

PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, December 8, 2011
Public Services
55 Portland Street
5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Commission Members: Diane Davison, Steve Morgenstein, Jaime Parker, Travis Wagner, Kirk Goodhue

City Staff: Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam, Mike Bobinsky, Rick Knowland

Guests: Anne Pringle, Dennis Hoey

The meeting was called to order at 5:06 p.m.

NEW BUSINESS

Budget Priorities for FY12 and CIP

The Commission discussed some items of interest for the Capital Improvements Program. These items were: Back Cove erosion; Back Cove retaining wall; Wildes Chapel roof repair and repainting; Deering Oaks Park; Eastern Cemetery, repair “dead house” and City tomb; Evergreen Cemetery expansion; Fort Allen Park restoration (Loop Road and utility relocation along with pedestrian walkway); Repair cremation garden at Evergreen Cemetery; Stormwater system and water lines at Evergreen Cemetery; Rose Circle; Pulp Loader; Pick-up truck for the Ranger; Western Cemetery fence replacement; Fore River Parkway sidewalk/trail extension; walkways at Western Prom; Lincoln Park; and Deering Oaks retaining wall.

Also discussed was the proposal to move the boat ramp. At this time they are in the process of retaining a consultant to look at four (4) different areas. Estimated cost for the consultant is \$12,000-15,000. Locations they are looking at are; at the Wastewater Treatment Plant, Ocean Gateway (near the gravel parking area), near B&M Baked Beans Plant, or in South Portland.

Staff is still working on this and the deadline to the City Manager’s office is December 15, 2011.

Update on Playground Standards

Jaime Parker has proposed a task force on the tech specification for the playground standards (National Safety Standards). Jaime feels that there should be an adhoc group (that could include Portland Trails, Friends of Deering Oaks, Parks Commission, etc.) to discuss this and to make sure that in the future any concerns using the tech specifications along with natural play space is worked out.

Also discussed was the Ocean Avenue playground. There is a concern regarding the lack of natural play space and the loss of field space. It was felt that there was a lack of public process.

The adoption of the Playground Standards is going to the City Council on December 19, 2011.

Occupy Maine

The Parks Commission discussed the current issues with the protest. It was suggested that the City should create a policy to be referenced as to what to do in the future for long-term protesting within City parks.

Congress Square Park/Eastland Proposal

Jaime Parker let the Commission know that he is on the stakeholder group for this proposal. Eastland Park is proposing building in Congress Square Park. At this time the Eastland needs a better proposal for the building and the stakeholder group voted to receive their proposal.

OLD BUSINESS

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from November 2011

Meeting minutes were approved.