



In attendance: Commission Members: Dory Waxman, Chair, Jaime Parker, Vice Chair, Councilor Belinda Ray, Carol Hutchins, Craig Lapine, Cynthia Loebenstein, Meri Lowry, Nathan Robbins, Chelsea Malacara, Colette Bouchard, and Zack Anchors. Staff: Sally DeLuca, Ethan Hipple, Alli Carroll, and Jerimiah Bartlett. Members of the public: George Rheault, Jay Gorham, Carol Schillar, Susan Kierstead, Pamela Martin, Pamela Shaw, Olivia Dawson and William Savage of Acorn Engineering, and

PARKS COMMISSION MINUTES

SEPTEMBER 7, 2017

I. GENERAL CITIZEN COMMENT PERIOD

Pamela Martin began the public comment by expressing her history and love for Libbytown. She greatly desires improvements for Dougherty Field and playground. Her children grew up there and wants other children to have opportunities to play and enjoy such a great neighborhood.

Susan Kierstead, a woman of the Portland Assisted Living Center and using a wheelchair, spoke next. She expressed a moment where she had gotten stuck while crossing the park and had to be pushed out. Susan expressed her need for the park to be ADA accessible. She also hoped that there could be a slab of concrete next to benches so that wheelchair users can sit next to those sitting on the benches. Even lighting could be useful when passing through at night as street lights are not enough.

Jay Gorham, the President of the Friends of Fort Sumner, expressed their love to be good neighbors. They are a newly formed group. Finally, they are looking forward to working with developers of Sheridan Street to minimize the impact on the view.

George Rheault finished the citizen comment period. He suggested again an email for the Commission. In addition, he read over Ethan's Park Overview. He questioned where the money for Cousins Memorial had come from CIP or another budget. He suggested the resurfacing projects to wait until spring so that they don't have to endure the winter elements soon after. Finally, on the CIP process. Thinks it's great that staff are including Friends Groups and Neighborhood Associations but they do not represent the entire public. It should be opened up to the public.



II. AGENDA ITEMS

a. ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING MINUTES JULY 6, 2017

Councilor Ray motioned to accept the minutes of the July 6, 2017 meeting. Jaime seconded.

Councilor Ray asked for future minutes to be broken up more so that they are able to be more easily read. Zack referred to the last page, about Fort Gorges, second to last paragraph.

Proposed a change to suggest that access to events have been cut off at Fort Gorges, not access in its entirety. Finally, Meri stated that she was not at the meeting even though the minutes mentioned her. That part will be removed.

Dory asked all in favor. Nine in favor. Meri and Craig abstained.

b. ACCEPTANCE OF MEETING MINUTES AUGUST 3, 2017

Councilor Ray motioned to accept the meeting minutes of August 3, 2017. Craig seconded.

Passed unanimously.

c. NEW BUSINESS

i. USM PORTLAND ROUNDABOUT PROJECT – BEDFORD PARK

Jeremiah Bartlett of the Department of Public Works presented. This project is regarding the roundabout at Bedford street. The main benefit of the smaller roundabout at Bedford would be to improve traffic flow and prohibit left turns. By doing that they reduced impact to USM properties and impact Bedford Park by 2,400 feet. Public Works has started engaging the University and Jeff Tarling, City Arborist, for landscaping. Within the next month they will have a good drafts and idea for roles and responsibilities for each entity.

Jaime is curious about the intersection of Bedford and Deering being signalized. Jeremiah said it will not. It will just have a sign prohibiting left turns. Jaime then asked about the plan for the existing road and adjacent parking lot. Jeremiah confirmed that that land will be given to the University. Jeremiah and Sally explained that when the park was conveyed via deed to the City from the family one of the acceptable impacts to the park would be for widening for roadway purposes. That being said it is still important to lessen the impacts to the park.

Cynthia wondered what the intent for bicycle traffic would be. Jeremiah said for single lane roundabouts what is recommended is for bicycles and cars share the lane. This roundabout will be 17-20 mph. Another option would be to utilize the sidewalks because they will be widened significantly.



Craig wondered if the park would become part of the University. Jeremiah said that wouldn't be the case.

Meri thanked Jeremiah for coming today and for the update. Was a very great update.

Councilor Ray showed concerns about a public road becoming University property. Jeremiah said it was part of the agreement with the University and that Traffic is okay with it. Cynthia asked if it was possible for them to make that land into a building. Jeremiah said that they would have to go through a lot of approvals in order for that to happen but he is meeting with them in a couple weeks and will make their concerns known.

