

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Andrew Zarro (D4), Chair
Councilor Victoria Pelletier (D2)
Councilor Roberto Rodriguez (At-Large)

Minutes May 11, 2022

Members Present: Councilor Zarro, Councilor Pelletier, Councilor Rodriguez

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Erin Ferrell, Christine Grimando, Kathy Alves

Guests: Nan Cumming, Maureen Hayes, Amy Powers

Meeting called to order.

April 27 Minutes

Councilor Rodriguez moves to approve the April 27th meeting minutes. Councilor Pelletier seconds the motion. April 27th minutes passed unanimously, 3-0.

Sustainability Update

Presented by Troy Moon

There was one response to the curbside collection partner RFP. Compost drop-site signs have been translated to Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish, and French. There were many educational presentations made over the past month to talk about One Climate Future and Electrify Everything! With a wide range of audiences.

Committee Comment on Sustainability Update

Councilor Pelletier asks to Expand languages for compost signs to include Somali. There are 7 main languages spoken in Portland and it would be great to include all of them.

Councilor Rodriguez asks if we can be a part of a new program working on at home agriculture in Portland and Councilor Rodriguez will get Troy in touch with them.

Portland Harbor Commons Update

Presented by Christine Grimando, Nan Cumming

Portland Harbor Commons has been a collaborative project with many departments giving input and working on this project. The Parks Conservancy partnered on this project to help engage stakeholders in the process and lead a private fundraising campaign with a major goal being to improve equity in the park planning process.

Phase 1 of the project includes focusing on the area at the base of India St which is currently used as a parking lot. The proposed plan includes keeping part of the parking lot and converting part of the parking lot into public open space. Part of the public discussion includes finding out what is important to the public in an open space in that area. Phase 1 includes a deliberately simple design that can be implemented and evolve over time. Feedback from public forums included a need for things like: trees, paved overlook, reserved space for Maine State Pier, native plant buffer, lawn area, public parking and more.

Next steps include releasing an RFP for design and construction, fundraising, implementation, and more public process.

Councilor Comment on Portland Harbor Commons Update

Councilor Zarro asks about collaboration with City staff in the Parks Conservancy. *The Parks Director has a permanent spot on the board. There will always be close collaboration.*

Councilor Rodriguez asks about the maintenance needs of the public open space and wants designs that include less maintenance needs (more native plants) to be considered.

Councilor Pelletier asks about how the Parks Conservancy asks about how they ensure all community members are included in the outreach since they value equity. *The Parks Conservancy noted past projects that included engaging Riverton Parks Housing, Community school, community policing, Boys and Girls Club. Translated materials into 7 languages and reached out to the new Mainer population to ensure everyone was aware of the park's existence.*

Councilor Zarro asks if the building of the park aligns with our climate action work. *A park is exactly what should be built in an area that is possibly at risk from sea level rise. No new structures have been proposed in the area. The park makes the area a more resilient site by absorbing water into the ground and increasing neighborhood resilience.*

Informational presentation by Cruise Lines International Association on environmental impacts and efforts

Presented by Kathy Alves, Maureen Hayes, Amy Powers, Sarah Flink

Current CLIA Sustainability Initiatives include: Emission Control Areas, Fuel Comparison, Exhaust Gas cleaning systems overview, scientific studies on exhaust gas cleaning systems, Ongoing IMO Initiatives, Environmental Commitments, CLIA Environmental Report and Annual Environmental Technologies and Practices Grid. CLIA claims that the cruise line industry is at the forefront of the development of innovative technologies and practices to reduce emissions and protect the environment.

CLIA supports the proposal for a \$5 billion IMO R&D fund to accelerate the development of zero carbon fuels and propulsion technologies. CLIA has a fleet-wide commitment to reduce the rate of carbon emissions by 40% by 2030 and members will pursue net carbon neutrality by 2050. By 2035, all ships calling at ports where shoreside electricity is available will be equipped to use it, allowing engines to be switched off and effectively eliminating carbon emissions while berthed at port. Where shoreside power is not available (as in Portland), the ships will use available low carbon technologies required by ports.

IMO Initiatives include a Marine Environment Protection Committee to look into global market-based measures, strengthening ghg reduction targets, and R&D for zero carbon fuels and propulsion. The Pollution, Prevention and Response Sub-Committee looks into EGCS wash water discharge guidance, biofueling guideline revisions, and sewage guideline revisions.

Councilor Comment on Informational presentation by Cruise Lines International Association on environmental impacts and efforts

Councilor Pelletier asks about what CLIA will do at ports without shoreside power capabilities? *Cruise Lines would provide alternatives and it would not be a responsibility of the port itself.*

How will ports be supported in being shore power ready? Councilor Zarro notes Portland's grid is unable to support more load as it is. *There needs to be a state wide feasibility study that includes all ports and CMP along with other stakeholders. CruiseMaine is hosting a symposium in Portland in June and recommends getting the stakeholder group together at that point.*

Councilor Fournier notes that these kinds of feasibility studies go through state legislation and asks if these conversations have started yet and who would be funding this? *These conversations have not been started yet and Cruise Maine has a budget that they can work with.*

Councilor Pelletier asks how cruise ships address waste management onboard the cruise ship? *With bigger ships holding more guests, the ships will be fitted to address the additional waste. Cruise ships have robust recycling programs. Their motto is "reduce, reuse, recycle".*

Councilor Zarro asks if all of the ships visiting Portland are CLIA members? *Not all ships coming to Portland are CLIA members but all the cruise lines are subject to international, national and state regulations.* What happens with the waste of the closed loop scrubber process? *No solid is offloaded in Maine since they are mostly all just call-ports.* How does CLIA work with local governments on local ordinances enacted on cruise ships? *Typically, when ports are looking to make more stringent regulations, they reach out to CLIA and ask what members are open to doing voluntarily. Maureen notes many ports attempt to enact ordinances that do not take safety of the vessel into account.*