



In attendance: Commission Members: Chair Dory Waxman, Vice Chair Nathan Robbins, Cynthia Loebenstein, Meri Lowry, Michael Mertaugh, Colette Bouchard, Zack Anchors, Amy Segal, and Ana Lagunez. Staff: Sally DeLuca, Ethan Hipple, Matt Coleman and Alli Carroll. Member of the public: Patsy Wiggins of the Friends of Eastern Promenade and George Rheault of West Bayside.

Parks Commission Minutes

September 6, 2018

5:00 PM

Portland City Hall

389 Congress Street, Room 24

Dory called the meeting to order at 5:06 PM.

I. **General Citizen Comment Period**

George Rheault of West Bayside suggested that the CIP be vetted by the public at large. He referenced a time when former Mayor Baxter pushed many parks initiatives that the public denied. This could be a great idea for the current CIP list. Rowe School has a middle school sized gym due to the lack of community centers. The City is spending \$25 million at the waterfront but not in the residencies. He is disappointed that the Commission is ready to vote on the CIP today.

Patsy Wiggins of Munjoy Hill is the Executive Director of the Friends of Eastern Promenade. She wanted to thank the Commission and the Department for their hard work.

Dory thanked both of them for coming.

II. **Agenda Items (*public comment taken on action items only*)**

a. **Acceptance of Meeting Minutes**

i. **Acceptance of July Meeting Minutes**

Michael moved to accept the July meeting minutes. Meri seconded. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

ii. **Acceptance of August Workshop Minutes**

Cynthia moved to accept the August workshop minutes. Zack seconded. Amy abstained. Seven in favor. Motion passed.

b. **New Business**

i. **New Parks Manager Introduction**

Dory introduced Matt Coleman, the Parks, Recreation & Facilities new Parks Manager. Matt shared with the Commission his background. He was with Monmouth County in New Jersey for fourteen years. He started as a Park Ranger and moved up to become the Assistant Parks Superintendent. He has been to Portland once before with wife and first born and loved the atmosphere. He is truly excited to come on board. The Commissioners then shared their names and history with the Commission and welcomed Matt.

ii. **Annual Report**

Michael wanted to make a change to the mission statement. Zack agreed. The Commission discussed the grammatical changes.

Michael moved to change the mission statement from "The Mission of the Portland Parks Commission is to advocate for the enhancement and stewardship of our parks and open spaces. Review and propose projects that impact parks and open spaces and recommend action. Foster collaboration among park users and the City. Promotes public access and enjoyment. Advocate for public and private funding for parks and open spaces. Enjoy Portland for Life." to "The Mission of the Portland Parks Commission is to advocate for the enhancement and stewardship of our parks and open spaces, to review and propose projects that impact parks and open spaces and recommend appropriate action, to foster collaboration among park users and the City, to promote public access and enjoyment of our parks and open spaces, and to advocate for public and private funding for parks and open spaces. Enjoy Portland for Life!" Cynthia seconded. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

Nathan joined the meeting at 5:32 PM.

Nathan thanked everyone for the help on the report and the attention to detail. The Commission continued to discuss potential changes.

Meri would like to change the inventory to say 2018.

Meri moved amend Appendix C: Park Inventory to say Appendix C: Park Inventory 2018.

Nate seconded. All in favor.

The Commission then went through the Annual Report for final edits. The following changes need to be made:

- Commissioner terms need to be edited.
- Zack's name is misspelled.
- The Friends of Evergreen need to be added to page 21.
- A sentence will be added to the beginning of section 5 so that everyone knows it's a mix of ideas of individual Commissioner and ideas of the Commission.
- University Park is a Land Bank property and is not included in the Parks Ordinance.
- There isn't a parks infrastructure.
- On page 24, delete second 3b. ii.
- On page 24, delete section 3b and begin the section with what is stated under 3b.i.
- Add language under Appendix C stating "N.B. School playgrounds and athletic fields are not included in the park inventory even though the City of Portland does maintain and fund ongoing maintenance and replacement."
- Update the Parks Friends Groups List on page 28 to match the contact list Alli has.
- Add Portland Trails information under section 3.4 Partner Opportunities.
- Edit mission statement on page 6.

Meri moved to accept the October 2016 - May 2018 Portland Parks Commission Report as amended and recommended that it be brought to City Council for acceptance. Michael seconded. The motion passed unanimously.

iii. CIP Recommendation

Michael moved to approve the Parks Division CIP list and recommend that they bring the list to City Council for approval. Nathan seconded. All in favor. Passed unanimously.

c. Communications/Updates

i. Offsite Meetings

Dory would like to do off site meetings in November, February and May. Possibly at Rowe, Longfellow and Riverton Elementary Schools.

ii. Subcommittee Updates

There are no updates at this time. Dory suggested all subcommittees meeting before the next Commission meeting and write their mission statements.

iii. Parks Division Updates

Ethan shared that their biggest news is that they hired Matt Coleman. They will be wrapping up the Memorial Field project on Monday. Lyseth/Lyman Moore field irrigation and drainage is about 80% done. Parks Signs are in production.

Cynthia moved to end the September meeting. Nate seconded. All in favor. Passed unanimously.