

PARKS COMMISSION
Thursday, June 4, 2015
City Hall ~ Room 24
5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Commission Members: Diane Davison, Steve Morgenstein, Michael Mertaugh, Jeff Scher, Jaime Parker, Ralph Carmona, Cynthia Loebenstein, Travis Wagner, Dory Waxman, Meri Lowry, Carol Hutchins

City Staff: Councilor Jon Hinck, Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam, Mike Bobinsky, Sally DeLuca

This was the last meeting for Commissioners Jeff Scher and Ralph Carmona. Their time and efforts will be missed on the Parks Commission.

This month's Parks Commission meeting started with a pre-meeting walking tour at 3pm with representatives from Southwest Airlines and Project for Public Spaces (PPS) (Cynthia Nikitin, Anna Sprikova and Philip Katz). Commissioners and staff that attended were Diane Davison, Cynthia Loebenstein, Jaime Parker, and Troy Moon. David Lacasse from Friends of Congress Square Park also attended.

At the regularly scheduled meeting Cynthia Nikitin from Southwest Airlines gave a presentation at what they (Southwest Airlines and PPS) will be working on with the Friends from Congress Square Park. Southwest Airlines will be giving Friends of Congress Square Park \$50,000 to help recreate the park space; this also includes guidance from their staff.

During the presentation there were pictures of larger cities where they have redeveloped open spaces, such as San Antonio and Jacksonville, Florida. Councilor Hinck commented that those cities are much larger than Portland, how can they compare to a city our size? Cynthia said it doesn't matter the size of the city. If you make it inviting, visitors will come.

Dory Waxman asked will there be a plan to help in future years for the park to help keep people engaged. Cynthia said that their group is doing training and surveys in the park now and will also be doing more in the summer.

The Grand Opening ceremony for Congress Square Park will be on June 24th at 10:30 am.

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes May 2015

Motion made by Dory Waxman to accept the meeting minutes. Seconded by Michael Mertaugh. Motion passed 10-0.

Communications/Updates

Deering Oaks: Castle Restaurant- No RFP's were received. Noreen Knotts said that a reason that she did not put in an RFP was due to a lot of money was needed to put up front for renovations. With

that and not possibly being able to be able to open in mid/late July, it was a short period of time to make the money back.

There is a lot of interest about having food/restaurant in the park. It was mentioned also that in the past there was an RFP out for food trucks in Deering Oaks Park and there were also no one that submitted a proposal. During the meeting there was a discussion of possible having a food truck cluster at a certain time/location.

Staff along with Friends from Deering Oaks Park are working at looking at being able to do some sort of restaurant/coffee house in the Castle.

A motion was made by Michael Mertaugh

East End Community Garden Update- Materials were delivered today and next week volunteers can start working on the garden.

Evergreen Cemetery Expansion- Work on the columbarium in June and will be completed in July.

Unfinished Business

Operating Budget: \$75,000 Recommended Allocation to Parks Commission-

PC Admin Reporting (Fundraising and Governance/Drafting Report) – The Parks Commission will hold a golf tournament in the fall. The Committee to work on this is Cynthia Loebenstein, Steve Morgenstein, Diane Davison, Sally DeLuca, Ryan Scott and Melissa Graffam.