



### **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.**