



### **Commission Members:**

Chair Jaime Parker, Vice Chair John Kachmar, Marie Gray, Zack Anchors, Eleanor Sears, Beth Rabbitt, Stephen Bentsen, Michael Catania, Cheri Musgrave, Katie Mears and City Councilor Victoria Pelletier.

### **City of Portland** **Parks Commission Agenda** **October 6, 2022 at 5:00 PM**

*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.*

To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email [ParksCommission@Portlandmaine.gov](mailto:ParksCommission@Portlandmaine.gov)  
Submissions must be received by 12:00 pm the day before the Parks Commission meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the agenda packet. All submissions must include the commenter's name and legal address. To help ensure your comment is submitted for the correct item, please include the name of the agenda item (see below).

### **REMOTE ACCESS INFORMATION**

The Parks Commission will conduct this meeting remotely via Zoom pursuant to the Remote Meeting Policy adopted by the Portland Parks Commission. Allow your computer to install the free Zoom app to get the best meeting experience. If you are not able to attend live either in person or via Zoom, a recording will be available in the [Agenda Center](#) following the meeting.

For public comment via Zoom, you will need to use the "raise your hand" feature. To raise your hand via the telephone, please hit \*9. You will be unmuted by the host when it is time for public comment.

Please use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/91710859101?pwd=MUVLWTVFRG5jUFNxSHIEcTFISk8wZz09>

Passcode: **P3pperm1nt**

Or Telephone:

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 917 1085 9101

Passcode: **480730**

- I. Call to Order
- II. General Citizen Comment Period
  - a. Emailed Commentary - Missed email from August, Friends of Lincoln Park
- III. Agenda Items
  - a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: 9.1.22

- b. New Business
    - i. Department policy regarding encampment
    - ii. Impacts of the unhoused on city parks and the division
    - iii. Parks Commission Areas of Focus, Strategic Conversation
    - iv. Fundraising ideas
    - v. Orientation process ideas
  - c. Old Business
  - d. Communications and Updates
    - i. Parks Report
    - ii. Land Bank Commission Report
    - iii. Food Truck Pilot program survey going out this week -
  - e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items
- IV. Adjournment



Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>

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## Letter of Introduction from Friends of Trott Little John Park

1 message

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timmi thesellersplace.com <timmi@thesellersplace.com>

Wed, Sep 28, 2022 at 2:21 PM

Reply-To: timmi@thesellersplace.com

To: "council@portlandmaine.gov" <council@portlandmaine.gov>, "cpatnaude@portlandmaine.gov" <cpatnaude@portlandmaine.gov>, "citymanager@portlandmaine.gov" <citymanager@portlandmaine.gov>, "parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov" <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>, "amarshall@portlandmaine.gov" <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>, "ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov" <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, "dlibner@portlandmaine.gov" <dlibner@portlandmaine.gov>, "ehipple@portlandmaine.gov" <ehipple@portlandmaine.gov>, "andy@portlandmaine.gov" <andy@portlandmaine.gov>, "msm@portlanmaine.govv" <msm@portlanmaine.govv>, "mnm@portlandmaine.gov" <mnm@portlandmaine.gov>, "pic@portlandmaine.gov" <pic@portlandmaine.gov>



The Friends of Trott Littlejohn Park.docx 16K

9/20/22

The Friends of Trott Little John Park (TLJP), a newly formed group under the auspices of Peaks Environmental Action Team (PEAT), a long time 501-(c)(3) nonprofit on the island, is pleased to send to you this letter of introduction. PEAT will serve as our fiscal agent and parent nonprofit organization.

Our working mission statement says, “to engage the community in supporting sustainable development of Trott Little John Park into an attractive, multi-use, recreational resource for Peaks Islanders of all ages.” We realize we are blessed, as a small community, to have this amazing natural resource available to us. We want to steward it wisely.

As you know, our Community Garden has been located in the park for many years and is well supported by the island. About five years ago, a grassroots organization, loosely organized by the Peaks Island Council and PEAT, proposed a dog park at TLJP and continued planning/fundraising with proponents of the ongoing skateboard park. This group became dormant due to Covid, funding issues, and changes in personnel. Currently, there is renewed enthusiasm and commitment from islanders to engage with the City of Portland, and the Parks Department, in a collaborative effort to revitalize these plans and work towards a new vision for the park.

Our steering committee includes islanders familiar with planning, gardening, fundraising and recreation. A formal planning process has begun, but meanwhile, we are moving forward with seasonal events in the park that will engage the community and celebrate this very special place on our island. Our first community event, an open house for islanders, is scheduled for Saturday, October 15, from 2-4 pm. Please put it on your calendars! Join with us as we introduce TLJP to islanders who may not be familiar with the park. We will have music, refreshments, tours of the land, and a brief historical presentation of the park itself.

