



## Parks and Public Spaces Committee

### Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, February 25, 2025 @ 5:30

~Attendance~

**Members Present**~ Robert Abbey, Andy Love, Hillary Reeder, Margret Barter, Cathy Galgano  
**Gardiner Main Street Director** Tamara Whitmore, **City Councilor**, Shawn Dolley, **Economic Development Director** Melissa Lindley **Public Works Director** John Cameron, **Public Works Admin** Alyssa Jones

- I. Approval of the January 28<sup>th</sup> Minutes  
**Action:** Cathy motioned to approve the January 28<sup>th</sup> meeting minutes. Seconded by Hillary. All approved.
- II. Dearborn Park Project

•Update from Council mtg.~ Robert and John presented the committee's intent to remove ash trees as part of the Dearborn Park project. There was discussion on whether to replace them or not. The council approved the removal and left the replacement of the trees up to the committee as well as the specifics of what kind of tree.

•Discussion of Trees/Replacements/Maintenance ~ Robert did some research on different trees and asked the committee members to vote on their two favorites. The group consensus was a Brandywine Red Maple tree.

•Maintenance~ John, right in the middle of working on budgets for next year, is meeting with Denise (Finance Director) and Robert (City Manager) soon. This year he added a line to help maintain the gardens along with an added tree line to hire an arborist for all the trees that we need taken care of. He is not yet sure what the end amounts will be.

Tamara suggested we have a memorial fund or a donation fund to go towards helping with gardens around the trees.

- III. Updates/City Partners
  - John PW ~ nothing else to add at the moment.
  - Tamara GMS~ talked about planters of downtown in the last meeting, need to get a quote from the company and make the decision quickly because they will go up in price soon. She is still anticipating need for volunteers for maintenance help on the gardens, "the what to do" needs to be more clear for

those who want to help but don't know what to do. Will need volunteer recruiting in the future. More information to follow.

- Melissa ED~ A public meeting was held about the Arcade parking lot improvements. Next steps for that are to get two different lay out designs from the engineers working on this project, and get feedback on those designs. Applying for a grant for that this week. The climate vulnerability committee would like to have a public meeting to tell people what that means looking at mid-April.
- New Grant Possibility/Soldier's Field~ Another grant proposal is being put together in hopes to get funding for the trail on Soldier's Field adjacent to Quimby. The first grant proposal was not approved, more information on the grant and trial at a later meeting.

- Members/Public~ no members of the public.

#### IV. Private Use of Public Parks – Discussion

Memo Sent to Ordinance Review:

"Private businesses/groups/individuals using/leasing/renting park/public space - recommendations:

-Amount of space, duration of private lease should not prevent or discourage public access or use of adjacent space. Planned events open to the public or planned by community organizations would have priority for park space use.

-'Sidewalk Cafe' space should be utilized where possible before leasing park space.

-Any park lease should occupy a minimal amount of public/park space.

(Note: Current Dearborn leased space is 700 sq. ft. and occupies 2/3 of the available space.)

-Fee structure should be graduated. Seasonal use of public/park space is very different from one-time use. Suggest a fee/per sq. ft./duration

(Note: Portland sets this fee at \$6/sq. ft.)

-Tables placed on sidewalks/within a park shall be of 'high-top' or similar size so as to not interfere with foot traffic or casual use by public."

#### V. New Business

- Winter Parks Survey/Public
- Looking at Waterfront Park
- Next meeting date: March 25, 2025 6:30PM



"Promote, Protect, Improve"