



Commission Members:

Beth Rabbitt, John Clark, Marie Gray, Stephen Bentsen, Helen Coyne, Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio, Ashley Burdick, William Elting, Victoria Pelletier (City Councilor), Donna Gartland, Jaime Parker (Chair), Kristen Fulmer, Robert Foster, Katie Mears

Staff: Alex Marshall Parks Director, Jen DeRice Assistant Parks Director, Jessica Teesdale Senior Executive Assistant

City of Portland
Parks Commission Agenda
December 7, 2023 at 5:00 PM

City Hall Kippy Richardson Conference Room 24 located on the ground level of City Hall

The Mission of the Portland Parks Commission is to advocate for the enhancement and stewardship of our parks and open spaces. Review and propose projects that impact parks and open spaces and recommend action.

Foster collaboration among park users and the City. Promotes public access and enjoyment.

Advocate for public and private funding for parks and open spaces. Enjoy Portland for Life.

To submit written public comment on an agenda item, email ParksCommission@Portlandmaine.gov. Submissions must be received by 12:00 pm the day before the Parks Commission meeting to guarantee their inclusion in the agenda packet. All submissions must include the commenter's name and legal address. To help ensure your comment is submitted for the correct item, please include the name of the agenda item (see below).

MEETING ACCESS INFORMATION

The Parks Commission will conduct this meeting in-person from City Hall Kippy Richardson Conference Room 24 located on the ground level of City Hall.

Public comments may only be submitted in person or in writing.

To view this meeting please visit the Livestream <https://portlandme.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6290/media>

- I. Call to Order
- II. General Citizen Comment Period
 - a. Emailed Public Comment
- III. Agenda Items
 - a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: November 2, 2023
 - b. New Business
 - i. Exploring Commissions Statement on Parks
 - ii. Annual Report for Approval
 - c. Old Business
 - i. Green Space Gathering
 - ii. Outreach Committee-Contact List Updates
 - d. Communications and Updates
 - i. Parks Report

- ii. Land Bank Commission Report
- iii. Annual Strategic Planning Meeting
- iv. Other Committee Updates
- v. Commission Members Updates
- e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

IV. Adjournment



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Please vote NO on 681 message

Bettina Reece <bettina@waypointbrokers.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 11:47 AM

Reply-To: bettina@waypointbrokers.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, citymanager@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov

Hello,

My name is Bettina Reece and I live in Portland in District Four. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city into an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Bettina Reece

Bettina Reece
Associate Broker

REALTOR®



Waypoint Brokers Collective

C | 617-823-5663

O | 207-804-2012

bettina@waypointbrokers.com

[waypointbrokers.com](https://www.waypointbrokers.com)

85 Exchange Street, 3rd Floor | Portland, ME 04101





Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)1 message

Parks 1970 <parksmckinney@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 12:35 PM

Reply-To: parksmckinney@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Hello,

My name is Jessica McKinney and live in Portland in District1. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

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PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Jessica McKinney
Ponce St.

parks.mckinney.com



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Please vote NO on 68

1 message

'Bethany Jack' via Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 12:54 PM

Reply-To: be.jack@yahoo.com

To: "ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov" <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, "pali@portlandmaine.gov" <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, "afournier@portlandmaine.gov" <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, "rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov" <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, "atreverrow@portlandmaine.gov" <atreverrow@portlandmaine.gov>, "vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov" <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, "azarro@portlandmaine.gov" <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, "mdion@portlandmaine.gov" <mdion@portlandmaine.gov>, "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>, "parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov" <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>, "citymanager@portlandmaine.gov" <citymanager@portlandmaine.gov>, "rphillips@portlandmaine.gov" <rphillips@portlandmaine.gov>

Hello all,

I am asking you all to Vote No on order 68. I have lived in Portland for many years and I am located in district 5. I've seen the changes for the good and the detriment to this city. This has major harmful implications for both the unhoused community and the city at large. I am compassionate for our unhoused population and have worked with this population providing social services in years past. I want the best for a population that needs so much to pull themselves out of where they are. This option of camping around the city and now sanctioning it is not good for them. Unfortunately I know the issues are so complex and each individual; however, the idea that we are ok with saying to people it's ok to live in a tent anywhere in Portland does not push them or us to find a better solution. I know this is happening no matter what whether sanctioned or not; however, the sheer matter of now saying it's ok does not force anyone to find something different. I know those considering voting yes perhaps think this is a more compassionate stance but if you compare to what other cities have done it's the worst possible "solution" or forward movement to this crisis across the country.

Please, please Vote No. I realize this is complex but this is the wrong direction for our city.

Thank you for listening and considering.

Bethany



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Against Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)

1 message

Hannah Wolken <hwolken1@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 1:00 PM

Reply-To: hwolken1@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Hello, my name is Hannah Wolken and I live in Portland in District Four. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

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PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Hannah Wolken



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE Vote NO on Monday Order 68

1 message

Devin Green <devin.green@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 1:51 PM

Reply-To: devin.green@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, Andrew Zarro <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Hello Mayor Snyder, Councilors, and City Staff,

I am writing to share my adamant request that you VOTE NO to Monday's Order 68 Proposed Change to Ordinances.

I have done as much research as I could with such little time and all of it points to this being a TERRIBLE idea. It is not going to solve the problem and it is also not going to help the people you're trying to help.

I believe that Councilors Trevorrow and Rodrigues have good intentions, but this is not the right solution and it is not going to help. I am outlining my concerns below but the bottom line is that you MUST VOTE NO on Monday.

The need for change is obviously necessary and the unhoused need support and care, but this is not going to help them. In fact, it may harm them. What we need is to get people inside, not encourage them to stay outside and camp.

I have minor concerns with Items 1 & 2:

Item 1: Ban all sweeps. I know that the sweeps most often happen because of safety concerns, drugs, violence and trafficking. The sweeps are traumatic, but so are the encampments. As one expert providing support to the unhoused in Portland has shared: "they are places of misery, violence and exploitation" and not meant to be romanticized. I know, as I think most people do, that Sweeps do not resolve the issue here. They are not the answer, but I understand the need for them in some situations and I personally believe they should be addressed on a case-by-case basis and require a review and vote by the City Council based on proposals by the City Staff with reasoning for the sweep.

Item 2: Get rid of "emphasis" areas. Without emphasis areas, encampments that are unsafe or a problem for the City in specific locations (as they once were on Chestnut Street near the shelters) will be able to remain in those problem areas without any recourse. I think this could be treated similarly to Item 1, on a case-by-case basis with the Council.

Unlike Items 1 and 2, I have MAJOR CONCERNS with Item 3:

Item 3: Allow camping in Public Spaces and Public Parks.

My first major concern is that this is **NOT NECESSARY**. *by the end of November, there finally will be enough capacity and camping will no longer be necessary*. This is exactly what YOU have been working towards on track with the Housing First approach, and camping will not be necessary, but this is still being proposed.

THIS WILL NOT HELP THOSE IN NEED.

This proposed change does not address the problem. In fact, **it will make the problem worse**. People need to be inside.

Earlier this year, I did a 6-month civic leadership training program called Leadership Portland that included 9 full days of learning about the city, how it's run, and what challenges it faces. In case you are unaware, we learned about government, culture, DEI, housing, healthcare, mental health, immigration, education, law enforcement, sustainability, etc. EVERY SINGLE DAY, THE DISCUSSIONS CAME BACK TO HOUSING. This is obviously, BY FAR the biggest issue that the city faces.

I learned over and over again that the **Housing First model** is the real answer, and really the only way to go. I also learned that people who are unhoused need to choose to seek help. If they do not want help, they can remain unhoused. But it doesn't serve them. Gaining shelter, housing and support services is by far the most effective way to help those in need.

If this Order passes, **it will completely disincentivize people from getting the help they need**. It will undercut the work of the Encampment Crisis Response Team and service providers by making it almost impossible to find their clients and provide a continuum of care. It will also encourage unhoused people from all over the Northeast (and beyond?) to move to Portland and take up residence in our public spaces, which will put even more strain on our city services which are already completely over-stretched and under-staffed.

Also of note: there would be NO requirements (as there are now) for people to go into warming shelters in the cold weather. This has been allowed in Anchorage, Alaska and [43 people have died](#) this year alone because of the cold. People have died in the cold here previously, and many more will die this winter if this ordinance is passed. That will happen and the Council will be responsible for this vote.

RESOURCES

If this passes, camps will be scattered everywhere throughout the city and the city is already short-staffed with services. During my training, we met with case managers from Preble Street that worked directly with the unhoused, all of whom were largely located in and around the Preble Street Resources Center, the encampments that were on the bike path in Bayside, and then in the Marginal Way encampment. They knew where their clients were and they were able to access and connect with them. Imagine them being scattered all over the city?!