While we remain open to a variety of ideas for the future development of this park, we hope to show respect for the past efforts, which over many years, have been directed towards the skateboard park for young people on the island, and the dog park. We hope to improve and support the present Community Garden as well. Ongoing informal surveys have identified other potential areas for development, such as a children’s forest playground, a meditation garden, a picnic area, and an outdoor senior exercise area.

As we continue to organize, meet with islanders, fundraise, and plan events, we very much would appreciate some immediate assistance from the City, specifically the Department of Public Works on the island, to assist with our ambitious plans. For example, in order for us to have a successful October Open House, the grass needs to be cut so the area can be toured, and a trash receptacle should be in place and emptied on a regular basis. We hope these requests can be agreed upon rather quickly.

We are so excited to collaborate with the Parks Department as we go forward with this very important project.

Thank you,

Anne Coughlin  
Karen Friedman  
Mary Ann Mitchell  
Timmi Sellers  
Carol Somers



Thomas Nickerson &lt;tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov&gt;

## Eastern Promenade Park

3 messages

Julia Kirby &lt;juliadoylekirby@gmail.com&gt;

Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 5:32 PM

Reply-To: juliadoylekirby@gmail.com

To: Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, tchong@portlandmaine.gov, Azarro@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov, ehipple@portlandmaine.gov, Parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov

Dear City Manager West , Members of City Council, Mayor Synder et. al,

Thank you for the decision to move the food trucks down to the middle parking lot on Cutter Street. I understand this decision was a trial and a compromise, and that it has had its successes and shortfalls. However, that is the very nature of compromise. No one party gets a complete win. To be completely honest with you, I was not in favor of the trucks having a semi-permanent home in the park, But, hey, I realize that is not fair, and in the spirit of compromise I have come around.

As a daily user of the eastern promenade park, and resident of Munjoy Hill, I have found the move of the food trucks to be a relief from the noise pollution, smells, overflowing trash, and impassibility of what should always be a free and accessible thoroughfare (the sidewalk). I am happy to see the tree roots and grass recovering and the view restored (and this is *everyone's view*, not just the residents who live across the street).

I am not a "whiny, vocal NIMBY" (online comment by LeeOtis, online response, *Commentary: It's all downhill for Portland food trucks on Cutter Street, Portland Press Herald, September 7, 2022*). I am a park user.

I want everyone to enjoy the park, *including* the food trucks.

*What I do not agree with, nor understand from the argument put forth by the aforementioned editorial is why one stakeholder's bottom line should be prioritized over the needs and wishes of everyone else.*

Also, that article needs some careful fact checking, it's riddled with falsehoods (i.e. "Further, those original complaints the city set out to rectify (trash, emissions, parking) haven't been addressed and arguably have been made worse at the new location"). The trash situation has vastly improved, not made worse.

We all want to enjoy the park - families using the playground, teams using the ball fields, pedestrians, dog walkers, picnickers, beach goers, bikers, boaters etc... and it is completely unsat that one group should be given carte blanche over all over park users and the neighborhood residents.

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=936291aeab&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1743801128718755129&simpl=msg-f%3A17438011287...>  
1/2 9/30/22, 10:01 PM City of Portland Mail - Eastern Promenade Park

Thank you for listening and for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sincerely,

Julia Kirby  
Munjoy Hill  
Emerson Street

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**Kate Snyder** <[ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov)>

Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 9:00 AM

Reply-To: [ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov)

To: Julia Kirby <[juliadoylekirby@gmail.com](mailto:juliadoylekirby@gmail.com)>

Cc: Anna Trevorrow <[atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov)>, Victoria Pelletier <[vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov)>, Tae Chong - City number <[tchong@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:tchong@portlandmaine.gov)>, Andrew Zarro - D4 <[Azarro@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:Azarro@portlandmaine.gov)>, Pious Ali <[pali@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:pali@portlandmaine.gov)>, Roberto Rodriguez <[rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov)>, April Fournier - At Large <[afournier@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:afournier@portlandmaine.gov)>, City Manager <[Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov)>, Ethan Hipple <[ehipple@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:ehipple@portlandmaine.gov)>, Parks Commission <[Parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:Parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov)>

Julia -

As always, thank you for your thoughtful input. I'm glad to see you have copied Councilors and staff here. I know city staff will be assessing the 2022 pilot and will provide that information when ready.

