

# PRNR Commission Meeting

October 18, 2021

Join Zoom Meeting

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Meeting ID: 946 7334 7018

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## Agenda

6:00 PM – Call to order

Chair, Monika Roth

6:05 PM – Additions/Changes to the Agenda

6:10 PM – Privilege of the Floor (3 min per person) – sign up on line in advance

6:20 PM – Commission member and advisors announcements if any

[Meeting time to be adjusted depending on whether or not there are comments]

6:30 PM - Staff updates (Jeanne and Jim) – Budget requests and other updates (not listed below)

6:45 PM – Minutes of Sept 13 meeting – review/approve

7:00 PM Old Business –

- 1- Draft Art in Park Policy – Monika
- 2- Private Street Tree Ordinance update – Jeanne
- 3- Bolton Point project in Six Mile Creek - restoration plan - Jeanne
- 4- Homeless update if any – Dan (which commission should deal with this??)
- 5- Park Signage – plan to move forward with these?
- 6- Terms ending and vacancies – suggestions for candidates

7:40 PM – New Business

- 1- SEQR process – how we can plug in better (if we hear from Lisa N.)
- 2- Ideas on how vegetated green spaces could be enhanced to capture more carbon – more discussion in November
- 3- Working groups and projects for 2022 – more discussion in November
- 4- Other?

7:55 PM – Next meeting – Nov. 8, 2021

Parks, Recreation, Natural Resources Commission Meeting  
Monday, September 13, 2021

Members Present: Monika Roth, Dan Hoffman, Scott Freyburger, Ellen Leventry, Stephanie Figary, Paul Paradine

Council: Cynthia Brock

Staff: Jim Dalterio, Jeanne Grace

Excused: Graham Kerslick, Ty Moeller

Meeting called to order at 6 PM (via Zoom)

Agenda – additions/deletions: None

Privilege of the Floor: Wendy Wallitt, 209 Valley Road – re construction at the entrance to Six Mile Creek Mulholland Preserve – concern, Bolton Point contractors are using large equipment, leveling the area surrounding the creek. Wendy was a past Natural Areas Commission member. Natural Areas Commission had created guidelines for entities doing work in natural areas to reduce damage. The ordinance passed by Council required that work to be done be approved by BPW in consultation with the Natural Areas Commission (now PRNR) - city code chapter 114. The Ordinance recommended: use of small, light equipment, that clearing & grading is minimized, work area is minimized, and that a plan of work be submitted to BPW for review with input from the Natural Areas commission. None of these guidelines were followed in the current work in Six Mile Creek. Wendy asked if PRNR reviewed the work plan, which we did not, but Jeanne had apprised us of it. **It is most important at this point, given that the work is done that there be a plan for restoration.**

Dan - Appreciate Wendy's concern. The City does not seem to be following process. Bolton Point has an easement with legal right to the water line. City could be more assertive/protective of this process. It is important that restoration is really well done.

Cynthia – sec 114 code language – Ecologically Informed guidelines for work in Natural areas should be reviewed by Natural Areas Commission (PRNR) and then go to BPW. BPW has not been meeting. Check with Julie Holcomb for more background on when the guidelines were developed.

Jeanne – met with Bolton Point staff, and City Water and Sewer staff about the project. She identified trees that could be removed. Given the scope of the project, a big excavator was needed. One concern Jeanne noted is that topsoil was not set aside but instead mixed with subsoil so there may not be good base for plant growth, need to remedy situation. Jeanne stated that Bolton Point has funds for restoration for soil, grading, and planting. She will work with them on seed mixes and native plants.

Scott – this project was mandated by the Health Department. Plan to have a deep pipe did not work because of bedrock, so needed to divert creek which made the project scope bigger.

Stephanie – asked when is restoration would be done. Jeanne – crew is cleaning up now. Anticipates fall seeding, spring planting. Discussing who will do what work.

Dan asked that we get a copy of the restoration plan. Jeanne will provide at next meeting.

## **Commission Member announcements**

Monika: Dan Hoffman and Ty Moeller have been reappointed for 2 years to end of 2022, and Paul Paradine appointed for 1 year to end of 2021.

Dan – final decisions on the housing project adjacent to Six-mile creek and the Gateway building will take place during a special Planning Board meeting on 9/14. For this project, the City BZA did not grant a variance for 7 stories (6 approved). Project is a bit smaller but may be approved tomorrow evening.

## **Staff updates:**

Jim: closed pool late August, fall field season gearing up, getting rink ready to open in Oct. Issues with pool leaking this summer. Requesting capital project for repairs. Pressurized line to pool was leaking in gutter, needs to be dug out to fix. Also need to repair pool lining. A capital project request to enclose the rink was also submitted. Currently assessing outbuildings and field conditions to develop a list of priorities.