We are already wildly under-staffed as a city, which is putting a HUGE strain on the existing First Responders (required overtime, struggles to fill shifts) and the City Staff is completely bare bones and burning out. *NOT ONE SINGLE CITY DEPARTMENT SUPPORTS THIS*. I believe more staff (police, city staff, resource officers, etc.) will resign and we will be left even more under-resourced. This puts a massive strain on the resources we have, but it also costs a HUGE amount of money that could be going instead to helping people and building housing (for all the overtime required of existing staff, the city is paying that much more money to them).

We need our money, time and resources to go towards building housing for people, getting them into housing and helping them. And we definitely do not need to attract more people who need help.

What we really need to do is push Housing First. If we encourage people to camp, they will not end up in Housing, which really is what helps people get on the road to a better life.

PUBLIC SAFETY & ACCESS TO NATURE

It goes without saying that should camping be allowed in this way, at least some of our public spaces would markedly change. I recently met a Portland Park Ranger who shared that if this passed, it would rewind all the work that has been done to ensure safe access to public spaces, and the work that's been done to keep parks and public spaces clean and usable. Access to nature should not be at the expense of the safety and wellbeing others, but if there are options for people to be housed and to get the help they need, then that should be the priority and the path forward, and allow public spaces to remain open, safe and accessible spaces for all of the public. It should not be an Either/Or situation when we have the option for Both/And, which we do.

MY FINAL CONCERN = PROCESS

These items **should not all be addressed as one order** - they should be separated and addressed as individual issues that the council can vote on. The sweeps are the big issue that Portlanders have been concerned about, so let's address that first, with discussion and due process and allow the council to make a good, informed decision.

I'm alarmed that a proposal this significant did not go through the channels it normally would (and should) to get to this point. Councilors were shown this for the first time maybe a couple weeks ago and it was first brought to the public THIS Monday (the 13th). There have been no district or city meetings to discuss, it has not gone through any of the committees, the city staff was not consulted (and they all have MAJOR issues with it). Especially of note: shouldn't this come through or at least be reviewed and endorsed by the Health & Human Services Subcommittee???

If passed, this would be without real consideration or communication with Portlanders. Monday will be the ONE AND ONLY agendaed public engagement around this. Proposals with much less significance have taken months to get to the council, and something this big should have many public meetings, workshops, and input from all relevant experts, stakeholders and members of the community.

OTHER SOLUTIONS?

I have not found a single situation in the limited research I've been able to do (given I too just found out about this), in which a change like this - allowing people to camp anywhere on public parks and land, has been effective.

There have been [changes made recently in Boston](#) by Mayor Michelle Wu, to remove Sweeps and implement new policies that have resulted in good change without violence. Perhaps we could learn from them.

I believe a temporary encampment with infrastructure and services could be a smart temporary solution. Even better if it could be close to the shelters, so that the services could be nearby and there could be easier access for people to get inside and receive the shelter and support that is available to them.

Of course I don't know a long-term solution because I'm not an expert, but I know this is NOT the solution. There are experts who can weigh in on this and committees that are formed to consider all the implications of something like this. This should not be rushed, and I also think we should at least see what happens now that we have capacity in the shelters.

PLEASE PLEASE PLEASE **VOTE NO ON MONDAY**. If you want to help those in need, have a thriving city that DOES support people, and do what is best, **PLEASE VOTE NO**.

Devin Green



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Order 68: Please Vote No1 message

Allie Gill <alliemeyer4@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 17, 2023 at 7:37 AM

Reply-To: alliemeyer4@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Hello, my name is Alexandra Meyer.

I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city into an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,
Alexandra Meyer

Allie Meyer
M: 203 434 2138



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

ORDER 68: PLEASE VOTE NO

1 message

Laurel McCosham <l.mccosham@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 17, 2023 at 8:57 AM

Reply-To: l.mccosham@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, citymanager@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov

Good morning,

I am writing today to urge you to vote "NO" on Order 68 which would allow for long-term camping in public spaces over the winter. This proposal is NOT a solution to Portland's housing crisis.

The reasons for this crisis are complex. Accordingly, any proposal must take an in-depth, comprehensive approach. Unfortunately, Order 68 includes three distinct items, none of which is based on expert analysis or public consultation.

Relocating the unhoused does not address their main challenges or solve their immediate needs. Scattered throughout the city, the unhoused would be disconnected from the health and support services they so urgently need. This measure would also disrupt the focus on long-term stability, delaying the path to permanent housing.

For residents, parks would essentially be unusable even though their tax dollars fund park upkeep and maintenance. Additional consequences will be a diminished sense of safety and a loss of trust in local government.

Portland residents want a solution to this crisis that is both compassionate and long lasting. Should this order pass, I fear the plight of the unhoused will only worsen and quality of life will deteriorate for everyone.

I hope you will consider this perspective which is shared by my neighbors. At the very least, this type of proposal should be carefully and deliberately reviewed in partnership with experts and the public, before rushing to a vote. Until then, please vote no on Order 68.

Respectfully,

Laurel McCosham
District 3, Portland, ME



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Order 68 - Vote NO!

1 message

Douglas Dempsey <douglas.dempsey@gmail.com>

Fri, Nov 17, 2023 at 10:01 AM

Reply-To: douglas.dempsey@gmail.com

To: "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>, "parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov" <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>, "citymanager@portlandmaine.gov" <citymanager@portlandmaine.gov>

Good morning,

I am writing to ask that you vote "NO" on Order 68 which would allow for long-term camping in public spaces over the winter. This proposal is terrible and it will (1) not solve the housing crisis and (2) infuriate the residents of the affected neighborhoods. It is incredibly shady that this proposal has received zero press and stands to be approved under the cover of darkness. Any proposal should go through a rigorous review process and ultimately be put in front of Portland residents for a vote. If the city can put mundane ballot questions up for a vote, they can certainly do it for this proposal which is arguably the most important for all involved.

For residents, parks would be totally unusable even though their tax dollars fund park upkeep and maintenance. Neighborhoods would be less safe and residents' quality of life would deteriorate. Portland residents want a solution to this crisis that is both compassionate and long lasting, not something that spreads the suffering for everyone.

If you vote "yes" on this order, I will vote "NO" on you in the next election. And I will ensure others do the same. Please vote "NO" on Order 68.

Regards,

Douglas Dempsey

[25 Benjamin Way, Portland ME 04102](#)

District 3

12/1/23, 5:21 PM

City of Portland Mail - Order 68 - Vote NO!

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)1 message

'Vicki Friedman' via Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Fri, Nov 17, 2023 at 2:10 PM

Reply-To: vfriedman@mac.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Good afternoon

My name is Vicki Friedman and I live at [113 Newbury St.](#), District 1.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

Portland (and all of), ME can not become as dysfunctional as Portland, OR.

PLEASE VOTE NO

Thank you

-Vicki S Friedman



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Please oppose order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25

1 message

Michael Pancook <mpancook@gmail.com>

Sat, Nov 18, 2023 at 2:50 PM

Reply-To: mpancook@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Councilmembers and City Officials,

I am writing to share my opposition to order 68-23/24 Amendment to Portland City Code Chapters 17, 18, and 25.

While I oppose sweeps of tent encampments in the absence of alternative shelter for unhoused individuals, I do not believe the broad suspension of policies that allow the City to intervene based on the risk to those camping is much better. I am not well versed in homeless policy, but it seems to me that allowing individuals to remain unsheltered is contrary to the housing first approach advocated by many (including me). If there remains insufficient shelter, then a preferable policy would build around how to minimize the impacts of living outside during the Maine winter. I do not see how the amendments would not support this; instead, they appear to defer to an individual's preference between unacceptable options (arrest or hiding from authorities) that only complicate addressing an individual's complex needs.

I recognize that Portland's housing crisis has reached a level that means we cannot wait for more ideal solutions, but the immediate health and wellness of individuals in crisis must be paramount. The policies we choose must strengthen the ability for individuals to access services and for services to reach them, which disorganized freedom to camp in public places does not do.

Thank you,
Michael Pancook
199 Vaughan St.



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)

1 message

Heidi Symonds <heidisymonds@maine.rr.com>

Sun, Nov 19, 2023 at 8:13 PM

Reply-To: heidisymonds@maine.rr.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Hello, my name is Heidi Symonds and live in Portland in District 5. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,
Heidi Symonds



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Proposed Ordinance Chnge

1 message

Louise Bugeau <louisebugeau@gmail.com>

Sun, Nov 19, 2023 at 9:55 PM

Reply-To: louisebugeau@gmail.com

To: Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov

Hello, my name is Louise Bugeau and I live in Portland in District 4. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Louise Bugeau



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Vote NO on Order 68

1 message

Susannah Sanfilippo <strawberrysusannah@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 20, 2023 at 6:32 AM

Reply-To: strawberrysusannah@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, Regina Phillips <rphillips@portlandmaine.gov>, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

I reside in Libbytown and urge you to reject the Proposed Ordinance Change put forth by Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez.