Kate

[Quoted text hidden]

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Kate Merchant Snyder, Mayor  
Portland, Maine  
Office: 207-874-8941

**Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.**

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**Mark Read** <[akawildman@gmail.com](mailto:akawildman@gmail.com)>

Tue, Sep 13, 2022 at 1:28 PM

Reply-To: [akawildman@gmail.com](mailto:akawildman@gmail.com)

To: Julia Kirby <[juliadoylekirby@gmail.com](mailto:juliadoylekirby@gmail.com)>

Cc: Kate Snyder <[ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov)>, [atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov), [vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov), [tchong@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:tchong@portlandmaine.gov), [Azarro@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:Azarro@portlandmaine.gov), [pali@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:pali@portlandmaine.gov), [rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov), [afournier@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:afournier@portlandmaine.gov), [Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov), [ehipple@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:ehipple@portlandmaine.gov), [Parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:Parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov)

WELL SAID!

I will write my own as well. The comments on the Op-Ed were overwhelmingly against Mr. Tuna's position, FWIW. I assume the city manager and Mayor pay attention to that. -Mark

On Mon, Sep 12, 2022 at 5:32 PM Julia Kirby <juliadoylekirby@gmail.com> wrote:  
[Quoted text hidden]

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=936291aeab&view=pt&search=all&permthid=thread-f%3A1743801128718755129&simpl=msg-f%3A17438011287...> 2/2

9/30/22, 9:58 PM

City of Portland Mail - Lincoln Park



Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>

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## Lincoln Park

fsreilly via Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Aug 22, 2022 at 2:05 PM

Reply-To: fsreilly@aol.com

To: "parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov" <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: "ehipple@portlandmaine.gov" <ehipple@portlandmaine.gov>, "amarshall@portlandmaine.gov" <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>, "zand2@msn.com" <zand2@msn.com>, "debandrews395@gmail.com" <debandrews395@gmail.com>, "jefftarling3@gmail.com" <jefftarling3@gmail.com>

Dear Parks Commission Members,

In the August 4<sup>th</sup> meeting during our presentation for CIP Funding for the fence, we were asked about FoLP's monetary contribution to the project. Shortly after the meeting we were advised that we had been awarded a pending matched grant for \$50,000, \$20,000 of which will be provided by FoLP. This is to be used to begin the work on the Pearl Street frontage and would include all planning and preliminary steps such as ordering of materials, required before the actual restoration can begin. The total restoration includes the fence, gates, granite piers and pillars which are original to the 1866 park.

It is extremely important that the work on the fence continues in a timely manner for at least two reasons: The labor and materials will only increase as they have since the project was initially begun and underestimated, and since Sculptor Conservator Jonathan Taggart has devised the protocols for the restoration in the initial test phase, *ultimately saving time and money*, we need to make certain he continues the job until completion. It should also be noted that the restored fence and gates will require very little upkeep.

FoLP has raised funds through private contributions and grants thereby contributing to all the Lincoln Park projects since its inception in 2013, such as funding in 2015 the creation of the treatment plans for the fountain and basin, raising \$16,000 in 2 weeks to purchase the 1870 Val D'Osne replacement spire for the fountain, raising \$105,375 with the Public Art Committee - \$75,450 came directly from FoLP - for the fountain, basin and plumbing, generating \$33,700 for the design and service of Pandora's Winter Lights for 2017-2018, and raising all the funds necessary to present the LoveLincolnPark Summer Concert series in 2019 and 2022.

FoLP will continue to contribute to the complete restoration of historic Lincoln Park, Portland's oldest park, and with the necessary CIP funds will see it through to a glorious conclusion.

Sincerely,

Frank & Sharon Reilly

Friends of Lincoln Park

<https://mail.google.com/mail/u/0/?ik=936291aeab&view=pt&search=all&permmsgid=msg-f%3A1741885599741107027&simpl=msg-f%3A1741885599...>

1/1



Thomas Nickerson &lt;tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov&gt;

## Deering Oaks Pond Status

3 messages

George Rheault &lt;george.rheault@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, Oct 5, 2022 at 12:00 PM

To: parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>, Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>

Curious what is happening with Deering Oaks Pond. Since it was drained on or about the evening of September 7 (or early the next day), apparently at the request of the Portland Police Department, there is no sign it is being refilled any time soon, including by allowing stormwater accumulate in it (we have had several substantial rainstorms since the initial draining).

What exactly is going on? Extended maintenance? A way to push out the large flocks of geese? A way to politicize during election season the issue of public safety in public spaces by keeping an extended reminder of the shooting that took place there?

