



CITY OF PORTLAND

Parks Commission

In attendance: Commission Members Chair Dory Waxman, V.Chair Nathan Robbins, Councilor Brian Batson, Craig Lapine, Meri Lowry, Michael Mertaugh, Colette Bouchard, Zack Anchors, Amy Segal, Ana Lagunez and Marie Gray. City Staff Sally DeLuca, Matt Coleman, and Alli Carroll. In addition, Councilor Belinda Ray, Parks Conservancy Executive Director Nan Cumming, Friends of Deering Oaks President Anne Pringle, and member of the public George Rheault

Parks Commission Minutes

March 7, 2019 5:00 PM

Portland City Hall

389 Congress Street, Council Chambers

General Citizen Comment Period

George Rheault shared that the Historic Preservation Board and Friends of Deering Oaks held a workshop the day before at 5:00 PM. He noted the parks history and the Battle of Deering Oaks that occurred there about 250 years ago. Due to its importance, it would be appreciated if public meetings, such as this workshop, were held at a later time for those who leave work later than 5:00 PM.

George continued by explaining that Boyd Street Gardens was a scene of urban renewal. He shared documents of people recreating in the park before it was a park and a book "The Park and the People" by Roy Rosenzweig and Elizabeth Blackmar. With these, he explained the importance of people in the park. A road to no where is a silly idea; a park to no where is a silly idea. If there are no people in the parks, then the park is empty and there is no point.

Anne Pringle, President of the Friends of Deering Oaks Park explained that the workshop last night regarding park improvements was to put together a complete proposal before coming to the Parks Commission. They are expecting public input when it comes to the Commission.

Agenda Items

I. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: February 7, 2019

Michael moved to accept the meeting minutes of February 7, 2019. Meri seconded. Meri, Zack, Craig and Brian abstained. Motion passed with seven in favor.

II. New Business

a. Boyd Street Community Garden Councilor Belinda Ray

Belinda Ray, Councilor for District 1, presented a packet of her proposal to formalize the boundaries for Boyd Street Gardens. This space is part of Ordinance, Chapter 18 but the actual boundaries are not specified. She went through its history and how it got to be what it is today. She would like the Commission's recommendation to bring the proposal to City Council. Meri explained that the ordinance is sunsetting and an ad hoc committee is working with Michael Goldman of Corporation Counsel to propose changes to it. There was discussion on whether the vote to recommend this proposal should wait until the ordinance goes to

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Council. The Commissioners would like more time to review the proposal. The recommendation may be placed at next month's meeting.

b. Parks Conservancy

Nan Cumming, the Executive Director of Portland's Parks Conservancy, introduced herself and the Conservancy as a whole. She explained how they were created and that they are still in the process of setting themselves up as a nonprofit. They are still waiting for the 501c3 and are in the midst of creating a logo. She will be focusing on fundraising. There is no process set in place yet for public proposals. They have a max board of twenty-one members but only have thirteen right now but are actively recruiting. Their meetings are not public. Discussion was held regarding the Commission and Conservancy's relationship. Nan assured them they can expect open communication from the Conservancy. The Commission is very excited. They thanked Nan for coming and encouraged her to come to future meetings.

III. Communications/Updates

a. Ordinance Workshop Update

Michael Goldman is working on the ordinance. The ad hoc committee is planning to meet in the next two weeks. Hoping to have something to present to the Commission at the next meeting.

b. Committee Updates

Finance Subcommittee: The Commission discussed a suggestion from the last meeting regarding the purchase of donated craft items through the Love Portland platform. Craig and staff were very concerned with the potential commercialization and complications that could arise from this idea. Outright donation and not some kind of arrangement and could be very commercialized. The Commission discussed different avenues. Finance will schedule a meeting to discuss this further.

Outreach Subcommittee: They met on Monday. Amy shared the potential Green Space Gathering agenda with the Commission. She will schedule a meeting with staff to discuss fine details.

Annual Reporting Subcommittee: It was suggested that the ad hoc committee may want to modify the ordinance by making the annual report language less descriptive so that the Commission isn't tied to doing it annually. The Commission discussed doing an abbreviated report that highlights the last year's recommendations, Green Space Gathering, and ordinance.

c. Parks Updates

Matt shared a document with the Commission regarding projects happening in the Parks Division. He encouraged the Commission to sign up for the free Walk in the Park tour on April 27th, 2019.

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