



Commission Members: Chair Pat Bailey, Jayne Foley, Daniel Herzlinger, Jennifer Fox, Robert Foster, Jon Kachmar, Kara Wooldrik, Simon Rucker, Baxter Miatke, and City Councilor Anna Trevorrow. **Staff:** Ethan Hipple, Samara Ray and Doug Roncarati

City of Portland
Land Bank Commission Minutes
January 12, 2022
5:00 PM

I. Call to Order

II. Citizen Comment Period

No comment from the public

III. Agenda Items

i. Acceptance of December 8th, 2021 meeting minutes- Action Item

The motion passed unanimously with a few edits.

ii. Treasurer's Report

Nothing to report. Staff will send the Treasurer the most recent financial report prepared by staff.

iii. Secretary's Report - Review Annual Report Presentation

Simon shared that the annual report was approved by the Commission at the last meeting and in preparation for bringing it to the City Council for acceptance Simon has prepared a presentation. The presentation will be given at the City Council meeting on January 19th, 2022. Jon will be there to present to the Council, Ethan will be back up. Baxter also offered to be back up to present.

IV. Communications

i. New City Councilor appointee- Welcome

Pat welcomed the new City Councilor Anna, she shared with her that a lot of good information is in the 2021 Annual Land Bank Report that was just produced. Pat thanked her for joining the Commission and Anna said she is looking forward to learning more about the work the Land Bank does.

ii. Parks Commission Report

Pat noted that there is a Land Bank Commissioner that serves on the Parks Commission as Land Bank Representative. Jon Kachmar is this person, he gave a summary of last month's Parks Commission meeting. At this meeting Jon gave a presentation about the two city ordinances pertaining to the Land Bank and Parks Commission. He said he would be happy to share the presentation with the Land Bank as well. The Parks Commission is working on interpretive historical signage for a handful of parks. Parks Director Alex Marshall spoke about the Project Canopy Grant the Parks division was awarded, they will be focusing on tree canopy improvements in the Bayside neighborhoods. Only 3 percent of Bayside has Canopy cover. The Division has also been working on making improvements to the congestion due to food trucks on the Eastern Promenade.. Pat asked who on the City side will be working on the park signage project. Ethan shared that they have been working with community resources and most likely we would bring on a consultant to create and fabricate the design.

iii. Parks Division Report

Ethan wanted to remind the new Commissioners that there is a Parks Report attached to each Agenda Packet. He highlighted the tree planting in Bayside neighborhoods, he noted this is an interesting part of the city due to the lack of tree canopy. In 2021 Forestry planted 30 trees in this neighborhood as conditions were favorable for planting. Where to put them is the challenge also not having the funding for

them. The department is looking at sustainable tree planting; they have received \$250,000 in ARPA funds that will be used on tree planting efforts in Bayside.

iv. Commissioner Requests for Agenda Items

Dan commented that he thought it would be great to create individual figures for each property that provided key facts about each property. He thinks this may visually help new Commissioners and the public understand the Land Bank properties better. He thinks it could enhance the Annual Report next year. Simon said he would start looking into this.

With the prospective United Soccer League (USL) Preble Street field being ruled out by the City, USL is looking at Fitzpatrick as a prospective soccer stadium. There is potential for Payson or Dougherty to be prospective sites for a track replacement if Fitzpatrick is converted to a soccer field. Robert wanted Ethan to confirm whether Payson Park and Dougherty field are both Land Bank properties. Ethan said that any change of use for these parks would need to be voted on by the Land Bank as they are protected under the Land Bank ordinance.

V. Parcel Updates

i. Hale Parcel - Jon gave a summary. This is a small 1 acre parcel adjacent to the Riverton Trolley Park. Funding for the parcel will come from the Land Bank and Allagash Brewery. Pat asked Michael Goldman for any updates on this. He said that Tom Jewel, a former member of this Commission, is assisting with this project. There is a Purchase and Sale draft that needs some fine tuning to make sure the funding part is accurate and the City's obligation to spend money will be contingent on getting the money from Allagash. This is a transaction the Land Bank will take to City Council for approval once they receive the final purchase and sale agreement. The Purchase and Sale agreement should be ready by the February Land Bank meeting.

ii. Redlon Woods

iii. North Deering Park - Simon wanted to let City Councillor Anna know a little bit about this project. The Land Bank has voted to appropriate \$80,000 to go towards the project. The Land Bank would be a partial funder of this project. The Trust for Public Land (TLP) has submitted an application for a \$400,000 Outdoor Recreation Legacy Partnership grant which is pending. TLP is also looking into Land for Maine Future funds and looking for access points, from Auburn Street to increase connectivity to neighborhoods to the east of the project. The whole site is +17 acres which consists of open space but we are calling it North Deering Park as there is already a developed baseball field on the property, Haverty Field.

Doug shared that TPL reached out to Public Works regarding stormwater mitigation. He wondered if there was clarity as to what would be going on the property, if it was developed as a recreational space the DPW would like to know how it will be developed. Ethan said the footprint would most likely stay the same. Doug said it may be good for Parks staff to have an in depth conversation with Public Works staff about improving the site but not impacting the natural resources that are already there.

iv. *Executive Session: Pursuant to 405(6)(C), the Commission may go into executive session for discussion on parcel acquisition.

Pat suggested they go into executive session to discuss Redlon woods. Simon made a motions to go into executive session, Baxter seconded a roll call vote was performed and the motion passed.

VI. Adjournment

The regular Land Bank meeting adjourned at 5:40 pm.

Executive session started at 5:44pm and was adjourned at 6:26pm.