

Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
September 1, 2016

Attendees: Cynthia Loebenstein, Michael Mertaugh, Diane Davison, Ethan Hipple, Sally DeLuca, Steve Morganstern, Craig Lapine, Dory Waxman, Jaime Parker, Meri Lowry, Nathan Robbins, Laurie Mondor.

Citizen Comment: None

Minutes: A motion to accept the minutes was made by Michael; all in favor.

Communications/Updates: Michael questioned what pickleball was which Ethan gave brief description and said it was a very popular activity. Diane questioned Ethan if the mowing schedule had been altered due to the drought conditions. He responded yes they are stretching out mowing. Cynthia questioned about the Baxter Woods project which Ethan stated was on hold for now. They are reviewing the deed and are confirming about cutting trees even if they are invasive. Sally said we are looking at this with our legal staff. Dory mentioned that it is wonderful to see Capisic Pond being taken care of. Ethan stated that the turtles were brought to Evergreen Pond. Rob Mattes, Recreation Director, stated that he is branching out a little bit. Before and After program going off fairly smooth. The recreational book should be out in mail. He is excited about reintroducing festivals. He is currently working on a haunted house for this Halloween, haunting City Hall. He is looking to get recreation back into more community based programs and festivals. Looking to create a tale of something from Portland's past to incorporate into this. A date has not been set as of yet.

155 Sheridan Street – Diane and Ethan have spoken with Tom. At this point we will just wait to see what the plans are. Meri stated that her view is that PC and LB do not have a role in this unless it is one of our properties or in this case where it interferes with one of our properties. Parks Commission is becoming part of the pre-application process and we are being notified. This is how this property was put on our radar. Nothing has been submitted to the city yet on this. Michael questioned if PC could initiate another take on the view protection through an ordinance. PC could purpose an ordinance change and this would be a good catalyst for this. Meri stated that she believes in development around parks and that this is vital. Diane asked if someone would have time to pursue how to do an ordinance. Jaime stated that the first step is to look at what is in place in ordinance right now, explore the tools we have already. Meri's personal opinion "where is appropriate for the Parks Commission for a developer to get approval from the City" limited role of PC. Section 18-2, Diane read this for everyone. Order is that the city shall retain. There is a master plan for Fort Sumner. There is also language in the subdivision in the code where it states it has to protect scenic views. Diane TBC list and definitely keep everyone in the loop.

GSG – electronic letter did go out. Dory has food vendor people that are looking to provide for this event. Lincoln Park will be honored. Everything else is pretty much what we have discussed. Jaime asked if there will be another facilitated discussion or just more informal circulation/discussions. Rick Knowland is going to be the keynote speaker, according to Dory. We are trying to get as many friends groups and parks groups so that they can be connected as a whole, Dory said. Jaime is wondering if it might make sense to give each two minutes; each neighborhood organization and friends groups. Nathan said that the general idea was to get people talking. Jaime if they have two minutes to give highlights this might get more discussions going. Nathan, yes that sounds great. They should be encouraged to highlight something they have coming up so this might help people partner up. Cynthia stated we should do updates first then people can mill around after so that if something sparked their interest so they can then discuss. Diane, wondering if it would be helpful to give groups that want to present, a window, what are you currently working on and what obstacles that people in this room can help you with. This way they can contain, gives similarities and what differences are. We are going to adopt the friends and community partners that night. Steve what are you doing to publicize this? General public would be good to get. Cynthia maybe a mail chimp? Ethan Hipple said it will go out in his newsletter which goes to around 7,000 people. Nathan stated that he is unsure how to “drum it up” so if anyone has ideas he welcomes them. It was agreed we will all share and get the word out. Food will be provided at this event. Steve asked if the Park Ranger has been asked to speak and was answered that we will ask her to be there. Cynthia heard at a meeting that the City is making map. Craig mentioned that he thought Tuck had it. Cynthia thought it was be great for it to be there. We are asking Tuck to come to GSG with this. Speakers will be, Diane and the City Manager has confirmed. Dory meeting with him next week. Diane questioned about set up and planning on our part. Dory will email specifics. Cynthia suggested that you might want to warn people how long they have to speak. Lincoln Park: Frank and Sharon are being recognized by greater Portland Landmarks.

