

1. Parks Commission Meeting 7/7/2016

Documents: [AGENDA 7.7.16.PDF](#), [PC MINUTES 6 2 16.PDF](#)



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Director, Economic Development Department

**Commission Members:** Carol Hutchins, Craig Lapine, Cynthia Loebenstein, Diane Davidson, Chair, Dory Waxman, Jaime Parker, Meri Lowry, Michael Mertaugh, Nathan Robbins, Steve Morgenstein, Travis Wagner and Councilor Belinda Ray

**Parks Commission**

**Agenda**

**July 7, 2016**

**5 PM**

**City Hall**

**389 Congress Street ~ Room 24**

**(Basement)**

*Please note allotted times for each agenda item*

- |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |          |
|------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------|
| I.               | Citizen Comment Period                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | (5 min)  |
| II. Agenda Items |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                  |          |
| A.               | Acceptance of Meeting Minutes- June 2, 2016                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      | (3 min)  |
| B.               | New Business                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                     | none     |
| C.               | Communications/Updates                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | (5 min)  |
|                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ethan</li> <li>• Sally</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |          |
| D.               | Unfinished Business                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                              | (45 min) |
|                  | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Green Space Gathering - Dory<br/>Lincoln Park – our CIP (spotlight)</li> <li>• Park Initiatives - Steve               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Park Signage – Sally DeLuca, Ethan Hipple &amp; Jeff Tarling</li> <li>o Friends &amp; Community Partners</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Finance Committee – TPL finance report - Michael</li> <li>• Annual Report/Inventory Committee</li> </ul> |          |
| E.               | Commissioner requests for Agenda Items                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           | (2 min)  |

*The Mission of the Portland Parks Commission is to advocate for the enhancement and stewardship of our parks and open spaces. Review and propose projects that impact parks and open spaces and recommend action.*

*Foster collaboration among park users and the City.*

*Promotes public access and enjoyment.*

*Advocate for public and private funding for parks and open spaces.*

*Enjoy Portland for Life*

Attendees: Sally DeLuca, Dory Waxman, Jaime Parker, Diane Davison, Carol Hutchins, Belinda Ray, Rick Knowland, Michael Mertaugh, Ethan Hipple, Laurie Mondor, Nathan Robbins

**Citizen Comment Period** – Ann Pringle with friends of Deering Oaks grand opening will be coming up with lots of events.

**Acceptance of Minutes** – A motion was made by Dory to accept minutes which was seconded Michael, all in favor.

**New Business** – Diane introduced Ethan Hipple as our new Parks Director. Ethan said that things are going good and he has been busy coordinating things with public works.

**Proposal to name park near Nickelodeon** – Michael Murray handed out information packets regarding the renaming. The city would like to honor legacy of former mayor. Looking at area that abuts Temple St. garage. Included is Lobsterman Park. Plaza itself was created under Mayor Menario. Not looking to rename the park area itself it is just that the park area is part of the area. Reason this particular site is across the street is Canal Plaza which the major was involved in the sale of that as well as where the civic center. Is brought to parks commission because there is an area of that space that is zoned open space. The street graphic shows the initiative in 2013-14 which shows that this area falls under Land Bank and Parks Commission. Not changing any zoning. Just looking to rename. Corporation counsel thought wise to bring to both commissions to get their comment and feedback. Belinda stated that aside from the plaque, which private donations will be used for that, are there any other changes planned? Michael said no just the naming. There would be a plaque just like other sites around the city. No other improvements for the park or plaza. Sally asked about money, it is being raised privately to pay for any and all costs. Jaime was curious what initiated this. The City Manager felt that this was appropriate to acknowledge for all the work he did for the city. Diane questioned time frame on this process/goal. This will be going to Land Bank next week and provided positive from both parties this goes to city council on 6/20/16. By Labor Day everything should be in place and there will be a formal dedication at that time. Jaime mentioned that Temple St where this is proposed is a remnant of some bad decisions during the time while he was major. Michael questioned if is this an approval or recommendation, recommendation. Land bank will be asked to make a recommendation as well. Michael motioned to accept the proposal as presented and recommend this to Land Bank which Belinda seconded, approved with five in favor.; one against and one abstained. Nathan abstained from voting. Nathan felt uncomfortable as he did not have a lot of knowledge regarding this since he is fairly new to Portland and is indifferent.