The Boston Parks Department had to drain the famous "Make Way for Ducklings" lagoon in the Public Gardens in the summer of 2021, but they were very good at communicating to the public what was happening and when a return to "normal" was expected. SEE ATTACHMENT.


**Boston Public Garden Lagoon Update.pdf**

376K

Ethan Hipple &lt;ehipple@portlandmaine.gov&gt;

Wed, Oct 5, 2022 at 1:19 PM

To: George Rheault &lt;george.rheault@gmail.com&gt;

Cc: Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>, Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>, Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>

After the draining of the pond, crews have used the opportunity to conduct seasonal pond bottom maintenance, cleaning and removing the duck house, and an operation in cooperation with Avian Haven and our animal control officer to remove some domesticated ducks and get them to their proper home. Now the drain is closed and we are waiting for natural rainfall to refill the pond.

As you probably know George, there are many reasons for things and it's usually the right course to assume the best and not cast aspersions. In the future, I'd appreciate you refraining from this type of conspiracy and condescension.

You can subscribe to our informative Department monthly newsletter, and our prolific social media feeds to stay tuned on Park news and happenings. I'm very proud of the work my staff does to keep the public informed of various initiatives and projects around the city.

[Quoted text hidden]

George Rheault &lt;george.rheault@gmail.com&gt;

Thu, Oct 6, 2022 at 9:45 AM

To: Ethan Hipple &lt;ehipple@portlandmaine.gov&gt;

Cc: Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>, Thomas Nickerson <tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov>, Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>

Why didn't you communicate any of this to the public?

There is still time!

[Quoted text hidden]

[Quoted text hidden]

Notice: Under Maine law, documents - including e-mails - in the possession of public officials or city employees about government business may be classified as public records. There are very few exceptions. As a result, please be advised that what is written in an e-mail could be released to the public and/or the media if requested.



website.

[COVID-19 INFORMATION](#)

[. \(HTTPS://WWW.BOSTON.GOV/GOVERNMENT/CABINETS/BOSTON-PUBLIC-HEALTH-COMMISSION/COVID-19-BOSTON\)](https://www.boston.gov/government/cabinets/boston-public-health-commission/covid-19-boston)

## BOSTON PUBLIC GARDEN LAGOON UPDATE

Last updated: August 21, 2020



PUBLISHED BY:

[Parks and Recreation \(/departments/parks-and-recreation\)](/departments/parks-and-recreation)

*On Wednesday, August 19, the Boston Parks and Recreation Department began draining the Boston Public Garden Lagoon because the water has become unsafe for wildlife who inhabit the pond, particularly the ducks.*

The drainage process took about 2-3 days, and the lagoon has been fully drained and sediment removal has begun. The sediment removal process will be completed by the middle of next week. Once all the sediment has been removed, our maintenance staff, supported by a lake and pond management company, will begin refilling the lagoon. We expect that the lagoon will be refilled by next weekend (the weekend of August 28 - 30).

### BACKGROUND:

The unusually hot, dry summer has encouraged bacteria and algae growth in the lagoon. We believe one contributing factor to this bacteria growth is the fact that the Swan Boats are not in operation this year due to public health precautions. The Swan Boat paddle wheels typically introduce oxygen into the lagoon and create turbulence that discourages unwanted growth.

The Parks Department engaged a lake and pond management company to treat the lagoon throughout the month of July. When we saw little improvement after weeks of testing and treatment, we made the decision to fully drain the lagoon, remove sediment at the bottom, and refill it.

### TAGS

Parks



Thomas Nickerson &lt;tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov&gt;

## Fwd: Written public comment for Parks Commission 10/6. RE: Food truck cluster issues

1 message

Zack Anchors &lt;zack.anchors@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, Oct 5, 2022 at 5:42 PM

To: Thomas Nickerson &lt;tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov&gt;

Hi Thom,

I'm forwarding along an email from Will Kessler that he asked me to share with the rest of the Parks Commission. Could you pass this message along to the commission and/or include it in the meeting packet?

Thanks!

Zack

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Will Kessler** <tankfullofsun@gmail.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 5, 2022 at 5:32 PM

Subject: Written public comment for Parks Commission 10/6. RE: Food truck cluster issues

To: &lt;jaime@trails.org&gt;, &lt;zack@portlandpaddle.net&gt;

Cc: Dena Libner &lt;dlibner@portlandmaine.gov&gt;, &lt;atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov&gt;

TO: Portland Parks Commission

CC: Dena Libner, Anna Trevorrow

RE: Food Truck cluster issues

Dear members of the Parks Commission:

The city has asked us for some feedback on food trucks. Unfortunately it is in the form of a narrow poll, that asks people to rate one specific location for the food trucks located on the east end, as opposed to when they were all lined up on the Promenade – which was a problem in and of itself.

