

**FRIENDS OF THE PARKS COMMISSION**

**Monday, January 12, 2009**

**Public Services Training Room**

**55 Portland Street**

**5:00 p.m.**

**ATTENDANCE:**

Commission Members: Kirk Goodhue

Friends of Eastern Promenade: Diane Davison

Friends of Deering Oaks Park: Anne Pringle

City Staff: Mike Bobinsky, Jeff Tarling, Melissa Graffam

The meeting was called to order at 5:21 p.m.

Mike Bobinsky let the member that was present that Jonathan Dunitz has resigned as Chairperson, due to work obligations, and will no longer be on the Commission at this time. Jonathan will be missed and we wish him well, with hopes that one day he could rejoin the Commission.

Mike Bobinsky also noted that Councilor Dory Richards Waxman has been appointed as our Council representative on the Commission. Dory sent her apologies for not being able to attend this meeting due to a Council Workshop being held at the same time.

**OLD BUSINESS**

The Commission did not have a quorum and was not able to accept the meeting minutes from December 2008.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Deering Oaks Playground**

Anne Pringle from Friends of Deering Oaks Park gave us a report on the playground in Deering Oaks. The current playground has been taken down and they will have a new one in place this spring. Friends of Deering Oaks Park had wanted something different in their park. Landscape Designer Regina Leonard designed the playground and it will have a "natural" look to it. They will though have to get some manufactured items (swings, slides, etc) but overall it will be as natural as possible. The City's Public Services Construction Division will be helping build this structure in the spring. A contractor is being hired to install a new structured playground element to compliment the designed natural play element.

## **Winter Recreation at Riverside Golf Course**

Jeff Tarling let everyone know that they have groomed the trails at Riverside Golf Course and it is up and ready for cross-country skiing. All of the ice ponds are prepared and being used for public skating. Locations for public skating are Deering Oaks, Payson Park, Deering High School on Ludlow Street pond, Breakwater School at Nason's Corner and Riverside Golf Course. Department crews have been clearing the ponds of snow and taking care of the ice surface for public skating.

## **St. Patrick's Playground Rehab**

St. Patrick's Church donated the playground from St. Patrick's School to the City. The playground will be relocated to Longfellow Elementary School. The old wood structure currently at Longfellow School will be coming down to put in the new playground. The Department will be working with Dawn Kerrigan, principal at Longfellow School and the facility staff on placement.

## **Pine Grove Park**

Mike Bobinsky let the Commission know that the Land Bank Commission is recommending that the land adjacent to the Pine Grove Park become part of the park. This with the stipulation that this land would not be developed; it would be as open space. This will help keep some natural habitats in the City.

The next meeting of Friends of the Parks is February 9, 2009 at Portland Public Services at 55 Portland Street in the Training Room at 5:00 p.m. Since the main office door closes at 4:30, members will need to enter the building from our rear entrance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:15 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Melissa Graffam  
Executive Assistant