Park Initiatives: Steve said he has no markups. These have been designed and we have tweaked. There are a few different types for historic and non-historic parks. Icons on bottom to highlight what the park offers. Have not done anything with regulatory signs. Going to work with Deb Andrews to make sure everything in historic parks fits. Working with legal as well. Next we will finish tweaking and going on to the regulatory signs. Steve question what materials are going to be the longest lasting and not super expensive. We are looking for durable and to give us at least 10 years. Ethan stated that they are also making smaller template too for smaller parks as well. Diane asked if we are sharing at GSG. Steve yes it would be nice if we have mockups. Jaime stated that he liked the idea of historic approved and something maybe less historic for other parks. We would like to keep the cost down but if city ever had a dept that could make signs it would be great. He mentioned that he is not a fan of icons and Portland trails have gotten away from this as arbitrary. Steve stated that we are staying away from dogs. Main questions are dogs, ski, walk, etc. Cynthia stated that people do not always know what is allowed so it would be nice to have them. Jaime said it adds to the cost to add all of these icons. Steve said we are willing to look at this and take off any that do not seem necessary. Cynthia also mentioned that icons are great for people do not speak English.

Diane questioned regarding a no smoking icon. Ethan stated that these are not regulatory signs. These will be simple, regulatory signs.

Friends and Community Partners handbook – Diane would like talk about this at the GSG. Diane asked if there are any other changes or are we are good? She then asked if this should go out with one of the reminders? It was agreed to unveil this at the GSG. Sally did say we can make changes over the years as needed. Meri said that she sees this as an invitation to partner. Nathan says this is the way he is receiving this. Diane said it is a guide.

Finance Committee: Michael stated they are looking for supplementary finance and points out where they have been used capital improvement. Michael stated that there is nothing in the PC ordinance about making recommendations. Should we be making recommendation on discretionary fund? Do we feel appropriate to recommend continuation of the discretionary budget that we got once as we were able to put that to good use. Meri stated that there was a specific reason why that money was given to us and that was two years ago. Dory stated that putting a number in there is not a good idea but we do want to be considered for some discretionary money. Cynthia and Meri questioned where the money comes from and were answered that it is in the park budget. Michael was going to mention that Land Bank and public art committee have dedicated budges and we do not and this is potentially a problem. A “slush fund” to help out at last minute on a few things that were urgent and needed to be done would be good. PC does have responsibilities that have cost to them. A small amount annually for activities that arise of an urgent nature has been useful in the past. This did come from the city manager at that time, two years ago. Cynthia wants to say she agrees with Michael, it would be nice to have a budget for our work. Jaime agrees as well. It was discussed that the annual report was a good opportunity to say what our priorities are and request some funding/discretionary funds to do something useful. Sally stated that when we received money previously it was not used for what was said in the past; Parks and Recreation Dept was the solution. We put the things that the money in the past was used for in that budget. The city manager sees that as a one-time deal. In the next budget process Sally and Ethan are looking ahead for the things we need and are talking about this. She is nervous about commission asking for funding when she and Ethan are looking at this for the budget. Michael stated that we will wait and see and keep an eye on this. If city manager does not approve budget, then commission to move forward. Sally stated that was perfectly appropriate to put what commission is recommending in the report. She stated that the Commission asking for the money could make look like competing or double dipping. Sally stated that her and Ethan’s job is to listen to what the commission wants. Michael will redraft the report. Meri then asked if we have more to discuss about annual report? She stated that she is disappointed with no forward movement on this. She has a general concern that there is confusion happening. There should be a list of LB and parks holdings. The memo that was sent out was meant to insight discussion. She found the list amazing. It mentions 32 parks in the ordinance. Then there are 32 parks in registry. Then there are 30 more parks that call themselves parks. There are open spaces that are not identified as parks or Land Bank. Open space vision published had confusion itself between Land Bank proprieties as parks. Meri states that she is looking forward to

meeting with Ethan Hipple and Doug Roncarati and whoever else is interested. She will send out an email to schedule this. Jaime stated that he would be interested in this too. Ethan stated once we have established inventory this would require update of ordinance. Meri does not believe that this would happen. She believes that we would not be likely to go to city council and get them on the LB registry too. Meri believes the way it works is you can only develop a LB registered property if there is a consensus among 7 city councilors and parks 6 city councilors. It was agreed that this is correct on the voting. Diane stated yes but for our inventory this is needed.

Meri wants to mention at last meeting, Lori Paulette came with an easement issue on a on LB property. Meri is concerned about process. The process should be PC before LB and LB had approved this already.

Michael had a finance question regarding criteria and when PC gets to see the CIP list. Sally said October/November. Michael stated if it is October the finance committee will have a meeting before Nov to discuss criteria.

New business: Advance work done by USM for LB. Last week published top of the line local and state section a rough out of USM goals, dreams and master plan. Bedford Park disappeared and Bedford St gone. Bedford park is a park, November discussion. Second park also going to be impacted by this plan? Revisit this for November. This was brought up a year ago. We did give favorable last year. We did not discuss master plan for USM, so yes worth taking a look out. Ethan will reach out to planning.

Other comments, none.

Dory moved to adjourn, Steven seconded and all in favor