

CITY OF PORTLAND, MAINE

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

Minutes
March 21, 2018

Members Present: Councilor Thibodeau, Councilor Ray, Councilor Batson

Staff Present: Troy Moon, Melissa Graffam, Bruce Hyman, Jen Thompson, Chris Branch

Councilor Ray makes a motion to approve the minutes. Seconded by Councilor Batson. All in favor, 3-0.

Sustainability Updates: Street Lights - Currently on schedule even with the snow storms that we have had. Will start working in the Bayside area the beginning of April. They will be working through the peninsula and then going to the Islands. Parking garages are completed. Still working on the brightness of the lights and to set protocols on the timing and lighting.

Energy/ Solar/ Electric Vehicles - There is no ordinance change needed for an electric car parking spot.

Troy Moon interviewed candidates for the Sustainability Fellowship who will focus on the Energy Benchmarking ordinance. The Fellow will start on June 1 and work for 10 weeks.

Ocean Avenue Solar/Landfill - Have tested the water wells and waiting for results. There is two phases of the capping for the landfill. Working on a revised DEP permit at the landfill to allow for the solar array. Public Works staff looked at the erosion control and stated it is in good shape. Staff will have a rough timeline for the solar/landfill for the next meeting.

Recycling Carts - The recycling rate was 41% in January/February. It was 36-38% for the same time with the old bins. Have noticed less litter since the new carts have been implemented.

Review Bike Share Ordinance

Bruce Hyman presented the Draft Bike Share Ordinance. This ordinance is based on the review of ordinances and materials from other municipalities and bike share operators around the country. Staff established definitions and regulations.

Some items discussed was a suggestion of a street occupancy fee structure permit. Would they be able to use city bike racks or can/will they be locked to their own? Tiered bike numbers (and fees). Concerns and questions with insurance and bonding regulations.

Councilor Ray had a question regarding 25-31(e). Bruce Hyman said that this would relate to the dock based systems. They would be required to pay the recouping costs to make repairs around the station.

There was also a concern as to where and for how long can the dockless ones be left in locations. Jen Thompson said the company and renter would be fined, if not returned in the proper area. Areas for the dockless bike rentals have not been designated at this time.

Councilor Ray said that we need more infrastructure to put the bikes, more bike racks. Councilor Thibodeau mentioned it would be great if companies would partnership with the city to help contribute to the bike infrastructure. Bike racks cost \$1,100 for a 10-bike coral, permanently installed. Councilor Batson agreed that the city does not have enough places to lock up a bike.

Councilor Ray mentioned that the Abandoned Bike Ordinance needs to be reviewed. Concerned about the bikes being abandoned and it shouldn't be a burden on city staff to go after the bikes.

Bruce Hyman mentioned that three (3) organizations have expressed interest in coming to the city. The for profit organization is station-less. They are looking to be able to start this summer; number of bikes have not been mentioned for the start-up.

Councilor Thibodeau mentioned Section 8 Permitting Fees. Look at increments of 100? Bruce Hyman said that other cities had 500; so he broke it down to 250 for this draft ordinance.

Councilor Thibodeau mentioned 25-31(c), he would like to see a reporting mechanism of rules and regulations on an annual basis to see how the program is going. Councilor Thibodeau asked if it was fair to charge company for renters who don't follow the rules. Bruce Hyman said that all companies/renters will be given the rules/education. The company would have a way to charge the renter if they did not comply.

Committee took public comment.

George Rheault, Portland Resident - Excited to see this happening. Does not want to see a pilot this summer, not realistic. Pilot for the future, an investment. Really need \$100,000 worth of bike racks before we need bike lanes painted/area miles. So they have a very good kick-off, it should wait until 2019. A company in Paris, France just had financial issues and had to lay-off and left the city. He does not want to see the same for our city and then have it gone in six weeks.

Steve Scharf, Cumberland Avenue - Supports the draft. Concerned we are making too many rules. We should work with them and not have lots of rules and regulations.

