



In attendance: Commission Members: Chair Pat Bailey, Vice Chair Steve Morgenstein, Andrew Butcher Jennifer Fox, Jon Kachmar, Kara Wooldrik, Simon Rucker and Baxter Miatke. City Staff: Doug Roncarati, Mike Murray and Samara Ray. Members of the Public: Besty Cook and Phil Dube.

City of Portland
Land Bank Commission Minutes
February 10, 2021, 5:00 PM

On Wednesday, Feb 10th 5:00 pm, the Portland Land Bank Commission conducted 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:
US: +1 301 715 8592 or +1 312 626 6799 or +1 929 205 6099 or +1 253 215 8782
Webinar ID: 968 8648 9329

I. Citizen Comment Period

Pat called the meeting to order, there were no comments made by the public.

II. Agenda Items

i. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: January 13, 2021

Jon motioned to approve the minutes from the January meeting, Simon seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

ii. Treasurer Report

Jen said that the last withdrawal was early February for park signs. Steve and Mike are going to meet about the installment of these signs. The Treasurer report has been submitted to the City Manager. It was requested that when the City makes expenses from Land Bank Funds over \$5,000 the Land Bank is notified so the Commission can better track expenditures based on budget and commission priorities. Mike stated that the Parks Division will inform the Land Bank about Parks Division expenditures at the March meeting.

iii. Secretary Report

Simon reported that the Annual report was finalized with an revised accurate financial statement. The report was forwarded to the City Manager and it will be put on an upcoming City Council Agenda. The Annual Report is on the shared Land Bank Commission folder on google drive.

iv. Selection of Commission Officers

Treasurer - Baxter volunteered for the position. Jen nominated Baxter, Steve seconded. Andrew abstained, all else voted unanimously in favor.

Secretary- Steve nominated Simon, Jon seconded. Andrew abstained, all else voted unanimously in favor.

Vice Chair- Steve will be the vice chair and run meetings if the president is not around.

Chair- Steve nominated Pat for Chair, all voted in favor with Andrew abstaining.

v. **Communications/Updates**

a. **Parks Commission Report**

March approval expected for Parks Division CIP. The Parks Division is facing significant budget cuts. Park Commission has a strategic planning session on Feb 18th from 4 pm - 6:30pm. The Portland Youth Corps, a program in partnership with the Parks Division, Parks Conservancy and Maine Audubon will run this summer. The Parks Conservancy has a grant to do some strategic planning for the Trolley Park, they will be holding two meetings in March for the Trolley Park Project to get input on what neighborhoods and stakeholders envision for this Park.

b. **Parks Division Report**

The Parks Division is working on Trolley Park plans for revitalization with the Parks Conservancy. Maine Conservation Corps will be working in Trolley Park this summer. The Division was able to do some necessary invasive plant removal during January on the Eastern Promenade and Fish Point.

c. **Rand Road**

d. **Riverton Trolley Park**

Waiting on appraisal of the Hale property, there has not been engagement with the landowner at this time. Jon will reach out to City Councilor Mark Dion regarding this parcel.

e. **Redlon Woods**

no updates

f. **1831 Washington Ave**

Simon had put information together to circulate around the City Departments. Mike reported that this is not City land so it is up to the property owners if they want to put it into conservation. There is an easement for a sewer main over a portion of this property but besides that the city holds no claim on this property. The land owner wants this property conserved.

vi. **Trust for Public Lands**

Betsy Cook and Phil Dube from the Trust for Public Land joined the meeting. The Trust for Public Lands is a national non-profit, their mission is to protect land and create parks. They led the Canco Woods, Bayside Trail and Eastern Promenade efforts in Portland. Their role in 1831 Washington Ave would be project management. They would negotiate with land owners that own parcels in this area, help the real estate process and bring other public and private funding in to match Land Bank funding. Betsy and Phil have early meetings scheduled in February with land owners and they are starting to work with various stakeholders. Simon and the TPL will reach out to City Councilor Mark Dion and keep him informed of developments with this property. Betsy estimates that they are a year and a half from acquisition of these multiple parcels. Simon will invite Betsy and Phil to join a future Land Bank meeting to keep the Commission updated and Mike will be of assistance to TPL administratively. Doug recommends there needs to be clear intentions from the current owner and owner with the option to purchase so that it can be shared with City management and the Council.

Other Topics

Baxter will report to the Land Bank Commission about the Hope property by the Presumpscot River and Falmouth Spur at the March meeting.

Jon brought up the 25 acres of City owned land Washington Ave extension parcel. Kara said that there was a neighborhood meeting for multi use at this address. Mike will find out any background

information he can find on this and report back.