



Commission Members: Chair Cynthia Loebenstein, V. Chair Michael Mertaugh, Dory Waxman, Councilor Brian Batson, Craig Lapine, Nathan Robbins, Colette Bouchard, Zack Anchors, Amy Segal, Ana Lagunez, Caitie Whelan and Marie Gray.

City of Portland
Parks Commission Agenda
September 5, 2019
5:00 PM
Portland City Hall
389 Congress Street, Room 24

*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.*

- I. General Citizen Comment Period
- II. Agenda Items
 - a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: *July 18, 2019 Meeting Minutes and August 15, 2019 Tour Minutes - 2 min.*
 - b. New Business
 - i. Recap of Parks Commission Fort Gorges Trip - *5 min.*
 - ii. Recap of Parks Commission Fort Gorges Forum with Portland Parks Conservancy - *5 min.*
 - iii. CIP Presentation - *30 min.*
 - c. Communications/Updates
 - i. Department Re-Organization - *Sally DeLuca - 5 min.*
 - ii. Parks Update - *5 min.*
 - iii. Subcommittee Update - *15 min*
Friends Groups Invitation Proposal
 - iv. Website - *5 min*
 - d. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

City of Portland Commissions are not required to take public comment under FOAA and our Ordinance is silent regarding the duties of the Commission. The Commission has the discretion to not allow or allow public comment during its meetings, including the authority to limit the duration of comments. Since the Commission makes recommendations to the City Council, public comment is available at that level.



In Attendance: Commission Members: Chair Dory Waxman, V. Chair Nathan Robbins, Craig Lapine, Cynthia Loebenstein, Michael Mertaugh, Colette Bouchard, Zack Anchors, Amy Segal, Ana Lagunez, Marie Gray and Caitie Whelan. City Staff: Michael Goldman, Ethan Hipple, Sally DeLuca, Alli Carroll. Members of the public: Michelle Lesprence, Mary Sherpus, Norm of Clinton Street, Marc Lesprence, Barbara from North Deering, Joan Gildart, David Turitz, Jess Anthony, Anne Callender, Megan Goodwan, Logan Puck, Shawn Demas, Nancy Simpson, Chris Noyse, Bobbie Cope, Kristen Smith, Andy Bean, Jessica Lobits, Charles Melcher, Leza Grough, Ellen Rathfor, Marie Shurkus, and Sean Kirsy.

City of Portland Parks Commission Minutes

July 18, 2019, 5:00 PM

Portland City Hall

389 Congress Street, Council Chambers

Dory called the meeting to begin at 5:02 PM.

I. General Citizen Comment Period

There are no comments at this time.

II. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: April 4, 2019

Cynthia moved to accept the meeting minutes of April 4, 2019. Michael seconded. Motion passed with 9 in favor. Caitie abstained.

b. New Business

i. Welcome New Commission Member, Caitie Whelan

Caitie and Commissioners introduced themselves. Dory and Commissioners welcomed Caitie to the Commission.

ii. Proposal for Baxter Woods Leash Change in City Ordinance Chapter 5 - *vote to recommend to bring proposal for Baxter Woods Leash Change in City Ordinance Chapter 5 to City Council*

Dory introduced Ethan Hipple who presented. He shared that Sally and he met with the representatives of the Facebook Group, "Responsible Dog Owners of Baxter Woods" and Maine Audubon and staff's goal is to find a compromise for all parties involved. Ethan reiterated that they are proposing the change due to Baxter's Deed restrictions, safety, and to benefit the habitat. He briefly discussed the park history and the previous proposal. He then shared the new proposal:

From April 1st through July 31st dogs would be on an 8-foot leash at all times. Throughout the other 8 months, dogs would be allowed off leash from 5:00am to 9:00am and 5:00pm to 10:00pm. Dogs would be restricted to an 8-foot leash from 9:00am through 5:00pm each day. There will also be a restoration area of 5 ½ acres that has been identified as the area to benefit and help increase ground nesting due to a meadow that resides within it, vernal pools and amount of undergrowth.

The Biodiversity Research Institute is in progress to do a baseline study of what birds are there now before the policy change occurs, then after the policy changes they will do it again so that they can see progress and if anymore change needs to occur.

Dory opened public comment.

The majority of the public who shared comments were not in favor of any change to the ordinance and would prefer it to stay a voice-controlled park.

Dory closed public comment.

Craig moved to recommend to bring proposal for Baxter Woods Leash Change in City Ordinance Chapter 5 to City Council. Marie seconded.