I advocate strongly for Housing First. Let's explore innovative avenues such as securing multiple million-dollar grants, collaborating with local universities like USM for public health programs and UNE for social work initiatives. Engage SMCC's student population in construction-related fields to build tiny houses. The lack of collaboration with local universities needs immediate attention.

With financial constraints evident, the Council's deficient business acumen and short-term focus must be addressed. Examples like leasing Fitzpatrick Stadium for free to a well-funded entity demonstrates poor decision-making.

This regional problem demands engagement with all stakeholders, yet neighboring cities are not being approached for support. Collaborative efforts with neighboring towns must be initiated.

It pains me to witness tax dollars squandered on ineffective solutions. Redirecting taxes towards long-term housing, education, sustainable transportation, renewable energy, fair wages, and environmental initiatives would be a more prudent use.

Order 68 is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO. This measure won't improve the situation for the unhoused. Instead, it poses a threat to both the city and its residents.

Thank you for your service,

Susannah Sanfilippo



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Please vote NO on change in ordinance (order 68)

1 message

'Grete Zemans' via Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Mon, Nov 20, 2023 at 9:37 AM

Reply-To: gretezemans@yahoo.com

To: "ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov" <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, "pali@portlandmaine.gov" <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, "afournier@portlandmaine.gov" <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, "rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov" <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, "atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov" <atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov>, "vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov" <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, "rphillips@portlandmaine.gov" <rphillips@portlandmaine.gov>, "azarro@portlandmaine.gov" <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, "mdion@portlandmaine.gov" <mdion@portlandmaine.gov>, "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>, "parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov" <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>, "Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov" <Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov>

To Council Members:

My name is Grete Zemans. I live in District 2. Professionally, before my retirement, I was the CEO of community mental health centers in Maine and New York and I have spent years working to address the growing serious problem of the unhoused.

I urge you to slow down and consider the critical nature of this potential decision. **Please use the proper decision making procedure** and receive public comment including from housing experts nationwide. You will learn among other important ideas that encouraging people to live in encampments is NOT the direction that our city should go. In just 2 weeks more shelter beds will be ready - this is where unhoused people should be encouraged to go, NOT to public spaces throughout the city.



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)

1 message

Alyssa Rasey <alyssa.rasey@gmail.com>

Mon, Nov 20, 2023 at 12:58 PM

Reply-To: alyssa.rasey@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Hello, my name is Alyssa Rasey and I live in Portland. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Alyssa



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)

1 message

'Frank Femia' via Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 12:19 PM

Reply-To: fffemia@yahoo.com

To: "ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov" <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, "pali@portlandmaine.gov" <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, "afournier@portlandmaine.gov" <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, "rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov" <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, "atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov" <atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov>, "vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov" <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, "rphillips@portlandmaine.gov" <rphillips@portlandmaine.gov>, "azarro@portlandmaine.gov" <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, "mdion@portlandmaine.gov" <mdion@portlandmaine.gov>, "publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov" <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>, "parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov" <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>, "Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov" <Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov>

Mayor Snyder & Honorable Members of the City Council,

Hello, my name is *Frank J Femia* and live in Portland in *District 2*. I own a condo at 125 York Street, right near where a very large encampment is located. I am writing to ask that you **NOT APPROVE** the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should **NOT** be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change.

Separately, the encampment near my condo is a concern for the safety of those who live in my condo building. We have had a significant rise in theft (we've had MULTIPLE issues at the location on York Street), vandalism and drug use on our property (we continue to find the homeless using syringes (insulin syringes) and exposed needles from such syringes on our property and especially in our garbage coral and garbage bins. It is only a matter of time that someone is poked by these exposed needles not being disposed of properly. Our HOA has had to invest in more lighting to deter theft, and we're researching the need for fencing and security cameras to hopefully deter theft and trespassing.

Driving along the end of Commercial Street is disheartening and deeply concerning - for those who live in the encampment and those who drive by. I am worried about sanitation and cleanliness, safety and security (I saw a pregnant woman living in the tents), and most importantly - again - the long term effects on the city.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

Of course I don't know a long-term solution because I'm not an expert, but I think this is NOT the solution. This should not be rushed, but we need to come up with a solution that doesn't involve people living outside and taking over our public, shared spaces.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. **PLEASE VOTE NO.**

Sincerely,
Dr. Frank J. Femia

Frank J. Femia, PhD | 773-454-5512 | fjfemia@yahoo.com



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)

1 message

Ruth Roemer <roemerr29@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 2:48 PM

Reply-To: roemerr29@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Hello, my name is Ruth Roemer, I own a condo and live in Portland in District 2, very near the South Portland Bridge where a very large encampment is located. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis. This is also an issue of safety, theft, cleanliness/sanitation as well as tourism and workforce attraction. I have had to install a ring camera to enable increased safety after multiple thefts from units in my condo, I have watched individuals not from our or the neighboring condos wandering through the parking lots, urinating, pushing through fences to enter other areas, ringing doorbells and trying doorknobs to see if anyone is home and then running off when caught. Police report that they can do nothing if no burglary occurred.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Ruth Roemer

12/1/23, 5:19 PM

City of Portland Mail - PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)

Portland concerned citizen

Mobile: 973-901-0345



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)1 message

Thomas Julian <tjulian119@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 7:12 PM

Reply-To: tjulian119@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Hello,

My name is Thomas Julian and live in Portland in District 5. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Tom Julian



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)1 message

Marie Julian <mggenova92@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 7:14 PM

Reply-To: mggenova92@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Hello,

My name is Marie Julian and live in Portland in District Five. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city in an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Marie Julian



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)

1 message

Kate Rogers <kateglynn@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 7:30 PM

Reply-To: kateglynn@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Hello,

My name is Katharine Rogers and I live in Portland's District 5. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow and Rodriguez have compiled. This proposal is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Kate Rogers



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Friends of Payson Park on Order #68-23/24

1 message

Payson Park <friendsofpaysonpark@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 11:12 AM

Reply-To: friendsofpaysonpark@gmail.com

To: Public Comments for City Council Meetings <publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Mayor Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, At-Large Councilor Pious Ali <pali@portlandmaine.gov>, At-Large Councilor April Fournier <afournier@portlandmaine.gov>, At-Large Councilor Roberto Rodriguez <rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov>, District 1 Councilor Anna Trevorow <atrevorow@portlandmaine.gov>, District 2 Councilor and Parks Commission Liaison Victoria Pelletier <vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov>, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, District 4 Councilor Andrew Zarro <azarro@portlandmaine.gov>, District 5 Councilor Mark Dion <mdion@portlandmaine.gov>, Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Dear Mayor Snyder and City Councilors,

Please see the attached pdf (text also included below) outlining FOPP's concerns regarding Order #68-23/24.

Thank you for taking the time to understand our concerns.

Sincerely,

Ashley Schmid and Susan Lavigne
Friends of Payson Park

###

Dear Mayor Snyder and Portland City Councilors,

We, the Friends of Payson Park, are writing to express our extreme concern regarding the proposed **Order #68-23/24**, which would allow unfettered camping in public parks and green spaces.

As residents of Portland, and neighbors of Payson Park, we feel it is our responsibility to strive for the health and well-being of our parks and our fellow neighbors near and far.

Suggesting that camping outside during a Maine winter is the answer to the unhoused is abhorrent. It has been well documented the current situation is not safe for many living in the tents, adding freezing temperatures, including snowstorms. will only exacerbate the problems. Additionally, we believe the proposed Order would be to the detriment of Portland's treasured green spaces.

As you may remember from our discussions surrounding the proposed music festival in Payson Park, this park is a very active gathering space filled with children, families, dog walkers, sports teams, band practices, picnics, fundraising events, and so much more. We love seeing the joy that visitors to this park gain from being able to spend time in this clean, > green, safe space.

We ask that you please reject the proposed ordinance change and instead seek to find shelter for the unhoused in Portland.

