



Commission Members: Chair Cynthia Loebenstein, Vice Chair Michael Mertaugh, Amy Segal, Ana Lagunez, Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Nathan Robbins, Zack Anchors, Shaylyn MacKinnon, Maya Lena and Jaime Parker. **Staff Members:** Ethan Hipple, Alex Marshall and Samara Ray. **Members of the Public:** Meghan Loury, Frank and Sharon Reilly.

**City of Portland
Parks Commission Minutes
March 4, 2021
5:00 PM**

On Thursday, March 4th 2021, at 5:00 pm, the Portland Parks Commission held a virtual meeting using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online. This meeting was conducted remotely using ZOOM.

I. General Citizen Comment Period

Chris Carleton- Owner of Allspeed bike shop was wondering if he could put a storage container next to the Bayside Trail as a temporary measure because of the decreased space in his store due to social distancing. Ethan said staff would reach out to him about the possibility of this happening.

George Rheault- He hopes the City can work with Allspeed. He is interested in how the Riverton Preserve process gets moved forward.

Joey Brunelle- He complimented the Parks Commission on the open citizen comment at the beginning of the meeting.

II. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: February 4th, 2021

Marie moved to accept the Feb 2021 minutes, Michael seconded it passed unanimously.

b. Guest Visitors

i. Portland Youth Corps

Portland Youth Corps Leader Meghan Loury gave a presentation about the Portland Youth Corps. This is the first season Portland will have a Youth Corps. The program consists of two four week sessions with 12 youth serving in each. The Corps will engage in team building, trailwork, skill building and environmental education through working on various projects in Portland's Parks. The Commission shared their excitement about the program and offered Meghan some suggestions for youth outreach in the Portland area.

ii. Friends of Lincoln Park

Frank and Sharon Reilly shared about building up the Friends of Lincoln Park and how it has evolved over the years into a Friends Group success story. Friends of Lincoln Park maintains a great relationship with the City and Frank and Sharon thanked Ethan for his help in

creating this strong relationship.

c. Old Business

i. Commissioner Terms Subcommittee Assignments June 2021 Elections

Three commissioners' terms are up in June, they can renew if they reapply. There is also one seat that is currently vacant that will be filled in June. Cynthia is terming out in June. So there will be 5 seats total to fill in June. Michael will be the new chair pending the election. Election applications are extended until March 12th. Commissioners talked about the subcommittees (Annual Report, Initiatives, Green Space and Finance) and who will be serving on each subcommittee. Subcommittee assignments are as follows: *Finance*- Marie and Mike, *Initiatives*-Jaime, Amy and Maya, *Green Space*- Ana, Zack, Shaylynn, *Annual Report*-Jaime and Ana willing to help

ii. CIP Updates

Alex shared where the Department was with CIP. These projects have left the City Manager's office and on to the Finance Committee. The final decision will be in April. Alex went over the various projects included in the CIP.

iii. Review Strategic Planning Meeting

Michael moved to accept the minutes, Maire seconded, it passed unanimously. The Finance Committee, with the support of the Commission, will work on a rewrite draft of the Friends and Community Partners Handbook to address what arose from the Strategic Planning Meeting. This draft will be presented for review in April with a rewrite finalized in time to be shared with Friends Groups at the Green Space Gathering in May 2021.

iv. Green Space Gathering Update

The committee is meeting on March 23rd to discuss details for the Green Space Gathering.. They have panelists picked out and they are working on making the ZOOM meeting more engaging. The committee will bring more details to the April Parks Commission meeting.

d. New Business

i. Brown Tail Moth in Deering Oaks

Survey with Maine Forest Service. Substantial amount of moths and threat to the heritage oaks, nuisance to those in the park.

e. Communications/Updates

i. Riverton Trolley Park Update

This project is being led by Portland Parks Conservancy and the City of Portland. The Parks Conservancy has received a grant for the design phase of a recreational improvement plan to better utilize this park. They are seeking a substantial grant from the Land and Water Conservation Fund for the project once there is a final design and cost estimates. On Feb 24th there was a stakeholder meeting and on March 30th there will be a Virtual Public Process meeting to gather insight from the community about improvements to the park. There are some restrictions on this land as it is a traditional Land Bank property, this may limit the improvements that can be made. Jon offered to discuss more about the Land Bank at a future meeting.

ii. Baxter Woods Update

New Leash laws for Baxter Woods passed in Oct 2021. Portland Park Rangers will begin an education campaign about these new rules in March followed by increased enforcement

starting April 1st. The leash laws are as follows:

*August 1 to March 31st, dogs are permitted under voice control at the following times. From 5 a.m. to 9 a.m. and from 3 p.m. to 10p.m. From 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. all dogs must be on an eight (8) foot leash.

*April 1 to July 31, all dogs must be on an eight (8) foot leash at all times.

*Additionally, dogs must be on an 8-foot leash at all times on the Northern Carriage Path and in all areas of Baxter Woods north of the Northern Carriage Path.

Update on Deering Oaks - In January a Maine Forestry Department survey revealed that there is a Brown Tail Moth infestation in Deering Oaks, threatening the heritage Oak trees and creating potential for allergic reaction for park users. The Parks Division will be chemically treating the area and limiting activity in the park this spring. From the point of treatment to the end of June there will be no large events in the park. The Farmers Market will be moved to Payson Park.

iii. Land Bank Commission Report

The Land Bank is putting signs in a few of Portland's open spaces this spring. The City Council has approved the 2020 Land Bank Annual Report for.

iv. Parks Report

Portland Parks porta potty design- Portland Parks Director has been working on a few concepts to create a more appealing and safe prototype to try out in Portland Parks.

Jaime motion to adjourn the meeting, Michael seconded it passed unanimously and meeting was adjourned.