A discussion began between Commissioners regarding their concerns and questions. A question of signs and fencing arose. Ethan explained that there will be signage and the fencing around the 5 ½ acres will be rustic fencing. Marie asked about enforcement. Ethan said that if this proposal were to pass, the 1 full-time ranger and 4 seasonals would spend a lot of time educating public on the changes to the ordinance. Once some time doing that has passed, ticketing would increase. Commissioners appreciate the idea that studies will happen before and over time if this change is passed so that they can keep track of whether or not it is working. The goal is to have up to a dozen ground nesting species in Baxter Woods. Commissioners asked if there was a consideration of different hours. Due to the lack of rangers, keeping hours consistent with other parks, such as East End Beach, would be most efficient. The Commissioners had a lot of interest in wanting more park rangers in the parks. Commissioners asked if staff had looked into Boulder, Colorado's fee tags and education program. Unfortunately, it is a budget issue at this time. Eric Topper, Director of Education at Maine Audubon, explained that this 5 ½ acres is the most diverse in the most concentrated area of Baxter Woods and will accommodate all of the needs of the ground nesting birds. After this baseline study and the policy is in place if passed, the support in ground nesting bird's breeding behavior may allow measurable changes in a breeding period or two.

Commissioners made sure that the public knew that the powerpoint presentation created by the public who opposed this change was received by the Commission and taken into consideration. They would also like to follow up on the Forest and Wildlife Habitat Management Plan every year when they review the bird count to see what the impact of the construction abutting 5 ½ acres of restoration area.

Michael would like to amend to change the hours of daily 8-foot leash to 9:00AM through 3:00PM. Amy seconded. Sally shared that this would be difficult for staff but they will try to make it work. All in favor. Motion passed.

Dory moved to recommend to bring proposal for Baxter Woods Leash Change in City Ordinance Chapter 5 as amended to City Council. 10 in favor. Amy opposed. Motion passed.

iii. Nominate new Chair - *vote to appoint new Chair person*

Dory moved to nominate Cynthia as new chair. Nathan seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

iv. Nominate new Vice Chair - *vote to appoint new Vice Chair person*

Nathan moved to nominate Michael as new V. Chair. Craig seconded. All in favor. Motion passed.

c. Communications/Updates

i. Subcommittee Updates - *Finance Subcommittee launches Love Portland Gift Catalog*

Finance Subcommittee: Michael pressed the "go live" button for the Love Portland Gift Catalog.

Parks Initiative: Baxter Trail should be opening in September or October.

Annual Report: Nathan is hoping to have a draft ready for the next meeting.

ii. Summer Calendar and Tour Discussion

Cynthia proposed the August meeting to be a trip to Fort Gorges on August 15th from 5:00-7:00PM. No meeting on the August 1st, 2019.

Strategic Planning discussion will be at the Parks, Recreation & Facilities office at 212 Canco Rd September 14th, 2019 from 9:00am – 12:00pm.

Parks Commission is putting on a forum with the Portland Parks Conservancy regarding Fort Gorges on September 4th at 5:30PM at East End Community Center.

iii. Parks Division Report

There is a Parks Director opening in the Department and the job posting will be open until August 9th.

Cynthia moved to close the meeting. Nathan seconded. Meeting adjourned at 8:38PM.



In Attendance: Commission Members: Nathan Robbins, Cynthia Loebenstein, Michael Mertaugh, Zack Anchors, Amy Segal, Ana Lagunez, and Caitie Whelan. City Staff: Ethan Hipple and Alli Carroll. Members of the public: Friends of Fort Gorges Executive Director, Paul Drinan.

City of Portland Parks Commission Minutes

August 15, 2019, 5:00 PM

Fort Gorges, Portland, Maine

Commissioners kayaked from East End Beach to Fort Gorges at 5:00PM, Thursday, August, 15, 2019. There they toured the space with City Staff and Friends of Fort Gorges Executive Director, Paul Drinan. They returned to East End Beach at 7:15PM.

