



Commission Members: Chair Michael Mertaugh, Amy Segal, Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Zack Anchors, Maya Lena, Beth Rabbitt, Stephen Bentsen and Michael Catania. **Staff Members:** Ethan Hipple, Alex Marshall and Samara Ray.

City of Portland
Parks Commission Minutes
August 5, 2021
5:00 PM

Due to the existence of an emergency or urgent issue the Parks Commission conducted this meeting by remote methods/technology using ZOOM, in accordance with the requirements of 1 M.R.S. section 403-B and the Parks Commission's Remote Participation Policy.

I. General Citizen Comment Period

Anne Pringle wanted the Parks Commission to weigh in on American Rescue Funds for CIP and parks maintenance, she feels it should be used for Master Plans. Casey McCormack with Friends of Capisic Pond wanted to check in about stocking Capisic Pond with fish as right now there are many carp there and they are invasive, he would like to have some natural fish there. Ethan invited Casey to communicate further with the Department about stocking the ponds.

II. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: June 3rd 2021 ACTION ITEM

Marie made a motion to approve, Jon seconded. The Commission voted in favor of the minutes and they were approved.

b. Acceptance of Emergency Hearing Minutes: July 30th 2021- The minutes from this meeting were accepted and shared with Commissioners who were not present at the Emergency Hearing.

c. New Business

i. Welcome New Commissioners and Seat Updates

A welcome to the three new Commissioners Beth Rabbit, Michael Catania and Stephen Bentson. August 13th deadline for the application for the 2 vacant Parks Commission seats.

ii. Parks Capital Improvement Priority Projects -Friends Groups Presentations and Public Comment

Members of the public shared their CIP priorities:

- Carol Schiller and Victoria Kinney- Friends of Longfellow Park in the Oakdale neighborhood. Asking to fund and install electricity and lighting added to the 10 year CIP to make the park safer after dusk. Estimated Cost \$25,000, time frame as soon as possible.
- Anne Pringle-Friends of Deering Oaks. FO Deering Oaks top priority is the pond wall reconstruction, estimated to cost 5 years ago was 1.5 million. It is on the CIP for FY23 and FY24 but only totalling 1 million. Anne wondered if the previous price estimate will still be accurate.

- Jack Kyle- Portland Skatepark Expansion Committee. He would like to make this project a reality as soon as possible.. The next phase of expansion is expected to cost \$375,000. Presently 205,000 is still needed to complete the funding. They have met their fundraising goal of \$100,000, and there is \$70,000 in CIP Funds that have already been allocated to this Project. This project needs a total of \$205,000 to reach full funding.
- Frank and Sharon Reilly - Friends of Lincoln Park. They are very happy about finishing phase one. They are approaching phase 2: granite piers and wrought iron fence. They would like this restoration completed, they would like some of the allocations of money to be moved up the timeline. The longer they wait the more the fence continues to deteriorate and the prices to maintain keep going up.
- Casey McCormack- Friends of Capisic Pond. He wanted to thank the Parks Department and the Parks Commission for the recent improvements to Capisic Pond. Requested two new items on the CIP: infographics about park history and a curb cut on Capisic street for ADA access. Alex said that infographics would most likely not be CIP funded, this could come out of operating budget or private funding. Casey brought up the work he and others are doing to collect the seeds of phragmites to deal with overgrowth of them in Capisic. The Commission thanked him for the work to keep them from spreading.
- Paul Drinan - Friends of Fort Gorges. They submitted 5 project funding requests. One is for an existing project for the Preservation plan- the top priority of this project is cribbing in the casemates facing Peaks Island. The second request is for a new project; a rebuild of the granite wharf at the Fort, the ME army national guard is now involved, most materials are onsite but a back fill would have to be brought in. Items 3, 4 and 5 are placeholders. Composting toilets is item # 3 and there is a great need for this. Ethan explained that the wharf project is a priority of the Department.
- Matt Hyde- Friends of Western Prom. They submitted their top 5 priorities: #1 Vista Clearing, upper slope revegetation- introducing new vegetation, #2 Signage improvements. #3 reintroduction of Gazebo or Bandstand, #4 Lower park infrastructure improvements.

iii. Parks Capital Improvement Plan Overview with Parks Director

Alex summarized the Parks CIP plan overview: he went through the 10 year plan document and shared Parks Priorities and how money was earmarked for each project.

iv. Follow up questions from Commissioners

Beth asked how we prioritize the projects? Alex answered that a lot of that is determined by aging infrastructure. They also take into consideration input from Friends Groups and the Parks Commission. The Department also posts the Project Selection Criteria on the Parks CIP Plan timeline that is found on the Master Plans and Projects website.

d. Communications/Updates

i. Parks Report

Alex gave a summary of the Parks Report, highlights include the Forestry Department planting of 201 trees this year, cleaning up of PATHS and the brown tail moth treatment success.

ii. Sub Committee Updates

No subcommittees have met. The Commission will discuss sub committee appointments at the September Parks Commission meeting.

III. Adjournment

Matt made a motion to adjourn, Marie made a second, the rest of the Commission voted in favor. The meeting adjourned at 6:36pm.