

PVNA General Meeting Minutes

October 20, 2025, 7:00-8:34 pm hybrid at Arte Soleil

Present: Melanie, Felice, Alex, Dale, Barry, Jamie Dunphy, Amari, Lydia, Malynda, Trish Garner, Steve, Sarah, Geoff, Yvonne, Karen, Greg, DeLisa, Linda

The Chair read aloud: Our Agreement

Welcome District 1 Councilor Jamie Dunphy and League of Women Voters (LWVPDX) Chair of the Speakers Bureau, Trish Garner!

Trish Garner explains and then gives pros and cons of the proposed City of Portland Parks and Recreation Levy, Ballot Measure 26-260.

- The LWV started in 1920, the same year that women got the right to vote.
- Ballot Measure 26-260 - Maintain safe parks, nature, affordable recreation through 5-year levy.
- Overview: The current Parks & Rec levy is scheduled to expire in 2026. It is set at a rate of \$0.80 per \$1000 assessed value of a home. The proposed new parks levy would increase this rate to \$1.40 per \$1000 assessed value beginning July 1, 2026. There is an approximate \$600 million backlog of repair and maintenance. Three cents of the \$1.40 levy will be directed to reduce this backlog.
- Financial Impact: The proposed rate increase will result in an estimated \$133 increase in annual taxes for a property assessed at a value of \$221,600, or about \$11 more per month than the current levy. However, because of tax limitations in the Oregon Constitution, many property owners, particularly in District 1, will pay less. The levy is expected to raise \$84 million in the first year and an average of \$91 million per year for the remainder of the 5-year term (fiscal years 2026-27 through 2030-31). Portland Parks & Rec services and activities are also funded by General Fund dollars, service and permit fees, grants, donations and other sources.
- Probable results of a NO vote: Portland Parks & Rec services and recreation programs will be reduced and/or eliminated; property taxes will not increase due to this levy and property taxes from the current levy will end.
- SUPPORTERS say;
 - This levy will restore investments in natural areas and services and will support critically important programs such as teen- and senior-focused programs, summer camps, life-saving swim lessons and the summer playground program serving free lunch to children experiencing hunger.
 - Parks and nature support the livability of the region and improve quality of life.
 - Levy funds will increase access to park programs for Portland's most underserved communities.
 - This levy will allow PP&R to strengthen community partnerships, including creating grants for free or low-cost programming at PP&R facilities.

- OPPONENTS say:
 - Increasingly, local tax measures put the burden of covering the cost of city services on property owners through increased property taxes.
 - The share going to capital maintenance, \$0.03 out of \$1.40, generates only about \$2 million, which is woefully inadequate for a \$600 million backlog. (Councillor Dunphy mentioned that the General Fund will make up for much of the shortfall.)
 - Local government leaders say they support affordable housing, but by shifting the tax burden to property owners, they make home ownership more difficult in Portland, not easier.
- Q&A
 - Dunphy explained that originally, Council wanted \$0.10 out of \$1.40 to go to the maintenance backlog. The 3 cents out of the \$1.40 for the maintenance backlog was a compromise that the City Council made with the Portland Business Alliance, which wanted the rest of the money (60%) to come out of the General Fund. He emphasized that funds were extremely tight. Also, the new City Council has put on its February 2026 legislative short session a discussion of SDC reform. There has also been a leadership change at the top level of the PP&R, the director was let go, and they are waiting for the results of the levy to hire a new director.
 - Dunphy said that 80%-90% of properties east of I-205 will NOT be impacted by this levy tax. He added that if the measure does NOT pass, it will affect us disproportionately from the rest of the city, as 50% of the park maintenance losses will be in East Portland. Those that will be most impacted by the levy will have built their house in the last 5 years because their assessed value will be more in line with market value.
 - Question about whether PVNA could advocate for a position on this ballot measure. PVNA Chair and Dunphy both said no. The PVNA wants to inform voters of what they are to expect on their ballot so that they can make an educated vote.
 - The point was made that the current city council, all of 10 months old in a completely new city government, inherited this problem of inequity from the previous Commission form of government that had been our Portland model since 1906. The current city council is cleaning up a lot of messes of no fault of its own.
 - Dunphy said that 82nd St is often considered the 'boonies' but that, in fact, it is the geographic center!
 - Dunphy mentioned that there are no street plazas in District 1, and that he has a refrain about how D1 has always been left out. We can be more active by signing up for his newsletter, sending in testimony, he is here to help us. We have the opportunity to apply to have a Street Plaza, due date is December 1, 2025. Any ideas?
 - Dunphy recommends the Sellwood Community House, an incredible community resource, as a model for what we could have in our community.

