

Commission Members:

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

Not in attendance - Elenor Sears (retired) William Elting, Alison Mehlsak, Kristen Fulmer, Victoria Pelletier

City of Portland **Parks Commission Agenda** **March 2, 2023 at 5:00 PM**

I. Call to Order

II. General Citizen Comment Period -

- A. Commissioners wished to know more about the emailed comments and how those are handled. Alex provided more information about how those are handled: Park improvements take time and require a CIP to make a reality.
- B. Community Gardens questions were raised, Alex advised Cultivating Community handles the plots. The gardeners are grandfathered in year to year. No additional plots at this time at Ting/Tate, but there are more plots potentially expanding.
 - i. Is there a way to use data to make park improvements relating to public need? IE: Why do we need so many basketball courts?
 - ii. Has the garden plot process been reviewed?

III. Agenda Items

A. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: March 2, 2023 - Move to accept minutes -

- i. Jaime - Y
- ii. John - Y
- iii. Marie - Y
- iv. Zack - Y
- v. Eleanor- Retired
- vi. Beth - Abstained
- vii. Stephen - Y
- viii. Cheri - Y
- ix. Katie - Y
- x. Will - Absent
- xi. Donna - Y
- xii. Alison - Absent
- xiii. Kristen - Absent

B. New Business

- i. Parks Commission 2023 Priorities - Setting goals (
 - a) Duties should include: sub-committees, annual report (this year will include 2021 and 2022), discussed memberships and fundraising responsibilities. Commissioners would like some clarity of the expectations of the sub

committees. Meetings larger than 3 people must be recorded and documented. A shared document is an option, with transparency of the document being understood.

b) **Required actions** - Green Space Gathering - Annual Parks Report - CIP

- (1) Green Space Gathering - What priority should this take? Does it match the Commission goals? Potentially moving the green space.
- (2) Mega Events - Should the commission also include a 'mega events' policy, particularly events that limit park access.
- (3) Homelessness - Define a goal, Alex discussed how this issue is impacting the parks department. Community Partners have been in communication with the department, they are aware how their services impact the parks. Outreach tactics are being developed with AMISTAD. Commission members expressed that ESAC needs to help address this issue. Commissioners asked, what can the Parks Commission do to assist with homelessness? Alex will review this and come back to this.
- (4) Improving the CIP process to help make sure Commissioners are advised on what options are available.
- (5) Friend Groups/Public engagement - how can we engage more of the public?
 - (a) Engage the public, potentially look into a new survey to get the voice of the people involved. Can we fold the Green Space CIP, and public Engagement priority?
- (6) Interpretive Signage - Important goal, but might need a specialist. Regular signage needs attention as well.

ii. Sub Committee Volunteers:

- a) Annual Report - Cheri, Jaime
- b) CIP - Katie, Zack
- c) Green Space Gathering - Beth, Stephen, Donna
- d) Mega Events -
- e) Homelessness -
- f) Public Engagement - Jaime,
- g) Signage -

iii. Homeless shelter update -

- a) New Shelter is almost open on Riverside street, will be operational mid-March, open by the end of the month. Greater Portland Health will have a full clinic inside. Various other organizations will also be involved. Work training program is also going to be provided.
 - (1) Will the current policy regarding camping change? Undetermined, additional asylum seekers are arriving as well. 77 tents located last week alone.

C. Old Business

i. CIP update - Finance approved and sent to City Council for approval

- a) Finance committee approved the CIP, sent to City Council Approved projects:
 - (1) Longfellow Playground (Phase 2, last year was the design) \$450K. Alex

provided additional details, to give clarity on the cost. Most costly aspects: storm water drainage and general sitework to prevent future issues. Accessibility is also a cost. Beth commented that they believe that there is a huge cost justification due to the use and popularity of the spaces.

- (2) Deering Oaks - Phase 3 - ADA curbing along the road, installment, replacement and repair. \$335k
- (3) Preble Field Fitness Course - \$30K - replacing what was in the space before, and overall improvements. ETA on this project completion, 2025.
- (4) Great Diamond Basketball Court restoration -
- (5) Reiche Playground Design funds - \$50K - Potentially using some funds to replace Clark Street and Ting Tate parks.
- (6) Riverton Tennis courts conversion to Pickleball Courts \$150K - convert 2 tennis courts into 6 dedicated Pickleball courts.
- (7) Court resurfacing around the city - \$50K
- (8) Replenishing of funds from impact fees: IE Dougherty Field
- (9) Congress Park redesign got half their funding
- (10) Payson entrance -

ii. Sub-Committees Overview:

- a) Park Initiatives sub-Committee - Volunteers for signage
- b) Finance sub-committee- Parks Commission 2021 - 2022 Annual Report - Fall 2023 Council presentation

D. Communications and Updates

- i. Parks Report -
 - a) Bathrooms are awesome! Thank you! Alex provided more details about the challenges associated with this public service. Next phase - increase tank sizes to make servicing less frequent.
- ii. Land Bank Commission Report -
 - a) Annual report provided. North Deering Park purchase and sale was approved.
 - b) Committed \$10k to a hand-carry boat access launch at the Fore River preserve.

E. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

IV. Adjournment