Sincerely,

The Friends of Payson Park

Friends of Payson Park * Portland, Maine

We love it when you like and engage with us on [Facebook!](#)



FOPP ORDER 68-23-24.pdf
939K



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Please vote NO on 68

1 message

Erin Oldham <erin@portsidereg.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 11:22 AM

Reply-To: erin@portsidereg.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, citymanager@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov

Hello, my name is Erin Oldham and I live in Portland in Parkside. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city into an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Erin

--

Erin Oldham (she/her/hers)

Associate Broker, Co-Owner Oldham+Kendeigh Team

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Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Please vote NO on 681 message

Sarah Delisle <sarahmdelisle@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 10:31 AM

Reply-To: sarahmdelisle@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov

Hello all,

I am asking you all to Vote No on order 68. I have lived in Portland for 15 years in district 3. I've seen the changes for the good and the harmful. This has major harmful implications. I've been reading and digging in on what other cities across the country have done to help their unhoused community and more camping does not help the people or the city. It leads to more drugs and dangers for the unhoused and more issues within the city. I am compassionate for our unhoused population and want the best for a population that needs more hand holding and support than other community members. To leave them camping in the streets is dangerous anytime of year but what happens in winter? When they are taking drugs and passing out in these tents. It's scary and unsafe. I know those considering voting yes perhaps think this is a more compassionate stance but if you compare to what other cities have done it's the worst possible "solution" or forward movement to this crisis across the country.

Please, please Vote No. I realize this is complex but this is the wrong direction for our city.

Thank you for listening and considering.

Sarah Delisle



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)

1 message

Katie Shorey <katelyn.shorey@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 10:34 AM

Reply-To: katelyn.shorey@gmail.com

To: Kate Snyder <ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov>, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Cc: Katie Shorey <katelynshorey@gmail.com>

Mayor Snyder & Honorable Members of the City Council -

My name is Katelyn (Katie) Shorey and I am writing concerning the public encampments and the proposed change in ordinance (order 68). I own a condo right near the South Portland bridge (district 2) where a large encampment is located. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis. This is also an issue of safety, theft, cleanliness/sanitation, tourism and workforce attraction. I sit on the Portland Community Chamber Board as well, and the businesses we represent (as well as the citizens) are majority not in favor of the change in ordinance.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused; it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city into potential locations for an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. It also harms our tourism industry, as well as workforce attraction. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

Separately, the encampment near my condo is a concern for the safety of those who live in my condo building and my tenant. I've had a difficult time finding a tenant because they don't want to live near the encampment due to the rise of theft (we've had MULTIPLE issues at the location on York Street). So this is now impacting me financially. Our HOA has had to invest in more lighting to deter theft, and we're researching the need for fencing and security cameras to hopefully deter theft and trespassing.

Driving along the end of Commercial Street is disheartening and deeply concerning - for those who live in the encampment and those who drive by. I am worried about sanitation and cleanliness, safety and security (I saw a pregnant woman living in the tents), and most importantly - again - the long term effects on the city.

Of course I don't know a long-term solution because I'm not an expert, but I think this is NOT the solution. This should not be rushed, but we need to come up with a solution that doesn't involve people living outside and taking over our public, shared spaces.

This proposed change does not address the problem. In fact, it will make the problem worse. People need to be inside. We need our money, time and resources to go towards building housing for people, getting them into housing and helping them. And we definitely do not need to attract more people who need help. What we

really need to do is push Housing First. If we encourage people to camp, they will not end up in Housing, which really is what helps people get on the road to a better life.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68, and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,
Katie Shorey
Portlander, Mainer, and concerned citizen

Katie Shorey
Mobile: 207.831.6366



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

PLEASE VOTE NO on the Proposed Change in Ordinance (Order 68)1 message

Dustin LeVasseur <dustinlev@gmail.com>

Thu, Nov 16, 2023 at 11:04 AM

Reply-To: dustinlev@gmail.com

To: ksnyder@portlandmaine.gov, pali@portlandmaine.gov, afournier@portlandmaine.gov, rrodriguez@portlandmaine.gov, atrevorrow@portlandmaine.gov, vpelletier@portlandmaine.gov, rphillips@portlandmaine.gov, azarro@portlandmaine.gov, mdion@portlandmaine.gov, publiccomment@portlandmaine.gov, parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov, Citymanager@portlandmaine.gov

Hello, my name is Dustin LeVasseur and I live in Portland in District 4. I am writing to ask that you NOT APPROVE the Proposed Ordinance Change that Councilors Trevorrow & Rodriguez have compiled. I feel strongly that this is being rushed and is not the right solution for our housing crisis.

The three items being proposed in this change should NOT be lumped into one vote. They should be separate and should go through proper channels to be considered by experts, the public, and the council.

I agree that sweeps are not the answer, but neither is this ordinance change. I am aware that the City will meet its capacity for beds for the unhoused in the next couple weeks so that will begin to address the problem.

I DO NOT SUPPORT the proposed idea to allow camping in public spaces and parks. I know that this will not help the unhoused, it will only harm them further. It will also harm Portland, turning the entire city into an encampment and encourage unhoused people from other parts of the Northeast and Country to take up residence here. We do not want to be a destination for the unhoused. Our resources are already bursting with asylum seekers and we need to be aware of our stretched resources. I am a strong supporter of Housing First and I understand that if this passes, it will disincentivize people from getting Housing and the support they need.

PLEASE VOTE NO on Order 68 and if councilors want to make a proposed change through proper channels for elements of this proposal, as a city, we will consider them. But this is rushed and not the right solution. PLEASE VOTE NO.

Sincerely,

Dustin LeVasseur



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Public Comment - Kiwanis Pool "Art"

1 message

George Rheault <george.rheault@gmail.com>

Wed, Dec 6, 2023 at 11:32 AM

Reply-To: george.rheault@gmail.com

To: Parks Commission <parkscommission@portlandmaine.gov>

Cc: Richard Bianculli <richb@portlandmaine.gov>, "Hipple, Ethan" <EHIPPLE@portlandmaine.gov>, Alex Marshall <amarshall@portlandmaine.gov>

Somewhat abruptly and mysteriously a few weeks back a mural in the style of boxcar graffiti appeared on the wall of the Kiwanis poolhouse. It was shortly followed by a giant frog mural. The frog at least has some kind of aquatic (amphibian) nod to the Kiwanis pool, but otherwise any direct theme to parks or swimming is absent.

While everyone may have different reactions to the aesthetic choices here, I am curious about the process that led up to the presumably authorized art installation.

- Was the Public Art Committee involved in selecting these ideas and did they have more ideas to choose from then what was ultimately painted? Did the PAC oversee some kind of competition for these works?

- Were the artists paid for their time and materials and if so, by whom and how much?- Due to the expectations around the Kiwanis pool renovations, presumably this was more easily advanced because these will be temporary? [a completely separate discussion is whether the City can afford the full-scale renovation of the Kiwanis pool facility considering that the Riverton pool facility is now mothballed due to unforeseen structural failure but the longevity of these wall murals may be extended indefinitely if the Kiwanis pool project is put on hold for some reason]

It does not appear that the Parks Commission or the general public was given any advance notice. Something like this happening in other parts of Portland would have received massive amounts of review and scrutiny before a single brush stroke occurred.

My curiosity may be shared by members of the Parks Commission so it is appropriate for any answers about the creation of these wall murals to be received in a public briefing at a Commission meeting and not just for my benefit.

I look forward to understanding more!

3 attachments



IMG_2728.JPG
2907K



IMG_2729.JPG
2582K



IMG_2730.JPG
2749K



Jessica Teesdale <jteesdale@portlandmaine.gov>

Regarding: Park Commission December 7, 2023 Agenda - Request to add Lowell Park

'Carol Schiller' via Parks Commission <parkscormission@portlandmaine.gov>

Wed, Nov 29, 2023 at 9:58 AM

Reply-To: schiller.carol@yahoo.com

To: Jamie Parker <parkscormission@portlandmaine.gov>, Michael Goldman <mig@portlandmaine.gov>

Dear Mr. Parker,

We are requesting to be added to the agenda of the Portland Park Commission December 7, 2023, meeting. Our objective is to receive the commission's support in rectifying city error: adding Lowell Park to the list of city parks protected under the City of Portland Code of Ordinances Chapter 18 Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings and Grounds.

"Lowell Park" is located between Congress, Lowell, and Burnham Streets and was erroneously omitted from the City of Portland list of city parks protected under the Code of Ordinances Chapter 18 Parks, Recreation and Public Buildings and Grounds .

Please confirm receipt and our addition to the December 7 Park Commission meeting agenda.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you!

Best,

Carol Schiller
Portland, ME
(207) 210-8781

City of Portland Parks Commission Minutes
November 2, 2023 at 5:00 PM

Commission Members:

Present: Beth Rabbitt, John Clark, Stephen Bensten, Helen Coyne, Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio (remote), Ashley Burdick, William Elting, Donna Gartland present, Jaime Parker (Chair), Robert Foster, Katie Mears

Not Present: Marie Gray, Victoria Pelletier (City Councilor), Kristen Fulmer,

Staff:

Present: Ethan Hipple, Jessica Teesdale, [Madeline Groeger](#)

I. Call to Order-

II. General Citizen Comment Period-None

III. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: 10/5/2023- Motion made by Beth Rabbit, seconded by Donna Gartland. Motion Accepted by Jaime Parker Chair

Discussion-Correction Rob Foster did not volunteer to compile annual report
Helen Coyne will do annual report.