Sarah McNevis, Bayside Resident, Partner with parking garages to leave the bikes there.

Zach Barowitz, Portland Resident - What's the goal? Reduce car traffic? Affordable transportation? Then it needs to be more incorporated with businesses and employers. "Balancing" to bring them back to original location.

Laura Cannon, Portland Resident - Could set the effort back if there is not enough space/bikes.

Kim, Portland Resident, Dorsett Street - Left Washington, D.C. when they were starting their program. Would bike more if there is a bike share here in the city.

Jesse Thompson, Mellon Street - Negative consequences would be minor if we would rush it out. Portland is not a city to get a dock station as its too expensive.

Shawn Curran, Portland Resident - Hopes it wouldn't take 5-10 years to figure it out. Build it out slowly, leave room to adjust. Dockless in a small city would be the way to go.

Items that were discussed by the committee were where would they park the bikes? Would need a street occupancy permit. Infrastructure contributions (fee-in-lieu). The councilors asked that under section (c) staff add, Annual Report to the Sustainability and Transportation Committee on changes within the rules and regulations (no report would be needed, if no changes are made.)

Section 8. Not forthcoming any station-less stations any additional infrastructure improvements (use a percentage) or fee-in-lieu contribution.

A motion was made by Councilor Ray to recommend this draft to the full city council for consideration with amendments from this committee. Seconded by Councilor Batson. All in favor, 3-0.

Review Bayside Transportation Plan

Bruce Hyman introduced the Draft Bayside Transportation Master Plan. The city conducted the PACTS-funded Bayside Transportation Master Plan to integrate and lay the groundwork for many various public planning-project initiatives and private development activities in the Bayside and East Bayside neighborhoods. The eight (8) primary "Focus Areas" for recommendations were: Marginal Way, Preble and Elm Streets, Portland and Oxford Streets, Pearl Street, Lancaster and Kennebec Streets, East Bayside, Washington Avenue (on-peninsula), and public transit.

This Plan had three (3) public workshops, an Open House and an interactive project website.

Committee took public comment.

Shawn Curran, Bayside - Marginal/Forest, really likes that there is more function. Portland Street is a pedestrian disaster, anything to narrow the street down. There is a lack of pedestrian amenities. Wider sidewalks and lighting. If you can't make Oxford Street two-way, make it one-way in one direction. Fan of Kennebec Street to maybe having a pedestrian/bike/bus road area.

Steve Leighton, Falmouth Street - Bus stop moving to in front of the Post Office. This would eliminate three (3) parking spaces.

Zach Barowitz, Portland Resident - A lot to like about the plan, especially intersections and the shorter pedestrian crossings. Downside is the restriction of two-way traffic on the one-way streets. Safer in other ways. Lane widths (vehicle widths) shorten them, especially on Washington Avenue (26 feet, change to 24 feet). Bike and pedestrians are two different items.

Cindy Cochran, East Bayside - Has spent time to look over the report and has many questions. Concerned that there was not much opportunity for people to look at this plan. (Councilor Thibodeau asked Ms. Cochran to send the committee her questions to the committee)

Nick Bachman, Munjoy Hill - East Bayside area pedestrian traffic. Any questions with parking structures.

George Rheault, Portland Resident - Moved here in 2015 and this was his first civic involvement. It was a great process. Rushed to get this time as had money to spend, here we are years later and the timeline is missing from June 2016, when city councilors wanted more information about climate and sea-level change. Also, there was talk about digging up Marginal Way and rebuilding the Franklin Street Pump Station. That was put on hold. Found out Friday afternoon that this was on tonight's agenda. Upset that there's a lot we can still be (residents) saying about this. Has been trying to meet with Bruce Hyman but politely being stalled. There is so much good in here, but can't embrace it. Alternative motives. Have public meetings. Feedback. Let this go back out to the public for 8-10 weeks, so residents can speak and learn about this.

Councilor Ray asked about the Fox/Walnut intersection light. Bruce Hyman replied that a study from years ago did not warrant a light, but new development, it's being reassessed.

