

Minutes of the npGreenway Board Meeting (via Zoom)
June 10, 2020

Attendees:

Board Members: Lenny Anderson, Jay Bokelman, Pat Jewett, Cynthia Newton, Francie Royce, Steven McClure

Guests: Mel Huie (Metro), Allan Schmidt (Metro), Scott Mizze, Caroline Skinner, Jeff Lang, Maija Spencer (PDX Parks) Trang Lam, Charity Adams

OLD BUSINESS:

1. Swan Island Basin Avenue Improvement Project (between N. Going Street and Waud Bluff): Francie reported that she has tried but been unable to reach PBOT's Zef, who is lead on this project. She will keep working to reach him.

2. Willamette Cove: npGreenway signed on to a 2/22/2020 letter from the Portland Harbor Community Coalition ("PHCC") to Metro outlining community and preliminary design priorities and asking Sam Chase to request that WC come as a topic of discussion at a Metro Council meeting once DEQ has proposed a remediation plan. (Copy of letter attached.)

The Board discussed how best to determine the Board's position on the proposed DEQ WC cleanup. Lenny has drafted and circulated to the Board a proposed draft resolution for discussion.

The public comment period originally set to end June 30 has been extended to August 31.

There will be a WC work session and it was suggested a Board member may want to attend.

3. University of Portland (UofP):

Trang reported on the development of the lower campus. UofP has permits to complete the upland portions, including the track which involves storm water routing and management. Upland work will be in 2021 and 2022. Planners expect there will be a brand new shoreline at that point. Full restoration of the river bank is planned which will involve removing 1000 pilings and 3 docks and addressing contamination at the shoreline. There will be some erosion management.

Laudau Associates, a geotechnical contracting company and provides environmental assessment services and engineering services, gave a presentation to which UofP plans a formal response.

UofP is working with PBOT to rebuild the rail crossing at Van Hooten. The Union Pacific (UP) will pay for the crossing arm installation and maintenance.

Francie commented that because the Board's vision is to see the npGreenway Trail connect south by traveling around the bluff, she wished the UofP's trail went further south. Trang explained that taking the Trail further south at this point leads it into land that might be partly submerged at times so there is not much to be gained at this point in reaching towards the bluff. She also mentioned that the Trail may need to be placed over the water in places as it extends around the Bluff, like the East Esplanade does in places.

Trang added that extending the npGreenway trail north from the UofP lower campus towards WC is another challenge which might be more attainable now than working south around the Bluff. Trang mentioned potential work with the McCormack-Baxter Site could be explored.

4. Columbia Boulevard Bike/Ped Bridge Work: Report from PBOT's Maija Spencer

Maija took over community engagement work from Elizabeth Kenny Wong and summarized the results of her community engagement work and survey which was on line for 2 weeks with over 900 hits from folks age 25-77 and lots of traffic from BikePortland link. Results were largely from white homeowners. The project plans will be posted on PBOT's project page.

Allan commented that he was exploring feasibility and cost of providing access to the bus stop on the BES property (north) side.

5. Friends of Baltimore Woods:

Steve reported that restoration of the wildlife corridor is focused on weekly "golden hour" volunteer work sessions from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. Thursdays to make soft bark path and adding plantings. Negotiations to get through on Decatur continue.

NEW BUSINESS:

1. Taking Politicians and Movers and Shakers on Trail tours:

Mingus Mapps and Jo Ann Hardesty were suggested names. Francie agreed to lead the charge on this and Pat and Cynthia offered to help tour folks. It was suggested that inviting candidates on tours before the election would be most beneficial.

2. New Board Members:

Trang Lam, former Parks employee and current UofP planner and Charity Adams, PDX native and realtor, introduced themselves and gave an overview of their backgrounds and interests in joining the Board.

Plans were made to arrange a separate Zoom meeting with several Board members to discuss Trang and Charity joining the Board officially.

Respectfully submitted,
Cynthia Newton