



Commission Members: Chair Cynthia Loebenstein, Vice Chair Michael Mertaugh, Amy Segal, Ana Lagunez, Dory Waxman, Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Nathan Robbins, Zack Anchors, Jaime Parker, Maya Lena, Shaylyn MacKinnon, and Mayor Kate Snyder

City of Portland
Parks Commission Agenda

February 4, 2021

5:00 PM

On February 4, at 5:00 pm, the Portland Parks Commission will conduct a virtual meeting using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online.

Please use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/91710859101?pwd=MUVLWTVFRG5jUFNxSHIEcTFISk8wZz09> Passcode:

P3pperm1nt

Or Telephone:

US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099

Webinar ID: 917 1085 9101

Passcode: 480730

*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: January 7, 2021
 - b. Welcome New Commissioners
 - c. Old Business
 - i. CIP Update
 - ii. Strategic Planning Meeting Update (Feb 18)
 - iii. Green Space Meeting Update (May 6)
 - d. New Business
 - i. Portland Youth Corps
 - e. Communications/Updates
 - i. Subcommittee Reports
 - ii. Land Bank Commission Report

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.

iii. Parks Report



In attendance: Commission Members: Chair Cynthia Loebenstein, V. Chair Michael Mertaugh, Amy Segal, Ana Lagunez, Dory Waxman, Jon Kachmar, Marie Gray, Zack Anchors, and Jaime Parker. City Staff: Ethan Hipple and Alex Marshall.

City of Portland
Parks Commission Minutes
January 7, 2021, 5:00 PM

On January 7, 2021, the Portland Parks Commission conducted a virtual meeting using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online. This meeting was conducted remotely using Zoom.

I. General Citizen Comment Period

George Rheault voiced concerns about the virtual meeting recordings and the Redlon Woods letter.

II. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: Dec 3, 2020

Michael moved to accept the meeting minutes of December. Zack seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

b. Old Business

i. Commission Seat Vacancies

Jaime has been appointed to the Portland Trails seat. The Nominating Committee will be meeting on January 12th and all seats should be filled for the next meeting.

ii. CIP Update

Ethan shared that the City Manager and Finance Director should have their recommendations ready to send to the Finance Committee by the end of January. The hope is that the City Council will review in March.

iii. Strategic Planning Meeting Update

Michael outlined some questions and issues related to the MOU that would be valuable to focus on at the Strategic Planning Meeting. The plan is to hold the virtual meeting on February 18th from 4 PM to 6:30 PM. Cynthia would like to have some breakout sessions for small group discussions.

iv. Green Space Meeting Update

Zack reminded everyone that the focus of the meeting will be on building and sustaining Friends organizations. The meeting will take place during the regularly scheduled Parks Commission meeting time in April or May. Zack will reach out to the suggested panelists to determine whether April 1 or May 6 will work best. He would

like to start with a Q&A session followed by breakout rooms for each panelist. Micheal suggested that a May meeting would give more time to update the Friends Group handbook and draft an MOU.

c. New Business

i. Portland Trails Presentation

Jaime gave a presentation on the history, accomplishments, and vision for the future of the Portland Trails organization. Portland Trails is a nonprofit land trust started almost 30 years ago. The Eastern Prom trail was their first project in 1992 and they now own about 160 acres of land and 100 miles of trails. They have a strong volunteer program and partner with many land trusts, municipalities, corporations, and schools. Some upcoming projects include new trails on the West End and Stroudwater Preserve.

d. Communications/Updates

i. Subcommittee Reports

Parks Initiatives: No update

Annual Report: No update

Finance: No further update

Community Outreach: No further update

ii. Land Bank Commission Report

The Rand Rd parcel has been approved by the City Council. There is currently a request out for an appraisal of Riverton Trolley Park. City staff are reviewing the 1831 Washington Ave parcel to provide recommendations to the commission. Cynthia shared that she and Michael prepared a letter regarding the proposed Redlon Woods development.

iii. Parks Report

Alex gave some background information on the invasive Norway maple removal that was part of the Western Prom Master Plan. The goal is to remove the remaining stumps and replant native vegetation in the spring. Ethan explained that the tree clearing taking place at Evergreen Cemetery is part of a lot development project. Native trees will be replanted along Stevens Ave. Baxter Pines was also thinned as part of a citywide forest management plan. This work will help the overall health of the remaining red pines as they thrive in a less shaded environment. Trail improvements and native tree planting will take place in the spring or summer.



