

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

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

Not present: Beth Rabbitt, Elenor Fulmer

I. Call to Order

II. General Citizen Comment Period - George Rheault - Would like to see more items included in the Parks Report. Sent an email about graffiti, would like to see it removed and the Parks Commission to take an active role in making sure these instances are cleaned up quickly.

III. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: December 1st, 2022

Jaime - y

John y

Marie y

Zack y

Eleanor - a

Beth - a

Stephen y

Cheri y

Katie y

Will Y

Donna y

b. New Business

i. Farewell remarks from City Arborist - Jeff Tarling

Jeff was unfortunately unavailable.

ii. Winter Operations Overview: Recreation, Sidewalks, Trails. - Alex & Jaime

Alex discussed the winter operations: advised that the department handles clearing over 100 miles of sidewalks, and the approach used to accomplish this task. Other winter-related tasks include: winter recreation, IE: grooming x-country trails, managing the ponds, as well as tree pruning and equipment maintenance. The department only has one ranger at the moment, which makes things hard.

Commissioner questions raised:

How are private residents handled when vegetation blocks sidewalks?

Forestry will work with the resident.

Who handles graffiti?

Parks handles Park spaces.

New ranger position, is it full time?

Yes.

Does Parks have the resources to handle the sidewalk plowing responsibility?

New winter conditions have led to challenges, commission encouraged review to determine if new equipment is needed to meet new environmental challenges.

Please see: <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/601/Winter-Sidewalks>

iii. Park Signage: Areas of focus for interpretive signs

This is a repeat issue and should be addressed, possible sub-committee? There is indigenous persons content on Google Drive to contribute to these signs. There are a lot of challenges with the rules surrounding commissioners meeting outside of official meetings, this impacts meaningful sub-committee work.

iv. Portland Harbor Commons Update - Sebago Technics - Meeting to get feedback next week, additional permitting this spring, out to bid Jan 2024.

Provided map of the upcoming Harbor Commons project. Concept designs are being submitted. Many opportunities identified and envisioned details provided. Commission members expressed excitement and questions: will water access be possible? Phase 1 does not include it, but maybe in future phases. Bob Massengale provided additional details on limitations and options. User profile, how was it generated? Additional information provided.

c. Old Business

i. Large Scale Events: Recap and Discussion - Payson Park C3 event

C3 has been invited to return once the city has reviewed the opportunity more. No word back as of yet.

d. Communications and Updates

i. Parks Report - Please review

ii. Land Bank Commission Report - Annual report available on the Land Bank website.

e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

IV. Adjournment