

City of Portland | Parks, Recreation and Facilities Management

Ethan Hipple, *Director*

Alex Marshall, *Director of Parks*



Commission Members Present:

Alaina Chormann, Ardath Dixon, Jon Kachmar, Joshua Barber, Michael Carey, Michael Scrameyer, Robert Foster, and Simon Thompson.

Commission Members Not Present: Daniel Herzlinger

City Staff: Alex Marshall (Parks Director), Jessica Teesdale (PRF Sr. Executive Assistant), Amber Brooks (PRF PFO)

Land Bank Commission Minutes

April 8, 2026

Parks, Recreation, and Facilities

212 Canco Rd. Suite A

Portland, Maine 04103

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

I. Call to Order- J. Kachmar called this meeting to order at 5:01 pm

II. Citizen Comment Period- George Rheault, East Bayside neighborhood

i. Public Comment Emails 2.11.2026 through 4.7.2026

III. Agenda Items

i. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: February 11, 2026, M. Scrameyer made a motion to accept the minutes, seconded by A. Chormann. Passed 8-0

ii. New Business

a. Secretary's Report: D.Herzlinger not present. The COTPAC list has been added to the share drive.

b. Treasurer's Report: R. Foster provided a treasurer's report. The Budget update is live on the share drive, and it includes the Davis Pines due diligence allocation

- c. FY2024 Foreclosure List for Review: Commissioners requested review parameters for the COTAPC list; suggest adding this to the next agenda.
- d. Outreach Flyer: Creating informational materials to educate stakeholders about the land bank's role and opportunities.
- Draft flyer defines land bank purpose and real estate interest, featuring branding, community call to action, and standards for easements and conservation.
 - Suggestions include emphasizing conservation easements, low-impact development, and the benefits of non-development.
 - Consider adding language about working with developers and historical collaboration examples.
 - Finalization involves review for consistency with city branding and obtaining city department approval.
 - Budget considerations include printing costs and potential graphic design support.
 - The flyer will feature city branding, logo, and possibly a city icon to ensure official recognition.

iii. Old Business

iv. Communications and Parcel Updates

a. Parks Division Report

b. Parcel Updates: Updates on specific parcels, ongoing projects, and property statuses.

- Davis Farm Road: survey work underway, expected in about 1 week; appraisal to follow in 6-8 weeks.
- The owner of Davis Farm Road is actively marketing the property; the undeveloped portion may be bifurcated.
- The private road situation is complex, with discrepancies over ownership and maintenance responsibilities.
- The property owner of Rocky Hill is in contact; the previous owner retired, and new contact info is being sought.
- Other parcels like Hope Ave and Murray Street have no significant updates; development proposals are pending.
- The city is exploring trail connections at Redlon and other parcels, with potential funding and land access considerations.
- The land bank map update is pending, with efforts to coordinate with D. Roncarati and other staff.

c. Annual Field Trip: Planning an annual site visit to local parcels, scheduled for May or June, with logistics and site selection in progress.

- The goal is to visit 3 sites, typically during the May meeting, but June is preferred due to scheduling conflicts.
- The second Wednesday in May (May 13) and June 10 are potential dates. June 10th works

best for most. Need to check with E. Hipple for final decision.

- The trip replaces a regular meeting, with transportation arranged via bus, driven by a member of PRF leadership.
- Sites under consideration include Murray Street, Redlon, Davis Farm, and other properties with ongoing development or interest.
- Site selection depends on geography, current project status, and relevance to agenda topics.
- Advertisement and reservation for the bus are required at least a week in advance.

Parks Commission Report: R. Foster provided an update from the March Parks Commission Workshop meeting.

- The Party in the Park is scheduled for June 16th, focusing on pedestrian safety.
- Activities include painting a crosswalk at Basement Park and possibly writing recommendations for the Midtown parcel.
- The city is conducting a public survey on the Bayside parcel, with results expected from upcoming meetings.
- The Parks Commission is actively recruiting new members, with three vacancies to fill.

v. Commissioner requests for Agenda Items

- University Park Natural Playground
- COTAPC tutorial
- Outreach Flyer
- Davis Farms
- Finalize field trip details

IV. Adjournment