

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Standing Committee on Transportation, Sustainability and Energy

Councilor David Marshall (D2), Chair

Councilor Kevin Donoghue (D1), Vice Chair

Councilor John Anton (A/L)

Councilor Cheryl Leeman (D4)

September 18, 2013

Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Chair David Marshall, Councilor Kevin Donoghue, Councilor Cheryl Leeman, Councilor John Anton (absent), Jeremiah Bartlett, Melissa Graffam, Mike Bobinsky, John Peverada, Jeff Levine, Bruce Hyman, Caitlin Cameron

Chair David Marshall called the meeting at 5:34 pm

1. Approval of July 17, 2013 Meeting Minutes

Motion made by Councilor Donoghue to approve minutes from July 17, 2013 meeting. Seconded by Councilor Leeman. Motion passed 3-0.

2. A. Traffic Schedule Amendment- Endorse/forward to City Council

1. Sewell Street – Donna Barker, a resident of Sewall Street spoke to the Committee with the request that she be able to park in front of her house, especially on the weekend. Currently she cannot. (Her house is diagonally across from OA's offices) The current plan proposed would only have parking on the west side. The Committee and staff discussed the possibility of changing the parking from the west side to the east. Jeremiah Bartlett said that there would be a reduction in total parking spaces if they changed sides. Councilor Marshall asked for net the difference for when this item goes to council; along with an option for time restrictive parking spaces.

Councilor Donoghue made a motion to recommend as staff presented to City Council. Seconded by Councilor Marshall. Motion passed 3-0.

2. Congress & Franklin Streets – A motion made by Councilor Donoghue to recommend as staff presented to City Council. Seconded by Councilor Leeman. Motion passed 3-0.

3. Middle Street (3 Middle Street- Bay House) – The Committee opened the discussion with comments from the public.

Alan Spear, co-owner of Coffee By Design - Said he is concerned for displacement of vehicles for his business and the area for all businesses in the area. He said that he felt like it is forcing him out of the neighborhood.

Brent, property owner in the neighborhood – He is concerned where his tenants will park

Stephen Rose, Federal Street resident – He is concerned for parking for commercial businesses and concerned with displacement of the parking. He asked to please focus on the needs of the residents and not the Bay House.

Councilor Donoghue asked if we could look at a “no left” turn out of the Bay House onto Middle Street to help save some parking spaces. Jeremiah Bartlett said that he could ask. This may need to be revisited by the Planning Board and the legal options of the changes.

Councilor Marshall made a motion to postpone this going to City Council until these items can be discussed/researched. Seconded by Councilor Donoghue. Motion passed 3-0.

2. B. Green Building Code Amendments

Jeff Levine presented the new changes that were made to the Green Building Code.

Chris O’Neil from the Chamber of Commerce thanked Jeff and his staff for consulting with them on this.

This item will be placed on a future City Council Agenda with Councilors Donoghue and Marshall sponsoring the item.

2. C. Solid Waste Task Force- Multifamily Recycling

The task force is looking to have multifamily buildings with 19 units or more to be able to participate in the curbside recycling program. Councilor Suslovic feels this could be a successful program with the provided education. They would provide flyers to all the landlords for the program with multi-languages. Councilor Suslovic also mentioned that they would like to give one (1) recycling container per unit for the tenants to use for recycling. They are looking to start the program in July 2014.

The Committee opened it for comments from the public.

James Harmon, landlord in Portland – He does not receive City Services. He asked if the Fire Department has been a part of the discussion, since they cannot store items in the hallway for it is a fire hazard. He suggested the city start with a pilot program, start on a smaller scale. There are concerns that tenants may not card and put in trash and contaminate the recycling. There is no incentive for the tenants as they do not have to buy the city’s blue trash bags.

Carton Winslow, Auburn Street resident/Landlord for 41 years – Said that he was just as concerned with tenant’s contaminating the recycle as mentioned by Mr. Harmon.

Brit Vitalius, President of Landlord Association – He said that he has the same concerns as mentioned earlier. He also suggested that the size of the bins be in relation to the needs of the tenants.

Councilor Leeman asked what is the cost to the city. Costs for staffing, equipment, bins. She suggested that maybe the program start slow and include buildings with 19 to 25 units and then work in bigger sized buildings.

Councilor Marshall asked how they will implement this. His guidance would be to have a pilot program for July 2014-June 2015.

Councilor Donoghue asked could/would we have incentives for landlords to participate.

Councilor Marshall made a motion to postpone forwarding this to the City Council until there is an implementation plan. Seconded by Councilor Leeman. Motion passed 3-0.

3. A. Bike Share Feasibility Study

Jeff Levine went over the process of the study. It is recommended that we use the non-profit model. There is a possibility of PACTS funding for this program. Councilor Donoghue asked if a non-profit and an organization could work together on this. Jeff Levine said that this was possible.

3. B. FY16-17 PACTS TIP Candidate Projects

The Committee and Staff looked over the possible list of projects that the City could apply for. Councilor Marshall asked for the Congress Square to be moved to a high priority project. He also asked to have Somerset Street removed from the list.

4. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 8:13 pm