

1. Land Bank Commission Meeting

Documents:

[LBC AGENDA 02082018.PDF](#)

[LBC MINUTES 1112018.PDF](#)

[PARK COMMISSION AND LAND BANK REPORT 2018-02.PDF](#)



Commission Members: Tom Jewell, Patrizia Bailey, Simon Rucker, Meri Lowry, William Mann, Colleen Tucker, Roger Berle, Steve Morgenstein, and Councilor Justin Costa.

Land Bank Commission Agenda

February 8, 2018

5:00 PM

Portland, Maine City Hall

389 Congress Street, Room 24

- I. Citizen Comment Period (5 min.)
- II. Agenda Items
 - i. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: January 11, 2018 (2 min.)
 - ii. New Business
 - iii. Old Business (60 min.)
 - a. a. Update on Redlon Woods/TAPC Parcels
The Commission may go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405(6)(C) and (E) to discuss real estate negotiations and the City's legal rights and duties.
 - b. Oat Nuts Park Parcel Update
The Commission may go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405(6)(C) and (E) to discuss real estate negotiations and the City's legal rights and duties.
 - c. Forest Ave. Parcel abutting Riverton Elementary School.
The Commission may go into executive session pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405(6)(C) to discuss real estate negotiations and the City's legal rights and duties.
 - d. Paper Street Subcommittee
 - e. PATHS update
 - f. Camelot Farm Development Status Update
 - g. Verizon Pines (Davis Farm Road) Update
 - h. TAPC List Update
 - i. Annual Land Bank Commission Report
 - iv. Communications/Updates (5 min.)
 - a. Monthly Parks Report - Ethan

The Land Bank Commission is responsible for identifying and protecting open space resources within the City of Portland. The commission seeks to preserve a balance between development and conservation of open space important for wildlife, ecological, environmental, scenic or outdoor recreational values.



In attendance: Commission Members: Tom Jewell, Simon Rucker, Meri Lowry, William Mann, Colleen Tucker, and Roger Berle. Portland Trails representative Kara Wooldrik. Staff members: Ethan Hipple, Doug Roncarati, Michael Goldman, and Alli Carroll.

Land Bank Commission Minutes

January 11, 2018

5:00 PM

Portland, Maine City Hall

389 Congress Street, Room 24

I. Citizen Comment Period

No members of the public came to participate in the citizen comment period.

II. Agenda Items

i. Acceptance of Meeting Minutes: December 14, 2017

Roger moved to accept the minutes of the December 14th, 2017 meeting. Colleen seconded. Meri abstained. Four in favor.

ii. New Business

a. Report on Redlon Woods after City Council Jan. 3rd, 2018 Meeting

Bill entered at 5:10pm.

Ethan described the City Council meeting where the Department made the argument that Redlon Woods would help the 10 Minute Walk to a Park Initiative. Then they discussed it among themselves. Councilor Ray mentioned affordable housing but it was made known that that is not an option. So, Council passed it unanimously.

iii. Old Business

Tom moved to go into executive session. Colleen seconded. Passed unanimously.

a. a. Update on Redlon Woods/TAPC Parcels.

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405(6)(C) and (E) to discuss real estate negotiations and the City's legal rights and duties.

b. Oat Nuts Park Parcel Update.

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405(6)(C) and (E) to discuss real estate negotiations and the City's legal rights and duties.

c. Forest Ave. Parcel abutting Riverton Elementary School.-

Pursuant to 1 M.R.S. 405(6)(C) and (E) to discuss real estate negotiations and the City's legal rights and duties.

Roger moved to end executive session. Tom seconded.

Passed unanimously.

Roger moved to spend the money for the appraisal of the Forest Ave. parcel. Simon seconded. Passed unanimously.

d. Paper Street Subcommittee

So far, a subcommittee has not come together to discuss this further. Ethan will talk with Camille Alden, Lori Paulette, Greg Mitchell, Michael and Doug to work towards making this happen.

e. PATHS update

Ethan says that this project is completely done. He has reached out to SCA to come out again this summer and it sounds promising. He will be getting together with Jaime Parker about where the next project will take place. Tom suggested the Ocean Ave/Virginia Woods area.

Ethan will get a quote on removal invasive species from the PATHS meadow.

f. Camelot Farm Development Status Update

Kara says the space along the river is the open space that has been thought to go to the City but that still needs to be sorted out. Ethan said that it's living with planning at the moment. No other update at this time.

Meri excused herself at 6:15pm

g. TAPC List Update

Michael said the TAPC committee will be getting a list of new properties next month. Once they receive that, it will be brought to the Commission. He estimated within the next two months.

h. Annual Land Bank Commission Report

Simon said Pat was going to update last year's annual report. He will contact Pat to see what will be happening next.

iv. Communications/Updates

a. Monthly Parks Report – Ethan

The Division brought the idea of creating an interpretive trail honoring Mayor Baxter Woods in November and they liked it. Jaime Parker, Jeff Tarling and Ethan are helping create it. There is funding in the Baxter Trust to help pay for the signs. They do not believe it will be expensive.

Parks Conservancy – The Blue Sky Commission's work is done. Their first board meeting is next week. Ethan will be sitting on the board. City is donating office space to them. They are going to be looking for an executive director whose job will be to raise money for park improvement projects and recreation. The City and outside groups will be able to apply for funds through the Conservancy.

Roger moved to adjourn the meeting. Tom seconded. All in favor.