**Gould St.** – Jaime spoke regarding the proposal to enhance the end of this street. He has had meetings with neighbors, business and neighborhood organization with good feedback. The proposal to create a set of steps and path which will intersect get from Washington Avenue to Anderson Street. This is somewhat of a street project but also somewhat park project. Trails will maintain this although may ask for some materials.

They are hoping for approval from Parks Commission, Ethan Hipple went out there and thinks it is a great idea and is fully in support of this. Michael asked if Parks has already approved and Ethan said yes. Belinda said that she went on site and she loves the idea. One question though, what is the process? Portland Trails does amazing work but she wants to make sure that the correct process is in place. Rick was asked what is planning's involvement in this with Portland Trails. Jaime said that they have asked the important questions about the process. Site alteration permit, Rick said may qualify for it. Planning will review the plan but it does look great. Jaime said previous projects have happened with less of a process in place which have been successful. Trails hopes to continue these kinds of projects. Nathan said that this sounds like a great project. They are hoping to use some of the City's granite, bunch of this back in Evergreen piled up from other projects. Diane questioned how high is the wall going to be, 2 feet at most according to Jaime. He has run the grades, and there was pictures in the packet which shows from 22% grade to a 16% grade. It was discussed that no railing should be needed. It will be a bolder wall. Nathan asked regarding the design questioning about the bike path crossing the walking path. Jaime said yes that it would. Jaime said that they can gain more length with the path but with the volumes being low and low speed he feels that this will be ok. They did think about this but found it acceptable and worth the less steep path. Impossible to make ADA accessible but it will be more accessible. U.S Forest Service guidelines are being used. They are striving to increase accessibility but it is impossible to make ADA. Belinda when a new pocket park created does it go into the Parks Commission list? Ethan was not sure of the answer to this and would look into it. Not sure how this was done in the past but it makes sense that it is in connection with Portland Trails. He would advocate that it is a pocket park and within the portfolio. This does need to go to council. The City does own the land. Craig said that we have been wrestling with this and thought we should probably come up with some clear minimum identifiers which he does not believe this would meet. Craig feels that there are some properties that should not be on, some for sure on but a lot in the middle. Rick is asking the same question; does it rise to the level of a park. It is a great space but it is a pocket park. Jaime said it is a trail with some landscaping. City will not be maintaining it. Marion Street is that a city park or a pocket park? Sally stated that Ethan and she will research this. Ethan said more of these will be coming so we need to figure out how to define. Jaime also mentioned Greenleaf will be coming up as well which will be the same issue. Motion by Nathan to recommend approval of the park in keeping with the intent of the design/concept Seconded by Craig; seven approved and one abstained.

**Pesticide Policy** – Ethan wanted to share staff guidelines. Spurred by Energy and Sustainability to ask ourselves what we are doing and to get everything out in open. We do not want to make changes that were a detriment to our city resources. A vast majority of our properties do not use pesticides which has been the practice for a bit now. No synthetic pesticides are used but may fertilize, which Ethan said that he would get to fertilizer later as had a mix of synthetic. We are just getting out in open what we are doing currently and the plans for future. We are hoping the task force will look at this and buy into for the city side but also they are looking at public side as well. The committee has endorsed this for this season.

We will continue to not apply where we do not already and on the few spaces that we do which are level 1 and 2 priority ballfields and the golf course we want to continue to be able to use synthetic pesticides there as this is one tool that we do use as needed. There will be a significant change. The golf course will have three-year rotation where 2 out of 3 years the putting greens will receive synthetic pesticide. We will post this information for people who would rather not play on these. All pesticide locations are applied with licensed people/trained professionals. We want to start an experiment with organic pesticides. They do not have the best track record. We want to take Quinn Field and softball field B at Payson Park and split them down the middle with one side receiving synthetic and one side organic and both sides will continue to receive the same aeration and mowing. We want to create this for the public to see what it would be if we were to do that and also see whether we can maintain. Before just jumping in and not doing anything on all spaces, we just wanted to see how this would work. Due to lack of field space and an active population our fields are used for an extensive amount of hours each year. We are looking to move forward to reducing and/or eliminating pesticides but want to do this cautiously. We would like to educate ourselves so we can see the differences. We have hired outside consultants to document these fields. USM and an environmental person will be monitoring the golf course. We will be doing a lot of process and documentation. Jeff Tarling and Jean Paratir are both master applicators and will oversee all the work of all licensed workers who are applying. The task force is going to come up with recommendations and they have been appointed and are scheduled to come up with something by the end of July. We are hoping they adopt this for the city practices. Would like to have Park Commission weigh in on this and have their thoughts.

