



### **Commission Members:**

Chair Michael Mertaugh, Vice Chair Jaime Parker, Amy Segal, 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, Samara Ray and Thomas Nickerson.

## **City of Portland** **Parks Commission Agenda**

**April 7, 2022**

**5:00 PM**

**On April 7<sup>th</sup> 2022 5:00 pm, the Portland Parks Commission held a meeting using Zoom.**

**I. Call to Order** - Michael Mertaugh called the meeting to order.

**II. General Citizen Comment Period (5 min)**

George Rheault - Wrote emails to the commission, understood they were reviewed and forwarded on to the commission. Would like to know where the Deering Oaks Castle is currently standing, what bids there are. He would also like to know about the swings in Amethyst Lot, when they will be returned. He also raised the question about the renaming of the little league Farm Field, will a new plaque/sign be made, who is paying for that?

Berry Manter - Supports the Cutter Street relocation, collected signatures and expressed a positive view of the Cutter Street relocation: better access and location. Her concerns are mostly about safety, nothing against Food Trucks.

Diane Davison - Urging the Parks Commission to vet the Food Truck initiative. She was a founding member of Friends of Eastern Prom, served on the Parks Commission for 11 years. In her letters she emphasized that option one is not sustainable. Between Congress and Walnut Street, the playground makes the prom densely populated. Option 1 eliminates the parking in this stretch. The eastern roadway is not a viable option. Options 1 & 2 impact bike lanes. She believes the food trucks can be successful elsewhere in the city and it does not make sense to have them only at the Eastern Prom. Believes that we should be looking for other options elsewhere in the city. The removal of the parking spaces will impact all forms of traffic and will impact the master plan for the area, particularly in the summer. The South East side of the Prom construction will be done in the fall, which is impacting available Parking as well. Option one will need HBV review. The Eastern Prom Master plan. She would like to share the language in her petition.

Micheal Mertaugh - Asked her to hold her comment until the Food Truck section of the meeting.

Diane Davison - Agreed to wait

Karen Snyder - Will wait for the Food Truck section.

Zack Anchors - Asked that all who have Food Truck specific comments wait for the Food Truck section.

Samara Ray - Asked the public to wait or keep their hand up. Three residents confirmed they would wait for the Food Truck discussion.

Eric Anderson - Friends of Doherty Field group, thanks Alex and Ethan for helping them get started.

Michael Mertaugh - No other hands up at this time.

Alex Marshall - We will be announcing the Castle bid winner soon. The swings at Amethyst will return June 1st. Little League will be handing the Farm Field renaming, signage will be handled by the Little League.

### **III. Agenda Items**

#### **a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: March 3rd, 2022 Action Item (5 min)**

Michael Mertaugh made a motion to approve the Minutes - Marie Gray - Please update the minutes 'Parks Covernancy' section of the minutes. Jon Kachmar - Seconded. Motion passed unanimously

#### **b. New Business**

##### **i. Welcome new Parks Commissioners (5 min)**

Micheal Mertaugh - Welcomed Cheri Musgrave. Goodbye Samara, thank you for your hard work. Welcome Thom.

#### **Budget Updates (10 min)**

Alex Marshall - Worked on the City Budget and operational. Budget will not be going to council on April 11, but on April 25th. Council will be referring the budget to Finance, they will review and return to council. Asks: Parks staff (Manager/Forester)

No questions

##### **ii. Food Truck Presentation- Alex (10 min)**

Alex Marshall - Lots of outreach, and public comment: food trucks are not permitted per Chapter 18. We are discussing the use. This is an Operations issue that needs to be handled by the city manager. The Parks Commission is being given an opportunity to comment as a courtesy.

Presentation provided:

Pedestrian Safety - vision issues, proximity to the playground.

Excessive trash - 30 gallon barrels - Solid Waste needs to service 250 barrels a day, however, there is one person who addressed this.

Tree Health - Mature trees and young trees, the compaction of soil is causing the roots to lift up.

Carbon Emissions - Generators running 10+ hours a day, over 12 trucks potentially.

