

City of Portland | Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management

Ethan Hipple, *Director*

Alex Marshall, *Director of Parks*



Parks Commission January 9, 2025 Meeting Minutes

This meeting was recorded and is available to watch on the Agendas and Meetings Portal

Here: <https://portlandme.portal.civicclerk.com/event/6750/media>

Present Commission Members: Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio, Beth Rabbitt, Elizabeth Pagan, Helen Coyne, John Clark, Robert Foster, Sarah Michniewicz (City Councilor), William Elting.

Not Present: Ashley Burdick, Donna Gartland, Griffin Bourassa, Jaime Parker, Marie Gray

City Staff:

Alex Marshall (Parks Director), Jessica Teesdale (PRF Sr. Executive Assistant)

Call to Order

B. Rabbit called the meeting to order at 5:03 PM

General Citizen Comment Period - B. Rabbit opened the floor for public comment on non-agenda items. The following individuals spoke: Cassidy Lecroix of District 5 and Kirk Cram of District 5

Emailed comments - R. Foster asked how the Parks Commission can help with Skate park improvements. A. Marshall explained that this project is on the CIP list but is a few years out. The Parks Commission could recommend the project in the next round of CIP recommendations.

Agenda Items

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: November 7, 2024

Motion to accept meeting minutes: Motion by R. Foster and seconded by J. Clark.

Passed: 5-0 with 3 abstaining

New Business

Committee work session reports-

Greenspace gathering - B. Rabbitt and A. Del Vecchio provided an update about the plans to break the traditional Green Space Gathering into 2 events. April educational community engagement meeting about the CIP process, and a Fun-Focused Parks and Community

Day in June. Location: Payson Park. Date: Wednesday, June 18th

Special Projects-R.Foster provided an update on the concept of replacing an interpretive sign in Deering Oaks Park.

Parks Commission Annual Report- B. Rabbitt plans to finalize the annual report at the February workshop meeting.

Communications and Updates

Parks Division Report- A. Marshall provides an update on the Parks Division report. 2 new project managers, a staffing update, seeking to fill 3 positions. Tree crews have been making progress due to the mild winter. The disc golf course at Payson Park, and ice conditions at Deering Oaks and Ludlow Pond. Unhoused report.

Land Bank Commission Report-R. FosterVoted to approve the 2024 annual report and 2025 budget. Parcel reviews and standard Land Bank work

Commissioner Requests for Agenda Items

Historic sign replacement in Deering Oaks Park

Indigenous representation

Payson Park Music Festival update

Community Gardens update

CIP projects update

Role of Parks Commission in CIP Allocation-Letter to finance committee; statement for March meeting

Land Bank and Parks Commission overview

Process of expanding parks equity

Portland Harbor Common update

Adjournment