CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE
Standing Committee on Sustainability and Transportation
Councilor Spencer Thibodeau (D2), Chair
Councilor Belinda Ray (D1)
Councilor Brian Batson (D3)

Draft Minutes September 19, 2018

Members Present: Councilor Thibodeau, Councilor Ray, Councilor Batson
Other Councilors: Mayor Strimling
Staff Present: Troy Moon, Ayden Eickhoff, John Peverada, Bruce Hyman, Nell Donaldson

Meeting was called to order at 5:32 PM.
Councilor Thibodeau makes a motion to approve the July 18, 2019 minutes. Seconded by Councilor Batson. Minor edits requested by Councilor Ray. All in favor, 3-0.

Sustainability Program Updates

Pesticide Ordinance -
  ● Hosting a NOFA organic land care certification class October 9-12 with Coastal Maine Botanical Gardens and Northeast Organic Farmers Association, over 20 people signed up plus city staff
  ● Ordinance went into effect for City property July 1 and is going well
  ● Mayor Strimling requested a one-pager on ordinance to handout to community groups
  ● Outreach to applicators and retailers to begin in Fall 2018
  ● Partner with PCAT to spread the word

PMAC -
  ● One slot still needs to be filled before nominating committee will move forward

Sustainability Associate -
  ● Interviews in process

Solar Project at the Ocean Avenue Landfill -
  ● 80% of panels installed
  ● CMP needs to install power line
  ● On track for completion this fall
  ● Cap to be mowed by Public Works
  ● Will add more fill and cover remaining portion of landfill - work to happen in the spring
  ● No update on well testing, will provide committee with more info

Streetlight Project:
  ● Control network in place - need to finish connecting on Peaks Island, IT department to complete

Morrill’s Corner Intelligent Traffic Signals
  ● Wait times have been reduced by over 20%
  ● Looking into installing at Woodford’s Corner
Climate Action and Adaptation Plan
- RFP was sent, 8 proposals submitted
- Currently reviewing proposals and scoring in early October

Greater Portland Energy Expo
- Collaborating with South Portland, GPCOG, and USM to promote energy efficient technology
- Educational forums on heat pumps, electric vehicles, solar panels, and more

Recycling Carts
- Review ordinance during next committee meeting - look at enforcement details
- Look at violations during next committee meeting

Parking Study
- Nell Donaldson presented update
- Key takeaways:
  - Excess capacity during off season but there are management issues - on-street over capacity, off-street underutilized
  - Employee monthly parking issues even though there is capacity
  - Above capacity during peak season on weekdays
  - 5 Major Challenges:
    i. Summer demand
    ii. Limited low cost parking for island residents
    iii. Lack of monthly supply
    iv. Scarcity of low cost options for lower wage earners
    v. High rates of on-street occupancy
  - Solutions to challenges:
    i. Better manage existing supply
    ii. Better manage demand
    iii. Build additional off-street capacity if needed
  - Key recommendations City is pursuing:
    i. Formation of non-profit transportation management association (Smart Access Pilot)
       - Membership based organization - slide scale fee based on company size
       - Offer supplemental transportation options, education/outreach, marketing, policy recommendation, parking space management to maximize use, help with event parking management
    ii. Partner with TNC and taxis for island residents
       - Parking division has developed remote parking lots - Angelo’s Acre and Jetport - and looking to identify additional options
       - Modify on-street parking regulations
       - Explore shared off-street parking solutions
       - Opportunity within Maine State Pier plan
iii. Parking management and technology
   ● Launched new app
iv. Parking regulation through recode efforts
v. Transit and TDM recommendations from peninsula transit study with focus on Commercial Street
vi. Investing in bike infrastructure
vii. Multi-modal marketing campaign

● Recommendations feedback:
   ○ Councilor Ray suggests adding to the island resident parking zone with the Thames Street extension
   ○ Councilor Ray suggests making it a requirement that new parking structures be reusable
   ○ Councilor Ray asks about pursuing extending meter hours to 8pm
     i. John Peverada responded that the challenge is that turnover parking is not needed after 6pm and longer meter hours may deter downtown restaurant use
   ○ Casey Gilbert, Executive Director of Portland Downtown, circulated memo in response to survey
     i. Supports the formation of a TMA
     ii. Suggests using revenue from extending meter hours to support TMA and offered to help collect data from downtown businesses
     iii. Multi-modal marketing campaign could tie into TMA
   ○ Mayor Strimling noted positive response from having an early meter end time
   ○ Mayor Strimling asks about scooter/motorcycle parking
     i. John Peverada responds that there is a map online and the number of spaces will soon be doubled to 80 without the loss of any regular parking spaces - roughly 75% occupancy

