

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
July 18, 2018

Members Present: Councilor Thibodeau, Councilor Ray, Councilor Batson

Staff Present: City Manager Jon Jennings, Mayor Ethan Strimling, Assistant City Manager Mona Bector, Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam, Bruce Hyman, John Peverada, Jen Ladd, Jen Thompson

Meeting was called to order at 5:35 PM.

Councilor Ray made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 13, 2018 meeting.
Seconded by Councilor Batson. All in favor, 3-0.

Councilor Batson made a motion to approve the minutes from the June 20, 2018 meeting.
Seconded by Councilor Ray. All in favor, 3-0.

Sustainability Program Updates

Solar Project at the Ocean Avenue Landfill - Currently waiting for the permit.

Street Lighting Project - On track to finish in August.

Communication of Bike Share Ordinance Rules

Bruce Hyman went over the Draft Regulations of the Bike Share Ordinance with the committee.

Councilor Ray shared her concerns that 50% of the docks does not seem like enough.

Councilor Ray also mentioned possible higher fees to help build the infrastructure needed for the bikes.

Councilor Batson asked if the bike is "left" someplace is it city employees responsibility for cleaning/picking them up? Bruce responded that the bike company owners have two (2) hours to respond to retrieve their bike.

Councilor Thibodeau suggested a pilot program. City Manager Jon Jennings said that it is important for this program to go slow. We can expand as needed. City staff is overloaded as it is, we don't have time to pick up bikes. Need to keep companies accountable. He recommends the program to go slow.

Councilor Ray asked that we should also add to the ordinance that scooters and segways are not allowed.

This item will be brought back to the committee once the Final Draft is completed.

Discuss changes to times when Wharf Street is open to vehicle traffic

City Manager Jon Jennings addressed the committee that the city is in support of the request of the Wharf Street Tenants Association to to adopt a new policy to close Wharf Street from Dana to Union, seasonally from Memorial Day to Columbus Day starting at 11 am to 1:30 am. This closure will make it more pedestrian friendly and allow more visitors to safely go the the Wharf Street businesses.

The City will be replacing the wooden gates with bollards.

Councilor Batson asked, although supportive of this change, if there has been issues, accidents on Wharf Street? Jon Jennings replied not that he know of, but this is a preventative issues.

Councilor Ray said that she knew that there was wide support from the tenants, were there any opposition? Mark Barnett, Wharf St. Tenant Association, said that they talked to all the businesses and they made sure that their business will have access for deliveries in the morning/early hours. They did not have anyone who was against this change.

Councillor Ray asked what was the timeline for the change? Jon Jennings believed that he could do this administratively, he just would like to have the committee's blessing.

Councilor Ray moved to endorse this change with collaboration with the business owners. Councilor Batson seconded. All in favor, 3-0.

Follow-up Report on Park Avenue Bike Lane

Jen Ladd gave the committee an update from the June 14, 2018 neighborhood meeting. Twelve people attended, four people reached out outside the meeting.

They have continued to review and refine the parking plan. This has resulted in a gain back of three (3) spaces. They will be putting down green paint and installing 200 bollards. Targeting to have this installed by the end of August.

Councilor Ray asked if there is bike detection at the intersections. Jen replied that there is at State Street at Park Avenue. She would need to check at the others.

Presentation by Phoebe MacDonald regarding single use plastics

Third grader from Ocean Avenue Elementary School, Phoebe MacDonald gave a presentation to the committee on how bad the use of single-use plastics are in the ocean, especially straws. City Manager Jon Jennings told Phoebe that here at City Hall he will be implementing Phoebe's Rule to ban plastic straws from the Clock Tower Cafe, and is urging other businesses to follow.

Phoebe passed out aluminum straws out to the committee and audience members.

The committee discussed the idea of banning plastic straws, but preferred to have business owners switch voluntary before mandating. This item will be further discussed at the September meeting.

Motion was made by Councilor Ray to adjourn the meeting at 7:00 pm. Motion was seconded by Councilor Batson. All in favor. 3-0.