

1. Agenda & Meeting Materials

Documents: [AGENDA 4 7 16.PDF](#), [PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES 3-3-16.PDF](#), [GSG REPORT.PDF](#), [PARKS, REC, FACILITIES REPORT 4.1.16.PDF](#), [SCHILLER UNO.PDF](#)



Enjoy Portland for Life

PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, March 3, 2016
City Hall ~ Room 24
5:00 p.m.

Attendees: Diane Davison, Cynthia Loebenstein, Craig Lapine, Michael Mertaugh, Carol Hutchins, Meri Lowry, Dory Waxman, Travis Wagner, Councilor Belinda Ray, Sally Deluca, Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam, Ethan Hipple, Ethan Owens, Rick Knowland

Special Meeting – Members of the Land Bank Commission (Tom Jewell, Colleen Tucker, Dick Perry, Doug Roncarati) joined the early session of the meeting to hear a brief overview of the final report from the Trust for Public Land by Wolfe Tone.

There were some concerns from the Parks Commission members of the actual number of parks within the city as some of reports show 63 and another 68; and which number is correct. Wolfe said that there was no real answer as to why. The definition of a “park” varies and staffing would need to help clarify. Wolfe said that the Commission could talk further about that with Doug Roncarati, Troy Moon and himself and see how everyone came to those numbers. For example, a pocket park was not treated like other parks. Seem to be using a conceptual description of a park to try to standardize.

It was reminded to everyone by a commission member that land that is in the Land Bank have no amenities, whereas, parks do. It was also mentioned that regarding the budget process alternatives, leave the Land Bank out of it. Keep it with the Parks and Rec Department.

Michael Mertaugh mentioned that the topic of funding should be continued to discussed with the City Manager and City Councilors. Wolfe Tone agreed and it will be continued to be discussed.

Rick Knowland was concerned about the item on page 13 (and on top of page 14) of putting something in the parks that is not appropriate or does not meet the Master Plan requirements. Wolfe said he will work with Rick on this item.

Citizen Comment Period – Carol Schiller spoke to the Commissioners regarding Longfellow Park. Her speech is attached to the meeting minutes. Sally DeLuca did mention that there will be an ADA assessment study done throughout the city and will help address the issues at Longfellow Park.

Laurie Davis spoke that this is the first that they have heard this. She is asking that the city keep the neighbors and the neighborhood association in the loop of any possibly changes. They are concerned about installing a lot of hardscape (a large patio in the middle of the park) and again would like more communication from the city.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – February 2015

A motion was made by Michael Mertaugh accept the meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Travis Wagner. Motion passed 8-0.

Communications- Sally Deluca informed the Commission that she is on the Congress Square Design team. This summer is the 120th anniversary for Riverton Trolley Park.

Troy Moon informed the Commission that they received five (5) vendor proposals for the Deering Oaks Castle. Anne Pringle, Ethan Whipple and Troy interviewed two (2). They are currently in negotiations with Tiqua Restaurant.

Unfinished Business

2016 CIP Discussion – Lincoln Park walkways have been approved in the CIP budget. Also, \$80,000 for design of Amethyst open space.

Sub-committee Updates – Green Space Gathering Subcommittee – They have not met as of yet, but plan to in March. The event will be held on October 6, 2016.

Finance/Fundraising Committee- They have met and had a brain storming session.

2016 Green Space Gathering

Location: East End School, or other suggested locations?

Time: 5:00 PM start (end 7:00?)

Goals:

- Participatory
 - Kids involved – activity/craft?
 - Pumpkin themed? Cultivating Community?
 - Large map of City's Parks
- Highlight park programming and activities/use
 - Rec program guide?
 - Park Passport? And, map contained?
 - Park Rangers?
- Provide overview of major successes in Park System in 2016 as well as culmination of multi-year planning processes for:
 - Park System
 - Parks Commission

Possible Theme(s):

"Your parks through the seasons"

"Get to know your parks"

"Portland's parks through the seasons"

"Get to know your parks through the seasons"

Layout:

- Table and/or space for each season (PEOPLE)
 - Spring, Summer, Fall, Winter
 - Park programming and activities/use for each season highlighted
- Map of Portland's Parks (ORIENTATION)
 - Large display
 - Could be as simple as a printed map
 - Could work to raise funding for a more permanent table and map
- Park Partners (ORGANIZATION)
 - City of Portland, Park Commission, Land Bank, Portland Trails, Trust for Public Land, Portland Trails, Cultivating Community, friends groups, etc.



