



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

City of Portland
Parks Commission Minutes
July 9, 2020, 5:00 PM

On Thursday, July 9, 2020, at 5:00 pm, 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 workshop was conducted remotely using Zoom.

I. General Citizen Comment Period

There were no comments from the public.

II. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: June 04, 2020

Michael moved to accept the meeting minutes of June 4, 2020. Caitie seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. New Business

i. Nominations

Caitie nominated Cynthia for Chair and Michael for Vice Chair for next year. Amy seconded. The vote passed unanimously.

ii. Open Commission Positions

There are currently two open positions on the Commission. Colette's term has ended so this leaves an at-large position open as well as the Portland Trails position. The advertisement will be posted for the at-large position. Portland Trails has been contacted to appoint a nominee. Cynthia, Jon, and Michael volunteered to take part in the Nomination Committee.

c. Communications/Updates

i. COVID19 Staff Update

Ethan shared that some of the furloughed Recreation and Aquatics staff are back to work now that summer camp has started and facilities are opening up

again. All of the parks and playgrounds are open. The ravine pool at Deering Oaks and the various splash pads are still closed. Alex is now the Parks Director and Ethan is Acting Director of Parks, Recreation, & Facilities

ii. Friends Group Questionnaire Update

Zack shared that the Outreach and Finance committees met and drafted a letter to send to the friends groups in hopes of encouraging greater participation in the questionnaire. Cynthia added an intro of the new Parks Conservancy Volunteer Coordinator to the letter. Michael suggested adding emphasis on why participating in the survey will be beneficial to the friends groups.

iii. Subcommittee Reports

Park Initiatives: Caitie shared that the Commission would like the public to have an active role in naming the Amethyst Lot park while the Commission serves in a review capacity. The subcommittee is also working on a new initiative to develop interpretive signage to highlight a more diverse history of Portland.

Annual Report: Confirmed they will focus on a simple report this year and want to focus on the fall workshop. They also discussed outlining specific goals for the Commission.

Finance: Joint meeting with Community Outreach to write friends groups letter.

Community Outreach: Joint meeting with Finance to write letter.

COVID19 Group: Discussed how to best assist the new Volunteer Coordinator and how to promote the homeless services resource guide.

iv. Land Bank Commission Report

Jon shared that Land Bank is not meeting in July. There are currently two active acquisitions in progress with willing sellers. The Commission is looking into raising private funds from an interested donor for the Riverton Trolley Park property. The Jewell Falls property is now transferred to the landbank. The process continues for the Rand Rd and Redlon properties.

v. Parks Report

Forestry planted over 160 trees this planting season. The Amethyst lot is nearing completion with paving and installation of swinging benches still to come. Riverton school playground renovations start mid-August. Deering Oaks and Eastern Prom walkway improvements are on the horizon as well as resurfacing for Eastern Prom and Lyman Moore courts.