

Commission Members:

Jaime Parker, Chair - Jon Kachmar, Vice Chair - Cheri Musgrave - Kristen Fulmer - Beth Rabbitt - Marie Gray - Zack Anchors - Stephen Bentsen- Katie Mears- William Elting- Donna Gartland - Alison Mehlsak - City Councilor Victoria Pelletier

Not in attendance: Victoria, Katie, Stephen, Zack

City of Portland **Parks Commission Agenda** **April 6, 2023 at 5:00 PM**

- I. Call to Order
- II. General Citizen Comment Period - Emailed public comment
- III. Agenda Items
 - A. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: March 2, 2023 - Move to accept minutes - Motion passed unanimously. Actions taken - Thom will review how votes need to be counted.
 - i. Jaime - Yes
 - ii. John - Yes
 - iii. Marie - Yes
 - iv. Zack - Absent
 - v. Beth - Yes
 - vi. Stephen - Yes
 - vii. Cheri - Yes
 - viii. Katie - Yes
 - ix. Will - Yes
 - x. Donna - Yes
 - xi. Alison - Yes
 - xii. Kristen - Yes
 - B. New Business
 - i. Acceptance of new Hybrid Meeting rules - see attached -
 - a) Commission members discussed rules.
 - C. Old Business
 - i. CIP update
 - a) Alex detailed what the council agreed to regarding the CIP.
 - (1) ADA compliance on sidewalks
 - (2) Commissioners had questions about the Great Diamond basketball court, Alex confirmed that the court is for general public use and not private property. There are public assets on Great Diamond: playground, ferry dock, beach, restaurant, barracks. Pickleball lines will also be added. The Commission asked if there will be advertisements to confirm its public use.
 - (3) Tyng-Tate playground
 - (4) Riverton tennis court conversion to Pickleball.

(5) Court resurfacing around the city for various courts.

b) Congress Square redesign will be funded via Urban Development

(1) The Commission raised questions about the development of this project

c) Deering Oaks to Park street additional space for trail development. - Actions taken: Alex will review the impacted bike lanes. Potential presentation from DPW to help address the bike lane issues raised, printed details are requested.

(1) The commission asked, what is the process when it comes to CIP projects and having them introduced to the Parks Commission: Alex provided some details

(a) June - the survey goes out to Neighborhood groups. These are reviewed, we like to see associated cost estimates. These are due by July.

(b) August - Parks Commission is presented with the final list.

(c) September - Parks Commission votes on their top three projects

(d) October - Parks Director submits this to the City Council.

(e) Commissioners asked about the breakdown of the Parkside to Libbytown trail: who is paying for what, how is it planned? Alex provided additional information.

(f) Will this impact the bike lanes already in place? Can we incorporate the bike lanes? The bike lane is rarely usable. Issues raised with lost parking spaces. 'Union Branch Pathway'. Commissioners would like plan design if possible.

(g) Riverton trail access - will that be looped into the other riverton project?

ii. Homeless Encampment Update

a) 102 tent sites across the city reported, half on the bayside trail. Expo opening Monday to accommodate additional housing. Hoping for State level support.

(1) Expo will be an open shelter space - not reserved for just families.

(2) Commission members advised that the Bayside area is impassible, Deering Oaks was once determined as a 'Emphasis Zone', will this happen with Bayside? Patience is needed, as this is a complicated issue. Only the City Manager and Corp Council can declare an Emphasis Area. State Pier to Ocean Gateway and Deering Oaks are already designated Emphasis Areas. Commission members raised concerns about how these areas are being impacted.

D. Communications and Updates

i. Parks Division Report -

a) Any questions about the Parks Division report? Lot of positive things are happening! Public is pleased with the addition of public bathrooms. Spring Street and Central fire will be getting vaulted toilets, more around the city: Peaks Island, Playgrounds, etc. Payson park bathroom has groundwater issues, but we are going to reseal the tank and prevent additional flooding by adding drainage. Baxter will MAYBE open in July.

(1) Food Trucks - seven have been selected. Amethyst has two, but more are possible. Trucks are permitted to be there overnight.

(2) Doherty Field question - does this include a pump track? No, we are

working on a flow and bike pump track in Riverton Trolley park.

- ii. Land Bank Commission Report -
 - a) Bayside Neighborhood Ass asked about the community gardens being acquired on Franklyn, this is a private garden currently. Not really in the Land Bank mission, but some volunteers are trying to help keep this garden space in Bayside. This is a small parcel of land. 7300 square feet.
 - b) Land Bank will be digging into Affordable Housing and the Land Bank properties. The Commission does review the properties they try to acquire as potential sites for housing, but there is additional oversight needed. Additionally, they are looking into reviewing their current properties as potential housing. Commissioners have questions about how that will happen.
- iii. Parks Department Hiring
 - a) Parks division hired Parks Maintainer, City Arborist will be filled soon, returning the Parks dept to a fully staffed status. Alex tried to sell the seasonal positions pretty hard.
- iv. Committee Reports
 - a) Cheri and Jaime are working on the annual report.
 - b) Greenspace is coming up fast - theme is needed - Could we get Elizabeth Collado as a potential speaker.
 - c) Suggested themes:
 - (1) Changing needs for our public spaces.
 - (2) How to engage different communities
 - d) Mega events - sub-committee - what else needs to happen? How do we mitigate concerns? The Facilities team has made improvements to the application process: more information is being provided to the City Council to help them make better decisions. When these applications come in, they are provided to the Chair who will then decide if a special session is needed. Jaime confirmed he did receive and review the applications for Circus-Smirkus and another large event. Circus-Smirkus will be using a small portion of Payson. The Commission would like to see them more involved in events that are of a certain scale and size. Right now, only 2000+ attendee events reach the Commission. Additional policy is needed to determine when an event comes to the Commission for discussion.
 - (1) Proposed resolution: have two people review internally and determine if the application needs to escalate to the Parks Commission. More data is needed to determine how a potential rubric is designed.
 - (2) Annual Report - rough outline provided to Alex. Three main areas of focus: need for additional staffing resources, Impact of homelessness on the parks and the Parks Staff, Outreach and Inclusion (impact of the pandemic on the parks) This is 2 years behind, but they are aiming for end of the year.

E. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

IV. Adjournment