



**In attendance:** Commission Members: Chair Cynthia Loebenstein, Vice Chair Michael Mertaugh, Colette Bouchard, Zack Anchors, Amy Segal, Ana Lagunez, Caitie Whelan, Craig Lapine, Nathan Robbins, Marie Gray and Jon Kachmar. City Staff: Ethan Hipple, Alex Marshall and Alli Carroll.

## **City of Portland Parks Commission Minutes**

**December 5, 2019, 5:00 PM**

**Portland City Hall**

**389 Congress Street, Room 24**

### **I. General Citizen Comment Period**

No citizen comment at this time.

### **II. Agenda Items**

Cynthia introduced Jon Kachmar, the new Land Bank Commission liaison. The Commissioners went around the room to introduce themselves.

#### **a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: 11/7/2019**

Michael moved to accept the meeting minutes of November 7, 2019. Caitie seconded. Zack and Jon abstained. Eight in favor. Motion passed.

#### **b. New Business**

##### **i. Friends of Baxter Woods**

The Commission welcomed the newly formed friends group, Friends of Baxter Woods. President Anne Callender, Treasurer Marc Lesperance, and Secretary Carolyn Ehringhaus introduced themselves to the Commission. They expressed their love for Baxter Woods and how they are driven by the love for the community. They presented the history of the park and went over Baxter's Deed.

Commissioners thanked the group for the informative presentation. The Commission would like to view their mission statement. They wrote a letter of introduction that they had sent to Ethan and Sally that they would be happy to share with the Commission as well. Ethan welcomed the new friends group and mentioned that while thinking of the successful relationships the City has with established groups, that they are looking forward to a good, successful collaboration with this new group as well. Anne expressed that the friction that was caused with the off leash dog walkers may cause friction between the group and the City at first. Each thanked the Commission for inviting them this evening.

#### **c. Communications/Updates**

##### **i. Strategic Planning Dates**

The Commission decided to hold a strategic planning meeting at 212 Canco Road Suite A on March 28th, 2020 from 9AM to 11:30AM to discuss what constitutes a Friends Groups, how best to guide that process, and how to involve the immigrant community more.

##### **ii. Portland Parks Conservancy Update**

Cynthia shared some projects that the Portland Parks Conservancy is working towards; including a pump track for bikes, an addition to the Riverton playground redesign, a sensory trail at Riverton, and an ongoing Youth Corp Group for disadvantaged youths.

*Nathan joined the meeting at 5:33PM.*

**iii. Joint Meeting with Historic Preservation regarding Western Promenade Master Plan Announcement**

January 9th, 2020 has been proposed for the joint meeting with Historic Preservation to review the Western Promenade Master Plan Draft, however it has not been finalized. Staff will confirm via email.

**iv. Longfellow Park Meeting Update -**

A public meeting in April has been proposed to discuss the lights and electricity in Longfellow Park. The Parks Commission will host. Our goal is to get to consensus and if we can't do that, compromise.

**v. Subcommittee Reports**

Outreach Subcommittee – They have been working on planning the upcoming Green Space Gathering May 6th at 5:30PM at Ocean Gateway. They currently have a good month by month plan. They have a list of potential speakers. The Commission would like the annual report available at the gathering in some form since it is the Commission's most comprehensive report of what they are doing throughout the year. The Commission is wondering if there was a way for the Land Bank Commission to co-host or speak as well. Jon will ask at the next meeting. Finally, they are hoping to have marketing completed earlier than last year to get a great turn out. They will work with Alli to complete that.

Park Initiative – They are working to create interpretive panels for Fort Gorges. The general plan is for the friends group to compile photographs, history and such. They would do two signs at Fort Gorges.

Finance – Were unable to meet this month.

Annual Report – The Annual Report is going to Council 12/16/2019.

**vi. Parks Report**

Alex shared the current winter operations of the parks division including but not limited to sidewalk plowing about one hundred miles of sidewalks designed around main arterials and school routes, the cutting down and decorating of the holiday tree in monument square, holiday decorations around City Hall, and maintaining the skating ponds and sledding hills.

Fall storm cleanup is ongoing. Stumps have been marked for removal. City will contract for 15 of the larger ones that caused sidewalk interference.