

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 rezone 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
 - i. 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.