



Commission Members: Dory Waxman, Chair, Carol Hutchins, Craig Lapine, Cynthia Loebenstein, Michael Mertaugh, Nathan Robbins, Colette Bouchard, and Amy Segal. Staff members: Sally DeLuca, Ethan Hipple and Alli Carroll. PAYSA President, Nick Davala.

Parks Commission Minutes
March 1, 2017
5:00 PM
Portland City Hall
389 Congress Street, Room 24

I. General Citizen Comment Period

PAYSA (Portland Area Youth Soccer Association) President, Nick Davala came this evening to describe PAYSA and their efforts to offer 800 kids annually youth soccer programs. They requested field hours for seventeen different fields for this upcoming fall. He would like to advocate for fields and thanked the Parks Division for all they do to help keep them in good condition. He requested to present on April 5th. The Commission agreed to set aside time in the next meeting's agenda for that.

II. Agenda Items

a. Acceptance of February Meeting Minutes

Craig moved to accept the minutes of the February meeting. Seconded by Cynthia. Michael suggested edits that he emailed to Alli. Passed unanimously as amended.

b. New Business

i. Land Bank Ordinance Ad Hoc Committee

Dory explained to the Commission that she would like to sit down with Land Bank Commission to create an Ad Hoc Committee to go over the current ordinances to address what worked and what did not to see how to make it more effective in the future. She would like to prepare for the creation of the next ordinance. Ethan said there is a lot of overlap between the Land Bank and Parks Commission ordinances. A joint Ad Hoc Committee could do research and bring their findings back to the Commissions and if a change is suggested, it would be brought to the Council. It was suggested that the committee compare historical ordinances and the current ones. Commission gave their support for the creation of this committee.

ii. Comprehensive Plan:

Craig is a fan of the comprehensive plan that the City implemented about 6-8 months ago. The plan was intended to be the framework for a lot of what the City does. "Equitable, sustainable, dynamic, secure, authentic, and connected." He thinks the comprehensive plan and vision statement could be helpful in the Parks Commission decision making. Craig wanted to know if these are something the Commission would want to use in the future. Sally and Ethan confirmed that they use this plan as a guide. The Commission agreed that these could be helpful.

c. Communications/Updates

i. Parks Conservancy – Ethan

Ethan said that last night the Conservancy approved the draft of the MOU and City staff will give that to Michael Goldman to review. Then they will be updating bylaws and hiring an executive director. Dory praised the board on how great they are doing so far.

ii. Subcommittee Updates

Finance Subcommittee: Had a meeting to discuss the gift catalogue. The current one is very outdated and very general. One of the first principles is that this is for improvements above and beyond what they are already enjoying from their Parks Division. Had discussions on the enhancements that could be added to the catalogue as well as programs or dedicated staff.

Commission wants to make it clear that it's a different target audience than the Parks Conservancy. They would welcome suggestions for names rather than calling it a gift catalogue. Carol suggested "Love Your Parks".

Community Outreach Subcommittee: Amy said the letter went out to Friends Groups and Neighborhood Associations. Jaime is finding the new emails for any bounce backs. Some responses have come through. Jaime is working with Jeff to get a speaker for the Green Space Gathering.

Annual Report Subcommittee: They have an outline and are starting to draft. Would like to get the draft out to the Commission for their review to then pass for the April meeting. Then to Council as soon as possible so that they can hand the reports out at the Green Space Gathering. Sally will see if they can get on April 16th for the Council meeting.

Park Initiatives Subcommittee: Cynthia said that they did not meet last month. Have a meeting scheduled for next Wednesday.

iii. Parks Division Updates

Ethan explained the new Parks Finder Map that Alli and he have been working on for the past months. This map will be placed on our website. They are also creating a Park Grid to make finding park info easier. Alli showed the Commission their draft over the projector.

Sally confirmed that the operating budget has been sent to the City Manager and they will be meeting with him the second week of March. Then it would go to City Council.

Oakhurst has been in contact with Jeff Tarling about a tree program. Goal is to replace 100% of the trees that are taken down. Usually, we do. This year, the October 30th wind storm made it so we weren't able to. Oakhurst is really interested in helping us create a public campaign to replace every tree that comes down.

Forest Ecologist Rob Bryan is studying Baxter Woods and the impact off leash dogs have on it over time. We have the first draft of the baseline study. He's recommending policy changes to this park. The Division is not proposing a policy change yet but to better educate the policy that is currently in place. Once we have a final draft of the study, we will bring it back to the Parks Commission.

Michael moved to adjourn the meeting. Nate seconded. Passed unanimously.