



In attendance: Commission Members: Chair Cynthia Loebenstein, Dory Waxman, Craig Lapine, Nathan Robbins, Colette Bouchard, Zack Anchors, Ana Lagunez and Marie Gray. City Staff: Sally DeLuca, Ethan Hipple and Alli Carroll.

City of Portland Parks Commission Minutes

September 19, 2019, 5:00 PM

Portland City Hall

389 Congress Street, Room 24

I. Agenda Items

a. Parks CIP Workshop - *This is a public meeting but closed to public comment*

Ethan Hipple went over the Parks Capital Improvement Plan Timeline and the process the City and the Department goes through in order to approve the CIP list.

The Parks Division shared this two-year (CIP 2020 and 2021) list in the last Parks Commission meeting on Thursday, September 5, 2019.

He discussed the Project Selection Criteria:

- Legal Obligations: Court orders, compliance with state or federal legislation
- Park Equity: 10-minute access to a park or trail, distribution between neighborhoods, populations served, islands, etc...
- Compliance with Adopted Plans and Studies: Match with city priorities
- Impact of Service to Public: Safety issues, improved service delivery
- Access: ADA access, facilities for diverse age groups
- Departmental or Community Priority: The project is important to a Departmental mission or community interest. Does the project meet a demonstrated need from the community?
- Funding Source: The project includes a match from grants, federal or state match, community fundraising
- Budget Impact: The project decreases operating expenses
- User Group: Does the project serve a diverse user group, or a particular user group that is not already well-served?
- Prior Phases: Projects that are a continuation of viable projects funded in past years.

What is awarded from this list will be given in April of 2020. This is the first year we are looking at a two-year process. The CIP process is extensive, so the City Manager is trying to be more efficient. City Council will only look at the first year. Next year, the Division will adjust the 2nd year if anything unforeseen happens between now and then and then present it to Council.

They discussed how the Commission and Conservancy work in conjecture to the CIP list. Cynthia explained that the Conservancy is looking at specific items such as Youth Corps, a pump track, a specific playground accessory to the ADA playground at Riverton Elementary School, an accessible trail at Riverton Elementary School and help with Fort Gorges. Cynthia will take the notes from this meeting and present it to them to keep the line of communication open.

Caitie asked for more clarification as to the percentage of this list that is serving lower income neighborhoods. Sally explained that this list isn't always an accurate representation of what projects are serving low income neighborhoods because they also receive funding through partnerships or grants. Staff compares what projects would qualify for Community Development Block Grants (CDBG) and what couldn't and needs to be on the CIP list. CDBG funds are highly competitive though. An example of a project that did receive CDBG funds this year was the futsal court at Fox Field. Marie asked if Portland Housing

Authority ever contributed any funding to projects happening in low income areas. Ethan said they have their own playgrounds they maintain but staff will look into a possible partnership.

CIP money never goes away. When council authorizes the bonds, they authorize the dollar amount. If a change occurs in the project in the same fiscal year, the CIP funds that were awarded then sometimes it can be fixed administratively, other times it would have to go back to Council for approval.

In June, Ethan asks for requests from Friends Groups. On the last page of the CIP list, he pointed out a few requests that were denied and their reasoning.

Commissioners asked how staff keeps track and learn from past projects. Staff reviews monthly where they are at with each project. They are hoping the new project manager will be able to keep track of past projects and hold a review process. Sally suggested that the Finance Subcommittee can also look through past CIP projects and the findings should be reflected in the annual report.

Commissioners asked about why the lavatories took priority in 2021 over the pond wall restoration work at Deering Oaks. Staff agrees that the pond wall is a priority and they have an evaluation for a construction project. It's a \$1 million project but the report staff has shows it isn't imminent but it is one of the higher priorities at Deering Oaks.

Eastern Prom Waterfront Access Project (EWAP) is on the 2020 year. \$250,000 would come from the City and \$125,000 from the State. This did not make it on the CIP copy the Parks Commission has but it is on Ethan Hipple's master copy.

They started discussing the potential picnic pavilions have in the parks. They are working on one right now in Deering Oaks that is privately funded. Eastern Promenade and Payson Park are other possible locations. They would be about 20 feet by 40 feet and hold up to 50 people. They cost \$50,000 for the pavilion, electric service, concrete slab, etc.

Lyseth Playground is most in need of repair and not eligible for CDBG. Now that the school is being done, this is the perfect amenity for it.

The Congress Street side of Lincoln Park Fence is also on the list. Caitie, Ana and Zack shared their concern for this project when it is such an expensive one. Due to the amount of money it requires and the criteria presented, it doesn't seem to be a high priority. Staff shared the historical side of this park.

Staff asked that the Commission take the rest of the month to consider the list. They will vote to recommend the CIP list in the October 3rd meeting.