



Portland Police Department

**City of Portland, Maine
Public Safety / Health & Human Services Department
March 18, 2014**

Meeting Minutes

Committee Attendance: Chair Suslovic, Vice Chair Leeman, Councilor Duson and Councilor Coyne.

City Staff Attendance: Sheila Hill-Christian, Deputy City Manager; Chief Sauschuck, PPD; Doug Gardner, HHS; Jennifer Thompson, Corporation Counsel; Chief LaMoria, PFD; Dan Boutilier, IT; John Peverada, Parking.

AGENDA ITEM 1 – Meeting Called to Order and Minutes from February Meeting Reviewed:

Meeting was called to order at approximately 5:40 PM by Chair Suslovic. Minutes were reviewed and accepted 3-0.

AGENDA ITEM 2 – Food Truck Ordinance Update/Potential Changes

Jennifer Thompson gave an overview of requests made by the food truck community for further changes to the City's policies and practices.

Nate Underwood, owner of Wicked Good Street Kitchen food truck, reports the food truck community has worked together and would like to see the City allow more than one truck to a park, and be able to participate in events in parks as is common elsewhere. Sarah Sutton, owner of Bite Into Maine food truck, said they would like to see an expansion of available spots for food trucks in the City. Mike Roylos, owner of Spartan Grill restaurant, supports the idea of food trucks, having owned one in the past, but doesn't want to see them encroach on spaces occupied by brick and mortar restaurants. Andy Graham, the Chair of the Food Truck Task Force, and "representative of people who like to eat food in Portland," said it is not the goal of the food truck owners to compete with restaurants. He said the request for proposals (RFP) process is too restricting, and he'd like to see it loosened to provide more opportunity. In his opinion, Portland is facing a tourist boom, with the ferry coming and new hotels being built, and with that, an increased demand from tourists and locals alike. He doesn't think major changes are needed, just a fine-tuning of the ordinance. If food truck owners have a positive experience on a small scale, they might eventually migrate to brick and mortar restaurants.

Discussion ensued about designating parking spaces to food trucks near parks in the City, and how to amend the RFP process to make it less restrictive around where to park, what type of food can be sold, etc. Joe Dumais explained the history of the RFP process and how those restrictions came to be.

Staff agreed to amend the RFP process used for the city's parks to allow food trucks to cluster and fix a requirement that proscribes what types of food can be served; amend the ordinance related to Compass Park that bars food service in that area; and recommend the city dedicate four spaces on Congress Street adjacent to Lincoln Park for trucks. The committee hopes to pass these amendments through the City Council in time for prime food truck season in the late spring and summer. The Lincoln Park portion of the recommendations will be revisited by staff in the fall.

AGENDA ITEM 3 – Fire Department Update

Chief LaMoria gave a review of the recommendations made by the Performance and Management Study consultant, and gave a progress report on Phase One accomplishments and continuing efforts for Phases Two and Three.

Phase One initiatives and accomplishments outlined include a planned comprehensive assessment of all department facilities to detail needed safety, structural, and environmental actions, in order to make decisions regarding repair, replacement, relocation, or consolidation of facilities; implementation of a peer support group at the Department, EMD protocols, resulting in a reduction of responses for fire apparatus on emergency medical calls; creation of an EMS internship program; and a significant reduction of unit responses for fire apparatus, estimated at 1000 unit responses per year.

Chief LaMoria and Dan Boutilier from IT gave a presentation on the City's fire alarm box system in light of the study's recommendation to migrate away from the wired fire alarm system that has been in place in the city of Portland for over a century to a wireless system. Early indications are that this migration will result in a significant savings in terms of time and money for the City. The Department is now offering a course in CPR to community members, and is collaborating with Portland High School to offer a Firefighting and Emergency Medical Services program to juniors and seniors; this program was recently highlighted in an industry trade magazine.

The Chief concluded by saying that of the 169 recommendations made by the study, all but ten are currently in process, as are many other projects not directly related to the study's recommendations.

AGENDA ITEM 4 – Statewide Arrest Powers for the Police Department

Chief Sauschuck sought the Committee's support in asking the City Council to amend an ordinance allowing Portland police officers to exercise their legal authority to make warrantless arrests beyond the City's jurisdictional limits. The nature of police work has evolved and it is a regular occurrence to collaborate with multiple agencies on joint operations in different jurisdictions and Portland officers can only act as advisors/observers without this authority. With this increased authority, the response to crime will improve through greater collaboration and officers will be provided with tort and qualified immunity protection outside of Portland's borders. The motion to recommend to Council was approved 3-0.

With no further business to attend to, the meeting was adjourned at 7:10 PM. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, April 8 at 5:30 PM and will be held in Room 209.