

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Andrew Zarro (D4), Chair
Councilor Victoria Pelletier (D2)
Councilor Roberto Rodriguez (At-Large)

Minutes March 23, 2022

Members Present: Councilor Zarro, Councilor Pelletier, Councilor Rodriguez

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Ethan Hipple, Alex Marshall, Erin Ferrell

Meeting called to order.

March 9 Minutes

Councilor Pelletier moves to approve the January meeting minutes. Councilor Zarro seconds the motion. January minutes passed unanimously, 3-0.

Sustainability Update

Presented by Troy Moon

Electrify Everything! Is off to a good start with over 30 people signing up on our website and we are working on making the material accessible in multiple languages. Troy joined a workshop with Maine DEP to update rules governing maintenance of the fuel storage facilities in South Portland. There is a composting survey requesting feedback on the food waste drop off program with over 100 responses so far.

Committee Comment on Sustainability Update

Councilors note that Electrify Everything! Is also available to renters.

Councilor Zarro asks if a future iteration of Electrify Everything! Can involve business owners. *Yes, this iteration is mainly focused on homeowners but future iterations could focus heavily on renters and business owners.*

Councilor Pelletier asks about the role of Natural Helpers and OEO in Electrify Everything! *We are still deciding how to move forward with getting Natural Helpers involved.*

Presentation by the Center for Climate Integrity

Presented by Lyla Shornstein, Will Sedlack, and Anthony Moffa

Center for Climate Integrity's mission is to empower communities and elected officials with the knowledge and tools they need to hold polluters accountable for their contributions to the climate crisis. The cost of climate change in Portland includes: increased cooling costs, increased road damage, increased damage to water/sewer pipes, more cooling centers, financing for A/Cs for low-income communities, increased vector-borne illness, reducing urban heat island effect, protecting drinking water, addressing properties in flood-prone areas, more culverts, retention basins, relief drains, increased bridge inspection and repair, increasing permeability of roads, elevating roads and structures, floodproofing municipal buildings, protecting emergency operations. This causes major cost increase that falls on local

government. Fossil fuel companies are by far the largest polluters leading to climate change. There is evidence that fossil fuel companies knew about their products causing climate change. CCI believes all communities - regardless of size or wealth - can seek justice for the harms perpetrated against them by Big Oil.

Councilor Comment on Presentation by the Center for Climate Integrity

Councilor Zarro emphasizes that we are not all impacted equally and addressing equity in climate justice is important. Why would a municipality take the lead on a case like this instead of the state? *Many times it is due to political will. Many times local communities feel the impacts first and take action first and the state may follow. Municipalities are known to be the first responders of the climate crisis.*

Councilor Pelletier notes that although Portland is not a large city, we are not too small to take action. Where can on the ground activists begin to get involved? *Starting with talking about climate impacts and bringing attention to the issue is a great place to start. There is a role for people to play for organizations that are in tune with how the community feels, be involved in how the money be divided. Talking with city councilors can also help. Maine Conservation Voters is available to help people figure out where to start.*

Pesticide Management Advisory Committee Annual Report

Presented by Karen Snyder

PMAC Chair, Karen Snyder presented the annual report. During the past year, Portland Parks & Recreation reported success in transitioning high-use Fox Field to organic management and in treating the browntail moth infestation using an aerial spray of an organic listed pesticide. The PMAC received 44 applicator reports in 2021, which is more than it received in 2020. A review of 2020 applicator reports conducted in 2021 discovered two violations. There were six pesticide complaints registered on SeeClickFix in 2021, the majority for signage violations. The PMAC makes three recommendations to the City Council: reorganize the PMAC as an LMAC; expand the ordinance to include fertilizers; and continue organic land care educational efforts in conjunction with South Portland and other communities. The PMAC also proposes

Councilor Comment on Pesticide Management Advisory Committee Annual Report

Councilor Zarro notes that pfas is a big conversation. Do we know where pfas is showing up in our municipality? *There are many sludge permitted sites in Maine. This is something the PMAC will continue to look into.*

Councilor Rodriguez asks how we came to the conclusion of the ranked priorities. *There were many exemptions to the pesticide ordinance. There is now enough political interest to implement a fertilizer ordinance.* How can we better track how many applicators are practicing in Portland? *The PMAC would suggest implementing a Portland-specific applicator license.*

Food Truck Management Plan for the Eastern Promenade

Presented by Alex Marshall and Ethan Hipple

The proposal addresses the main concerns that have developed over the last tow years related to the increased presence of food trucks on the Eastern Promenade. The presence of the food

trucks at this location activates the park and provides a great service to the public, and the Parks & Recreation Department goal is to develop guidelines that help facilitate their continued success at this site, while mitigating the negative impacts to the park. This proposal was designed in collaboration with the Department of Public Works and all feedback has been incorporated. Four major issues that have come forward are: pedestrian safety, carbon emissions, root zone compaction, and excessive litter/trash removal needs.

