

**LAND BANK COMMISSION MEETING**

**THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 6, 2014**

**ROOM 24 – CITY HALL BASEMENT**

**ATTENDANCE:** Tom Jewell (Co-Chair), Cheryl Leeman (Co-Chair), Breana Behrens, Meri Lowry, Rene Perry, Colleen Tucker, Commission members.

**CITY STAFF:** Mike Bobinsky, Public Services, Doug Roncarati, Public Services, Michael Goldman, Associate Corporation Counsel, Judith Rosen, Executive Department.

**GUESTS:** Nelle Hanig, Greg Mitchell, Economic Development; David Margolis-Pineo, Jeff Tarling, Public Services; Craig Lapine, Cultivating Communities; John Whitman, Brenda Buchanan, Peaks Island Land Preserve.

**ROLL CALL AND DECLARATION OF A QUORUM**

The meeting was called to order by Co-Chair Tom Jewell at 5:10 p.m. A motion was made by Colleen Tucker, second by Meri Lowry to accept the minutes from the September 4, 2014 meeting.

**Portland Technology Park:** Nelle Hanig and David Margolis-Pineo reviewed a proposal submitted to the Land Bank Commission asking for a Natural Gas Main Easement at Portland Technology Park. They are requesting our approval and recommendation to the City Council to establish a twenty foot wide easement to Unitil over Resource Protection Zone (RPZ) property in Land Bank Parcel E-4, to install and maintain an underground natural gas line from Westbrook Street to the Portland Technology Park and to remove vegetation as may be required. (see attached) They presented two options to Commission members. Discussion followed.

Bill Mann made a motion to accept Option 1, second by Councilor Cheryl Leeman to approve and recommend option #1 to the full City Council. Passed unanimously .

**Community Garden at the Eastern Promenade:** Mike Bobinsky and Jeff Tarling asked for approval from the Land Bank Commission to have the Department of Public Services establish a new community garden at the Eastern Promenade in an area directly behind the tennis courts (see attached). There will be 40 individual garden plots with an 8' fence around it and a small orchid. Upkeep will be done by volunteers. There are 130 people on a waiting list for a garden spot. Both the Friends of Eastern Promenade and Historic Preservation have approved the project unanimously. Discussion followed.

A motion was made by Bill Mann, second by Councilor Cheryl Leeman, to approve this request. Passed unanimously.

**Acquisition of the Ice Pond (Peaks Island) Agreement:** Brenda Buchanan and John Whitman brought a proposal to the Land Bank Commission to potentially alter the easement agreement that members agreed to at its September meeting (see attached). At that time the Commission members voted to give a grant of \$30,000 to the Ice Pond project. They proposed another option which would be that the City hold fee title to the Ice Pond and Peaks Island Land Preserve hold the conservation easement on it to protect it from future development. The City already holds a fire pond easement on the Ice Pond which allows it to draw water from the pond which expands capacity to fight a fire in the northwest corner of the island where there is no public water supply. There is a 100 year old dam on this property which needs shoring up or replacement. They are interested in a partnership with the City. Discussion followed. It was felt that this needs further discussion with Public Services and Corporation Counsel. The Ice Pond acquisition will be taking place by the end of December. Because of the short time frame, all parties agreed that the allocation of \$30,000 that was approved in September stay as is at this time.

**Meeting adjourned at 6:35 p.m.**

Respectfully Submitted

Judith Rosen