folks from npGreenway, the Friends of Pier Park, St Johns Neighborhood Assoc, interested neighbors.. to explore and discuss the above topics and see where we might want to go from here?

As spring finally takes grasp, even an informal 'meeting' at the grove might be a good venue.

Finding an hour to meet would be great. I personally apologize for my part in this misunderstanding and want a good result from a bad start. **So.. just us SJ folks .. interested in discussing what you would like to see happen?**

Moore-Love, Karla

From: kelly pergande [kpergande@yahoo.com]

Sent: Monday, March 18, 2013 2:24 PM

To: Moore-Love, Karla

Subject: City Council Meeting /4.10.13

Dear Ms. Moore-Love,

I wish to speak at an upcoming City Council meeting on April 10, 2013. I called the number (503.823.4086) on the City of Portland website and left a message requesting a time slot to speak about the Sequoia Grove in Pier Park. If possible I would like to be scheduled along with Joanie Beldin and Chris Fountain who are already on the agenda for 4.10.13.

If this is not the correct phone/email for scheduling a time slot, please let me know who I need to contact.

Thank you.
Sincerely,
Kelly Pergande
503.23.8206

3/20/2013

Request of Kelly Pergande to address Council regarding the Sequoia Grove in Pier
Park (Communication)

APR 17 2013

PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 12 2013

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By 

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		