



In attendance: Commission Members: Chair Pat Bailey, Kara Wooldrik, Jennifer Fox, Jon Kachmar, Simon Rucker, Andrew Butcher, Baxter Miatke, and City Councilor Andrew Zarro. City Staff: Doug Roncarati and Mike Murray.

City of Portland
Land Bank Commission Minutes
January 13, 2021, 5:00 PM

On Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 5:00 pm, the Portland Land Bank Commission conducted a virtual meeting using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online. This meeting was conducted remotely using Zoom.

I. Citizen Comment Period

George Rheault suggested the commission look into the methodological issues with the Trust for Public Land report from 2016.

Simon said that while there are limitations to the TPL data, the commission uses multiple sources of information when making conservation decisions.

II. Agenda Items

i. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

Jon motioned to accept the meeting minutes of December. Simon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ii. New Business

a. Secretary Report

Simon will be finalizing the Annual Report for submission to the City Manager. Mike is still working to get more detailed information about the budget tracking process from the City.

b. Land Bank Commission Vacancies

Baxter and Steve still need to be sworn in, but all vacancies are now filled.

c. Rand Rd

An extension has been filed for closing. City staff is currently completing an environmental analysis. The contract is set to expire at the end of February.

d. Riverton Trolley Park

Jon shared that the outside funding does not have a deadline at this point. Mike said the appraisal should be completed within the next couple of weeks.

e. Redlon Woods

Pat said that there has been an indication that the proposed road cannot be developed as presented. She also shared that there is steady advancement in the effort to preserve another parcel in the area.

f. 1831 Washington Ave

Simon put together a packet of information for these two parcels of about 10 acres on outer Washington Ave. The Trust for Public Land has expressed interest in being the project manager for this project. Greg Mitchell is currently gathering a summary from various City departments to determine whether the commission should pursue this acquisition. Kara clarified that there may only be one feasible access point to the park, and she wants to make sure all interested parties (such as the nearby schools) understand that. Doug shared his assessment that development would raise concerns regarding the wetlands and potential runoff in the area.

iii. Communications/Updates

a. Parks Commission Report

The commission discussed the Parks Division's CIP request list and Payson Park ended up as the top priority. The Strategic Planning Meeting is set for February 18th and will focus on MOUs with friends groups. The virtual Green Space Gathering will also focus on friends groups and will take place in May. All vacant seats are in the process of being filled. Jaime Parker is returning to fill the Portland Trails seat.

b. Parks Division Report

Mike gave an overview of some recent department projects such as invasive tree removal on the Western Prom, tree removal in preparation for lot development at Evergreen Cemetery, and forest management at Baxter Pines.

Andrew reminded the commission that officers need to be selected for the year. He also proposed bringing in some AmeriCorps members to help out with projects on Land Bank parcels.