In order to find a good, long-term solution, look at the root problems:

- Problem: any cluster of trucks is going to bring congestion, longer queues on busy days, noise, and potential for traffic/bike/ped safety issues. Solution? Discourage the food-truck cluster approach. Encourage spreading them out to individual sites, so as to lessen the footprint impact. Clusters of trucks--in a parking lot or elsewhere--just creates congestion, issues with trash build up, and competitive overlap between vendors.
- Problem: a single primary location for a food truck group misses one of the main opportunities for these businesses: to position themselves strategically nearby demand. Food trucks have wheels, right? What if some of them were permitted or encouraged to park nearby any one of portland's many active construction sites, where hundreds of workers take their daily coffee and lunch every day of the week? Notwithstanding some resistance from traditional restaurants, most of these workers are not going to be headed to David's or Fore Street for their lunch. The Food Truck industry could do some consistent business feeding them.
- Problem: Any food truck needs energy for electric power and cooking. Right now most food trucks run gas generators to make this power. Generators are loud, polluting, expensive, and redundant, given we have a fairly reliable power grid in the city. Solution? The city could work to find 10-20 designated food truck spots, spread out throughout the city, and install 50 amp outlets on utility poles. Designate them Electric Food Truck spaces, to which an approved food truck vendor can connect for a reasonable use fee. A quiet food truck on the block is a welcome food truck.

To summarize, the city has an abundance of interesting corners, niches, parks, park-lets, and points of interest – why have the food trucks clustered so densely in one place? Having food truck stations spread out, but still nearby would

10/6/22, 11:55 AM

City of Portland Mail - Fwd: Written public comment for Parks Commission 10/6. RE: Food truck cluster issues

brighten the local neighborhoods a bit without creating a nuisance, allow for more flexible opportunities to market street food, lessen the footprint with regards to trash and traffic, and provide a long-term plan for the city to make sure the that our wheeled foodies still feel welcome here.

Thanks for volunteering your time, and your consideration of this issue.

Will Kessler  
76 Melbourne Street  
207-232-7327

--  
Zack Anchors  
207-370-1496



Thomas Nickerson &lt;tnickerson@portlandmaine.gov&gt;

## one Portland homeowner's opinion re Food Trucks

2 messages

Cathy Ramsdell &lt;clramsdell@gmail.com&gt;

Wed, Oct 5, 2022 at 10:40 AM

Reply-To: clramsdell@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, tchong@portlandmaine.gov, Azarro@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov, Ethan <ehipple@portlandmaine.gov>, Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>, Parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov

I am writing to you today about the issue of food trucks on the Eastern Prom. It is my opinion that our public parks are for people to access open space, to experience nature, views, and recreation; our parks are not for private enterprise to utilize for making profit.

The degree to which some of the food truck owners are complaining and whining is disturbing, especially when they have done little to nothing to organize themselves to deal with trash, noise, and safety issues. The fact that their businesses are movable does not seem to occur to them.

Their continuing expression of entitlement has provoked in me a strong reaction, and I am now of the opinion not only that the food trucks have no place on the Eastern Prom, not even on Cutter Street, but the City of Portland would do well to consider eliminating ALL private enterprise use of our parks. No matter what sort of fees or donations may be offered, our public spaces should not be buyable or rentable at the expense of public access and enjoyment.

People should be able to enjoy these spaces without being "sold" to and without having to navigate around various businesses and events hosted by businesses benefitting private owners or shareholders.

When private commercial interests take over areas of our limited public park spaces, they are preventing people from accessing that space for the purposes for which the spaces are intended.

Public and private have clearly differentiated meanings; let's stop conflating the two designations. I ask you to consider the purpose and value of our public parks to our public and address the deeper issues of open access for noncommercial purposes rather than the prioritization of private interests.

Thank you.

Cathy Ramsdell  
[4 Sylvia Road](#)  
[Portland, Maine 04103](#)  
[clramsdell@gmail.com](mailto:clramsdell@gmail.com)

Dena Libner &lt;dlibner@portlandmaine.gov&gt;

Wed, Oct 5, 2022 at 10:43 AM

Reply-To: dlibner@portlandmaine.gov

To: clramsdell@gmail.com

Cc: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, tchong@portlandmaine.gov, Azarro@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov, Ethan <ehipple@portlandmaine.gov>, Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>, Parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov

Ms. Ramsdell,

On behalf of the City Manager, thank you for your feedback. Staff will consider it as we plan for 2023.

