



In attendance: Commission Members: Dory Waxman, Chair, Cynthia Loebenstein, Meri Lowry, Michael Mertaugh, Colette Bouchard, Zack Anchors, Craig Lapine, Nathan Robbins, Ana Lagunez and Marie Gray. City Staff: Ethan Hipple and Alli Carroll. Members of the Public: George Rheault, Liz Trice, Anne Pringle, Carol Schiller, Victoria Kinney.

Parks Commission Minutes
July 26, 2018
5:00 PM
Portland City Hall
389 Congress Street, Room 24

Dory began the meeting at 5:07 pm

I. General Citizen Comment Period

George Rheault encouraged the Commission to review what was funded in the past year and compare it to what was actually spent before making their CIP recommendation.

Victoria Kinney of the University Neighborhood Organization expressed Longfellow Parks need for lights and electricity for public safety and to support the events in the park.

II. Agenda Items (*public comment taken on action items only*)

a. Acceptance of June Meeting Minutes

Michael moved to accept the June meeting minutes. Cynthia seconded. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

b. New Business

i. Welcoming new Commission Members

Dory welcomed Ana and Marie to the Commission. The Commission went around the room and introduced themselves.

ii. CIP Request Presentations from Friends Groups and Neighborhood Associations

a. Friends of Deering Oaks

Anne Pringle expressed the history of the Friends of Deering Oaks and how they have raised \$750,000 in private funds to help improve the parks over the past 21 years. They are an effective partner with the City for improving the parks. Most recent was slight narrowing of State Street to improve safety. They are currently $\frac{3}{4}$ of the way through completing the Deering Oaks Park master plan. Their CIP priorities reflect the needs of the master plan. Top priority is replacing the 45-year-old light fixtures. Total estimated cost is \$400,000. Second priority would be to replace the porter potties. The finally, replacing the retaining wall. The current one is failing.

b. Friends of Bramhall Square

Liz Trice shared photographs over projection. The Friends of Bramhall Square held a contest for a new design for the park. They had 13 designers and 180 votes on the designs. The winner was WBRC Architects. The Friends of Bramhall Square's priority is for their redesign to be on the CIP list. The Commissioners expressed their opinions of the design. They wish it to be greener and have less hard surfaces. They were also wary of having a child's play area so close to the road. Ethan told the Commission that many of the Friends Groups/Neighborhood Association requests have been added to the Divisions 10-year plan.

c. University Neighborhood Organization

Carol Schiller prepared a document that was used as a script which is attached for reference.

c. Communications/Updates

i. Parks Conservancy

City Council approved the MOU and they will be posting the job ad for the Executive Director position.

ii. Subcommittee Updates

Finance Subcommittee: Alli has been working very hard to create the Gift Catalog through the City website.

Park Initiative Subcommittee: Have been working on signs for the Baxter Trail project. They will be meeting in a few weeks to work on the Evergreen Cemetery. This subcommittee needs new Commissioners since most of its members termed out.

Annual Report and Inventory Subcommittee: It is pertinent for them to get the final report done. Would like to have it on the next agenda. Will discuss it at the workshop and then vote in September.

iii. Nomination and vote on Commission Chair and Vice Chair

Craig moved to nominate Dory as Chair and Nathan as Vice Chair. Marie seconded. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

iv. Parks Division Updates

Eastern Promenade Trail was washed out today due to a sewage spill from the sewage treatment plant. Trail is closed for the time being. Target date is Wednesday to reopen. The contactor is optimistic that Wednesday is feasible. East End Beach is also closed. Two tests were done today and those tests will come back tomorrow.

July 10th microburst did a number on many parts of Portland. We lost 60 trees as a result. Crews are still taking care of the damage.

Opportunity Crew has started for the summer season.

Pianos in the Square is going very well. The community is loving the creativity and music they have brought to the Squares.

The Department has made an offer for a Parks Division Manager. If all goes well, they should be able to attend September's meeting.

Craig moved to adjourn the meeting. Michael seconded. Passed unanimously.