

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

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

Minutes March 21, 2017

Members Present: Councilor Thibodeau, Councilor Ray, Councilor Dusen
Staff Present: Troy Moon, Nancy Gallinaro, Bill Needelman, Bruce Hyman, Chris Branch, John Peverada, Melissa Graffam

Councilor Dusen makes a motion to approve the minutes from February 28, 2017. Seconded by Councilor Ray. All in favor.

Presentation by the Portland Bike Share regarding a Bike Share Program

Sam Herr, Board President of Portland Bike Share presented to the Committee their plan to bring a bike share program to Portland. The highlights of her presentation went over what is a bike share; users pick up a bike at any self-service location and return the bike to any location within the system. Stated that this is not a new idea in Portland, the 2012 Comp Plan states a Bike Share interest. Ms. Herr talked about the goal to launch in 2017 with a goal of 50 bikes for the first year and by year five (5) 400 bikes (along with expanding beyond Portland).

Also, discussed financial projections as outlined in the PowerPoint presentation. Portland Bike Share would like to see/have the city help be a financial funder in this program. They are currently talking to businesses and organizations within the city to take part as well. They are in the process of getting their 401(c)3 so that they can apply for grant funding.

Councilor Dusen is enthused about the idea and has used the program in another city before.

Councilor Ray is excited and thrilled about the idea and has not used the program. Councilor Ray asked what is the typical payment? Ms. Herr responded that there are memberships and casual users. Payments are based on usage.

Councilor Thibodeau asked where they are in fundraising? They are in the early stages, they realize it is an ambitious goal for 2017 since their 401(c)3 is still pending. Councilor Thibodeau also mentioned the bike share program in Montreal that he believed to be operated by a private company. Ms. Herr responded that the bike share program in Montreal is a public/private partnership. Portland Bike Share wants and is working on business relationships with corporate sponsors.

Councilor Thibodeau asked what will happen during the winter? Some systems shut down; every city accesses their ridership.

Councilor Ray asked when would you need the funding, the latest, for a launch date? They would want to launch no later than September but wiggle room for possibility October. Would need funding secured six (6) months out.

Public Comment on the City's Municipal Climate Action Plan (2008)

Committee took public comment.

Maggie Wolf, 28 St. Lawrence Street – Time for the city to be bold and follow-up with great steps. Be aggressive. Be aggressive with property codes and aggressive and bold to require solar panels.

Liz Parsons, Winter Street – Commend the committee for picking this back up and working on this. Integrating climate action. Keep up the good work.

Ms. Douglas, Munjoy Street – Low carbon economy decrease auto-centric work. Bike Share program is a great start.

Robin Stoddard – Talked about how great Portland is and renewable energy.

Peter Monroe, May Street – Carbon fee divided. Thank you for the approval of the solar farm at Ocean Avenue. Endorse ideas at local, state and federal renewable ideas.

Darcy Cook, Westside – Would like to see specific measurable goals that can be obtained.

Jordan Rowe, West Bayside – When the price of gas goes down, we get more tourist. We make a big deal with the cruise ships and they are the number one polluters. We are contradicting ourselves. This drives our economy. We can't eat our cake and eat it too. At one time, it was mentioned low income housing on the landfill, now it has solar panels.

There will be a council on this topic in the future and this is where a lot of the committee's questions can be worked through. Councilor Thibodeau asked what is the committee's plan to do with this? After a discussion, the thoughts were to work on setting base lines for the committee and the city to work on in the near future.

Troy Moon mentioned that we do have data that we can start working with now. Councilor Duson asked for a timeline (Action Plan) of what's been done and what we are working on; this way they could follow-up and see what is happening.

Councilor Ray asked about how many electric vehicles the city has and how close we are to the street lighting study. Troy said that he could have something to report at the June meeting.

Councilor Thibodeau would like to spend an hour or so at a future meeting to discuss what has been done/working on and have public input as to what they would like to see. Would like to be able to have an email available so the public could send in ideas, as well.

Progress Report and Update Regarding the City's CSO Program

Nancy Gallinaro, Water Resources Manager from Public Works updated the Committee on the Combined Sewer Overflows (CSO's). In her presentation, she updated the committee on the Back Cove South Conduit and the Back Cove West Conduit.

2017 construction projects will be the Moody-Wilson storm drain, Woodford Street sewer separation, Woodford's Corner sewer separation, Marginal-Forest-State sewer separation, Deering Oaks parking lot green infrastructure, Madison-Walnut-Washington sewer separation and Brighton-Rowe storm drain.

2018 Design projects are Bedford Street: Brighton Avenue to Forest Avenue, Warren Avenue: Storm drain extension, Forest Avenue storm drain at Avalon Road, Dartmouth Back Cove to Forest sewer separation, Macworth: Ocean and Walton sewer separation.

Discussion of Time Limited Parking and other Parking Related Issues

Councilor Ray and John Peverada discussed the timed parking requests from the residents in the Munjoy Hill area. They looked for timed parking in residential zones. The Parking Division did a survey and more than 50% people didn't want the timed parking.

John also discussed with the Committee that he has had instances where residents have felt "strong-armed" by their neighbors and change their decision. A discussion if a computerized poll would be a better idea. Also, John asked what is a consensus? A percentage? An average?

Also discussed was to look into the best method to get communications out to residents. (Do we send to the property owners vs the renters or both?) Troy Moon will talk to the city manager about this and the legal department.

Report on the CAD Cell for Disposal of Dredging Materials from Piers

Bill Needelman, Waterfront Coordinator for the City of Portland, presented the study indicating depths to work around the piers and demonstrating the need to do the work. Described how the Contained Aquatic Disposal (CAD) cell would be made. The schedule for the work would be the end of winter 2017/2018. CSO's have contributed to the sedimentation in the ocean. The Harbor Commission is the review authority for the CAD cell. Once the piers are dredged, subsequent dredging will not be required as a CAD cell because they'll be suitable for ocean dredging. The Maine Lobster Union thanks the City for the collaborative approach.

The Councilors discussed the next meeting. The date is set for April 25 at 5:30 PM. Councilor Thibodeau indicated that the agenda will include discussion of draft resolutions regarding clean energy and a carbon fee and dividend. He invited Peter Monro to make a presentation regarding the carbon fee and dividend program advocated by the Citizens Climate Lobby. He also indicated that there would be further discussion of the City's climate action plan.

Councilor Ray moved that the meeting be adjourned. Councilor Dusen seconded the motion. All in favor.