If you have time, please complete [this survey](#) to provide additional feedback on this year's food truck pilot program.

Warmly,  
Dena

Dena Libner, MPA  
Chief of Staff  
[City of Portland](#)  
[389 Congress Street](#)  
Portland, Maine 04101  
(207) 756-8288  
[dlibner@portlandmaine.gov](mailto:dlibner@portlandmaine.gov)  
Pronouns: she/her



[Quoted text hidden]



### **Commission Members:**

Chair Jaime Parker, Vice Chair Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Zack Anchors, Eleanor Sears, Beth Rabbitt, Stephen Bentsen, Michael Catania, Cheri Musgrave, Katie Mears and City Councilor Victoria Pelletier. **Staff:** Alex Marshall, Thomas Nickerson.

Not in attendance: Eleanor Sears,

**City of Portland**  
**Parks Commission Agenda**  
**September 1st, 2022**  
**5:00 PM**

**On September 1st, 2022 5:00 pm, the Portland Parks Commission held a meeting using Zoom.**

**I. Call to Order -**

**II. General Citizen Comment Period (5 min)**

- a. Paul Brennan - Wanted to comment on CIP projects - plug for Fort Gorges. Inflation is costing everything more, willing to invest the time in the Army and City to see the wharf get rebuilt.
- b. Emailed Public Comment - George Rheault emailed in his comments. Beth needed clarification on what the issues were, as there is disconnect between CIP and what he is discussing. Alex explained that these funds are for 2024. Beth/Alex confirmed that these funds are not related to today's discussion. Jaime confirmed that the email is not relative to the issues at hand. Zack - wants to compare the Parks Commission recommendations vs the City Manager's. Alex explained that we do not always share the entire CIP, but we do include it in the annual report.

**III. Agenda Items**

- a. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes August 4th: Action Item (5 min) All approved**
- b. **New Business**
  - i. PRF hiring- Alex gave an update on the hiring process for Supervising Ranger and Parks Maintainer. Wrapping up most seasonal employment. All Parks staff have been working hard covering when staffing is at a deficit. New project manager is starting 9/6/22. Tatyanna Vashchenko - Alex detailed the extreme lack of help and how it impacts the city. Contract help is needed, so we brought them in to help keep the city safe and clean. No questions.
- c. **CIP Parks Commission Recommendations**
  - i. Review CIP projects- Katie - Are there any projects that can be addressed now to prevent more costs in the future. Alex provided an update on the most concerning areas., detailed how weathering and aging equipment needs to be replaced carefully.

Zack - Please remind us what the funds for the Veranda Street waterfront park is for? Alex - we are still working on the waterfront park, those funds are a placeholder for when the plan comes together. Jamie asked where the funds for these projects come from, particularly when it comes to design-based funds. Alex confirmed that yes, the funding is designed to

include design in the budget. Cheri asked for clarity about Fort Gorges' funding and what it is being dedicated to. Alex - we are not dedicating any funds for the reinforcement plan for the Fort at this time, however, if matching funds are provided, we can prioritize. Currently the funds that are going in are towards the wharf reconstruction. Jamie asked - can we use the funds for both the wharf and structure? Alex - maybe, but there is a great deal more planning needed.

Kristen - Are there any CIP projects that would generate revenue? Alex - parks tend to not generate revenue. Ballfield rentals sometimes help. We have plans for it next year.

Jaime - Any one questions?

Zack - Picnic Pavilions - those are usually on the top of the list, but they are gone now, what happened? Zack - We would LOVE those in our parks, they used to be important prior to Covid. We need to focus on repairs as opposed to fun, new things.

Katie - are there any usage numbers that we can look at? Alex - we have general numbers, but parks are difficult to quantify. Jaime - trail counters confirm that East End is popular.

Jaime provided guidance for deciding CIP the commission's top three projects - usage, safety issues, preventive maintenance, matching funds, existing master plans, equity. Suggestions from commission - Marie - I would add ADA requirements - Alex, all those criteria points are how we prioritize. Jon - we should be careful not to continue to ignore usually ignored projects, we might need to look into potential bias. Jamie - ADA is important, like in Deering Oaks. These are parks projects, so improvements in the park would include ADA requirements. Alex - we need to replace the sidewalk and was pointed out in an accessibility survey from 2020. Jaime - efficiency, building on existing efforts, additional criteria. Any other questions? Jon - I am confused, when we look at dollars allotted for 2023, how does that work? Alex - we are allocating funds for 2023 calendar year for the 2024 fiscal year.

Beth - we need to prioritize projects to ensure the integrity of the park and give places for kids to go. Not supportive of 1.1 million in rehabilitating the fence in Lincoln Park. Deering Oaks Pond wall, Fort Gorges wharf, Longfellow playground.