Everyone thanked Jeremiah for the update. Sally confirmed that she would continue to update the Commission on the process of this project as the Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department will be working closely with the Public Works Department on this.

ii. 155 SHERIDAN STREET – ACORN ENGINEERING

Now that they have received public input, Olivia Dawson and William Savage from Acorn Engineering and Ryan Senatore from Senatore Architecture came to present their updated proposal for 155 Sheridan Street. This is located under the R6 Zone and within 200 feet of the apex, which is at the view point of Fort Sumner Park. The apex is at an elevation of 160'-3 1/4" and radiates out to drop one foot every twenty-five feet. Thirty percent of the site will remain landscape which exceeds the minimal requirement of twenty percent. They continuously expressed that they kept Fort Sumner Park and its view in mind when creating these updates. The gate to Fort Sumner Park and fence will even be suppressed down so that it is below that view shed. Even the parking garage on the first level will be slightly suppressed. Mentioned that they had a very successful meeting with the public and the Friends of Fort Sumner Park on June 21, 2017. Then had a Planning Board meeting on July 11, 2017 and there were some items brought up that they had responded to. Other updates include raised planting beds on the front of the building, consideration of street trees on the front of the site, vines along the pile and lag retaining wall that will be made of wood. Finally, the green roof. It will have storm water aspects and the storm water storage will be in the subsurface storm water BMP. They have increased the design of the green roof. Neighbors have expressed a down to earth feel, so right now, they are looking at extensive modular green roof systems. After speaking with the Parks Division and Planning Board they consider extending the meadow feel that Fort Sumner is. The gate to Fort Sumner Park will architectural, painted, aluminum fence; not chain-link.



Jaime expressed interest in the completion of the 200 linear feet of sidewalk adjacent to the site and cross walk from Fort Sumner to Marion Street to meet a trail that goes down towards Washington Street. William said that it has been discussed. There are limited funds. If it is a recommendation then they would have to take it more into consideration.

Dory motioned to support the 155 Sheridan Street Redevelopment Project in concept with the suggestion to complete the 200 linear feet of sidewalk abutting the property and crosswalk to Marion Street. Jaime moved, Cynthia seconded. Passed unanimously.

iii. **FRIENDS & COMMUNITY PARTNERS CIP REQUESTS AND WORKSHOP DATE**

Sally expressed that the Department's deadline for the CIP is at the end of September. So, we have invited the Friends Groups to this meeting to make known their desires and then the Parks Commission will have a workshop. The Parks Commission will allow five minutes per representative to speak.

Pamela Shaw with the West End Neighborhood Association began regarding Harbor View Park. It's a great connector between West End and Commercial Street but the area under the bridge is dark and scary. Lighting would make it easier to pass through. She also requested to put stairs in from Chestnut Meadow to Commercial Street. Another, is to resurface the steps where the concrete facing is flaking off. She suggested granite facing instead. Finally, she said a lot of people would get use out of exercise equipment if they were put periodically throughout the park. Pamela thanked the Commission for listening and to Ethan and his crew for continuously taking care of the park's graffiti.

Carol Schillar, a resident on Longfellow Street for twenty-seven years spoke next. She helped create the University Neighborhood Association which created a bridge between her neighborhood and the University students by using Longfellow Park. Carol has worked very hard to advocate and improve Longfellow Park. For the past five years, she has held an annual park cleanup. Then held a neighborhood block party. More people came back to the park because of these events. In 2015, she gave a proposal to the Parks Commission to help improve the walkways in the park. At the time, the Commission chose not to do that. People Bob Leeman, before he retired, redid the walkways in Longfellow Park. She is requesting a round patio in the middle of the park, to bring the electricity back, to be included in the City LED Plan. She then left a petition, letters and other information with Dory and thanked the Commission for listening.

Pamela Martin stood up again and apologized for speaking earlier. She was not aware of the process. She would just like to reiterate her wishes for Dougherty Field and



Playground improvements. She graciously asked for whatever the Division could do to help the field and families there. Thank you.

Dory explained to the Commission that a workshop will be held. Public comment will not be allowed. The date will be Tuesday, September 19, 2017 at 5:30 PM in room 24 at City Hall.

d. COMMUNICATIONS/UPDATES

i. PORTLAND LANDING UPDATE – ETHAN

Due to the new members, Alli projected images of the Portland Landing project.

Ethan said that the Portland Landing is a conceptual design right now. Waiting on a phasing budget from Stantec. Presented it to the Economic Development Committee, they perceived it very well. We discussed the price tag of \$16 million. Could go as high as \$20 million. There is a lot in the project that is infrastructure stuff. This year there is another \$300,000 to take the design to the next step. There will be more public process along the way.

In the meantime, we want to start thinking of that space as a park and presenting it partially as a park. So, we will be doing a temporary design of a “Pop-Up Park”. It is an exciting opportunity to bring that site to life.

ii. MONTHLY PARKS REPORT – ETHAN

Meri asked for part of the Parks Report to be permanently dedicated to the Blue Sky Commission. Sally and Ethan said it will be.

Dory asked that we respond to Ethan’s report personally since we are over our time. Ethan, however, took a moment to highlight the SCA Crew work. Jaime said that they had two great leaders and they were super motivated group of high school students.

Dory said last night was the first meeting of the Blue Sky Commission. Sally is a member. Sally apologized to the Commission for getting the notice of that meeting out late. The meeting was basically for getting to know each other and to figure out where we are going. We talked about the Parks Division, Land Bank Commission and the Parks Commission. They invited Ethan and Dory to come to the next meeting. All members have expertise in public private partnerships. The City is still in charge of maintenance and care of the Parks. The Conservancy would go up and beyond that.

The meeting came to an end at 7:00 PM.