Minutes approved unanimously 10-0

b. New Business

i. CIP Update-Ethan Hipple- CIP process explanation

The primary role of the Parks commission is to review the CIP project list and come up with preferences and priorities to submit PRF. PRF rolls Committee recommendations into the city priority list and makes recommendations to City Council.

c. Old Business

i. Portland Trails Presentation-Slide show presented by Jaime Parker (Chair). Summary Explanation of Portland Trails and role they play in the Greater Portland Area.

Discussion of how Portland Trails, PRF and DPW work together with COP.

Comments made by Commissioners Elting, Mears, Parker, Clarke, Foster, and PRF Director Ethan Hipple

ii. Commission Responsibilities and Goals:

Discussion on the role of the Parks Commission. How the PC fits into the greater picture and How to operationalize. Suggestion: refer to city ordinances as they pertain to the Parks Commission.

Comments made by Commissioners, Elting, Parker, Gartland, Rabbit, Mears, and PRF Director [Ethan Hipple](#).

iii. Commission Support for Protection of Parks and Trails

PRF Director Ethan Hipple- Encampment impact on Parks update

Discussion: In the coming weeks the Parks Commission will be presented with a PRF statement on encampment impact on parks. The Parks Commission may develop a recommendation to the City Council. Next City Council meeting is 11/13.

Comments by Commissioners Burdick, Mears, Rabbit

d. Communications and Updates

i. Parks Report- included in Portland Trails presentation

ii. Land Bank Commission Report- Robert Foster: Land bank is still preparing the Land Bank report and will present when available

iii. Green Space Gathering- May 2, 2023 planning is underway

iv. Parks Commission processes and handbook

Discussion- need for more strategic planning and community involvement. Idea for planning a January strategic planning meeting. Doodle Poll will be organized for setting a date.

Comments by Commissioners Rabbit, Parker, Rabbit, Coyne, Gartner

e. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items-

Annual Report Draft presentation for review and approval.

IV. Adjournment

Dear Commissioners:

As discussed at our November Parks Commission meeting, the Commission does not have a formal process for issuing public statements on specific policy issues or current events. Given this, we have agreed in the past that the Commission would not issue any statements without consensus and an opportunity for all members to meaningfully offer comments and suggestions for what such a statement would include.

Based on input from several of you, conversations with department stakeholders, and our own assessment, **we believe that now is the time to consider whether and how to issue a statement of support for adequately protecting our parks and open spaces in decisions about public encampments.**

To be clear, as a Commission, we do not think it is our role to recommend specific approaches or policies for addressing the complexity and challenges of serving our unhoused community. In addition to being non-experts with less proximity to those working on the ground, we are aware that as a group we have diverse viewpoints on solutions. We also know that we all serve on this Commission because we care deeply about our public spaces, and that it is part of our mission and charge to advocate for the stewardship of the parks and open spaces. **We believe that raising awareness of the need to adequately protect these resources as a consideration in the policy discussion is warranted.**

Given this, we are offering a draft of a potential statement for your consideration. We see it as a starting point for the conversation we need to have and, should members be supportive of potential action. To prepare for this conversation **we ask that you carefully read the draft and come prepared to offer your thoughts and input. We will first discuss whether we agree as a group that this step is warranted, and then workshop the points and content to come to an agreement.**

Thanks for your partnership and dedication. We are excited to hear ideas and thoughts in the meeting next week.

Regards,
Jaime Parker (Chair)
Beth Rabbitt (Vice Chair)

****DRAFT****

A Statement from the Portland Parks Commission On The Protection of Parks and Open Spaces in Encampment Policy Decision-Making

The City of Portland Parks Commission, representing a diverse group of community volunteers dedicated to the stewardship of our parks and open spaces, acknowledges the pressing need to address the city's growing housing crisis and its impact on the homeless population. We are deeply committed to fostering accessible, enjoyable, and sustainable public spaces for all residents of Portland.

First, we recognize the critical need to provide support and solutions for our homeless community. Their well-being and dignity are paramount in any policy decisions. We do not believe it is our role to recommend specific approaches or policies for addressing the complexity and challenges of this issue. In addition to being nonexperts with less proximity to those working on the ground, we represent diverse viewpoints on solutions to be pursued.

At the same time, Portland's parks and open spaces are a treasure - an important element of who we are and our commitment to equitable access to exercise, well-being, and recreation for the broader community, including our children, citizens without private outdoor spaces, and visitors. These spaces' existence is the result of the vision, dedication, stewardship, and generosity of many Portland residents and friends over the past two centuries. We know they are valued.

Long-term camping in these areas can have significant long-term ecological and social impacts, ranging from degradation and needed restoration of natural resources and habitats to public health concerns and making open spaces less available to other users in need of access. These impacts and the cost of resolution and rehabilitation must be a factor in decisions.

In addition, we are aware of the ways addressing long-term encampments is affecting our front-line Parks and Recreation employees, who are charged with ensuring the health of our parks and open spaces. We have asked them to manage increased workload and emotional stress, personal safety risks (including exposure to hazardous materials), and diversion of already very limited resources to address an incredibly complex challenge for which we have offered little training or support. The staff's work matters, deeply, and if we are to ask this we must resource it at levels commensurate with the challenge.

As the City Council deliberates on proposals to permit homeless encampments in our parks and open spaces, we urge a balanced and thoughtful approach that considers the multifaceted implications of such policies. The Portland Parks Commission is committed to being a part of this vital conversation and to finding solutions that respect the needs of our homeless citizens while preserving the integrity and accessibility of our parks and open spaces for future generations.

Respectfully,
Jaime Parker (Chair)
Beth Rabbitt (Vice Chair)

[Additional MEMBERS]

2021- 2023

Parks Commission

Annual Report



Mayor Dion and Honorable Councilors;

I am pleased to present the Parks Commission Annual Report for 2021 through 2023 for your review.

Our city's parks are treasured civic amenities that provide essential safe spaces for physical activity and social connections. Other linked public spaces like trails and pedestrian-friendly streets create a stronger transportation system that connects neighborhoods to parks and schools, reduces traffic and parking congestion, and mitigates the effects of climate change.

While issues such as the pandemic, inflation, and a housing crisis have strained budgets and presented new challenges to the city over the last several years, they've also illuminated the necessity of robust parks, trails, and open spaces for our city's public and environmental health. The pandemic, in particular, shone a light on the fact that moving around outdoors is critical for physical and mental health, as well as social well-being.

The housing and encampment crisis is ongoing, and testing our ability to care for the most vulnerable in our community, many of whom are using parks and public spaces as a refuge. Certainly a significant side effect of this crisis is the toll this use is taking on parks and the staff that manage them. While we must work to find better solutions for the housing crisis, we must also protect the integrity of these essential spaces.

Because parks and trails are so vital to our city's public and environmental health, it is important they receive the funding needed to serve the community well. Indeed there is an immediate need for personnel who are specifically trained for the social work and communication that has become a regular part of the job for Parks staff, as one example. When up to 50% of a Directors or Managers time is spent directly on the issue of unhoused people in parks, we should see a commensurate increase in funding for the Department, so that all the other essential work can be achieved. The status quo is untenable given the new challenges confronting the Department.

The Parks Commission has thus established three objectives for 2024, and hopes to align these goals with 2024 Council priorities:

- 1. Obtain additional budget for the Parks Recreation and Facilities Department.**
- 2. Focus on underserved neighborhoods and populations in park and trail investments.**
- 3. Increase mobility and access to public spaces - envision streets and trails as linear parks, providing safety, a more balanced transportation system and a stronger economy.**

Respectfully submitted,

Jaime Parker, Chair, Portland Parks Commission

MORE DETAIL ON 3 Objectives:

1. Obtain additional budget for the Parks Recreation and Facilities Department to increase staff headcount in order to address several growing, critical issues, and secure additional federal funding to help the City defray the cost of maintaining services:

- The Forestry Division is in a severely diminished position with most urgent staffing needs.
 - Insufficient human resources to sustain proper tree maintenance / other tree work
 - Additional Forestry staff can also be deployed to assist with snow removal efforts in the winter months
- Mitigate impact of homelessness crisis on city parks resources and staff
 - Parks staff is bearing the largest brunt of this ongoing issue, and the problem is longstanding with negative effects on staff mental health
 - The Parks staff work with this population is beyond the scope of their training, skills and resources
 - The department need staff who can collaborate with social service agencies to help the parks staff with cleaning and maintaining encampments areas in public parks
 - Rangers are pulling back from homeless engagements, increasing burden on Parks staff
- Consider hiring a grant writer to secure federal funding to close budget gaps and defray city expenses.
 - Federal government awards hundreds of billions of dollars in grants to state and local governments each year to help finance city services such as health care, education, social services, infrastructure, and public safety.
 - The application process is complex; requiring a dedicated staff member. Grant awards will reduce dependency on the city budget.
 - A small city of around 13,000, [Steamboat Springs](#) has a grant writer program is and applies for about 40 grants per year with a dedicated team, securing much needed funding