Report from the Board

1. Annual Meeting Minutes from 10/15/25 were approved.
2. Logo status - we showed an AI-generated PVNA logo. Barry said it needed more houses so he has volunteered to work on the logo.
3. Treasurer's Report - current balance \$2484.29
4. District 1 Coalition meeting summary (Alex):
 - a. The funding had not come through and they were working without pay. Dunphy said that it took so long because of Trump's anti-DEI order which made the city go through every contract, thus the stall to funding. Everything should be okay soon in terms of them getting paid.
 - b. Alex said that there were many community events the previous weekend, primarily No Kings protests.
 - c. Old Fred Meyer Gateway community discussion about condition of the property and surrounding land.
 - d. Zoning
 - i. Portland City Corps Redevelopment District is getting rezoned, some discussion about changing the name in some areas as "historically" Industrial (?) and how that would affect both residential and industrial parcels.
 - ii. Food Cart pods are getting a new designation which will help them
 - iii. An overall city zoning discussion was had

Discussion Items

1. Dumpster Day - discussed what went well and what we could do better (in agenda). Also discussed joining with other NAs and even starting a District 1 level Dumpster Day, 3/year, in the spring, summer and fall which would entail less money, work, and possibly collect more trash that is otherwise being illegally dumped because people would know about Dumpster Days. There could be all the booths like shredders, electrical and metal collectors, furniture swaps, recycling and even make it an event with music, but have it at the District level.
2. NET, Neighborhood Emergency Team - Chair is getting training. Our neighborhood shows that there is no NET presence, it says "inactive". Chair working with others to activate. Other neighborhoods have plans for when the Cascadia Earthquake happens, we want one too. We are one of the geographically largest and most dispersed neighborhoods in Portland which suggests that we will have difficulties getting emergency help. In District 1, 11% of the BEECN sites are active, the lowest number in the whole city. As soon as chair has completed her training she would like to start a committee with a goal to create a top tier team with many neighborhood pods who are prepared for an emergency. See training opportunity below in Announcements. There are caches of critical supplies distributed throughout the city and they need to be

checked on a regular basis. No one is checking ours! Funding for BEECN is done for the year, Chair will check in at the beginning of the year to see if there is more funding.

3. Safety
 - a. Neighborhood Weekend Walkies to boost spirit - we would like to start some walkies to strengthen neighborhoods.
 - b. If there are “situations” or hot spots that concern neighbors they can be discussed and we can invite police officers to share our concerns and make suggestions. Check out Coffee with a Cop in Announcements below.
 - c. Dunphy mentioned ESDs, Enhanced Services Districts, where property and business owners fund extra services like trash cleanup, graffiti removal and community safety. There are 3 ESDs - the Lloyd District, Central Eastside Together and Downtown Portland Clean and Safe.
 - d. Portland Police Bureau East Precinct holds a weekly “Commander’s Office Hours” on Tuesdays from 1:30-2:30 pm at 737 SE 106th Ave. The public can meet with the commander and discuss concerns and ask questions.
4. PVNA Boundaries - Current bylaws description of the neighborhood needs to be changed for the new bylaws. The boundary along Gresham is very confusing with multiple jurisdictions basically pointing the finger at the others to get anything done. The PVNA is funded by the City of Portland and we want our boundaries to reflect that we are part of the city with no other entities involved. This important discussion has been postponed to another time because we ran out of time.

Announcements

1. League of Women Voters working in collaboration with the city to increase voter registration and voting in District 1. Representatives of D1 organizations are invited to participate in the November 15th meeting at the Midway Library.
2. PBOT closure of Foster between Barbara Welch and Jenne Rd. The project goal is to prevent lane departure crashes and sideswipe crashes on SE Foster Road. PBOT will be adding rumble strips to the centerline of SE Foster Road, installing high visibility centerline striping, installing high visibility edge line striping, and installing roadside delineator signs in the shoulder. The work requires a full road closure of SE Foster Rd (9am-3pm). The contractor will be placing a large electronic sign on SE Foster Rd at least one week prior with the road closure dates. Construction dates are TBD at this moment.
3. NET or BEECN training on November 18. For more information, go to portland.gov - Become a NET Volunteer. The training is free and you will be a part of a broader community, it is one of the most respected emergency bureaus in the country!
4. Councillor Smith Townhall Friday, October 24th @ PCC Library 12-2 pm
5. Steph Routh newsletter “East Portland Voice” free online subscription at eastportlandvoice.org
6. Happy Hour @ Golden Dynasty, 11128 Foster Rd., Wednesday, November 5th, 4-6 pm
7. Coffee with a Cop meetings happen on the 3rd Friday of every month, 9-11 am, 10540 NE Halsey Street