



ntz, P.E.

Chair, Friends of Pier Park
freindsofpierpark.org

Friends of Pier Park is a 501(c)(3) non-profit that enhances and advocates for our 88-acre park

March 21st, 2018

To Hailee Vandiver & others at Portland Parks & Recreation (PP&R):

I am writing on behalf of the Friends of Pier Park (FoPP), in response to the most recent Portland Off-road Cycling Master Plan and its involvement & connection with Pier Park.

Our group and community has been following and providing input to this plan for several months, while working through our standard North Portland PP&R channels, but feel it is best if our stance is formally documented through your official feedback process.

As you likely know, **we have several major concerns** with the inclusion of Pier Park into this plan that I hope to summarize in this memo:

- Park safety is one of our core tenants, and as such, we do not feel that **PP&R Recommendation #3** ("natural surface loop family friendly trail...inside park") could be feasibly designed without drastically reducing safety and usability for other park users. The current family friendly path (paved & mixed-gravel) that exists today is heavily used by walkers, joggers, strollers, kids, dogs, bird-watchers, and slow moving bicycles. Any sanctioned off-road bike course or track would add speed and unrestrained bike riding styles into the equation that would be unfit to mix into a family friendly path. Course features mentioned such as "rocks, logs or bridges" would have these higher speed bikes moving back off-and-on to the trail which would be unpredictable for regular traffic flow. Our regular path users would not want to use such a trail.
- Another of our core tenants is restoring the Park's natural beauty. Any path or trail as denoted in **PP&R Recommendation #3** would have to be a new trail (due to above speed/traffic concerns), which would lead to biodiversity and habitat loss in the Park, which we firmly oppose. Additionally, we challenge your rating of Pier Park as "healthy to degraded conditions" as a green light to move forward.
- The last point on **PP&R Recommendation #3**, is that logistically, it would be virtually impossible to cut a new path that doesn't cross or is in proximity to any of the heavily

used disc golf courses or our softball and baseball feilds. It should be very apparent that off-road cycling and discs being thrown at 60+mph do not mix well.

- Yet, we are open to working with PP&R on **Recommendation #2**, a "small to medium sized bike park near the current skate park". Let's work closely together on this plan as we do share concerns on which paths the intended users would take to get to the bike-park, and where this bike-park would actually sit.
- We also would like to be heavily involved as you formulate **Recommendation #1**, the park Master Plan, as we also have strategic plans for the future of the park that we would like to ensure alignment with. Thanks in advance.

If you would like to discuss in person I can be made available; my contact information is listed below and would be happy to talk with you or others, and we also plan on attending the board review meeting on April 3rd.

Kindest regards,

Matt

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Kuntz", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Matthew B. Kuntz, P.E.

Chair, FoPP

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