



In attendance: Commission Members: Dory Waxman, Jaime Parker, Craig Lapine, Cynthia Loebenstein, Meri Lowry, Michael Mertaugh, Nathan Robbins, Colette Bouchard, Zack Anchors and Amy Segal. City Staff: Ethan Hipple and Alli Carroll. Members of the public: Zack Barowitz and Nikki Anderson

Parks Commission Minutes

February 1, 2018

5:00 PM

Portland City Hall

389 Congress Street, Room 24

I. General Citizen Comment Period

Zack Barowitz and Nikki Anderson, Co-President's of the Libbytown Neighborhood Organization came to the Commission to discuss their Community Garden. They discussed their process and how they built partners with those in the community such as Cultivating Community and Troy Moon. Their goal was to create a gathering space for the community. Once it was funded they really canvased and found that there was a lot of interest in their goal. The City and Portland Trails helped support their efforts. Now they have a community garden, a food forest, and seating. They hold picnics, movie nights and other events. Their 40 plots are no-till, very rich, layered with organic materials, lasagna garden beds. The Commission is very impressed by their effort. Everyone thanked them for coming to share their story.

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

a. Acceptance of November Meeting Minutes

Dory motioned to accept the meeting minutes of November 2017. Michael moved, Cynthia seconded. Craig and Meri abstained. Passed with 8 in favor.

b. New Business

i. Pesticide Update

Ethan said that the Pesticide Ordinance will go into effect in July on City properties. Most of the City properties are already pesticide free. It will allow use for pest management, on the high use athletic facilities and Riverside Golf Course. The Department is happy with the Ordinance. There will be a cost to it but the Parks Division has asked for more money in the budget to help. They were very open with the Council about that, so they are aware it will cost more. Jaime asked what the retailers are going to and if they are going have some education on the subject. Troy Moon will be the point person for the public education campaign and reaching out to retailers.

c. Communications/Updates

i. Parks Conservancy – Ethan

First meeting was a couple weeks ago. Right now, they are hammering out the details for the MOU and hiring an executive director. After their six meetings, the Blue Sky Commission is over. Now the Parks Conservancy is a board. The Elliotsville Plantation gave the startup grant. The Parks Commission Chair and the Director of the Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities (in this case Sally DeLuca has designated Ethan Hipple to sit on the board in her place) each have a seat on the board. It is independent of the City. The next meeting is being held at the end of February. Ethan clarified that they are to be a funding source to improve the physical or recreation programs within the parks. It will not replace City funding.

ii. **Subcommittee Updates**

Parks Initiative: Cynthia said they had two meetings. With the help of David Little, Dick Anderson, Earl Shuttlewood, Herb Adams, and Jeff Tarling, they are going to make Baxter Trail educational. They have locations for each of the nine signs. March 7th is the next meeting to go over the specifics of the signs. Michael asked if they have reached out to the current Baxter heirs. Jeff Tarling will.

Finance: Michael said they had one meeting. Their goal is to update the gift catalog over the next several months. In addition, he mentioned reviewing the criteria for the review of the CIP candidates and how the Finance Subcommittee and coincide with the Annual Report Subcommittee.

Community Outreach: Zack said at the last Commission meeting they told everyone about the letter they drafted to stakeholders. They held off on sending it because they wanted to make sure that the contact list was up to date. The Commission then discussed possible Greenspace Gathering Dates. May 3rd, 2018 is what they have decided in lieu of the May meeting depending on space availability. Group hasn't spoken about format yet. Commissioners will send ideas to brainstorm.

Annual Report: Nate provided an outline to the group. They suggest to draft the annual report now and submit in April. It would be a report of what was done in the past year, what didn't get done and how to move forward. It will be the conversation starter. It will get them in line with CIP process. Many commissioners think this is a great idea. Michael urges the subcommittee to not feel like they have to redo the entire report. Amy asked about greenspace gathering and annual report. She suggested that it would give those who attend something to go home with and getting their responses would be helpful for the following annual report.

Dory praised the subcommittees for their fine work.

iii. **Parks Division Updates – Ethan**

Michael asked about the new title change for Ethan and the hiring of a Parks Manager. Ethan explained that he is now the Deputy Director for the Department of Parks, Recreation and Facilities. The Parks Manager will be doing parks management and overseeing the day to day operations. Ethan will oversee Parks and Recreation. Parks Commission expressed their desire to have Ethan stay with the Commission and congratulated him on this change in title.

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