Parks and Recreation Dept put forward 2 options to move forward. Option 1 includes a shift in the roadway travel lanes. The house side of the Eastern Promenade Rd would be stripped of parking and the two travel lanes will shift towards that same curb line. Shifting lanes allows food trucks to be moved off the park side curb line. This creates a 6' pedestrian pathway. This option eliminates 30 parking spaces seasonally.

Parks and Rec will install 4 in-ground trash receptacles with a capacity of 300 gallons each for a total of 1,200 gallons. Food Trucks will be required to provide a trash barrel at their vehicle that is a minimum of 30 gallons.

There is an electrical power source below the Cleeve Monument and the Dept plans to bury conduit from these utility boxes down the back of the curblane and along the entire stretch of the Food Truck Block.

Option 2 includes moving the Food Trucks to space between Turner and Quebec Streets. This option would also modify the mid-lot on Cutter St to also accommodate Food Trucks.

Public Comment on Food Truck Management Plan for the Eastern Promenade

Many residents were concerned about noise pollution, visual disruptions to the park, litter, the removal of parking spaces, and the possible smell of the large trash receptacles. Many residents thanked the Parks and Rec Department's for their work. Many residents expressed appreciation for the food trucks. The public was interested in both options presented.

Councilor Comment on Food Truck Management Plan for the Eastern Promenade

Councilor Pelletier notes that Portland is becoming a city and we will continuously have this dilemma of holding onto the large town feel and morphing into a bustling city. The Eastern Prom is a large attraction in Portland. The food truck scene has the opportunity to bring people together and experience the water views. The electrical power sources are necessary and pushing for compostable materials is important. Councilor Pelletier recommends moving forward with Option 1. Does the Cutter St option include the hybrid option of only moving some food trucks? *There are 3 options: Option 1, moving some trucks to Cutter st or moving all trucks to Cutter st.* Will there be a smell to the large trash receptacles? *They are designed with smell in mind and there should not be a smell.* Can you speak on bike traffic if going forward with Option 1? *The bike traffic would be the same as existing with more visibility.*

Councilor Rodriguez asks if historical preservation was taken into consideration when proposing the tree protection areas. *The long term goal would be to install metal tree barriers to align more with the historical preservation standard.* Councilor Rodriguez is in favor of the trash receptacles. What other use is there for the electrical hookups in that area? *They would be primarily for the food trucks.* This could be the reason for the food trucks to pay for the electrical

installation. Councilor Rodriguez asks if removing the parking spaces is more car-centered thinking than pedestrian-centered. Councilor notes that one of the reasons there have not been accidents could be because the congestion slows traffic.

Councilor Zarro notes in the last year there were 10-15 trucks. This year would limit it to 5-7 trucks. Are there plans to allow for all the food trucks to be able to access the spaces? *There are a few options including: allowing trucks to sign up for spots or set up a lottery system. Both options could allow for more than 5 food trucks. There is more flexibility with the mid-level parking lot option.* Councilor Zarro suggests adding electric hookup capabilities in both locations to allow for more vendors while addressing the negative impacts. Food truck business model is all takeout and the materials are important. It would be important to incentivize compostable/biodegradable options. *Troy Moon suggests following up with a mandate similar to the straw ban.* Councilor Zarro would like to revisit the topic. Would we be able to stripe for bike lanes? *Not in that section with the food trucks - currently or within the proposal.*

The Committee notes that with all public comment and councilor comment, the committee would be interested in pursuing option 1.

Councilor Recommendation of Food Truck Management Plan

Councilor Pelletier Motions to Recommend Option 1 to the Council. Approves unanimously.

Councilor Rodriguez motions to adjourn the meeting. Meeting Adjourned.