Katie - Agrees - Playgrounds: Longfellow and Clark Street, Deering Oaks. Willing to help with data gathering. Pocket parks are worth looking at.

Kristen - Deering Oaks (wall and ADA), Fort Gorges Wharf. Plug for improvements within parks.

Jon - What are we funding in Fort Gorges? Alex - the priority is the wharf reconstruction, until matching funds appear for the preservation play. Fort G, Valley Street wall, Deering oaks pond.

Stephen - Longfellow, Deering Oaks ADA, Payson Park opening.

Marie - Deering Oaks Wall and ADA, Clark Street Playground.

Zach - Deering Oaks Wall and ADA Fort Gorges.

Jaime - Payson Park improvement, Fort Gorges, Deering Oaks ADA. Picnic pavilion! Next year?

Chei - ??

Michael - ??

Beth asked - part of our mandate is to try and fundraise, what committee is focused on that?

Jaime, confirmed it is part of our responsibility, but it is not a commission focus. As commissioners, we could do fundraising for our pet projects. Jon - I like this idea, and I want to know what are the pain points to help us focus. Alex - please reach out if you feel a space needs investment. Katie - could we have some training and be provided with additional information about being a member?

Cheri returned!

Jaime - Thank you Alex, the smaller costing projects (pocket parks) sometimes the Parks Division can respond faster. Alex - some things are buried in there, example: resurfacing - which can be issued anywhere that needs to be resurfaced.

Cheri - Dearing Oaks Wall, Fort Gorges Wharf, Playground Upkeep. Did I hear about orientation for the Parks Commission? Jaime - yes. Cheri - talking about business items, no more than 2? Yes. More is possible, but we need to advertise that. Jaime - we can work on this. Jon - let's get some clarity.

#### **d. Communications and Updates**

- i. Parks Report - Still in progress. Jamie may be reaching out to other members for input.
- ii. Land Bank Report- Jon - More land is in the bank for the Redlawn Project. Steady progress is being made.
- iii. Update on Bike Share Program- Jaime - what's going on with the bike share program, how is it going? Alex reviewed program. Commissioners asked, "What is the impact bikes are having on parks? What is the park's role within this program?" Alex shared many of the bike locations. A suggestion was made to post/remind bicyclists to obey general bike rules. Marie - rules of the road should be followed. People need to wear reflective materials, it's a safety hazard.

#### **Commissioner requests for Agenda Items**

- Fundraising ideas
- Orientation process ideas.

#### **IV. Adjournment - Jaime moved to adjourn.**

#### **TOP 3 CIP Choices:**

Beth- 1) Playgrounds 2) D. Oaks pond wall 3) ADA Deering Oaks tennis court walk.

Katie- 1) Playgrounds Clark and Longfellow 2) ADA Deering Oaks tennis court walk 3) smaller "pocket" parks.

Kristen- 1) D. Oaks pond wall 2) Ft. Georges wharf 3) Efficiency upgrades ie. led lighting throughout the city.

Jon- 1) Ft. Gorges wharf 2) Valley Street wall 3) D. Oaks pond wall.

Stephen- 1) Longfellow playground 2) ADA Deering Oaks tennis court walk 3) Payson Park improvements.

**Marie- 1) D. Oaks pond wall 2) ADA Deering Oaks tennis court walk 3) Clarks Street Playground.**

**Zach- 1) D. Oaks pond wall 2) ADA Deering Oaks tennis court walk 3) Ft. Gorges wharf.**

**Cheri- Alex may have her choices. She was having ZOOM problems.**

**Jamie-1) Front Street and Payson improvements 2) ADA Deering Oaks tennis court walk 3) Clarks street playground.**



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**Alex Marshall, Parks Director**

### **Memorandum**

**TO:** Parks Commission and Land Bank Commission

**FROM:** Alex Marshall, Parks Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department

**SUBJECT:** Parks Division Update

**DATE:** October 2022

#### **Parks Division Staffing**

- Vacancy: Athletic Facilities Maintenance Worker III
- Vacancy: Athletic Facilities Maintenance Worker I
- Vacancy: Lead Park Ranger

In September of 2022, we welcomed our second Parks Project Manager to our team. Tatyana Vashchenko joins us with years of experience as a landscape architect and project manager working with very distinguished firms and universities throughout the country. She joins our existing project manager Bob Massengale who is also a licensed and experienced landscape architect with many years of park projects under his belt, and who has been diligently completing park projects throughout the city since 2020. Together, the two of them will be executing funded projects in our parks and open space system, from new trails, to playground replacements, to new park designs, to ADA access improvements, skatepark expansion, and the new Kiwanis pool replacement.

