



In attendance: Commission Members: Vice Chair Michael Mertaugh, Colette Bouchard, Dory Waxman, Amy Segal, Ana Lagunez, Caitie Whelan, Nathan Robbins and Mayor Kate Snyder. City Staff: Sally DeLuca, Alex Marshall and Alli Carroll

City of Portland
Parks Commission Minutes
February 6, 2020, 5:00 PM

Portland City Hall, 389 Congress Street, Room 24

I. General Citizen Comment Period

Jamie William, a Portland Water District Trustee, went to the Fort Gorges seminar at East End Community Center. He passed out a Sebago Lake Land Reserve Trail Map and a permit for activities for dawn until dusk to Commissioners. This data could be collected in a kiosk that could go anywhere and would record who visits the area.

Matt Hyde, the President of Friends of Western Promenade, came to the meeting to answer any questions when they discuss the Western Promenade Master Plan.

Frank Riley, President of Friends of Lincoln Park, spoke at last night's Finance Committee and came tonight to express their need for \$275,000 to complete the Congress Street side of the Lincoln Park fence.

Matt TenEyck, the Operations Coordinator for the City of Portland, Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department, spoke to his experience with the kiosk that was presented by Jamie William.

II. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: 12/05/2019 and 01/22/2020

The Commission asked to move the acceptance of minutes to the March meeting. They do not have a quorum this evening.

b. New Business

i. Western Promenade Master Plan Draft Thoughts and Informal Recommendation

The Commissioners were very impressed with the hard work and detail that went into creating the Master Plan draft. There is a great balance between the historic and new recreation items.

Michael suggested having a trial run of the Friends Groups maintaining the historical planting beds. He also suggested the Thomas Brackett Reed statue should tell more about the man than what the current plaque states.

Dory asked what the process is from here and if the Commission should look at it again during their Strategic Planning Workshop in March. Sally said it is supposed to go to City Council next but they do not know which Council meeting yet.

Dory asked Matt Hyde about the fundraising plan. He said that the fundraising plan will be more discussed and decided upon once the master plan is completed and they know what needs to be done. Sally added that Maine Med designated \$300,000 to the project. \$100,000 each to Bramhall Square, Valley Street and the upper part of the park.

The Commission discussed the viewshed clearings, how many there will be and what they will capture. They referenced the viewshed section of the draft. A tree count has not been done yet as it is an expense beyond creating the master plan. They believe a lot would be invasive Norway Maples that could be removed.

c. Communications/Updates

i. City Manager CIP Recommendation Update

Sally presented a list of the CIP to City Manager, Jon Jennings. He presented to the Finance Committee last night. The Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department is excited that they were allocated \$1.1 million. The Lincoln Park fence was cut, but many other items were added instead. Commission discussed process and would like to know more about how the list went from what they voted on to what it is now. Sally will create a more transparent presentation for the Commission.

The CIP should be on the City Council agenda on the first Monday in March. She will confirm the public comment date.

ii. Baxter Woods Workshop Communication

The Transportation and Sustainability Committee had a workshop with Councilor Dusen and Councilor Ray. The Friend of Baxter Woods presented to them. They will work with the legal team to make sure they were following the deed. The next meeting will be open to public comment.

iii. Strategic Planning Meeting Reminder

Reminder that the Strategic Planning Workshop is March 28th at 9AM at 212 Canco Road Suite A. Some items they will discuss is the Commission's role in helping to certify the legitimacy of Friends Groups and how to broaden the relationship with all Friends Groups. They could also talk about updating "Green Spaces Blue Edges." Another item is how the Commission can involve immigrant groups more.

iv. Subcommittee Reports

Finance Subcommittee: Lost one finance committee member with Craig's departure. Working on continuing on best practice on how the Commission can interact with Friends Groups. Hoping to have that info by strategic planning workshop.

Outreach Subcommittee: Gearing up for the Green Space Gathering. There are three confirmed speakers. Still trying to find the best facilitator. Zack is drafting the content for invitation. Looking for a few more panelists.

Initiative Subcommittee: Met with Paul Drinan for interpretive signage for Ft Gorges. Reached out to Nancy Montgomery who did the designer work for the Baxter Trail signs. They are working with her to get them completed and installed before the end of Summer.

Annual Report Subcommittee: Will try to meet this month to plan out the upcoming report.

v. Parks Report

The Parks Division is working on their 2021 budget and winter operations.

They are still ironing out details for the new Riverton Playground. Should be installed this Summer before the school year starts.

They are starting to look at the Dougherty Field playground repositioning of the basketball court and doing irrigation.

The Division is waiting to hire a project manager to see more of these projects through.

Parks and Recreation Director has been advertised.

The Commission requested an update on Portland Landing next meeting.