

FRIENDS OF THE PARKS COMMISSION
Monday, September 15, 2008
State of Maine Room – City Hall
5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE: Councilor Dan Skolnik, Jonathan Dunitz, Chair, Halsey Frank, Steve Morgenstein, Commission Members; Diane Davison, Friends of Eastern Promenade; Ned Flint, Portland Community Rowing Association; Mike Bobinsky, Tom Civiello, Rick Knowland, Judy Rosen, City Staff.

The meeting was called to order at 5:30 p.m. Since there was not a quorum present, the March and April minutes were not approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Portland Rowing Association

Ned Flint from Portland Community Rowing Association spoke to Commission members regarding a license agreement he is working on with the City to use part of East End Beach near the boat launch for his rowing association. The license would also include having a storage container and two boat storage racks for storing boats, equipment, materials and supplies. The purpose of this association is to provide community adults and youths opportunities for instruction, training, recreation and competition in the sport of rowing. (See attached license agreement)

Ned has worked with Mike Bobinsky and Tom Civiello in locating a spot and they have been very helpful. He wants to use the space from May to October which is the rowing season. A question and answer period followed. Ned stated there are 12 people in the organization now, but in the spring they could have as many as 40 people. The Association is working in conjunction with the City's Recreation & Facilities Department. The boats are either 4 person or 8 person boats. They would not be in the way of other user groups, i.e. kayaking, sailing etc.

The license agreement is in its final stage and is waiting for City Manager Joseph Gray to sign. Mike Bobinsky asked how Commission members felt about bringing this forward for the City Manager to sign. Commission members said they were in favor of bringing the license forward. Mike Bobinsky will let the City Manager know there was not a quorum at this meeting.

Department Consolidation Report

Mike Bobinsky, Director of Public Services, gave an update on the department consolidation. He stated things are going very well and that his staff is working very hard to maintain the infrastructure of parks. Park maintenance is very strong and there are many parks & trail projects happening. The following are a few:

Peppermint Park

Deering Oaks Playground

Back Cove Trail – Anthem donated money for this project. Staff has done resurfacing, trail markers and there will be a Kiosk at Back Cove as well.

Dougherty Field Skate Park

Payson Park – North Deering Business Alliance has “adopted a park” – Payson Park. It is a program where volunteers help with litter control, weed control etc.

SS Portland - Cianbro Corporation has donated their services to refurbish the SS Portland.

Lower Fort Sumner Park

There is also a program from Cumberland County Jail. They provide 3-5 inmates to help with litter control in the City. They have been working at Deering Oaks and Eastern Promenade. Public Services pick up the inmates and they have a Public Services supervisor with them as well.

Halsey Frank asked if there was a signed agreement between the City and Cumberland County regarding liability etc. Councilor Skolnik asked Mike Bobinsky to check with Corporation Counsel to see if there has been a formal document signed.

The next meeting of Friends of the Parks is October 20th in Room 209 of City Hall at 5:00 p.m.

Meeting adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Judith Rosen
Secretary pro tem