#### **Deering Oaks**

Earlier this Summer Deering Oaks was designated as an Emphasis Area within the new City policy surrounding campsites and campsite removals. With the Emphasis Area designation, camping within Deering Oaks is not permissible even if the shelters are full. Overnight camping is only allowable on City property when shelters are full and individuals are on city property not designated as an Emphasis Area. Staff from Parks, Public Works, Police and Health and Human Services are coordinating regular cleanup efforts in Deering Oaks to uphold this designation and maintain the integrity of the Park.

#### **Riverton Trolley Park**

In the Fall of 2021, the Parks Conservancy and Parks Division worked through the submission process for a Land and Water Conservation Fund (LWCF) Grant through the State and Federal Government. This grant is for \$250,000 of a \$500,000 Recreation Improvement Plan for the Park that consists of mountain bike trails, improved walking trails, interpretive signage, small pavilion, entrance and parking improvements and meadow and food forest expansion. Less than one week ago we learned that the Federal Government approved our project. Over the Winter our Project Management Team will be working to execute some of those projects.

#### **Food Truck Pilot Program**

The 2022 Food Truck Pilot Program has concluded and Staff are now in the evaluation stage to present a

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recommendation for 2023 to the City Manager. This past Monday the 3rd, a public survey went out for folks to take and help inform us of how things went in 2022 and how they could be improved for 2023. All of the data gathered this season is being compiled to present to the Parks Commission, Sustainability & Transportation Committee and Housing & Economic Development Committee before bringing it to the City Manager for a decision on the path forward for 2023. The presentation to the Parks Commission will be at the November 3rd meeting.

### **Emerald Ash Borer**

Over the last 3 years staff have been monitoring the existence of the pest Emerald Ash Borer. It has been discovered in Payson Park, the area of District Road, the Western Promenade and more recently Riverton Trolley Park. This insect, once discovered in an area, can wipe out the Ash Tree canopy within 10 years. The larvae disrupt the flow of nutrients and water to the leaves by boring around the trunk under the bark. Staff are working with the Maine Forest Service on plans to protect a percentage of our 600 Ash Trees citywide.

### **CIP Update**

We have received all feedback from the Parks Commission so Staff are now working through the process and refining recommendations based on guidance from Council and the Finance Department. The Parks Commission will be presented with the Department recommendations at the November 3rd meeting.

### **Park Projects and Department Updates**

Staff are working on the following Park Improvement projects:

- Park Walkway improvements: Phase 1 of the Deering Oaks ADA walkways has been completed. Phase 2 of 3 will begin over the next week
- Fitzpatrick Drainage Improvements: Drawings are complete. An RFP is ready to be advertised.
- Talbot School Basketball Court Reconstruction: Additional funding has been secured and the bid will be advertised again as staff time allows.
- Skate Park Expansion Phase II: A design/build firm has been selected and the contract has been signed. The design and outreach portion of the project will begin shortly.  
<https://portland.civilspace.io/en/projects/22>
- Stroudwater Bridge: City Parks and Planning staff are working with Portland Trails and the Stroudwater Preserve Development Team to develop the plan for installation of the bridge that sits on the side of Westbrook Street before the I-95 bridge. Grant funding will be essential as City funds are limited. With volunteer help, the parks division submitted a recreational trails program grant in September.
- Preble Street Field & Stormwater Project: Final design and landscaping plans are being finalized. Fall of 2022 is when the field is anticipated to return with Spring of 2023 as the first playable season.
- Riverton Preserve: Recreation improvement plans are in progress and will consist primarily of a



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trail network with other improvements. This project is intended to fulfill LWCF conversion requirements, and final approval of the improvement plan rests with the state and National Park Service, which has a public engagement process.

- Riverton Trolley Park: The LWCF grant has been submitted. We are still waiting for federal approval of the grant. The City Council has approved the \$125,000 portion of the required match and the Parks Conservancy has also concluded their fundraising efforts of the additional \$125,000+
- Western Promenade Welcome Signs: Three new historic Welcome Signs are being installed in the coming weeks
- Lower Western Prom Park Improvements: Final design improvements have been made and we are now waiting to secure additional funding to execute the entire project in the Fall of 2022 or Spring of 2023.
- Community Garden Fence and Gate Installations: We will be replacing 6 Community Garden fences and 4 sheds. We only received one bid that was substantially higher than our budget so we are revisiting funding sources and scope of work. Sheds will be replaced in tandem with the fencing work when that is to happen.