

APPROVED.



PARKS AND RECREATION BOARD

Milwaukie Parks and Recreation Board | 6101 SE Johnson Creek Blvd, Milwaukie, OR 97206

January 24, 2024 | 5:00 – 6:00 p.m. | Zoom Meeting

Board Members Present: Martín Alvarez, Heather Baskerville, Ali Feuerstein (Chair), Gary Klein, Virginia Pai, Max Penneck

Board Members Absent: Sabina Spicer

Milwaukie Staff Present: Peter Passarelli, Public Works Director, Adam Moore, Parks Development Coordinator, Jon Hennington, Public Works Administrative Specialist II

Passarelli informed the board of departures of Natalie Rogers, Climate and Natural Resources Manager as Parks and Recreation Board (PARB) liaison. Passarelli will step into the role of board liaison with Moore supporting.

Passarelli also informed board of the resignation of Council President Nicodemus and gave timeline of appointment and elections.

Passarelli announced that PARB may move to quarterly updates. **Feuerstein** asked for clarification that PARB meetings would be quarterly, not just park updates. **Baskerville** asked if the quarterly meeting move is related to internal staffing issues. **Passarelli** stated that this was part of the consideration. **Baskerville** expressed concern that moving to quarterly would make it difficult for the board to be able to meet the goals that have been set and asked if the city would be looking for other channels to receive advice and feedback from PARB. **Feuerstein** stated that quarterly meetings would limit PARB's ability to make meaningful progress towards the PARB goals and give the city meaningful feedback and suggested bimonthly meetings as an option. **Passarelli** stated that the goal is to be sure that meetings are productive and can be staffed appropriately. **Klein** noted that Moore has been in regular attendance at meetings and recommended Moore stepping into the role of liaison. **Passarelli** stated that board liaisons are generally managers, but that Moore acting as liaison could be a possibility.

Baskerville asked what other forums for communication are utilized by other boards with non-monthly schedules and suggested consolidating with or partnering with Tree Board or others.

Passarelli mentioned that the Tree Board usually has a full agenda and a primary focus on trees in the community and is not necessarily viewing trees from the same perspective that PARB does.

Pai noted that the Milwaukie Parks Foundation is planning to do fundraising around the neighborhood parks projects and that PARB intended to support that work.

Klein expressed concern about PARB turnover further reducing capacity to provide valuable feedback.

Alvarez voiced concern about quarterly meeting frequency.

Baskerville noted that the neighborhood parks projects beginning construction also supported monthly meetings to provide feedback.

Passarelli thanked the board and offered to take feedback to the city manager.

Hennington informed Klein that the city's board management system shows Klein's current term expiring on 06/30/2025.

Moore provided an update from board member Spicer who expressed continued interest in the board and its work, but noted that meeting times conflict with parenting needs.

Baskerville said that time and frequency has been set by the city and asked if it would be helpful that the board discussed and came up with alternative time to meet.

Baskerville asked if there is a backfill for Rogers' position. **Passarelli** noted that is part of the current budget discussion and added that Council is also looking to consider ways to ensure that equity is integrated into all city functions and funding mechanisms to support this.

Baskerville asked how PARB compares to other city boards in terms of advising the city in terms of the dollar amounts of the projects being considered. **Passarelli** pointed out the complexities and uniqueness of each board's areas of expertise and suggested that comparing dollar amounts short-changes PARB's work given that large amounts of funding are tied to the current projects, but PARB always has an important advisory role even absent new park development.

Moore provided an update on parks projects and October parks event.

Baskerville asked how the order and timing of park construction will be decided.

Moore indicated that the contractor would drive most of that decision. **Moore** added that since bids came in under budget and below the engineer's estimate. Enhancements will be added to the project. **Moore** sought feedback about adding 3 or 4 dark sky-rated 3ft bollard lights in Scott Park to provide a lit path for leaving the library through the park to the parking on Main Street.

Penneck expressed support for bird-friendly lighting. **Moore** recognized that there appeared to be support within PARB and mentioned that the city will also discuss with the condo association adjacent to Scott Park.

Moore mentioned that the projects are not expected to use all of the Metro local share funds, which can be spent on these projects or on another project, but we don't know how much of the local share we won't need.

Feuerstein expressed approval of the update and the projects being under budget.

Moore informed the board that the construction kick-off will be held at Balfor Park in recognition of the fundraising and contribution from Ardenwald Neighborhood District Association.

Feuerstein adjourned the meeting at 6:12p