Discussed Option 1 - clarified that street closure planters would be used to close down travel lanes. Discussed how this would help address the above issues. Strictly seasonal April 15 - Oct 15. No perm impacts, all removable.

Adding in-ground trash barrels are being reviewed. Due to the subterranean nature of the device, airflow and heat

are not an issue, smell is deeply reduced. Bi-weekly to once a month. Colorado Springs services these 4X a year.  
Tree health - place posts, rope and chain in the roots to help address the compaction.  
Carbon emissions - Sources of power are available and we can provide it to the participants.

This is a pilot program - review is key. Vender selection discussion is ongoing.

Option 2 - Mid-slope off cutter street.

Removing 15 parking spaces - modifying the boat trailer parking, moving them to the upper lot, congestion is an issue in summer. Pedestrian safety may be impacted but unconfirmed. Trash would be handled by the large capacity barrels. There are no tree health concerns. No electrical sources, we would need to draw from another area.

End of presentation.

John Kachmer - Thanked Alex for his work - posed a question, if the lower lot is selected if parking on one side would still be approved as it would be a safety improvement.

Alex Marshall - To be determined. Never done before.

Zack Anchors - Friend of Eastern Prom perspective - Sustainability commission meeting discussed that bike traffic would have more space with option A.

Alex Marshall - Travel lane and food trucks would have a buffer space for bike travel space.

Zack Anchors - Friends of Eastern Prom - in the interest of Historic Preservation, do the new trash receptacles need to be approved?

Alex Marshall - We are discussing with HP, the big bellies did not go through them, but Parks is working with HP regarding these high capacity

Zack Anchors- How big are they?

Alex Marshall- They are three feet tall

Micheal Mertaugh- Can they be anything other than the horrendous blue?

Alex Marshall - They are black

Amy Segal- Would like more information about alternative solutions that were previously discussed.

Alex Marshall - Those are the options reviewed, other spaces were not considered as this is where the desired space is. (Mic lost)

Michael Catania - Will hold off.

Zack Anchors - As space is limited, could we move the boat trailers up to the upper lot?

Alex Marshall - It will be an issue, but there will be need for some shuffling to accommodate all the spaces. There are food truck limitations for spaces, including fire safety.

Micheal Mertaugh - Moved the meeting along and opened public comment.

Public comment -

Deirdre Nice - Here to support the language in the citizen's petition, echoes Diane and Berry sentiments.

Patrice Lusamba - Parkering is hard to find in the area, safety is an issue. Supports the Cutter Street option.

Micheal Mertaugh - Asked Diane Davison to discuss the citizen's position.

Diane Davison - Apologized, did not know that her comments would be permitted in this part of the meeting. She wants to make sure the comments she made previously would be considered. Micheal Mertaugh confirmed. Diane continued - folks were eager to sign the petition to move the trucks to Cutter Street. Traffic is an issue. As of 5 pm, they had 350 signatures, and they reached out to park users, property owners, and residents: 2022 Food Truck Pilot Program Petition: we the park users and residents of Munjoy Hill oppose option 1, we strongly recommend the food truck pilot program for 2022 season remove all food trucks from the Eastern Prom roadway, relocation to Cutter street. Rationale: eliminate pedestrian/vehicle conflicts on the roadway, create a safer experience, preserving 30 parking spaces, restoring parking that is currently being used up by the food trucks. Reduce generator noise, food odors and congestion, reduce negative impacts on trees. All changes to the area must be reviewed by appropriate city departments, vendors and historical preservation. Big Belly trash cans and electricity needs to be reviewed. Option alt A would be the best option. Please have vendors use compostable items, have them use their own trash. Hopes for a collaborative effort.

Francis Cloutier - Have been a resident of Munjoy Hill Portland 1976 - would like to speak against Option 1. I Want to talk about two things- Things we love and Style of Governance Believes in protecting the green spaces, they are to be protected from commercial efforts. Style of governance - he is deeply concerned in our style of governance, losing faith in leadership. Proposed that we listen to those appointed to protect the space Would like to move them to Cutter Street or elsewhere. Would like to move these away from the Eastern Prom.

