



In attendance: Commission Members: Carol Hutchins, Cynthia Loebenstein, Dory Waxman, Chair, Jaime Parker, Vice Chair, Nathan Robbins, Chelsea Malacara, Colette Bouchard, Amy Segal, Zack Anchors and Councilor Belinda Ray. Staff members: Sally DeLuca, Ethan Hipple and Alli Carroll.

Parks Commission Minutes

July 6, 2017

5 PM

City Hall ~ 389 Congress Street ~ Room 24

Dory called the meeting at 5:05PM

I. General Citizen Comment Period

No public comment at this time.

II. Introductions

Dory asked everyone in the Commission to introduce themselves as this was the first public meeting with the new members. Meri began by stating that she independent civic & social organization professional, currently serving on five state and local commissions and boards of directors. She loves living in Portland. Carol mentioned that she has lived in Portland for fourteen years. She is employed at the Dow house, and is an active member for the Friends of Deering Oaks. Nathan has been in Portland for four and a half years now and loves it. He worked in Parks and Recreation for ten years and values the role the parks play and how essential they are to the community. Chelsea has lived in Portland for four years and has spent six years in Parks and Recreation. She was also a member of the Student Conservation Association and loves green spaces. Colette has lived in Portland for more than thirty years. Parks are a big part of life here and values them very much. Colette was also involved in the planning and creation of the Bayside Trail. Ethan stated that he is the Parks Director. He has been with the City for about a year and a half and loves his job. Sally is the Parks, Recreation & Facilities Director. She handles a fifteen-million-dollar operating budget. The Department handles the waterfront, parks, playgrounds, public facilities, city facilities maintenance, and public recreation events. The Parks Commission tends to oversee parks and recreation. Since Ethan has been with the City, the Department has done more recreation in parks. Also, Sally is third generation Portlander from Munjoy Hill. Dory has lived in Portland for thirty years. She moved down from Camden and Appleton, Maine. She has been involved in a lot in Portland including the schoolboard. She raised family here; Children and grandchildren. Finally, she is a business owner of a textile company. Alli is the Executive Assistant for the Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities. She is mainly Sally's assistant and handles all paperwork, minutes and agendas for the Commission. Amy has lived in Portland for twenty-five years. Her husband grew up here. She is a landscape architect who has worked with the City for a long time. She is very happy to join this Commission and to be able to meet everyone on deeper level. Councilor Ray mentioned that she was not only appointed to this Commission, she specifically asked to be here. She has been in Portland for twenty-five years and raised two children here. Her favorite thing about Portland is how connected it is through green spaces. Jaime is with Portland Trails. He has lived in Portland for ten years and is raising two children in Portland Schools. He stated that his family's lives are enriched by the parks, trails and great people of Portland. Cynthia has lived in Portland for thirty-five years and has raised two children here. She is a practicing architect and the representative of the Friends of Evergreen. She is an avid user of parks, including: paddle boarding at Eastern Prom, hiking, tennis at Payson Park, etc. Zack stated that he is the Eastern Prom representative. He has lived in Portland for twelve years. Eastern Prom, Munjoy Hill and City parks drew him here. He enjoys Casco Bay and paddle boarding and kayaking at East End. Finally, Dory stated how lucky we are as a Commission to have such well-rounded, park loving members.

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

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes June 1, 2017

Dory said that we need a motion to accept the meeting minutes of June 1, 2017. Jaime moved to accept the minutes. Belinda seconded. All in favor. Passed unanimously.



b. New Business

Dory said that Acom Engineering is here for a brief presentation regarding the 155 Sheridan Redevelopment Project and introduced Olivia Dawson, Project Engineer. Olivia thanked Alli for getting the word to the Commission so that they can present today. She stated that they had received a lot of public feedback and have revised their plan. This is right next to Fort Sumner Park, by Washington Avenue and right in the midst of everything, so they are really trying to keep the public happy.

Olivia introduced Architect, Ryan Senatore. He said that they originally had a taller building, so they reduced the height so it doesn't block the view. This will be a nineteen unit, for sale condo building. First floor will be covered garage. 1:1 ratio. Then there will be three levels of residential above that. The facade is articulated and broken up to give it real character and texture. It is set back five feet from the property line and greenery will be in front.

Ryan continued to discuss the roof that they are planning to cover with greenery. There will be retaining walls because of the slight slope. There will also be nice exterior patios for the view. On top of the retaining wall, there will be a transparent fence for safety. In the packets provided to the Commissioners they will find material information, elevations, etc. Jaime thanked Olivia and Ryan for the presentation, however, he is curious about the sidewalk by Fort Sumner Park. He asked if they are required to complete the sidewalk; there is a missing sidewalk piece and he is hoping it is part of this project. Ryan said he is not sure. Nathan asked how a green roof came into the design. Ryan said that they thought it would be nicer to look at than just a roof. Storm water subsurface sand surface. Outlining. Won't be contributing. Amy asked how they are treating the retaining wall. Ryan replied that is will be a pile and lagging retaining wall, so there is no treatment at this time. Councilor Ray asked if the green roof is designed as a hangout space. Ryan said it was not. Jaime said that the greenery looks like a lot of one thing, have they done other renderings with other plantings. Ryan said at this point it is pretty neutral and uniform. Councilor Ray and Jaime suggested a pollinator garden to help with nature.