Michael term pesticides sounds like broader range of materials. Not all pesticides have serious effects on people. Wondering if grub control agents are less noxious than others and may be justified to accept some of the health consequences than other. Impact of some of pesticides than others. Road Salt, the amount that we use. Seems excessive and people where it is not used people drive different when it is not applied. Road salt can lead to more slippery conditions and has important effects on water sheds. It is a related issue and is wondering if any discussion from Energy and sustainability commission. Ethan we have not looked at the salt issue. There are some chemicals that are more harmful than others. We are only using ones that are commercially used and on state list of acceptable. Science can be wrong sometimes like with DET. Would like to get away from synthetic. We are going to use anything that the EPA has approved and let the scientists decide. He believes the right thing to do is to try reduce. Jaime if we had zero pesticide policy we would have no grass. This is not cosmetic. It is when the grass has to compete of overabundance of weeds. That field will become bump, unsafe, dirt patches which is harmful. Occasional weeds are not a problem. We want to push boundaries to see if organic could work. Jaime clarified a lot of locations are not using any, because of lower use and can take care of themselves. How often are we applying on high use fields, a couple of times a season. NPA does have standards for athletic fields and games would be cancelled if not. Fields renting out, percentage to outside high Portland residents. Adult leagues are extremely busy. Craig thinks that this is a great document. He feels that a lot of public conversation at a bumper sticker level but the level of this is wonderful. Public communication planned? To go over misconceptions.

We have talked to city manager about publicity and he is weighing this. Yes would like to put it out there. The task force will be doing a lot of work on this and they will be meeting a lot and making recommendations back to the counsel. Jaime he thinks that this has come up in a lot of different projects, some were not publicized well and some recent ones have been and have gone better. Like Capasic Pond no signage as to what is going on. It is important to do it in real time and on site. Belinda, where their changes made when you came up with this. Yes, but some was current practice and outlines proposals that we want to do. Classifying fields is new. Waivers section at the end, it references individual or companies may, bottom of page 6, needs to be strike out. City trees, homeowners and licensed, strike out as well.

Sally Jean talked to someone from Martha's vineyard to see what they are doing. Superintendent who said if he could have something different, would have done every three years. This is how we came up with the three year.

Nathan, evasive plants in the exception is good idea. It was suggested to look at NMAP to see their practices, Natural ?? Buffers? We are using 25 ft buffer. Golf course, more applications and some of greens are close to surface waters. Best practice above required to increase buffer, suggestion to look into. Ethan no putting greens are within water. Keep 25ft for invasive. Trying to find logical balance. Biggest dispersal is water for spreading. No recommendation needed, going to city counsel.

Communications: Most people know Paige Button moved on. Jill Mulkerin is a new ranger, has previously been a ranger. Lead park ranger being advertised.

Unfinished: Danforth St. – Potential sale of that property. Came from city owned land, Request from land owner. Just want to make us aware.

Green space gathering – have not met since March but they will be more diligent. Expo secured. Bar service available. Ethan and Sally desperately trying to find a nationally known speaker. Will report back next month. Friend group list, do not have one. Hold the date going out. Criteria of friends group, Nathan have we worked on this.

Diane, highlighting a park, Lincoln park to be spotlight.

Jaime map for GSG? Interactive map would like to be there. Jaime can bring the large map that Portland Trials have.

Park initiatives – Diane any further discussion where the money might be sought. We will make it happen, Ethan and Sally. 1500 to 2000 needed.

Friends community partners to be continued when Steve gets back from Alaska.

Finance - Discussion on finance for evergreen cemetery interested in learning more from finance director. How are trust funds being managed?

Agreed useful to get more of what we would like to achieve. Ethan, Joe, Friends of Evergreen to try and maintenance stands and enhancement might be possible.

Gathering info from other historic cemeteries of their costs and revenues including memorial plantings which currently are not offered at evergreen. More meetings are planned and will report back. Sally has talked to Jon and is working with dept heads and creating electronic gift catalog. Michael are donations tax deductible, yes they are.

Annual Report – This I useable by the public so they can see the inventory to get them more involved. TPL report used a survey which is attached to an app. To build awareness is to engage the public on the inventories. The desire for this year is to decouple the inventory from the report. Diane believes that makes sense, incomplete is better than no report.

Diane asked if there any requests. Belinda would like to see master plan for athletic field space. Jaime stated that it is on the city website.

Dory motion Michael second all in favor