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Parks, Recreation & Facilities Department
Ethan Hipple, Director

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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: February 2021

Parks Division Staffing

Openings for two Athletic Facilities Maintenance Workers.

Eastern Promenade Hillside Thinning

The Eastern Prom has quite a substantial hillside that has become overgrown the last 5+ years. There are many beautiful native trees and shrubs that are seeking some space and that is just what we intend on giving them. Over the course of the next few years we will be chipping away at removing all the Bittersweet, Multiflora Rose and Japanese Knotweed. This effort is intended to improve the health of the native trees, remove any hidden campsites and restore the beautiful views from the upper Prom.

Fish Point Beautification

Horticulture Crew has been working to reduce invasive species populations (primarily Rugosa Rose, Bittersweet, Japanese Knotweed, Multiflora Rose, and Asiatic Honeysuckle). This is part of an ongoing site improvement to enhance the beauty, accessibility, and ecological health of the area. We will continue to replant with native trees, shrubs, and wild flowers in the spring.

Riverton Trolley Park Recreation Improvement Plan

The Riverton Trolley Park has one of the more rich histories of any the City of Portland Parks. A roller coaster, casino and rivers edge bandstand within the trees are some of the key features that once brought a steady heartbeat to this beautiful open space. Through public engagement there will be a plan to regenerate the history and life that once engulfed this space.

Boyd Street Fence Removal

Better late than never. The rusty and vine ridden chain link fence that separated the Boyd Street Community Gardens and Franklin Arterial is now gone and what a difference it is. This fence was a daily eye sore for those entering and exiting our great City and it will not be missed. A replacement, more tasteful, barrier is in the works to maintain safety between the park and the busy arterial

Park Projects and Department Updates

Staff are working on the following Park Improvement projects:

- Dougherty Field Playground: The equipment supplier and design has been selected and we will be working with them to finalize the equipment. The next step is to create a bid document for the site work and installation.
- Park Walkway improvements: Deering Oaks bid documents are being finalized
- Futsal Court at Fox Field: Construction has begun and final work to be completed in the Spring of 2021



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Ethan Hipple, Director

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Alex Marshall, Parks Director

- Baxter Woods Improvements: Relocation of the fence perimeter trail and renovation of the outdoor classroom space has concluded. Resurfacing the main carriage path is next on the list. The Contractor for the condo units has added additional plantings near Stevens Avenue, will be replacing the current chain link fence, removing some invasive species, and re-establishing the historic tree alley
- Fitzpatrick Drainage Improvements: Drawings are complete. We will advertise an RFP this Winter for a Spring construction
- Talbot School Basketball Court Reconstruction: The RFP is being developed in hopes of advertisement in the next month or two for a summer 2021 construction timeline. This project will be combined with a drainage swale project at the Softball Field within the Talbot School complex
- Lyseth Playground: Feedback has been received from Playground Techs, Lyseth Teachers, Parks and Recreation Rec staff, Lyman Moore Breathe Program and Lyseth Special Ed program. Neighborhood group and PTA outreach is the next step.
- Skate Park Expansion Phase II: Preliminary RFP for design development is being finalized and will be advertised shortly.
- Stroudwater Bridge: City Parks and Planning staff are working with Portland Trails and the Stroudwater Preserve Development Team to develop the plan for installation of the bridge that sits on the side of Westbrook Street before the I-95 bridge.