2. Focus on underserved neighborhoods and populations in park and trail investments

- Using outreach and inclusionary practices, invite more people from the community to join conversations about parks and civic investments in our open spaces and trails, in alignment with goals of Parks and Recreation
 - Engage with neighborhoods and communities without existing “Friends” groups, to ensure fair representation for these communities

- Greenspace Gathering (Parks Commission Annual Meeting)
- Friends Groups
- Private entities using public spaces ie; food trucks, concerts
- CIP inclusion of pavilions/picnic areas in parks
- Impact of pandemic on parks and open space - increased appreciation

3. Increase mobility and access to public spaces

- Connecting neighborhoods and the city - Being within a 1/4 mile of a park is only useful if it is safe and pleasant to get there.
- Linear Parks and Green Streets - Parks need good access, and are greatly enhanced by being connected with safe, efficient routes and pathways.
 - Our City Code and Design Manual should support best practices in urban design that consider all users of streets and public ways
 - Shared Streets, Skinny Streets, and low-speed streets are examples of proven enhancements to the built environment.
 - Sidewalk and Trail plowing should be supported by equipment and staffing commensurate with winter operations on our streets.
 - Strengthen connections to transit, and pedestrian amenities at and on routes to transit stops.
 - Trails can be highly cost effective ways to achieve greater mobility, and fall squarely within the purview of the PRF Department
 - Partner groups like Portland Trails and the Bicycle Coalition of Maine stand ready to work with the City to greatly increase and enhance non-auto transportation.

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Parks Inventory for the 2020 City of Portland, Maine Parks Commission Report

OVERVIEW

The Portland Parks Commission (PC)¹ is required to submit an annual report to the city council regarding the state of the city's parks and public grounds and make specific recommendations therein about suggested goals and improvements for the parks and public grounds per City Code (Sec. 18-10(d)(4)). The primary audience for the report is Portland's City Council. It is the hope of the PC that anyone interested in, or is an advocate for, the enhancement and stewardship of our parks and open spaces also enjoy and make use of this report. Reports are completed annually and built on previous reports.

The Portland Park System includes over 67 parks and playgrounds, 7.5 miles of multi use trails, 10 community gardens, 2 stadiums, 16 cemeteries and dozens of athletic fields and courts, all spread across 1,000+ acres of land.

Explore the parks: <https://www.portlandmaine.gov/1898/Parks-Trails-and-Playgrounds>

The Parks Commission is composed of citizen volunteers approved by the City Council and supported by staff from the Parks Recreation and Facilities Department.

Current Parks Commissioners

Jaime Parker, Chair, Portland Trails
Beth Rabbitt, Vice Chair, at large
John Clark
Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio
Ashley Burdick
William Elting
Donna Gartland
Kristen Fulmer
Robert Foster
Helen Coyne
Marie Gray
Stephen Bentsen

Previous Parks Commissioners

Zack Anchors, Friends of Eastern Promenade 2017-2020
Colette Bouchard, Public-at-Large 2017-2020
Marie Gray, Friends of Deering Oaks, 2018-2021
Jon Kachmar, Land Bank Representative 2020-2023
Cynthia Loebenstein, Friends of Evergreen Cemetery (Chair 2019-present) 2015-2021
Ana Lagunez, Public-at-large 2018-2021
Craig Lapine, Public-at-large 2015-2020

¹ <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/345/Parks-Commission>

Meri Lowry, Land Bank Representative 2010-2019
Michael Mertaugh, Public-at-Large (V. Chair 2019-present) 2014-2020
Nathan Robbins, Public-at-Large (V. Chair 2018-2019) 2015-2021
Amy Segal, Public-at-Large 2017-2020
Dory Waxman, Public-at-Large (Chair 2017-2019) 2015-2021 ‘
Caitie Whelan, Public-at-Large 2019-2022, stepped down Oct 2020.
Mayor Kate Snyder, City Council Representative, 2019-present
Brian Batson, City Council Representative 2018-2019

Current City Staff Department of Parks, Recreation, and Facilities (DPRF)

Ethan Hipple, Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department
Alex Marshall, Parks Director
Jennifer DeRice, Assistant Parks Director
Jessica Teesdale, Executive Assistant
Madeline Groeger, Administrative Associate

Parks Commission Subcommittees:

- Annual Report & Inventory
- Finance
- Parks Initiatives
- Community Outreach

NEW DEVELOPMENTS

Some of the more significant developments reported in Park Commission meetings over the time period:

- Futsal Court installation at Kennedy Park
- Dougherty Field Skatepark expansion
- Stroudwater Preserve Bridge and open space planning
- Preble Fields Stormwater and Field restoration project
- Western Prom MAster Planning and implementation
- Dougherty Field playground and pathway planning
- Portland Parks Conservancy established
- Portland Youth Corps established
- Eastern Prom and Fish Point vegetation clearing and improvement projects
- Riverton Trolley Park Master Plan
- Baxter Pines Forest Management planning and implementation
- Playground planning and implementation at Lyseth, Dougherty, Talbot School
- Browntail Moth mitigation at Deering Oaks
- Baxter Woods Leash Law changes
- Public Toilet program expansion
- Riverton Preserve planning

- Deering Oaks ADA walkway planning and implementation
- Community Garden expansions and fencing
- Food Truck program at Eastern Prom
- Canopy Project and tree planting efforts in Bayside and city-wide
- Portland Harbor Commons planning
- Union Branch Trail planning
- Congress Square redesign
- North Deering Park acquisition and opening
- Encampment issues in City parks and trails
- VEranda Street Waterfront Park
- C3 Concert proposal at Payson Park
- Big Belly trash receptacles
- Payson Park Playground and pathway planning and implementation
- Maine Conservation Corps yearly partnership with Portland Trails in Presumpscot River Preserve

PARK FINANCE

The operational expenditures of the various departments in the city are met by a combination of General Fund budget allocations and retained revenues from fees, grants, and other sources.

In most budget years, over two-thirds of the Parks, Recreation, and Facilities Department's operating expenditures are met by retained revenues from fees and user charges, with the General Fund budget making up the difference.

Several facilities managed by the Department—including the Riverside Golf Course, Merrill Auditorium, and Expo Center—cover most of their operating costs through retained revenues. Revenues have historically exceeded operational expenditures, for some of these facilities.

City Budget Comparisons

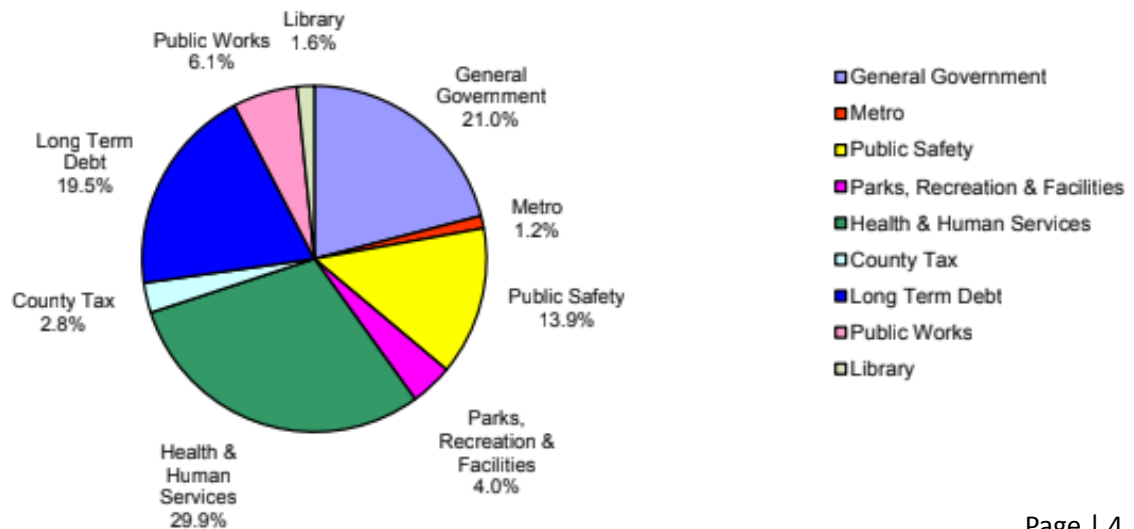
It is a useful context to understand how budgeting for Parks fits into the larger City of Portland budget. At a macro level the total city budget for FY2023 is \$477 million (including Schools). The Parks Recreation and Facilities budget is \$11.4 million, with Parks plus Forestry at \$2 million, and Recreation at \$1.86 million. Other departments are shown below.

