



In attendance: Commission Members: Chair Cynthia Loebenstein, V. Chair Michael Mertaugh, Amy Segal, Ana Lagunez, Dory Waxman, Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Nathan Robbins, and Zack Anchors. City Staff: Ethan Hipple and Alex Marshall.

City of Portland

Parks Commission Minutes

December 3, 2020, 5:00 PM

On Dec 3, 2020, the Portland Parks Commission conducted 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

George Rheault suggested that the Parks Commission create a working group to collaborate with Portland's newly established Racial Equity Steering Committee.

Carroll Schiller read a letter she had written to request funding for lighting in Longfellow Park.

Victoria Kinney also voiced her support for lighting at Longfellow Park.

Paul Drinan shared that the Friends of Fort Gorges recently voted to do a cash match of a grant that was awarded for digital mapping. This project will help monitor the fort's condition over time and will aid the development of educational/tour materials.

II. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Nov 5, 2020

Marie moved to accept the meeting minutes of November. Michael seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Old Business

i. Commission Seat Vacancies

The vacancies have been posted and will close Friday. Jaime Parker will be filling the Portland Trails seat. Cynthia, Michael, and Dory have offered to mentor new commissioners.

ii. Annual Report

Nathan and Cynthia are giving an annual report presentation to City Council on Dec 7th.

c. New Business

i. Capital Improvement Plan Discussion

Ethan gave some background on CIP project selection criteria. He said the budget is expected to be much lower than in the past, so existing projects will be the focus. The department will submit a prioritized list of projects to the City Manager and Finance Director before it is reviewed by the Finance Committee and City Council.

Alex presented the various proposed projects. Each commissioner listed the projects

they would like to see prioritized.

Project	1st Choice Votes	2nd Choice Votes	3rd Choice Votes
Evergreen Columbarium	7		1
ADA Walkway Paving	2	2	2
Deering Oaks Playground Damage		3	4
Citywide Fencing Replacement		2	
Skatepark Expansion		1	2
Court Resurfacing		1	

ii. Redlon Woods Development

Jon shared that Redlon Woods is a priority project for the Land Bank Commission and that the commission chair, Pat Bailey, has written a letter recommending that these parcels slated for development be maintained as green space.

Public Comment:

Reva Eiferman, whose property abuts Redlon Woods, said community members frequently used Redlon Woods as open space.

Maura Price lives adjacent to Redlon Woods and requested the commission advocate for keeping this as open space.

William Green has seen the woods lost to development over the years and would like the commission to advocate for this as green space.

Dana Baldwin lives near the entrance to one of the trails and said this development would be a dramatic change to landscape.

Ben Strick pointed out that the development would create a super-elevated road and is concerned about lack of access for kids and neighbors.

George Rheault said the development is just a small section of the woods.

Jessica Teesdale reiterated what was said earlier and is concerned about erosion.

Eloise Melzer echoed others' concerns with the development.

Robbie King said the trails are much more heavily used than the development plan states.

iii. Strategic Planning Meeting Discussion

The hope is to have a meeting in February.

iv. Green Space Meeting Discussion

The virtual meeting will be in mid to late April and will focus on giving friends groups a chance to connect with each other.

d. Communications/Updates

i. Subcommittee Reports

Park Initiatives: No update

Finance: Would like to discuss MOU at the strategic planning meeting

Community Outreach: No update

ii. Land Bank Commission Report

Jon hopes to talk about Land Bank Commission's Riverton Trolley Park project at the

next meeting.