

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Standing Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Spencer Thibodeau (D2), Chair
Councilor Belinda Ray (D1)
Councilor Jill Duson (A/L)

Minutes

January 17, 2017

(Approved Feb. 28, 2017)

Members Present: Councilor Thibodeau, Councilor Ray, Councilor Duson

Staff Present: Jon Jennings, Troy Moon, Chris Branch, John Peverada, Melissa Graffam

Councilor Thibodeau makes a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Duson. All in favor.

Proposal to Rename Franklin Street to Martin Luther King, Jr. Boulevard

Jon Jennings, City Manager, addressed the Committee, thanking the Committee for their request to look into the possibility of renaming Franklin Street in honor of Martin Luther King, Jr. The city did research into the current name and could not find any direct reference to Ben Franklin. It is believed to be named Franklin Street due to the name of the wharf.

Cost associated with the name change would be changing the street signs; on I-295 and within the City. The city's cost would be estimated around \$2-\$3,000.

The City Manager also would like to look at a permanent memorial in Dr. King's honor. It would be possible the city could raise the money from private funds.

Councilor Ray asked again about the costs associated with the change. The change with the city signs would be internal costs with the use of the city's sign shop and internal staff making and changing the signs.

A question had been asked; Franklin is a divisive street; divides the city and should we be naming it after him. Jon Jennings responded that he liked the symbolism that it brought. Bringing the city together. Bringing the area of Lincoln Park and Kennedy Park together.

Councilor Ray also mentioned that it would be great if we can continue the work on Franklin Street. There will not be an interruption to the PDR and the prior study and the plans, along with the work to be done on the street.

Councilor Duson supports the proposal and felt it is long overdue. Very pleased that it's at the committee today and will leave Committee today. Councilor Duson mentioned that she will forward emails that she has received from residents to the city manager for the record.

Councilor Ray asked why are we not looking at other areas (Streets) in the city? Why not a statue? City Manager replied that a statue could cost up to \$100,000. Renaming Franklin Street

would highlight Dr. King as his name would be on the interstate. Other streets that were considered were Spring and India.

Councilor Thibodeau felt that it was the right time for this proposal to come to this committee because its membership includes Councilor Duson, the first African American mayor, and Councilor Ray, who represents District 1.

City Manager Jennings said that he is hoping to be able to have a King family member join in the dedication ceremony.

Timeline for this proposal is that there will be a public hearing at the next Sustainability and Transportation meeting on February 15, 2017. Committee will vote to bring it to council; and it will be on the first city council meeting in March. The anticipated date for the dedication is in August of this year.

Review Ongoing Initiatives and Carry Over Items from Last Session

Troy Moon and the Committee went over the items that the committee worked on last session. Some items that were highlighted were:

Solar: Troy Moon reported that the Ocean Avenue solar project should be back to Council in February. The City is close to agreement with Revision on a final contract.

Energy Benchmarking: The committee would like to see how the City has done with energy efficiency since the energy retrofits to buildings done as part of the Ameresco project several years ago. They would like to stay updated on progress implementing the benchmarking ordinance the Council passed in November.

Urban Trees: Committee asked about removing or replanting trees/vegetation when (re)developing an area. Troy Moon replied that it is hard to remove a tree and replant (depending on the size) and he is not sure if we can require a developer to relocate trees/vegetation. It is already in the review design standards for replacing of displaced trees within the development area. This is a question that Jeff Tarling (Parks Department) or Tuck O'Brien (Planning Department) would need to respond.

Discussion of Committee Goals for this Session and Recommendations for Council Goal Setting

Troy Moon, John Peverada and Chris Branch updated the Committee on some of the items that they have on their goals listing.

a. Transportation: a. *Pedestrian Crossings and Stoplights*: Currently working on it now. Updating controllers.

b. *Protected Bike Lanes*: Somerset Street and Kennebec Street Extension (Bayside Trail). This maybe the first project where we can do this from a funding source.

c. *Review of Existing Transportation/CSO Plans:* Public Works staff will be updating the committee at the March meeting.

d. *Snow Removal Ordinance/City Plowing Route Review:* Has had meeting with City Corporation Council Victoria Morales and the Bike/Pedestrian Committee. They had some great ideas to help stream line. It was mentioned about clearing out the bus stops/shelters. Chris Branch said it is Metro's responsibility and the city tries to help clean out when we can. Councilor Thibodeau recommended that a letter come from the committee to Metro mentioning the city will try to help out when it can, but overall it is their responsibility.

e. *Transportation Bond:* This was passed. City Manager looked at additional money for paving, sidewalks, etc.

f. *Parking:* Council Ray mentioned that they(residents) want to explore guest passes. John Peverada said that there are issues with that. Councilor Thibodeau asked John for an overview of the information and to bring to the committee. It was also suggested by Councilor Ray a petition process for parking restriction changes.

5. *Trash/Recycling/Composting:* Councilor Duson would like some way to help encourage residents to compose, but it doesn't necessarily mean the city (picking it up) doing it.

Chris Branch also questioned if the issue of Paper Streets would be addressed at this Committee. Councilor Thibodeau replied yes. Chris mentioned that this is an issue in the city and the city is facing a deadline (fall) as to continue or not to continue work on these streets. Committee would like to hear this information at the April meeting.

Joey Brunelle addressed the committee with his bike share pilot program he is currently working with Sam Herr with for Portland. He is looking for funding/sponsorship. The committee gave him some ideas as to who to talk to within the city for guidance. This topic will be addressed at a future meeting.

Meeting was adjourned at 7:40pm