Sally L. DeLuca
Director
Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Ethan Hipple
Deputy Director
Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Memorandum

TO: Parks Commission and Land Bank Commission

FROM: Ethan Hipple, Deputy Director, Parks, Recreation and Facilities Department

SUBJECT: Parks Division Update

DATE: February 2018

Park Manager Search

Continuing national search for Park Manager for Portland's Park Division (Parks, Athletic Facilities, Playgrounds, Cemeteries, Forestry, Horticulture). Aiming to have someone in place by April. Position description at: <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/1107/Current-Job-Opportunities>

Open Positions in Parks

Recently filled Horticulture position that attracted over 60 applications. Currently hiring for an Arborist to join our Forestry division.

Winter Parks Operations and Plowing

Parks Division Staff are responsible for clearing of 120 miles of sidewalks, as well as school parking lots, fire stations, and city buildings. Crews have been kept very busy with a cold and snowy start to winter.

Winter Recreation Map

Created google map to provide real-time updates for skating and sledding conditions.

<https://www.portlandmaine.gov/1906/Winter-Recreation>

Stormwater Projects in Parks

Working with Stormwater Division concerning impacts to parks from multiple projects: Bedford Stormwater project will require multiple crossings of Back Cove Trail. Trail access will remain open with detours. Project starts Spring 2018.

Multi-million gallon stormwater detention tank will likely be installed under Preble St athletic field. Field will be unusable for up to two seasons, but the project will make it possible to raise the elevation of the field which will reduce or eliminate saltwater intrusion from storm surges. This will result in a greatly improved field with much better turf conditions. Project starts late Fall 2018.

Budget Season

Developing Parks, Recreation and Facilities budget to submit to City Manager and City Council.

Congress Square Park Redesign



Sally L. DeLuca
Director

Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Ethan Hipple
Deputy Director

Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

The private fundraising committee has a solid timeline for private fundraising, and is actively recruiting distinguished board members to donate and solicit large gifts for this project. City staff are meeting with the group regularly to monitor progress and coordinate.

Portland Landing

Planning continues with CIP request for 30% construction drawings and permitting. View the current plan here: <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/2011/Portland-Landing>

Loring Memorial Damage

Loring Memorial damaged in third vehicle accident in 2 years, 2 of them OUI. Working with Traffic Division to install safeguards to reduce damage to memorial.

Cemetery GIS Project

Cemetery staff working with with IT , GIS mapping sub-contractor to create cemetery mapping / online web site project. Will be ready for spring launch.

Parks Conservancy

Inaugural meeting of Parks Conservancy Board. Provided overview of Parks system, negotiating details of draft MOU. The Board's first order of business will be to hire an Executive Director and to finalize MOU with City.

Pollinator Habitat

Presented at annual meeting of Portland Pollinators, shared Department efforts at reducing pesticide use, increasing pollinator habitat, Golf Course innovation, and switch from annual display beds to perennial beds in many locations throughout the city.

Audubon Partnership

Working with Eric Topper of Audubon concerning partnerships for 2018 projects: Western Prom meadow, Eastern Prom meadow, school collaborations.

Trail Projects

Working with Student Conservation Association on securing a high school crew to do trail projects in Portland Parks summer 2018. Also have funding lined up to once again hire a Maine Conservation Corps crew to do projects in Portland. Met with Portland Trails to discuss 2018 trail priority projects on city property.

Fox Field Food Forest



Sally L. DeLuca
Director

Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Ethan Hipple
Deputy Director

Department of Parks, Recreation & Facilities

Met with East Bayside Neighborhood Association and City Legal Counsel concerning Fox Field Food Forest. Existing permit from Planning (2015) will allow installation of garden beds and Parks Division supports that. City will take this on as a city project, and EBNO will sign a 5 year maintenance MOU to maintain beds and small fruit trees.

Shipping Containers in Parks

Met with Friends of Congress Sq Park and Architect to discuss guidelines for placing container to be used as storage and programming space in Congress Sq Park. This could be an innovative model for other parks as well for programming storage, small scale food/beverage for events, etc...

Park Projects Update

Staff are working on the following funded CIP/Park Improvement projects:

- Cousins Memorial Reconstruction: out to bid
- Deering Oaks Playground Improvements: Zip line and net climber
- Evergreen Cemetery Stevens Ave Wall: 60% complete
- Fort Gorges Hazard Mitigation--Army Corps funded: 100% complete
- Fort Gorges Preservation Plan: Design complete.
- Futsal Court, Fox Field: Funded by CDBG, planning for Spring construction
- Hall School Playground: Design complete, staff will be managing construction
- Island Playground Improvements: funding secured, spring installation.
- Libbytown Community Garden: 100% complete
- Lincoln Park Fence Restoration: funding secure, design and specs 90%
- Lyman Moore Athletic Facility Drainage and Reconstruction: funding and design complete, out to bid, summer install.
- Park Signs: funding secured, spring install.
- Payson Playground improvements, summer install.
- Payson Softball Title IX restroom and locker room improvements: funding secured, spring installation

"A Walk In the Park" Series

Our monthly series of Park walks and lectures continued with "Portland Parks, Past and Present" slideshow on December 6th at Ocean Gateway.

- Upcoming events: XC Ski through Evergreen, February 10
- More info at: <http://www.portlandmaine.gov/1990/A-Walk-In-The-Park-Tours-and-Talks>

Baxter Trail

Site visit to fine-tune route, crossings, and interpretive signage for Baxter Trail honoring Mayor Baxter. The trail will run east to west from Baxter Boulevard, through Baxter Woods, to Evergreen Cemetery.

Portland, Maine



Yes. Life's good here.

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