



PARKS, RECREATION, & NATURAL RESOURCES COMMISSION

Date: January 13, 2020
Time: 6:00 PM
Location: Common Council Chambers,
3rd Floor, City Hall

AGENDA ITEMS

Item	Voting Item?	Presenter(s)	Time Allotted
(1) 6:00 PM Call to Order 1.1. Statements from the Public 1.2. Commission Response 1.3. Agenda Review, additions/changes	No	Chair, Monika Roth * We will adjust time if needed	15 Mins
(2) 6:15 PM Welcome to New Members – Introductions – Everyone share a little about your background and interests.	No	All	15 Mins
(3) 6:30 PM Staff reports – What is on the horizon for 2020 – goals, projects that will move forward, etc.	No	Jeanne Grace and Jim D’Alterio	15 Mins
(4) 6:45 PM Old Business 4.1. Memorial policy postponed to February Board of Public Works (BPW) 4.2. Deer – response of BPW to Deer Management in Six Mile Creek. 4.3. Tree retention - Is this on the agenda for PEDC? Other? 4.4 Art in Parks – Brainstorm some criteria that we would use in developing a policy; also who might want to join a small working group to hammer this out?	Yes	Monika Roth Jeanne Grace Jeanne Grace All	15 Mins
(5) 7:00 PM New Business 5.1. 2020 work plan review 5.2. Suggestions for improved operations: order of the agenda; working groups – sign up - commit to time between meetings, chair for groups; other ideas? 5.3. Park grant ideas – small amount of funding available from the County & IURA funding	Yes	Monika Roth All All	20 Mins
(6) 7:20 PM Environmental reviews	No	Dan Hoffman, Tom Shelley	15 Mins
(7) 7:35 PM December minutes – review / approve	Yes	All	10 Mins
(8) 7:45 PM Member Announcements	No	All	10 Mins
(9) 7:55 PM Next meeting – Monday February 10, 2020 Presentation about the Ithaca Children’s Garden hopes for a building.	No		5 Mins
(10) 8:00 PM Adjourn			

The Parks, Recreation & Natural Resources Commission is charged with providing the Common Council, appropriate committees thereof, the City's quasi-judicial boards, and staff with advisory research, public input, and analysis for matters related to the City's parks & recreational facilities, natural areas, trees, waterways, and environmental impact.

If you have a disability that will require special arrangements to be made in order for you to fully participate in the meeting, please contact the City Clerk at 274-6570 at least 48 hours before the meeting.

Out of consideration for the health of other individuals, please refrain from using perfume/cologne and other scented personal care products at City of Ithaca meetings. Thank you for your cooperation and understanding.

PRNR Goals 2020

Progressing

Anticipated next steps/completion

- Memorial Policy
revise slightly, BPW final version in Feb, with a resolution, promote in spring (add to city website)
- Deer – Six Mile Creek
Jeanne update from BPW meeting in Dec. Next steps?
- Deer program for entire city
When do we tackle this, what data is needed, etc.
- Park Signage
In city budget - finalize design & installation plans – Ellen & Jeanne
- Private property tree removal aka Tree Retention Policy
Planning & Econ Dev agenda – January agenda? STAC

Work to move forward on in 2020

- Natural areas review
Working group – Dan, Hannah, Todd B, Paul P., others?
- Natural areas ranger position
Need to make case
- County Grant for city parks
Feb or March due date...review possible projects
- Green space requirements for new development projects -- (Relates also to In-Fill and to Biophilia goals)
Group to work on this – Scott, Tom, others
- Adopt a Park
Group to work on this?
- Parks information on City Website
Work with Melanie and Melody – Ellen & Jeanne
- Better document management system
Google docs – Tyler & Debbie?

Get updates/further action?

- Geese
Is there a plan for 2020 as in 2019?
- Green New Deal
How to integrate green spaces as part of plan
Plan fails to recognize the importance of plantings to carbon sequestration, etc.

OTHER IDEAS/NEEDS

Memo to PRNR Commission

Jan. 7, 2019

From: Monika Roth, Chair

RE: Our Work Thus Far – **Our Role: Review, Research, Resolve, Recommend!**

Greetings Commissioners and Happy New Year! I look forward to launching a productive New Year!

Given our open ended task list, I think we have a solid understanding of issues that could be addressed by our commission. To date we have reviewed the following:

-City policies on Diversity and Equity; Process for providing input on development projects (Environmental reviews); City Parks and Open Space plan.

Items that have been brought to the commission:

- change in CEQR form used by City to be in compliance with new state SEQR form – done!
- Parks plan concerns about neighborhood park status and upgrades needed
- Stewart Park Playground and Wharton Studio plans
- Concerns about play equipment status/safety and drug issues in parks
- North side of Ithaca Falls – access improvements and memorial bench
- Athletic field improvements
- Biophilia designation
- Deer management options
- Shade tree committee ongoing work

Work in progress:

- Park signage
- Environmental reviews (ongoing)

Items to be further reviewed and researched:

- process for engaging volunteers (Adopt a park or other ways)
- memorials
- ways to raise money and increase funding for parks
- regional waterfront parks commission (longer term)
- natural areas – needs/plan (Planning Dept)
- trail connectors (longer term)
- waterfront access
- geese

Possible working groups: (defined as addressing a specific issue on a limited time basis)

Natural areas

Deer management

Shade tree

SURVEY SUMMARY – 1/14/19

Issue	High priority	Medium	Low priority	Comments
Parks Plan recommendations	11	1		Central to our work; specific projects/recommendations included in list below
Funding for parks	10	2		Annual input
Natural areas review/planning	11	1		Need a natural area manager-funding!
Environmental Review of City Projects	9			Part of our ongoing role
Deer management plan	9	1	1	Work with Cornell & Town
Geese management	2	5	3	State may be working on this
Neighborhood parks input from residents	7	3	1	Getting input is identified as a key role of commissions
Memorials & donations policy	5	3	3	Review/complete in 2019
Volunteer engagement policy/Adopt a Park	3	4	3	Review/complete in 2019
Play structures in parks - improvement		9	2	inventory/assessment be needed & timeline for replacement
Drugs and unsavory activities in parks	4	1	7	Could be assessed in neighborhood outreach; assign to Community Life
Garden Space	3			Community Life also involved
Athletic field expansion/improvements	3	3	5	Longer term effort – need funding for field improvements
Regional waterfront parks commission	6	3	2	Longer term effort – no state grant awarded; could we advocate?
Waterfront development	5	4	2	Something to keep an eye on
Trail connectors throughout city	3	6	2	Past study – review; get maps of parks & nat areas
Biophilia designation	1	4	6	Group feels they need to do more outreach; no hurry
Cemetery preservation	1	8	1	Specific role/need? Large parklike open space
SW Park Homeless camp	1			part of Natural areas review
Energy issues/reducing GHG emission	1			Part of enviro review

How do we best organize our commission work to make progress on the above topics?

Parks plan to drive our work

Advocate for funding increases

Designate 2-3 people to take a lead on topics

Establish 4-5 working groups (sub-committees) where commissioners serve on at least 2

Leave each meeting with action items; May need to meet in between meetings

Chunk projects into smaller bits

Designate Advisors (we can have 10)

Set goals of what to accomplish for year, deadlines, actions, outcomes

YOUR thoughts on working groups:

Should we appoint the Shade Tree Advisory committee as a PRNR working group?

4 Yes / 3 No (provide updates; if there are specific tasks/projects to complete in the year?)

Should we appoint a Deer Management working group? 6 Yes / 1 No (appoint a liaison to Town)

Should we appoint a Natural Areas working group? 5 Yes / 2 No (what specific task?)