



Commission Members: Chair Pat Bailey, Vice Chair Steve Morgenstein, Andrew Butcher, Jennifer Fox, Jon Kachmar, Kara Wooldrik, Simon Rucker, Baxter Miatke, and Andrew Zarro

City of Portland
Land Bank Commission Agenda

February 10, 2021

5:00 PM

On the second Wednesday of the month at 5:00 pm, the Portland Land Bank Commission will conduct a virtual meeting using emergency legislation approved by LD 2167; 1 M.R.S. §403 A, that authorizes cities and towns to conduct meetings online. This meeting will be conducted remotely using Zoom.

Please use the link below to join the webinar:

<https://zoom.us/j/96886489329>

Or Telephone:

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Webinar ID: 968 8648 9329

- I. Citizen Comment Period
- II. Agenda Items
 - i. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2021
 - ii. Treasurer Report
 - iii. Secretary Report
 - iv. Selection of Commission Officers
 - v. Communications/Updates
 - a. Parks Commission Report
 - b. Parks Division Report
 - c. Rand Road
 - d. Riverton Trolley Park
 - e. Redlon Woods
 - f. 1831 Washington Ave
 - vi. Trust for Public Lands

The Land Bank Commission is responsible for identifying and protecting open space resources within the City of Portland. The commission seeks to preserve a balance between development and conservation of open space important for wildlife, ecological, environmental, scenic or outdoor recreational values.



In attendance: Commission Members: Chair Pat Bailey, Kara Wooldrik, Jennifer Fox, Jon Kachmar, Simon Rucker, Andrew Butcher, Baxter Miatke, and City Councilor Andrew Zarro. City Staff: Doug Roncarati and Mike Murray.

City of Portland
Land Bank Commission Minutes
January 13, 2021, 5:00 PM

On Wednesday, January 13, 2021, at 5:00 pm, the Portland Land Bank 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. Citizen Comment Period

George Rheault suggested the commission look into the methodological issues with the Trust for Public Land report from 2016.

Simon said that while there are limitations to the TPL data, the commission uses multiple sources of information when making conservation decisions.

II. Agenda Items

i. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes

Jon motioned to accept the meeting minutes of December. Simon seconded. Motion passed unanimously.

ii. New Business

a. Secretary Report

Simon will be finalizing the Annual Report for submission to the City Manager. Mike is still working to get more detailed information about the budget tracking process from the City.

b. Land Bank Commission Vacancies

Baxter and Steve still need to be sworn in, but all vacancies are now filled.

c. Rand Rd

An extension has been filed for closing. City staff is currently completing an environmental analysis. The contract is set to expire at the end of February.

d. Riverton Trolley Park

Jon shared that the outside funding does not have a deadline at this point. Mike said the appraisal should be completed within the next couple of weeks.

e. Redlon Woods

Pat said that there has been an indication that the proposed road cannot be developed as presented. She also shared that there is steady advancement in the effort to preserve another parcel in the area.

f. 1831 Washington Ave

Simon put together a packet of information for these two parcels of about 10 acres on outer Washington Ave. The Trust for Public Land has expressed interest in being the project manager for this project. Greg Mitchell is currently gathering a summary from various City departments to determine whether the commission should pursue this acquisition. Kara clarified that there may only be one feasible access point to the park, and she wants to make sure all interested parties (such as the nearby schools) understand that. Doug shared his assessment that development would raise concerns regarding the wetlands and potential runoff in the area.

iii. Communications/Updates

a. Parks Commission Report

The commission discussed the Parks Division's CIP request list and Payson Park ended up as the top priority. The Strategic Planning Meeting is set for February 18th and will focus on MOUs with friends groups. The virtual Green Space Gathering will also focus on friends groups and will take place in May. All vacant seats are in the process of being filled. Jaime Parker is returning to fill the Portland Trails seat.

b. Parks Division Report

Mike gave an overview of some recent department projects such as invasive tree removal on the Western Prom, tree removal in preparation for lot development at Evergreen Cemetery, and forest management at Baxter Pines.

Andrew reminded the commission that officers need to be selected for the year. He also proposed bringing in some AmeriCorps members to help out with projects on Land Bank parcels.



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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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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.