● Summary of anticipated net new parking spaces
   ○ 4,000 net new parking spaces includes Maine Med (some are still in concept)
   ○ Councilor Ray noted that this is still 900 spaces short of the anticipated number of parking spaces needed within study area

● Update on residential zones and unrestricted parking
   ○ Consider converting unrestricted zones and not pursuing at this time

● Parking division and DPW looking at simplifying parking signs

● Exploring Commercial Street transportation options - including pilot shuttle and changing Metro route
   ○ Troy Moon mentioned an upcoming informational community forum on autonomous vehicles at East End School

● Next Steps:
   ○ Discuss extending meter hours - Portland Downtown to gather more data
     i. Get more information on how many downtown residents would be affected by a change
- Explore how to better utilize garages - Nell Donaldson to provide more information from study
- Explore expanding island residential zone
- Explore requiring new garages to be repurposable
- Allow residents to better advocate for parking changes in their neighborhoods
- Get more information on where cars are coming from
  - Reach out to surrounding communities to educate them on parking issues and get input on how to partner on solutions to move people in and out of city - organize transportation summit

Amendments to Benchmarking Ordinance

- Benchmarking data due December 2018 per current ordinance
- Through collecting municipality data, staff learned that current CMP interface is very difficult to use and inconsistent and would be problematic for building owners to use
- Additional barriers:
  - Whole building data is not currently accessible due to privacy restrictions
  - Current data is in 15-minute intervals which is very challenging to compile
- Recommend amending ordinance to make reporting and disclosure deadlines the same - with deadlines to be determined once data is available from CMP
- Mayor Strimling suggests Committee Chair invite CMP and the public advocate to testify on this issue based on conversation with Councilor Hinck
- Councilor Thibodeau asks to schedule an update on reporting in January
- Ken Mitsui - JB Brown, 2030 District
  - Supports language change in ordinance
  - Very difficult for private property owners to gather complete data
  - Property owners cannot get their tenants’ data
- Next Steps for October Committee meeting:
  - Ask CMP to attend a workshop to review process
  - Invite another utility company or sustainability professional that has already developed a successful process - Troy recommends inviting Michael Stoddard from Efficiency Maine Trust
  - Invite public advocate to join meeting as well to weigh in
  - Councilor Thibodeau asked Troy Moon to provide more information on how we can make information gathering easier to help landlords work with their tenants to get data
- Councilor Thibodeau suggests postponing the decision to amend the ordinance until the next committee meeting. Councilors Batson and Ray agree with decision to postpone amendment.
- Dave Lowe, 2030 District - emphasized the need for political pressure on CMP to make data more accessible
Single Use Plastic

- Troy Moon presented information on communities that have enacted single use plastic policies and task forces
  - Mostly coastal communities with connections with water
  - Corporations such as Starbucks, McDonalds, cruise lines
- Need to determine a policy that would not disadvantage people with disabilities
- Greg Dugal, Maine Restaurant Association
  - Suggests completing more educational outreach to inform people about issues with straws and provide straws on demand
- Melissa Gates, Surfrider Foundation
  - Surfrider already completing educational outreach
  - Nationwide:
    - 12 municipalities have bans
    - 8 municipalities looking into bans
    - 4 municipalities with “ask first” policies
    - 4 municipalities considering “ask first” policies
  - Recommends “ask first” policy as initial step, followed by ban with on demand reusable straws for people who need them
- Elizabeth Michelle, Surfrider Foundation
  - Surfrider is eager to support straw education and policy
- Councilor Thibodeau suggests hosting a round table with various stakeholders to discuss best next steps
- Councilor Batson provided information on nationwide policies - California looking into statewide ban
  - Supports round table discussion
  - Would also like to look into banning plastic eating utensils
  - Need to continue to supply plastic straws for people with disabilities
  - Supports “ask first” policy
  - Explore enacting a ban on all single-use plastics

Sustainability and Transportation Committee Next Meeting Times

Wednesday, October 24

Motion was made by Councilor Ray to adjourn the meeting at 8:20 pm. Motion was seconded by Councilor Bastson. All in favor: 3-0.