

PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, December 3, 2015
City Hall ~ Room 24
5:00 p.m.

Attendees: Steve Morgenstein, Dory Waxman, Nathan Robbins, Councilor Jon Hinck, Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam, Rick Knowland, Cynthia Loebenstein, Diane Davison, Jaime Parker, Craig Lapine

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes – November 2015

A motion was made by Dory Waxman accept the meeting minutes. Motion seconded by Jaime Parker Motion passed 6-0.

New Business

Amethyst Lot- This item will be discussed at January's meeting.

Unfinished Business

2016 CIP Discussion – Troy Moon started the CIP discussion by showing a slideshow of other areas within the city's park system that need work to be done. These areas are Deering Oaks – Clean and repoint pillars; Redo plaza across from Castle. Evergreen Cemetery – Repair and upgrade cremation garden; Wall on Stevens Avenue at New Street. Lincoln Park – Fence repairs; Walkway repairs. Martin's Point – Create fishing platform and hand launch site. Ocean Avenue Dog Park – Fence repair and replacement. Along with repair retaining wall on Valley Street (across from Barber Foods).

The Commission took public comment on CIP topics that were submitted at November's meeting.

Laurie Davis, Secretary, Woodfords Oakdale Neighborhood Association – Asked that the Commission not move forward with the request for Longfellow Park. Would like to have them work with them on a Master Plan for the park.

Katie Mahoney, Portland Resident- Wanted to say ditto to what Laurie Davis said.

Ed Suslovic, City Councilor – Echoes the concerns of the residents of the neighborhood. No public process has been done regarding the park. Concerned that something may be misrepresented.

Shannon Bell, Noyes Street Resident – Has a concern with the lighting in the park. Uses the park daily with his young children. Is in favor of anything that would add to the park and keep it a family park. Would like to have public notice as to what is going on within the park.

Carol Schiller, Friends of Longfellow Park – Submitted the proposal as we have many handicapped people that use the park. Has made this recommendation for many years. Park is very dark and we

need lights in the park. Hears daily that people want improvements in the park; wider walkways and lights. Is supportive for adding funding for a master plan for the park.

Shelby Johnson, Friends of Lincoln Park – Hoping that the park can get some of the CIP budget to get some of the much needed work done. Lincoln Park is the oldest park in Portland. If the walkways get fixed the park will have more foot traffic.

John Rolfe, Portland Resident- Has never heard of Friends of Longfellow Park and had lived her since the late 1980's. Feels the same as Laurie Davis.

Anne Pringle, Friends of Deering Oaks – Also wanted to get historical lighting on the list that Troy went over, along with fixing the pond wall.

Carter Friend, Portland Resident - Inclusive process is important to involve all of the neighbors.

Jaime Parker asked how a master plan would come together for a small park like Longfellow Park? Troy suggested that the Planning Department would need to get involved and work with the neighbors and get their input. Rick Knowland also mentioned that a budget would be needed for planning, organizing and design.

It was also suggested that Mike Murray, the Island and Neighborhood Liaison, could work with the neighborhood associations within the Longfellow Park area to work together and work on the highest priorities for their neighborhood.

Councilor Hinck said that everything on the slideshow is worthy to be worked on and reminded everyone how tight the budget will be in the next fiscal year.

The Commission worked on the priority listing of the submitting requests. They put them in three (3) tiers. They are:

- Tier 1: Lincoln Park Walkways
 Evergreen Cemetery Wall
 Deering Oaks Bathrooms
- Tier 2: Wilde Chapel
 Replace Ravine Wading Pool Bottom
 Landscape Design for Evergreen Cemetery
- Tier 3: Deering Oaks Parking Lot
 Lincoln Park Fence
 Deering Oaks Lighting

A motion was made by Jaime Parker to accept the CIP requests as discussed. Motion seconded by Craig Lapine. Motion passed 7-0.

Nomination of Chair and Vice Chair for January Vote - Craig Lapine nominated Diane Davison for Chair and Dory Waxman for Vice Chair.

**Recreation Update:**

Because of the fabulous fall weather we had, the pond project was completed ahead of time. Recreation was able to flood Deering oaks pond in hope of providing ice skating this winter. Hoping Mother Nature does her part.

Working with Trust for Public Lands on finalizing report to City Council by end of December.

Added second sheet of ice at Riverside Golf Course this winter. Partnering with YMCA to rent skates to the public at Riverside this winter in the weekends.

Working on Winter Festival at Riverside over February school vacation.

Hoping to finally use our new Polaris machine to create X country trails in our major Parks. We will work on this once the crews are done with street and sidewalk storm work.

Public Works Update:

The unseasonably warm weather this fall allowed crews to do brush and invasive plant management that hasn't been done in some time. Key locations included the Eastern Prom & Fish Point as well as the Western Prom. On the Eastern Prom we were able to continue work done by Friends of Eastern Promenade volunteers to clean knotweed and to expose the stone wall along the railroad tracks. During the work we rescued several heirloom apple trees that were being strangled by bittersweet. By controlling undesirable growth in these areas we hope to see native ground cover such as Clethra and Bayberry re-establish. These plants will provide much better food and habitat for wildlife.

Parks crews are now assigned to winter shifts but we will use them as we can to continue parks related projects.