Crandall Toothaker - Resident of Munjoy Hill - Kindness, respect, harmony and homes. Respect should come from all places. Collaborative efforts are deeply important. Love the food trucks, and believe that the location is a poor choice. Believes a win - win is possible. Cutter street is the better option. Keep the traffic flowing and spaces open. As a property owner he worries about the congestion. Cutter Street is closer to restrooms. Handicap spaces could be provided. Smells would be reduced. 30+ places would be restored. Tables and chairs could be placed in these spaces as well.

Francis Cloutier - Spoke previously

Julia Kirby - Resident on Emerson Street - thank you for the presentation. Speaks to the residents - if you live there, food trucks for 6 months is too much. Moving to Cutter Street is the best option.

Evelyn Bowler - Resident of Munjoy - Disagreed with Alex, people are already crossing the street. As a cyclist, the width of the bike lane is important, and needs to be clear. If we do not permit parking between Turner and Congress, how will buses be able to navigate the turn? Have we considered emergency vehicles accommodated?

Michael - Please keep it precise

Karen Snyder - Waterville Street - NHO board met, approved statement - move the trucks to Cutter if that is the only option provided. Please include public comment as many were not included. She supports and recommends the Cutter Street option. Played a generator and encouraged the Cutter Street options to be decided. Amethyst park would have been an excellent option for a permanent food park.

Michael - Please be precise

Mark Nead - Appreciates the approvals - the problem is basic, the busy street should not be used as a food court. A parking lot is best. Supports Cutter Street.

Connie Lunguist - Munjoy Hill resident - supports Cutter Street - not mentioned, if parking is pushed into the neighborhood, this could impact residents.

Mitch Crosby - Eastern Prom: 2 quick questions.

Micheal - No questions

Mitch Crosby - Does not understand why the upper lot is not permitted, why if congestion is an issue, why parking is banned from Congress street?

Haily Long - Lives on Dougless street - would love trucks on Dorgety Field. Parents of small children are concerned that more space on the road would encourage motorists to go faster. Cutter street would be less visible. Either options are great, option A is preferable.

Mary Cansell - Portland Resident - email sent, attached previous emails. Mentioned these concerns. Recommends Cutter Street.

Carol Connor - Montreal street resident - Likes the food trucks moving to Cutter Street.

Samara Ray - Ends the comment section.

Michael Mertaugh- Has reviewed the public comments. Would like to make a proposal, one for the city manager to decide - tried to take into consideration public comment. Believes a win-win situation. No one opposes food trucks, but the location is an issue. Wants to propose a motion to submit a new recommendation to Danielle West

Michael Mertaugh motions - ***The Parks Commission recommend to the city manager the the pilot project be implemented in the following manner: Relocate all food trucks to the mid level parking lot on Cutter Street, limit the total number food trucks to not more than seven, prohibit additional service vehicles for the permitted food trucks at that sight or elsewhere in the park. Provide minimally intrusive electric service for the permitted food trucks in the Cutter Lot and prohibit portable generator use when electric service becomes available. Finally, delay the installation of any other supporting facilities including in ground waste disposal units pending review by city staff, historic protection and the parks commission of the 2022 Pilot experience and any proposed changes.***

Micheal Mertaugh - Do I have a second?

Michael Catania - Seconded

Beth Rabbit - The limitation of 7 trucks comes from where?

Michael Mertaugh - Limit of 7, more than that causes a fundamental atmosphere of the parks. This is a natural refuge from the city. Want to avoid congestion.

Beth Rabbitt - Has heard from Food Truck - the food truck limit should be informed by Cutter lot capacity.

Zack - Could you please clarify what the difference between the plans and this proposal is?

Michael - This is not a hybrid plan, this would move the clientele to the heart of the park. This would not impact the vista of the park. Noise reduction would be possible. Operators would love the options. This is a pilot project.

Zack - As a Easter Prom Friends board rep - very concerned about impact, the current situation is not sustainable. Environmental impacts are to be considered, all options have been reviewed and they are concerned that shifting to Cutter would only shift the problems to the new location. They support the hybrid option, this would help show which option would be best or show that neither are viable.

