

**Parks Commission
Meeting Minutes
July 7, 2016**

Attendees: Dory Waxman, Meri Lowry, Cynthia Loebenstein, Belinda Ray, Travis Wagner, Ethan Hipple, Laurie Mondor

Citizen Comment: None

New Business: None

Communications: Ethan briefly went over the Parks responsibilities between Parks and Public Works. They are continuing to help with a lot of things but are seeking support and funding to hire seasonal positions so they can keep the vision and hope of the department. He went over some upcoming projects: Dougherty Field, Fort Gorges with Army Corps of Engineers who are going to start doing an assessment and hire a contractor to come in and do survey work. Railings, gait and fencing is what they are focusing on. It will still be open to the public. Army Corps plan does not include a dock. This would have to be done through either the City or Friends of Fort Gorges. We need to repair the wharf that is there and are working with the Friends of Fort Gorges. Amethyst lot is ongoing and developing the program division for this. This will be an RFP going out this summer. Funding is in the budget. A selection committee has been set up for this including Ethan Hipple, Bill Needleman and Sally DeLuca. Cynthia asked what about Parks Commission and Ethan said yes eventually it will come before the commission. Cynthia is hoping to put this to a bigger scale.

A pesticides task force has been created and Ethan is working with them on a current plan.

He has had a tour of the islands and will developing plan to include in future CIP. Belinda mentioned that Peaks Island was very excited that they had visited the island.

Ethan mentioned a bike coalition for future ideas.

A supervisory Ranger has been hired. Ethan believes rangers are a key to keeping the parks and hopes to hire more in future. Cynthia mentioned that Conservation Corps might be a possibility to tap into for rangers.

Ethan just signed a contract with Americorps to come in work with some of our existing trails. Ethan would like in the future to involve high school kids to get them involved with parks and maintenance. He is hoping to look at this in the fall.

Tiqa is now open for business.

Lincoln park walkways: landscape architect has been hired and will be starting in the fall.

There is a skate park even tomorrow with a pump track demonstration. Pump track is a continuous loop track. In the next few years we are looking to expand the skate park at the current site. Looking to improve the flow there, this is a very popular park and well used. Dory asked where we were in the phase for Douglas St. and it was agreed to talk regarding this at a future meeting.

Picnic tables; working on getting more. This is a common request. Metal table with mesh top, fairly attractive, black. Getting a batch of 6 to test these out.

Unfinished Business: Signage – Cynthia stated that they are working with Mike King and have a date next Tuesday to look at five parks. Ethan has made arrangements with the friends group. Plan is to try to locate where the signs are going to be. Meri asking about the funding update which Cynthia answered is \$1,500 for the design. Trying to work off the current city template.

Green Space Gathering – not able to meet as they had hoped. Dory motioned to table. She will get this to everyone tomorrow. Nathan and Dory met and went over briefly the location. Meeting again with staff next week and then will get something out then. Meri questioned if Dory would like a Land Bank member and Dory said yes that she would like this. Meri will mention this to Land Bank. Cynthia questioned about a speaker and Dory questioned if we possibly want to go with a local speaker. Fundraising for the parks was brought up by Dory with public-private partnerships and she is thinking of a winter party with a guest speaker being a thought. She is hoping to keep the Green Space Gathering focused on children in the parks; grass roots and grounded. Cynthia said also last year something was mentioned about a golf fundraiser and that fell through so wondering where that stood; will bring up to Sally.

Annual Report – Travis wanted to highlight that we are behind on this. A draft should have been done by now. Not sure if we will have this by August. We do have a good sense of what we need to do but data will take some time. He would like to ask each committee member to do a paragraph of what we are doing, subcommittee chair to do this and what they are thinking in terms of finance. First page of report develop inventory, signage and partnerships. Pressing needs over the next year but would like to get endorsement that this is what the commission agrees. Would like to get photographs of the parks from staff and commissioners and put them throughout the report also from various friends group which may be included to the annual report. Would like a clear definition of parks for future reference. Meri stated that the ordinance lists 34 parks. Portland Open Space Vision and implantation plan has inconsistencies between what she understands to be parks and to be Land Bank properties. There is a third source, June 2014 produced by public services and she was cautioned by Doug who knows that there are a couple of incorrect things on that. The map should not be considered final. Meri mentioned another 17 other properties that are called/referred to parks and are not part of the ordinance. Doug said they were not planned to be part of the ordinance. Ordinance does offer some protection from future sale. Ethan stated that Ace Ballfield city does feel this is a park and we do maintain. Deering High School, Ethan said that the maps he has

seen the green space is known as Presumpscot Park which is listed in titular parks. Travis stated this is where the problem is, everyone has different feelings. Travis said that this will take a solid year to clarify and this is important since we have an ordinance to protect these spaces/parks. Travis still believes it will take some council action. Ethan stated he would like to work with Meri on this. Ethan conflicting ordinance on a lot of properties.

Steve Leighton with of Friends of Oakdale wanted to know about friends and community partners. He was told that we are trying to come up with a list of all Friends of parks. Ethan stated that part of creating the list is also creating guidelines of entering into memorandums with these groups and across the spectrum to association of neighbors. Providing resources for people who want to start a Friends of a park, what are the steps.

Dory motion to adjourn, Belinda so moved all agreed.