Portland Parks Capital Improvements: Projects Over \$25,000							DRAFT, as of 8/29/19					
The following schedule illustrates the long term plan for upkeep and improvements of Portland Parks and Open Spaces. It represents the Parks Division's best estimate for timing and cost. Dates and amounts are subject to change at any time. Prior to implementation, all projects would need support of Director of Parks, Recreation and Facilities, City Manager, and City Council.												
Projects marked with *** are new projects proposed by Friends/Neighborhood Groups, not previously on City CIP.												
		Yellow highlight = \$750K limit			Teal Highlight = \$1,000,000 limit							
		2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	Notes
Annual Total	District	\$2,305,000	\$3,785,000	\$3,270,000	\$3,280,000	\$1,895,000	\$1,975,000	\$1,725,000	\$1,075,000	\$350,000	\$150,000	
Athletic Facilities												
Deering High School Field Upgrades	5		\$275,000	\$200,000								
Deering Oaks Baseball Lights	2		\$350,000									
Deering Oaks Infield Upgrades and Irrigation	2		\$75,000									
Deering Oaks Volleyball Court Replacement	2								\$75,000			
Dougherty Field Irrigation	3	\$70,000										
Fitzpatrick Paving and ADA Improvements	2		\$235,000									
Fitzpatrick Stadium Entrance Upgrade	2							\$75,000				
Fitzpatrick Track Resurfacing	2			\$100,000						\$100,000		
Fitzpatrick to Expo Team Entrance Landscape Upgrades	2							\$100,000				
Fox St Irrigation Replacement	1			\$50,000								
Ludlow Baseball Field Upgrades	5				\$500,000							
Memorial Stadium Concession Stand	5				\$250,000							
Payson B Softball Drainage and Irrigation	4		\$110,000									
Preble St Synthetic Turf Field***	1		\$1,250,000									
Riverton Softball Lighting Replacement	5					\$255,000						
Cemeteries												
Evergreen Columbarium: Phase II and III	5				\$70,000							
Evergreen Driveway Drainage	5	\$260,000										Public Works requesting \$300K for Stormwater portion
Evergreen Repaving Roads	5			\$125,000		\$125,000						
Evergreen Tree Planting	5											
Road Rebuilding (Focus for 2021: Forest City)	-	\$100,000										
Wilde Chapel Masonry (2020 priority: emergency repairs)	5	\$75,000			\$500,000	\$500,000						
Community Gardens												
Nasons Corner Community Garden--Location TBD	3											
Parkside Community Garden--Location TBD	2											
Payson Park Community Garden--Expansion	4											
West End/Harborview Community Garden--Location TBD	2											
Courts--Tennis, Basketball, Futsal												
Deering Oaks Tennis Court Lights--Add	2							\$350,000				

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Dougherty Field Basketball Replacement	3	\$75,000										
Dougherty Field Basketball Pavilion***	3						\$150,000					
Eastern Prom Tennis and Basketball Court Resurface	1										\$50,000	
Back Cove Fitness Court	1		\$100,000									
Fox St Basketball Resurface	1		\$30,000									
Fox St Basketball Lighting	1			\$75,000								
Lincoln Park Fence--Congress St	1	\$275,000										625K total, \$350K in previous CIP in hand
Lincoln Park Fence--Pearl and Federal St	1			\$700,000								
Lincoln Park Fence--Franklin St	1				\$300,000							
Lincoln Park Lights	1				\$200,000							
Longfellow Basketball Drainage	5			\$175,000								
Longfellow Basketball Resurface	5			\$75,000								
Lyman Moore Tennis and Basketball Resurface	5				\$60,000							
Payson Additional Basketball Court***	4					\$65,000						
Payson Tennis--Add Tennis Court lights	4		\$200,000									
Payson Tennis and Basketball Court Resurface	4	\$50,000										
Riverton Tennis Court Reconstruction	5								\$300,000			
Riverton Tennis Court Resurface/Pickleball Conversion (Aging in Pla	5		\$50,000									
Riverton Basketball Reconstruction	5	\$75,000										
Valley Street Basketball Reconstruction	2		\$65,000									
West End Court Resurfacing (Pleasant St, Tyng Tate, Reiche, Taylor)	2	\$30,000										
Park Infrastructure												
Baxter Boulevard Safety Enhancements --Stairs and Railings	4		\$100,000									
Bramhall Square Reconstruction*** \$250K budget, \$100K from Maine Medical, \$150 from Public Works CIP	2											
City-Wide: Fencing Replacement	various	\$50,000	\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000		\$50,000			
City-Wide: Park Walkway ADA Paving (2021 Priorities: Dougherty Field, Payson Park, Lower Western Prom)	various	\$100,000		\$100,000		\$100,000		\$100,000				
Congress Square Park Design and Construction	1	Possibly Budgeted in Planning CIP										
Deering Oaks Bandstand Replacement	2						\$400,000					
Deering Oaks Lighting Replacement	2	???	Budgeted in city-wide LED project									472,000 estimate
Deering Oaks Picnic Pavillion	2			\$100,000								
Deering Oaks Pond Plaza and Dock	2			\$100,000								
Deering Oaks Pond Wall and Pond-side Plaza Reconstruction	2				\$500,000	\$500,000						
Deering Oaks Ravine Rehab	2								\$475,000			

Portland Parks Capital Improvements: Projects Over \$25,000

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Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

