

City of Biddeford
Policy Committee Meeting Minutes
September 30, 2024 at 6:00 PM
City Hall Council Chambers & Zoom

1. Roll Call - The Committee was called to order at 6:00 PM by Chairperson Belanger. All members were present.
2. Pledge of Allegiance - The Committee and members of the public in attendance observed the Pledge of Allegiance.
3. Adjustment(s) to Agenda – There were no adjustments to the agenda.
4. Approval of Minutes – There were no minutes to approve.
5. Discussion/Review –

5.a 2024.146 Amend/ Part II: Code of Ordinances, Chapter 42 Motor Vehicles and Traffic, Article IV Specific Street Regulations, Sec. 42-90(a) No Parking - Lester B. Orcutt Blvd

Chairperson Belanger indicated that this item came before the Policy Committee, was moved to the City Council for adoption. Based on comments at the Council meeting the item was sent back to Policy for further review. Chairperson Belanger asked for public comment.

Several individuals offered comment. The comments included a review of prior experiences and changes in policy over the years. One individual indicated that restricting parking would not be in the best interest of the public or residents. A member of Maine Audubon asked that the Committee consider retaining parking to allow access to the Audubon land.

After public comment Chairperson Belanger asked the city manager for clarification on property ownership.

City Manager Bennett stated that ownership is not always clear but generally there is a right-of-way along side roadways.

After further discussion it was suggested that the individuals and organizations in that area be included in the discussion for fund a solution that best serves everyone. A Policy Committee workshop involving members of the public, BPIA and Maine Audubon could be held as early as October in an attempt to engage seasonal residents as well.

Motion by Councilor Beaupre to schedule a workshop for October to discuss parking on Lester B. Orcutt Blvd with requisite easement information.

Seconded by Councilor LaFountain

Vote: Unanimous in favor of the motion

City Manager Bennett suggested that staff be available and flag areas of concern and those areas not of concern. Once parking is identified staff would then go back and perform reasonable verification.

5.b Discussion Public Art Policy

Chairperson Belanger asked for public comment on the Public Art Policy.

Member Pierson asked for clarification on this particular item. It was clarified that a specific project has been proposed and highlighted the fact that the City does not have a policy. This meeting will gather information on what the public and other stakeholders want to see in a public art policy.

Comments from the public included:

- Ensure the policy includes permanent, temporary public art

- Consider the qualifications and makeup of the committee

- Include members of the public

- The process should be inclusive

- Consider using public art as an incentive for development

- Makes sure the review process is not onerous

- Consider what public art is and is not since there are many forms or interpretations of what constitutes art

- Include Heart of Biddeford's design committee since they do a lot of work in the downtown

Additional comments included a general concern for staff time to attend and participate in another committee. There was also concern for the provision that the Public Art Committee become a non-profit organization within a specific period of time. There needs to be separate provisions for permanent and temporary art.

Based on comments received the discussion was closed with the understanding that staff will review and return at a future date for additional discussion.

Other Business

Chairman Belanger asked for any additional items.

Councilor Beaupre suggested a review of the need for the Downtown Committee given the changes in the community. He requested a review of Chapter 42-8 for the next meeting.

6. Adjourn

Motion by Councilor Beaupre to adjourn.

Seconded by Councilor LaFountain.

Vote: Unanimous in favor of the motion.

The Committee adjourned at 7:33 PM