\$ in millions

City plus Schools	477
PRFD	11.4
Parks	1.2
Forestry	.88
Recreation	1.86
Facilities and other	7.46
DPW	17
HHS	55
Fire	20.34
Police	16.7

Based on these figures, Parks plus Forestry account for only .44% of the total City Budget. With the entire PRF Department accounting for 4%.

**FY23
General Fund Expenditures**



CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

Each year the Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department is awarded funds through the CIP process based on recommendations from department heads, with input from citizens, Friends groups and the Parks Commission. Below are the CIP allocations for FY 2021 through 2024.

FY 2021

Appropriation New Bond Authorization

Parks, Rec & Public Assembly

Lyseth Playground Replacement	275,000	275,000	
Portland Exposition Building Renovation Plan	165,000	165,000	
Deering Oaks ADA Walkway Paving	149,000	149,000	
Riverton Preserve ADA Trail	96,000	96,000	
Wilde Chapel Emergency Repairs	75,000		75,000
Riverton School Basketball Reconstruction	69,000	69,000	
Evergreen Cemetery Frontage Improvements	53,000	53,000	
Golf Course Improvements/ADA Updates	50,000	50,000	
Portland Public Aquatics - New Pool Engineering / Planning	50,000	50,000	
Dougherty Field Irrigation	46,000	46,000	
Box Boom Lighting Project	40,000	40,000	
Rubber Flooring Completion - Ice Arena	37,000	37,000	
Payson Park Tennis & Basketball Courts Sealing/Painting	29,000	29,000	
Longfellow Playground Climbing Net	27,000	27,000	

FY 2022

Facilities

Facilities & Waterfront	212 Canco Roof Replacement	325,000	325,000
Facilities & Waterfront	Offices & Customer Service Areas A/C Installation	150,000	150,000
Fire Department	Riverton Station - Boiler Room Upgrades	150,000	150,000
Parks & Rec	Golf Course Upgrades - HVAC and Drainage	115,000	115,000
Parks & Rec	Evergreen Cemetery Columbaria Phase II	108,000	108,000
Public Schools	Masonry Repair at Deering High School	150,000	150,000
Public Schools	Technology & Fire Alarm System Upgrades - PIES	100,000	100,000
Public Schools	Install fire sprinkler system - PIES	130,000	130,000
Public Schools	Door Access Controls - King and Lincoln	115,000	115,000
Public Works	Federal Street Cemetery Wall Repair	35,000	35,000

Recreation

Parks, Fields, Trails

Parks & Rec	Skatepark Expansion	50,000	50,000
Parks & Rec	ADA Walkway Paving--Deering Oaks	118,000	118,000
	Court Resurfacing - Reiche and West End (Various), Lyman		
Parks & Rec	Moore, Fox St, Talbot School	97,000	97,000
Planning & Urban Development	Congress Square Redesign - Construction Drawing Completion	50,000	50,000

FY 2023

PARKS & RECREATION

Parks, Fields, Trails	Congress Square Redesign	900,000	900,000		
Parks, Fields, Trails	Dougherty Skate Park Expansion	235,000	235,000		
Parks, Fields, Trails	Riverton Trolley Park Rehabilitation	125,000	125,000		
Parks, Fields, Trails	Longfellow Playground Design	50,000	50,000		
Parks, Fields, Trails	Portland Harbor Common	75,000	75,000		
Facilities	Bridge Over Dole Brook (Emergency Replacement)	255,000	255,000		
Facilities	Riverton Pool Filter Replacement	130,000	130,000		
Parks, Fields, Trails	Back Cove Trail Reconstruction	95,000	95,000		

FACILITIES

Facilities	Replace Deck 2 Pavement and Membrane	550,000	550,000		
Facilities	Sealants and Concreate Repairs Levels 2 and 3 290K one year and levels 4	290,000	290,000		
Facilities	Portland Ocean Terminal Structural Repair	375,000	75,000	300,000	(3)
Facilities	212 Roof Replacement (4 Phases)	270,000	270,000		
Facilities	Police Dispatch Renovation/Expansion	115,000	0	115,000	(2)
Facilities	90 Anderson St - Exterior Upgrades	100,000	100,000		
Facilities	Observatory - Painting and Other Maintenance	70,000	70,000		
Facilities	Replace Concrete Steps/Railings & Other	200,000	0	200,000	(2)
Marine	On going pile/pier work at OG and P.O.T	125,000	125,000		
Facilities	Ocean Ave - Roof Replacement	65,000	65,000		
Facilities	Bramhall - Boiler Room Upgrades	155,000	155,000		
Facilities	Additional Appropriations for Previously Approved Capital Projects	3,250,000	0.00	3,250,000	(5)

FY 2024

PARKS & RECREATION

Parks, Rec & Public Assembly	Deering Oaks ADA Sidewalks and Curbing - Tennis Court Rd (State to D	335,000	335,000		
Parks, Rec & Public Assembly	Preble Field Fitness Course	30,000	20,000	10,000	(3)
Parks, Rec & Public Assembly	Great Diamond Island Basketball Court Reconstruction	35,000	35,000		
Parks, Rec & Public Assembly	Clark Street, Tyng-Tate Playground Replacement and Reiche Design	150,000	150,000		
Parks, Rec & Public Assembly	Evergreen Cemetery Expansion Plan - Phase III	100,000	100,000		
Parks, Rec & Public Assembly	Riverton Tennis Conversion to Pickleball Courts	150,000		150,000	(3)
Parks, Rec & Public Assembly	Court Resurfacing: Various Tennis/Pickleball & Basketball Courts	50,000		50,000	(3)
Parks, Rec & Public Assembly	Dougherty Athletic Field - Additional Funding for Completion	145,000		145,000	(3)
Parks, Rec & Public Assembly	Lyseth Playground - Additional Funding for Completion	80,000	80,000		
Planning & Urban Developme	Congress Square Redesign	700,000	500,000	200,000	(3)

MAJOR COMPLETED PARKS PROJECTS 2021 TO 2023

Year Completed	Project	City Funding	Partner Funding	Total Cost	Funding Source
2023	Payson Park Playground	\$350,000		\$350,000	CIP
2023	Talbot School Basketball Reconstruction	\$69,000	\$55,680	\$124,680	CIP/CDBG
2022	Deering Oaks ADA Walkway --State St to Ravine, Pond Edge	\$118,000		\$118,000	CIP
2023	Deering Oaks ADA Walkway--Playground to Ravine Walkway	\$149,000		\$149,000	CIP
2023	Acquisition: North Deering Park	\$80,000	\$720,000	\$800,000	Land Bank, TPL, ORLP, LMF
2023	Skatepark Expansion	\$305,000	\$103,470	\$408,470	CIP, Foundations, Private Donations
2023	Dougherty Field Improvements: Basketball and Playground	\$345,000		\$345,000	CIP
2022	Western Prom Signage (Large)		\$20,000	\$20,000	Maine Med
2022	Acquisition: Redlion Woods	\$112,500	\$112,500	\$225,000	Land Bank, Private Fundraising
2022	Acquisition: Riverton Trolley Park Parcels	\$27,000	\$23,000	\$50,000	Land Bank, Private
2021	Dougherty Field Playground CDBG Equipment Purchase		\$137,000	\$137,000	CDBG
2022	Evergreen Cemetery Columbarium Phase II	\$108,000		\$108,000	CIP
2022	Lyseth Playground	\$325,000		\$325,000	275K CIP, 50K impact fees
2022	Western Prom Wall Repair--Valley St Auto Garage	\$25,000	\$12,500	\$37,500	WP license fee
2022	Public Restrooms, Vault Toilets: Payson Park Playground, Payson Park Tennis, Evergreen Cemetery, Dougherty Field	\$75,000		\$75,000	CIP
2022	Public Restrooms, Metal City Toilets: Deering Oaks/Park Ave, Eastern Prom Tennis, Fox Field		\$75,000	\$75,000	CDBG

2023	Public Restrooms, Metal City Toilets: Monument Way, Fish Pier, Spring Street		\$75,000	\$75,000	ARPA
2021	Evergreen Cemetery Frontage Improvements	\$53,000	\$24,000	\$77,000	Nauman Trust
2021	Fox Field Basketball Lighting	\$95,000		\$95,000	Sustainability office LED grant
2021	Futsal Court and lighting at Fox Field	\$174,000		\$174,000	CDBG, CIP, Impact Fees
2021	Longfellow Playground Netclimber	\$27,000		\$27,000	CIP
2021	Payson Tennis and Basketball Resurfacing	\$29,000		\$29,000	CIP
2021	Western Prom Master Plan		\$40,000	\$40,000	Grant and Friends Group
2021	Amethyst Lot Interim Park	\$340,000		\$340,000	CIP
2023	Community Garden Shed and Fence Replacements	\$137,000		\$137,000	CDBG
2021	Maine Med: Western Prom Switchback Trail Improvements		\$50,000	\$50,000	
2021	Riverton Softball Drainage and Erosion	\$65,000		\$65,000	CIP
2023	Deering Oaks Playground Replacements	\$55,000		\$55,000	CIP
			Total	\$4,511,650	

In the previous three years the Department has completed the major projects shown above, along with numerous other smaller projects, ongoing maintenance and repairs, public engagement and, as noted elsewhere, a very large increase in dealings with people experiencing homelessness and the resulting encampments.

