

PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, April 3, 2014
Portland Public Services
5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Commission Members: Diane Davison, Ralph Carmona, Steve Morgenstein, Jeff Scher, Dory Richards Waxman, John Coyne, Carol Hutchins

City Staff: Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam, Anita LaChance

Guests: Councilor Jill Dusen, Ann Branbridge, Peter Monroe, Pat O'Donnell, Laura Rodgers

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes March 2014

Jeff Scher made the motion to approve the meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Ralph Carmona. Motion passed 6-0.

Citizen Comment Period

Ann Branbridge, a Portland Resident spoke to the Commission about the Quarry Run Dog Park on Ocean Avenue. This dog park is the only one that she can bring her small dog to so she does not have to worry about the bigger dogs (This dog park has a small enclosed area for smaller dogs to run around in). Ms. Branbridge said that they have about 28 families that go the park on Saturdays. Some of the problems that they have had this winter are not being able to close the gate, due to ice buildup. They also have requested a trash barrel closer to the small dog area. She also said that there are issues in the summer with the grass getting really tall. She also would like to see a "small dog area" sign put up. Troy Moon said that he would get out there in the next week or so to look at the area. Diane Davison, Chair of the Parks Commission, said that she would also get in touch with Ms. Branbridge to discuss further.

Discussion of Green Space Coalition Proposal for Special Funding for Parks (Follow-up from last month) and City Request for Technical Assistance from Trust for Public Land

Troy Moon discussed the letter that Deputy City Manager, Sheila Hill-Christian sent to Wolf Tone from Trust for Public Land (TPL). The letter asks TPL for their assistance in accomplishing four goals; development of common definitions that describe publicly owned open spaces and a corresponding inventory of our publicly owned open spaces; the development of an assessment tool and public engagement process for determining which spaces to preserve and which spaces present opportunities for affordable housing development and other complementary neighborhood uses; for an assessment of the resources required to properly steward and maintain our inventory of publicly owned open spaces; and examine options with regard to creating sustainable funding mechanisms that would allow us to properly steward and maintain our current inventory of publicly owned open spaces.

Discuss Council Workshop (Re: Ordinance Changes)

First Read will be at the April 7th Council Meeting. Public Comment will be taken at the April 28th Council Meeting).

Food Trucks in Parks Update

Jennifer Thompson gave the Commissioners an update on the City's efforts to ease the restrictions on Food Trucks access to City Parks. The Commission suggested a possible site for a food truck could be on Stevens Avenue near the Evergreen Cemetery.

Budget Updates – Operating Budget and CIP

The CIP will not be on the same schedule as the city's budget. CIP will probably be ready in June. The Evergreen Cemetery expansion project will be presenting the plan at a public meeting later in April. Fort Allen Park work has started back up. The Pine Grove Park Forest Management Plan is in the process.