

City of Portland | Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management

Ethan Hipple, *Director*

Alex Marshall, *Director of Parks*



Parks Commission September 4, 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/7492/media>

Please note: Audio technical issues are resolved at timestamp 11.23.

Present Commission Members: Alexis Lopez Del Vecchio, Ashley Burdick, Beth Rabbitt, Donna Gartland, Elizabeth Pagan, Griffin Bourassa, Jaime Parker, John Clark, Marie Gray, Robert Foster, Sarah Michniewicz (City Councilor), William Elting

Not Present: David Little

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

Call to Order: B. Rabbit called the meeting to order at 5:04 pm

General Citizen Comment Period in person: none

Agenda Items

Acceptance of Meeting Minutes May 1, 2025: Motion to accept meeting minutes: The motion was made by J. Parker and seconded by M. Gray. Motion passed 11-0

New Business

Back Cove Festival Presentation: Andy Downs provided an overview of the festival agreement and the Department's recommendation to support the plans to address the issues and concerns that arose during the 2025 festival. Communication between the organizers and the City was open and positive. Next steps would be for the Parks Commission to make the recommendation to the City Council. Representatives of the promoter were present to help answer questions from the commission. Topics covered:

- Proximity and impact of the assisted living facility
- Permitting review process
- Cost analysis for city staff
- Ride share
- Potential for a community survey
- Tickets for adjacent neighbors
- Park closure to all

- Trail improvements and use statistics
- Traffic and Transportation
- Responsiveness of festival organizers
- Parking and accessibility
- Signage
- City partnership
- Community communication
- Security
- Noise complaints and accountability

B. Rabbit will pull all of the commission notes into a letter of recommendation

Public Comment provided: Devon Green of Frenald Street, and Jeff Shaw, director of the Maine Academy of Modern Music

FY27 Capital Improvement Projects Overview: Alex Marshall provides the overview and answers questions about the CIP process and the projects on the list.

- Deering Oaks lighting
- Fitzpatrick track resurfacing and fencing
- Fore City Cemetery Erosion Mitigation
- Community garden raised beds
- Court resurfacing
- Deering Oaks courts crack mill and overlay
- Deering Oaks tennis court, adjacent road, and sidewalk
- Eastern Prom Cutter Street design
- Fencing
 - Eastern Prom trail
 - Back Cove trail
 - The Riverside Recycling Trail connects Riverton Trolley Park and the Riverside Trail.
 - North Deering Park
 - Naysons Corner Park
- Fort Gorges preservation and wharf reconstruction
- Lincoln Park fence
- Portland Harbor Common Phase II grant matching
- Western Prom Valley St. retaining wall
- East End Playground replacement
- Annual playground element repairs and replacement
- Back Cove stabilization and guard rail

Old Business

Committee Report–October meeting will be a workshop.

Communications and Updates-Tabled

Parks Division Report-Tabled

Land Bank Commission Report-Tabled

Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

- Allocation of funds received from the music festival agreement
- Bayside Midtown parcel recommendation
- Interpretive signage
- Leadership nominations
- Outreach discussion

Adjournment