Eleanor Sears - Please speak to why we need to delay the trash receptacle.

Michael Mertaugh- Feels the Food Truck folks need to be more responsible for the clean up. 30 Gallon can work if serviced, but if additional trash service is needed, the trucks need to be responsible.

Amy Segal - Supports the Friends of Eastern Prom, departed.

Katie Mears - Had similar concerns about the trash, why not try the large capacity. Not every park is not a food court, if the Eastern Prom is not a viable option for the Trucks we embrace that.

Alex Marshall- They, the food trucks, do their best and can clean up around their trucks. We cannot place the responsibility of the barrels on them. We are requiring larger bins and will be providing those, and trying to place barrels in additional locations to clean up wandering diner.

Michael Mertaugh- Why hasn't this been addressed previously?

Alex Marshall- Budget issues prevent us from being able to accommodate this. The in ground option is more efficient.

Michael Catina - This is an elegant solution. It protects the vista, protects parking spaces, will reduce noise if power can be provided. We cannot all agree, and the trucks need to be more responsible with the trash. Approves limiting the number of trucks. The public is clear, seconds the motion.

Chei Musgrave - Supports the proposal, is the upper lot too small?

Alex Marshall - Not a great space, it is at a slant, they CAN operate there but they do not.

Cheri Musgrave- Supports the option.

Zack Anchors- Did we not attach all the emails?

Samara Ray- We included all emails that we received prior to 24 hours. We cannot accommodate last minute emails.

Zack Anchors - The public is upset with the process, they feel they are not being heard. Asked for Alex to comment.

Michael Mertaugh- Asked to move to a vote instead. Would like to clarify what Zack's question was.

Zack Anchors - Has public comment been provided previously?

Michael Mertaugh - the petition is the public comment.

Zack Anchors - could Alex please clarify if this issue has been discussed in previous meetings.

Alex Marshall- Operational changes - commission comes up with the plans, and provides the options to commissions, public feedback is gathered.

**Michael Mertaugh moved for a vote:**

Yes - 4

No - 3

Abstain - 1

Michael Mertaugh - Asked if we can procedurally go over the option once more.

Jon Kachmer - What is the difference between the options: how is it different than the option #2?

Michael - Option 2 would be a hybrid option, some trucks on the cutter lot, some on the Eastern Prom street. This is not desirable as it interrupts the vista. Portland has a trilling maritime vista, the food trucks are a blight. His motion proposal removes all food trucks from Eastern Prom road.

Alex Marshall- Clarified, option A had alternate options.

Michael Mertaugh- Believes that option 2 is consistent with the actions offered. The petition rejected option 1, option 2. Could revote - Option 2 with the additional restrictions. Moved for another vote:

Michael Mertaugh motions - ***The Parks Commission recommend to the city manager the the pilot project be implemented in the following manner: Relocate all food trucks to the mid level parking lot on Cutter Street, limit the total number food trucks to not more than seven, prohibit additional service vehicles for the permitted food trucks at that sight or elsewhere in the park. Provide minimally intrusive electric service for the permitted food trucks in the Cutter Lot and prohibit portable generator use when electric service becomes available. Finally, delay the installation of any other supporting facilities including in ground waste disposal units pending review by city staff, historic protection and the parks commission of the 2022 Pilot experience and any proposed changes.***

**Michael Catania seconded.**

Yes - 4

**No - 4**

Thom Nickerson - technical issues experienced, provided the wrong count (Yes - 3, No - 5)

Measure fails to pass.

Michael proposed we adjourn, seconded.

Unanimous vote to adjourn.

**Michael Mertaugh - Opened the floor for commissioner questions.**

**iii. Greenspace Gathering Update- Zach Anchors (15 min)**

**c. Communications and Updates**

**i. Parks Report (5)**

**ii. Land Bank Commission Report (5)**

**iii. Committee Updates (10 min)**

**d. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items**

**IV. Adjournment**