Councilor Ray asked what is the timeline? Plan? Bruce responded that not all of it will happen at once. Working a little at a time as we get CDBG and CSO money. Marginal/Preble/Elm working on as early as next year. Franklin/Marginal Way in 2019. Washington Avenue is

currently being worked on. Congress to the 7-11 Store, replace signals and streetscape in 2020. Fox/Walnut to Eastern Prom, there is no funding at this time. Preble Street reconstruction will be next year, sidewalk upgrades. Elm Street have already made sidewalk improvements. Kennebec Street still decisions to be made.

Councilor Ray asked for a What/When Timeline Chart for the next meeting.

Councilor Ray always wanted to make it clear that there were no alternative motives for the Marginal Way CSO project. The bids came in too high and the City Manager asked staff to look to see if there were other ways to do this project for less money.

Councilor Ray asked if we had buy-in from the USPS for moving the bus shelter. Bruce responded that we have contacted them and they have not engaged with us.

Councilor Ray asked what the urgency to getting this plan to council? Bruce responded that there is lots of development in Bayside now. This can help get development contribution now to help funding this plan.

Councilor Ray would like to see Oxford street two-way.

This item will be brought back to April's meeting. Committee members will send questions to staff to respond for next meeting.

Discuss resolution to adopt a goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions 80% citywide by 2050

Troy Moon presented to the committee the strategy to reach the goal to reduce greenhouse gas emissions citywide by 80% by 2050. Looking to be carbon neutral by 2050. Won't be easy moving away from fossil fuels. Other cities involved in the Climate Neutral Cities Alliance includes New York, Boston, Minneapolis, Seattle, and San Francisco.

Committee took public comment.

Elizabeth Parson, Winter Street - Glad to see this is happening. Urgency in the matter since President Trump is pulling out of the Paris Accord along with other countries. Caution that not all money and energy needs to be done by consultants. Don't spend all the money there. The Planning Board and Historic Preservation need to work together, it's not clear to her that they have the same agenda.

Jesse Thompson, Mellon Street - Building architect. 50% of emissions are buildings. We have all the tools to do this right here, right now. Bayside Anchor House made it a passive house.

There are techniques to do this. Multi-family homes are violating the cities energy code. Commercial builders sometimes are not doing what they should be doing, obeying the rules.

George Rheault, Portland Resident - Admires the aspirations. Housing and land use is not even mentioned in this resolution. In the Minneapolis area they are upzoning the family/multi-family housing. This is what is needed to help address this goal.

Sarah School, Copley Circle - Comment this resolution. Change is necessary. Cautionary tale with the Ocean Avenue landfill. Proper site investigation would have saved money and time. Don't move in haste.

Kim, Portland Resident, Dorsett Street - A lot of the nuances will come out in the plan once this resolution is passed. Hopes public comment will continue on the plan. Buildings are not being built up to code, we are so far behind. Except for the energy code, 2009. Green Buildings Plan/Act 2009 is not a modern code. It will no longer be in effect in nine months by the DOE.

Naomi Beal, Passive House - Congress Street is a blaze of red. Portland could take a leadership role in a stronger building code. Buildings represent 40%.

Nick Bachman, Merrill Street - Glad to see this resolution come forward. Building code needs to be worked on.

Councilor Ray feels that we don't need to have the land use and housing in the resolution as it will be in the plan. Councilor Thibodeau and Batson agreed.

A motion was made by Councilor Batson to recommend this draft resolution to the full city council. Seconded by Councilor Ray. All in favor, 3-0.

LD1853 was being discussed at the State House in Augusta (to regulate pesticide usage and roll-back what each municipalities have already done). This has not been well received by the committee at the State House and does not look like it will pass.

A motion was made by Councilor Batson to show support of the Sustainability and Transportation Committee opposition to LD1853. Seconded by Councilor Ray. All in favor, 3-0.

Motion was made by Councilor Batson to adjourn the meeting at 8:47 pm. Motion was seconded by Councilor Ray. All in favor. 3-0.