PARKS COMMISSION
Tuesday, July 31, 2012
Public Services
55 Portland Street
5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:
Commission Members: Diane Davison, Steve Morgenstein, Jaime Parker, Travis Wagner, Councilor John Coyne, Ralph Carmona, Cynthia Loebenstein, Jeff Scher

City Staff: Joan Ingram, Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam

Guests: Roseanne Graef, West End Neighborhood Association; Craig Lyons, Portland Daily Sun

The meeting was called to order at 5:05 p.m.

CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

Rosanne Graef from the West End Neighborhood Association wanted to bring to the Parks Commission the idea of having senior playgrounds in our parks. This would be work out stations in the parks for older residents to help keep healthy. Rosanne will be sending Troy Moon information to forward to the committee and this topic will be discussed at a future meeting.

NEW BUSINESS

Proposed Ordinance to Ban Smoking in Parks

Joan Ingram from the City's Health and Human Services Division attended the meeting to discuss the proposed ordinance to ban smoking in parks. The item has been discussed at the Public Safety, Health and Human Services Committee and will be going to the City Council on August 6th.

The current ordinance bans smoking 20 feet around ballparks/playgrounds; this would expand to include all parks. Other cities and towns in Cumberland County have similar ordinances in regards to smoking in parks. A question was asked as to why smoking and not chewing tobacco? Joan Ingram replied that it had to do with the health consequences of second hand smoke.

A draft is currently being worked on by the Corporation Counsel. The Parks Commission asked to have three additional parks included with the new ordinance; Heseltine, Oat Nut and University.

Report on the new Food Truck Ordinance

The Commission looked over the ordinance and discussed the potential of the food trucks within the City.

Mumford and Sons

Troy Moon reported to the Commission that there will be a comprehensive recycling effort taking place at the concert. He has gotten a bunch of volunteers to help with this program to get

the word out on recycling during the concert. This effort hopefully will help eliminate the amount of trash that will be thrown away, or needed to be picked up.

The concert organizers will be donating up to six (6) Big Belly Trash cans for the eastern prom.

OLD BUSINESS

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes from June 2012
Meeting minutes were approved.

Fort Allen Park Restoration Update
Diane Davison updated the Commission on the restoration project. At this time they are still waiting for the final approval of the CIP funds. Once she gets this information they are hoping to get the bid out in December with construction starting in the early spring.

Signage in Parks
The Commission had a discussion regarding signs in the parks. They would like to work on getting a regular sign scheme for all the parks. Troy Moon was going to have staff take pictures of the current signs we have in the parks. This item will be discussed at September's meeting.