Cynthia asked if PRNR should write a letter of support for capital projects? Timing is important, budget discussion starts next month. Agreed that a letter endorsing the project should be sent. Jim will send list of projects to Monika and she will write a letter. Ellen said she has a letter from the past that describes benefits. Jim mentioned that rink investments have been made – floor (2010), roof (2016), and that enclosure is next.

Jeanne: Stewart Park – painting; carousel season extended. Natural Areas - stilt grass pulling with volunteers, population is being reduced. Roadside mowing about to end; crews will then work on stump grinding, and Nov. fall tree planting. Daffodil project – October planting...working with Ithaca Garden Club who is providing \$5000 for bulbs.

**Minutes of July 12 meeting:** Dan motioned to approve, second by Scott, all in favor.

## **Old Business:**

1. Sky Rider Sculpture: two locations on the table – near the Black Diamond Trail entrance/kiosk Or Pete's Triangle – Ellen felt Black Diamond Trail entrance makes sense...visible to trails. Monika talked with Fred Bonn about this location and he said his main concern is not to do with State Park/Black Diamond Trail, but with safety since this is a heavily used area. Monika will draft a memo to send in the morning since BPW is meeting tomorrow (DONE – project was approved for Black Diamond entrance site).
2. Art in Parks – revisions made based on input at last meeting – any further input? Please send comments via email to Monika. Monika will share this latest version with the City Planning staff for their input; and also check on the boiler plate language that might be needed related to city contracts. Goal is to have a completed document that is adopted by PRNR in October to submit to Council (and BPW) in November.
3. Other Unfinished Business?  
-signage – no update

-Private tree ordinance – Jeanne met with Nikki Cerra, environmental landscape planner –who provided her with a rough draft of an ordinance in July...Jeanne will review and bring it to our next meeting.

-Memorial requests...one tree request made a year ago was planted in spring; there have been some inquiries but the price tag seems to be a limitation.

-Encampments in Jungle...there are still lots of problems with trash, destruction of natural areas, many individuals prefer the jungle, many are involved with destructive habits. The Railway company is planning to brushhog areas they own to open visibility to make area less attractive. No real answers on addressing the situation.

### **New Business:**

Ithaca Green New Deal: Luis Aguirre-Torres, Director of Sustainability housed within the City Planning Dept. in position for 6 mos. Gearing up to develop an ambitious plan.

Plan has broad goals with many subgoals -

**-City is Carbon Neutral by 2030** – moving from 400,000 metric tons of CO2 to Zero!

To get there, these are the areas effort:

Data gathering an important part of the overall work

25% Energy efficiency - buildings

25% Electrifying – electric vehicles, switching from gas to electric heating

30% Decarbonization – renewable energy, more rooftop solar

20% Carbon capture – this is where urban forest & greenspace fits

Ithaca area energy sources for electric are mostly nuclear and hydro – considered to be clean sources. .

**-Climate Justice is another big goal** – focus is on engaging many voices – 1000 conversations project - to reach those that are most impacted/disadvantaged by climate inequities. Focus will be on economy – green jobs.

To encourage citizen engagement in reaching goals – will need to offer incentives, create policies and ensure commitment for all sectors – public, govt, private.

-Working across all goals at once since there is not much time! IN a RUSH to do this work.

Carbon Capture discussion – need to protect green spaces and trees; Private Tree ordinance that Jeanne and STAC has been working on with Planning Dept. will be a part of that protection. Need to build in/prioritize more trees and green space when properties are being developed prior to approval.

The urban forest serves as a carbon sink/absorption, and moderates summer temperatures.

Ability to have open space for food production is also important. Luis met with the TC Food Policy Council and is mindful of this need.

Monika will request copy of slides.

Tabled till next meeting:

-SEQR process – plugging in (Monika has contacted Lisa Nicholas)

-Working groups: Natural areas; Green Space development fund, Parks, other? (From January 2021)

Natural areas: Dan, Tyler, Monika, Paul, Jeanne, also ask Mark Darling, Hannah, Todd Bittner

Green space – Scott, Dan, Stephanie, Monika

Parks – Ellen, Jeanne, Jim, Paul

**Next meeting: Oct. 18, 6 PM**

**For your reading pleasure:**

<https://www.cityofpasadena.net/wp-content/uploads/sites/30/Section-6-Funding-and-Implementation.pdf>

[https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/100520/investing\\_in\\_equitable\\_urban\\_park\\_systems.pdf](https://www.urban.org/sites/default/files/publication/100520/investing_in_equitable_urban_park_systems.pdf)

<https://www.designcouncil.org.uk/sites/default/files/asset/document/paying-for-parks.pdf>

<https://cityparksalliance.org/federal-funding-city-parks/>