AGENDA ITEMS NOVEMBER 2020-OCTOBER 2023

Meetings of the Park Commission with links to agendas for quicker access to packets of meeting agendas, notes and supporting materials.

- [November 2020](#)
- [December 2020](#)
- [January 2021](#)
- [February 2021](#)
- [February 2021 Strategic Planning Meeting](#)
- [March 2021](#)
- [April 2021](#)
- [May 2021](#)
- [May 2021 Greenspace Gathering](#)
- [June 2021](#)
- [July 2021](#)
- [August 2021](#)
- [September 2021](#)
- [October 2021](#)
- [November 2021](#)
- [December 2021](#)
- [January 2022](#)
- [February 2022](#)
- [February 2022 Strategic Planning Meeting](#)
- [March 2022](#)
- [April 2022](#)
- [May 2022](#)
- [June 2022](#)
- July 2022 (no meeting)
- [August 2022](#)
- [September 2022](#)
- [October 2022](#)
- [November 2022](#)
- [December 2022](#)
- January 2023(no meeting)
- [February 2023](#)
- [March 2023](#)
- [April 2023](#)
- [May 2023](#)
- [June 2023](#)
- July 2023(no meeting)
- [August 2023](#)
- [September 2023](#)
- [October 2023](#)
- [November 2023](#)

PARKS INVENTORY FOR THE 2023 CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

PARKS COMMISSION REPORT

Park Inventory

The following sources were used in drafting the below inventory of Parks of Portland, Maine: 1. Section 2-44, City Code for City of Portland, Maine, revised 7/10/14 (the “Land Bank Ordinance”) 2. Section 18-11, City Code for City of Portland, Maine, revised 5/28/14 (the “Parks Ordinance”)

N.B. School playgrounds and athletic fields are not included in the park inventory even though the City of Portland does maintain and fund ongoing maintenance and replacement. PARKS IN THE CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

Dedicated Parks Listed in both the Parks Ordinance and the Land Bank Ordinance:

Back Cove Park and Trail
Barrows Park/Baxters Sundial
Baxter Pines
Baxter Woods
Bayside Park, also known as Stone Street Playground Bell Buoy Park
Belmeade Park
Capisic Pond Park
Clark Street Park
Congress Square Park
Deering Oaks Park
Dougherty Field
Eastern Promenade Park, East End Beach, Fort Allen Park
Fessenden Park
Fort Gorges
Fort Sumner Park
Fox Field/Kennedy Park
Harbor View Park and Tate-Tyng Park
Heseltine Park
Lincoln Park
Lobsterman Park
Longfellow Square
Monument Square
Munjoy South Playground
Payson Park
Peppermint Park
Pleasant Street Park

Post Office Park
Riverside Golf Course
Riverton Trolley Park (incorrectly listed as Riverton Park in the Ordinances)
Stroudwater Parks (there are 2 listed in the Ordinances)
Taylor Street Park
Tommy's Park
Western Promenade Park

Dedicated Parks Listed in the Parks Ordinance and Not the Land Bank Ordinance:

Andrews Square – N.B. This Park consists of a flagpole only
Bayside Trail
Bedford Park
Boothby Square
Boyd Street Gardens
Bramhall Square
Caldwell Square
Clark Street Playground
Tate-Tyng Playground (not in alphabetical order because of association with Harborview Park)
Longfellow Park
Marada Adams Playground N.B. This Park is located at the corner of Beckett and O'Brion Streets and is not the Adams School Playground
Martin's Point Park
Nason's Corner Park
Pedro Field
Pleasant Street Playground
Quaker Park
South Street Playground
Trinity Park
Winslow Park

The Parks Commission notes that University Park is listed in the Land Bank Ordinance and not in the Parks Ordinance. University Park is therefore included on the Land Bank Registry as a Land Bank property that is not a park.

CITY OF PORTLAND
Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department
Ethan Hipple, Director

CITY OF PORTLAND
Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department
Alex Marshall, Parks Director

Memorandum

TO: Parks Commission and Land Bank Commission

FROM: Alex Marshall, Parks Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update

DATE: December 2023

Parks Division Staffing

- Total Budgeted positions in Parks Division: 33
- Vacancies:
 - None

Monument Square Christmas Tree

The Forestry Team selected a beautiful 55' Blue Spruce for the Monument Square display this Holiday season. The tree was extracted from its home on Lubec Street in South Portland and was delivered to Monument Square on Wednesday, Nov 15 by our talented City Forestry Team with the help of Keeley Crane and Shaw Brothers for transport. Auxiliary support was provided by the Portland Police Department and the Parking Division as they escorted the specimen to its final destination. Portland Downtown assisted in the celebration and tree lighting on Friday, November 24th. Portland Downtown has a tree camera that can be seen here: <https://portlandmaine.com/treecam/>

Order 68 Council Resolution

The City Council took up Order 68 on their November 20th meeting. After 5 hours of public comment the council voted down the order 6-3. The proposal was then approved by a vote of 7-2 to be explored by the HHS & Public Safety Committee.

Bayside Tree Planting Blitz Update

In 2023, Parks Staff submitted a Request for Proposals to plant 80 or more trees in the Bayside Neighborhoods using American Rescue Plan Act(ARPA) Funds. The RFP resulted in no bids. Parks has since acquired additional Community Development Block Grant(CDBG) funding to add an additional 45 trees for a total of 125 +/- trees anticipated for the Bayside Neighborhoods. These two funding streams will be combined within a larger RFP this Winter for potential Spring construction and planting. This work will complement the 41+ trees that the Forestry and Horticulture Teams and Community Partners planted this past year along with annual plantings planned for these two neighborhoods in 2024.

Winter Operations

It is that time of year where many are gearing up for snow and ice. Our Parks Maintenance Crew morphs into a sidewalk clearing operation during the winter months with the help from Horticulture, Ballfields and Cemeteries. That team covers over 120 miles of sidewalks and trails each storm with a handful of them working on heavy snow load, heavy ice, pinch point and tip-down locations. The Forestry Division



CITY OF PORTLAND
Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department
Ethan Hipple, Director

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Alex Marshall, Parks Director

diverts from tree work during each storm to focus on Public Safety Buildings, on-peninsula School parking lots, snow ban parking lots and various other city parking lots. Our Ballfields division participates in overnight sidewalk clearing in the Downtown District and then helps with sidewalk pinch points during the day. The Playground Division keeps City Hall Plaza and the Police Station open while also clearing and maintaining the ice on three citywide ponds (Payson Park, Ludlow and Deering Oaks). Finally, our Park Rangers help with shoveling various city buildings and will also help keep the cross country ski trails open at Deering Oaks and Payson Park as conditions permit. Stay tuned for a Parks Winter Operations video coming out next week.

Park Projects and Department Updates

Staff are working on the following Park Improvement projects:

- Deering Oaks Park ADA Walkway improvements: Phase three providing ADA access to the wading ravine was completed this past Summer. Phase 4, which is the sidewalk along Tennis Court Drive, is under design development currently in hopes of breaking ground in the Summer or Fall of 2024.
- Fitzpatrick Drainage Improvements: Drawings are complete. An RFP is ready to be advertised.
- Preble Street Field & Stormwater Project: Final design and landscaping plans have been finalized. There have been some construction delays that will push the installation of the field back to the Fall of 2024 with field play to begin in the Spring or Summer of 2025.
- Riverton Preserve: Recreation improvement plans are in progress and will consist primarily of a trail network with other improvements. This project is intended to fulfill LWCF conversion requirements, and final approval of the improvement plan rests with the state and National Park Service, which has a public engagement process.
- Lower Western Prom Park Improvements: Final design improvements have been made and we have secured the additional funding via CDBG to execute the project later in 2024.
- Longfellow Elementary School Playground: Parks Staff are working with a design consultant on the construction drawings and bid documents for a Winter/Spring 2024 bid and Summer/Fall 2024 construction.
- Stroudwater Bridge Project: The City has contracted with a consultant to perform the design and engineering for installing a city owned bridge that already exists near the site. This project has \$120,000 in Recreational Trails Program funding with the remaining project funds to come from private donations.