Sally L. DeLuca
Director
Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Memorandum

TO: Park Commission
FROM: Sally DeLuca, Director of Parks, Recreation & Facilities
SUBJECT: Parks and Recreation Update
DATE: April 1, 2016

Official name change to Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities. I will give an overview at next PC meeting.

The Parks Division is transferring to the new Department as of Friday, April 1st. Jeff Tarling and Joe Dumais will act in the interim and oversee daily operations.

We interviewed several candidates for the Park Manager position. We have narrowed our choice and they will be meeting with the City Manager the week of the 4th.

The FY17 CIP received unanimous approval by the City Council's Finance Committee. It will get its first reading by City Council on Monday, April 4th and then final approval on April 25th. We are still in for the \$250,000 Lincoln Park sidewalk project. City Manager also requested \$80,000 to help design the Amethyst lot as part of the Eastern Waterfront Master Plan.

The City staff is interviewing 4 design teams for the Congress Square Design on May 2nd and 4th. We are having a public form on May 4th from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at the Portland Museum of Art.

The Golf Course has opened for the season. We are very excited that we have moved to electric carts, the outside deck has been expanded and the new siding was put on. We also hired Abby Spector to be our golf pro. She is in the Maine Golf Hall of Fame and is very excited to be teaching PGA Jr. golf to children and lessons for adults.

City staff has evaluated Longfellow Park for ADA issues and have identified areas that need renovation. We will be requesting funds that are being allocated in the FY17 budget to fix these ADA issues.

University Neighborhood Organization

Parks Commission Meeting, March 3, 2016:

Hello, I am Carol Schiller, I'm here on behalf of the University Neighborhood Organization, Portland Center for Assisted Living, Alpha One, Phi Mu Delta Fraternity at USM, & residents, we went to the February 25, 2016 Finance Committee review and we're pleased the city is allocating ADA money. In advance of this meeting I forwarded a copy of our **"Longfellow Park Lighting and Sidewalk Improvement Projects with ADA Compliance"** Proposal for your review and Park Commission March 3, 2016 minutes.

The City of Portland is required to be in compliance with access laws like the American with Disability Act. This is not a neighborhood issue; it's a city issue. Even if everyone in the neighborhood was against sidewalk improvement changes and against being inclusive, it's not O.K., **not to be ADA compliant**. These are Federal Laws. We believe the city has a responsibility to meet access requirements especially with an aging population and higher incidences of disability.

Longfellow Park sidewalks are in deplorable condition. They are old, uneven, cracked, too narrow with no turn around areas to accommodate wheel chair bound residents like Jessica Russell and hundreds of other residents living with disabilities only a few blocks from Longfellow Park. We encourage you to use a wheel chair in the park, and experience first hand what its like.

Sally Deluca, we thank you for recognizing that this needs to be addressed. We are aware of the recent "Longfellow Park Assessment Study and would like to know report evaluation results & outcomes. Could you please shed light on the findings? We offer our assistance in any way we can and look forward to working with you to get the work done to make Longfellow Park ADA compliant and accessible to all people.

In addition, we thank the Parks Commission. We look forward to attending city run meetings to update the 1928 Longfellow Park Landscape Design, provide design input for lighting, new signage, play & exercise equipment, etc.

Lastly, we invite you to attend our 4th Annual April 22nd Earth Day Longfellow Park Clean Up & April 23rd Neighborhood Block Party.

**Thank you. Carol Schiller, President, UNO * 7 Longfellow Street
* (207) 772-3243**