

FRIENDS OF THE PARKS COMMISSION
Monday, October 20, 2008
Room 24 – City Hall
5:00 p.m.

ATTENDANCE:

Commission Members: Councilor Dan Skolnik; Kirk Goodhue, Steve Morgenstein,
Friends of Eastern Promenade: Diane Davison
City Staff: Mike Bobinsky, Tom Civiello, Rick Knowland, Judy Rosen, Melissa Graffam

The meeting was called to order at 5:15 p.m. Since there was not a quorum present, the March, April and September minutes were not approved.

NEW BUSINESS

Park Tour Planning

Mike Bobinsky would like to set up a tour for Friends of the Parks Commission to see what is going on and what we are working on in our Parks. Some areas to tour are Peppermint Park, Lower Fort Sumner Park, Dougherty Field, Skate Park, Fort Allen Trail and the Eastern Prom, to name a few.

The members present decided to meet on Friday, November 7th at 3pm at the front steps of City Hall to take a tour of the Back Cove and the Riverside Golf Course. If you are interested in attending, please contact Melissa Graffam at 874-8823 to reserve your seat.

Winter Operations

Mike Bobinsky let everyone know that with the new merger of Parks and Public Works, the Department will be able to utilize all employees during winter operations. They have expanded the sidewalk routes; thus adding about 30 more miles to clean. Of those miles the Department is planning on sub-contracting out 13 miles of sidewalks in the North Deering Neighborhood. The department has purchased four (4) sidewalk tractors to do this work.

Tom Civiello also noted that they will be getting ready for winter recreation activities, such as skating, cross-country skiing, and sledding. With the combined departments, we will be able to put more focus on these areas.

Dan Skolnik asked if the City rents out ice skates. Tom noted that we do not, as it is not cost effective. They do rent them at the ice arena for anyone who wants to use them there.

Projects Update Report

Tom Civiello let the Commission know that Nan Cummings from Portland Trials has completed the Active Transportation Grant that has 50 million dollars in it. Getting this grant

could help improve trail ways, walking paths, etc. This grant will be very competitive, but Portland Trails and Public Services are optimistic that we will be getting some of that funding.

Mike Bobinsky and Tom Civiello shared the Park Amenity Standards to the Health and Recreation Committee. These standard amenities include picnic tables, benches, litter receptacles, and a picnic shelter.

Map of Parks

Next month Mike will be bringing a map that shows all the parks and open spaces in the city. This will help as a visual aid when we have meetings.

Director's Report

Mike let everyone know that they have hired Joe Dumais as the new Parks and Cemeteries Coordinator. Joe comes to us from Lucas Tree and he is also a licensed Arborist. Mike will invite him to the next meeting.

Other Business

The members in attendance raised concern that this is the fourth consecutive month that the Commission has not had enough members in attendance for a quorum. The Department of Public Services will be checking in with members to see if there are any obstacles that are keeping them away from the meetings.

Kirk Goodhue raised a question about the USS Portland and the repairs being made to it. He thought that with the Eastern Prom Master plan, that the ship was to be moved.

Tom Civiello responded that it was his understanding that there was not enough room to move it to the Ocean Gateway location. We also received a \$50,000 donation to restore the monument. Diane Davison asked if there were any work done by City employees on this monument and where did that funding come from. Mike Bobinsky did note that we did have employees who took up the asphalt and put in concrete (A percentage of the concrete was also donated). Mike said he would provide Diane what the costs were for the City.

The next meeting of Friends of the Parks is November 17th 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 enter the building from our rear entrance.

Meeting adjourned at 6:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted

Melissa Graffam
Executive Assistant