In addition, Jaime is worried the garage would look dead to the street. It is directly adjacent to the steps that come to the park. He asked Ryan and Olivia to please think about how it would contribute to the park. Amy was curious of how the maintenance to the roof would be handled. Would it be contracted? Ryan said that it would be contracted. Olivia added that an operation and maintenance plan will be part of their submission to the City. Olivia will forward Alli more information. A member of the public wished to make a public comment. Ethan said that it would be best to make public comment at the September meeting. Acom Engineering still had to go to Planning and then back to the Parks Commission for a vote. The Commission continued by thanking Olivia and Ryan for presenting.

IV. Communications/Updates

a. Flash Drives

Alli had put together a flash drive for each Commission Member that contained the last year's agendas and minutes, annual reports, the inventory list, CIP, rules, ordinances, and contact lists. Staff thought it was appropriate due to the fact that the Commission had four new members. Everyone was very thankful for this information.

Dory then announced that she would like, in the next few weeks, to discuss subcommittees with the new members. She encouraged them to look at the descriptions and decide where they would like to focus their energy.

Councilor Ray excused herself.

b. Monthly Parks Report

Ethan began by describing the highlights from the month. Had public meetings with skateboarding community and they went really well. Had about forty - sixty members of the public at each meeting. Have preliminary design for the skatepark expansion right now and are creating a committee to help us fundraise and move forward. Hoping to raise \$100,000 privately. We are encouraging skaters and younger generations on committee but are really looking for people with fundraising experience.

Forestry has planted one hundred fifty trees city wide. In addition to that they did thirty at Evergreen Cemetery.



Walk in the Parks Series; On August 13th, the Division will be holding a slow bike ride through Portland park history. Should be a lot of fun. All details are online. In Deering Oaks, we have a Park and Play program. Sally added that the School Department is providing lunches and they are receiving great feedback regarding the program. Ethan said that they had redone the Deering Oaks playground and poured the water feature. They will be having a grand opening.

Cynthia said that everything sounds terrific. She brought up an area of Evergreen Cemetery that has been cleared. Friends of Evergreen has received a lot of calls from worried members of the public that ask if we are adding parking. Ethan said that this is a misconception. The whole area is not going to be parking. Trees will be planted in the fall and then it will be reseeded. Basically it will be a wildlife habitat. There will be a shoulder on the side of the road. Amy asked if they have planted new trees in front of that. Ethan confirmed that they have. Cynthia asked how many parking spots will be available on the shoulder. Ethan said it should fit three to four cars. Amy said that the area looks very artificial but some more sculpting might make it a pretty cool space. It's an interesting raised up area. Ethan said that it is just restoration right now but this idea is a possibility for the future.

Jaime asked if the CIP requests were due tomorrow. Sally said that it got extended. Jaime asked if they had received a lot of input. Ethan said that they had and then proceeded to describe the CIP process to new commissioners. Dory brought up the idea of a workshop in the fall since they have moved the Green Space Gathering to spring. In the fall, we could do a workshop off peninsula with Friends Groups and come and listen to them. Nathan agrees and likes the idea a lot. Sally said that they did not have a lot of time to discuss the CIP. This year there will be more time for recommendations from Friends Groups and the Parks Commission. Ethan said that the workshop should be in September for timing reasons.

Dory suggested an orientation in August. Bus ride tour with Ethan and Sally to explore many of our parks and current projects.

Zack asked what the status of Fort Gorges was. Where will future closed dates be posted? Ethan said everywhere: Facebook, newspapers, website and twitter. Sal said the friends group is very excited. She proceeded to assure the Commission that they are not opening it up for public access until it is safe. They don't even have bathroom access right now.

Dory asked if Lincoln Park is on time. Ethan said it is at least two weeks late due to weather, they ran into ledge and pieces were backordered.

V. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

Dory asked if there were any requests for the next agenda. Cynthia said Amethyst Lot. Dory said there was no new news. She then proceeded to ask the Commission if they could be flexible and have the meetings go longer than an hour and a half. Jaime likes the idea of flexibility but wishes the Commission to take all votes before 6:30pm in case anyone has to leave.

Nathan added that he would like to make the agenda notice regarding the public comment period a little friendlier. He would also like to move the mission to the top and public comment at bottom. He will send what he drafted to everyone. Finally, Nathan thought it might be a good idea to create a letter of support for the pilot and future growth of the Opportunity Crew program. It does so much good. He would be happy to draft it. Others thought it to be a good idea. Dory said let's think about it.

Dory called the meeting to a close. Nathan moved to end the meeting. Colette seconded. All in favor? Passed unanimously.