

## Forest Park Testimony Regarding Concerns Jan. 24, 2018

By B. Dugan - Retired PPS teacher, Native of Portland and Mountain Bike owner.

### Mayor Wheeler, Commissioners Fritz, Fish, Eudaly, and Saltzman

I know you're all quite busy so to streamline your time for reviewing my testimony, I have summarized my 4 main talking points on this document.

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#### 4 Main Points of Concerns about Forest Park

1. I am concerned about **safety** for pedestrians in Forest Park - Basically anyone who is not nimble enough to jump out of the way of fast moving illegal single track bikers or see or hear them can easily be injured. Children, seniors, those in wheelchairs or with canes and also blind and deaf people
  - a. I know of many people besides myself who have been run off the trails by bicyclists who are riding illegally on pedestrian only trails.
  - b. I have been injured twice when bikers ran me off the trails, once seriously, so I no longer hike in Forest Park and I know many seniors and families with children that also don't use the park anymore.
  - c. The city is setting itself up for lawsuits as there is a lack of signage for where bikes are permitted or not permitted and there is no enforcement/citations by the Park Ranger. Mountain Bike/pedestrian collisions can cause deaths - almost always the pedestrian.
2. I am concerned that a **disproportionate amount of favorable decisions and funding** is being given to bikers who are a small but vocal, well organized user group compared to those with disabilities, children, and the ever growing number of active seniors.
  - a. For reference about the number of bikers vs other users on trails, please see **Figure 53** on **page 89 of the Oregon State Trail Recreation Plan Report** ([http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/Trail\\_Programs\\_Services/Documents/2016OregonStatewideTrailsPlan.pdf](http://www.oregon.gov/oprd/Trail_Programs_Services/Documents/2016OregonStatewideTrailsPlan.pdf)) To summarize: not even 4% of the activity on trails around the state is by single track bike users. The vast majority is used by joggers, walkers, and hikers.
  - b. If over 95% of trail use in general is people who are **not** single track bikers, then 95% of the trails in Forest Park should be for runner, walkers, hikers, bird and wildlife watching etc. Regarding some user surveys put out about Forest Park - they have been slanted toward bikers and if need be I can provide you some notes/details about that.

3. The Forest Park Management Plan was put in place 23 years ago and despite the fact that there have been multiple park bonds - all of which I have voted for, there are still many things that have not been done including meeting ADA standards (the 200 foot paved surface at the Lower Macleay Trail appears to be a token gesture). Please look at **fulfilling the law of the Forest Park Management Plan ordinance** and start doing things to protect people hiking in the park as well as preserving/managing the ecological health of the park.
4. Based on a November 2016 conversation with a Portland Parks Employee in Management I know there has been **terrible erosion and compaction caused by mountain biking** on the native clay soils in our local parks. For example, about 20 years ago there was a serious erosion issue in Gabriel Park. According to the park manager with whom I spoke, the damaged area was still not completely recovered in 2016 even though extensive work has been done to rehabilitate the area that was ruined. Check it out for yourself. Get some testimony or statements from people who work in and supervise Gabriel Park.

#### **In Summary -**

- ◆ Please provide safety for the majority of users by limiting biking and enforcement against illegal bike activities.
- ◆ Please make decisions, including those about funding in a way that is proportionate the number of users
- ◆ Please use your political influence and power to carry out the 1995 Forest Park Management Plan.
- ◆ Please look into the problem of mountain bike damage done at Gabriel Park 20 years ago and learn from that lesson that.

**Forest Park is a unique park within a city, please protect and manage it for the gem it is.**

Thank you

B. Dugan

lichenocan@yahoo.com

**Parsons, Susan**

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**To:** lichenoccean@yahoo.com  
**Subject:** RE: Jan 24th testimony

FOREST PARK

Thank you Barbara,  
You are confirmed for January 24<sup>th</sup>.

Here is further information for you on the Communications portion of the agenda:

- You will have three minutes to address the Council and may also submit written material (please provide seven copies).
- We start the meeting at 9:30 and Communications are the first item on the agenda.
- Please note communications allow the Council to hear issues that interest our citizens, but do not allow an opportunity for dialogue.
- The Council meeting takes place at City Hall, 1221 SW 4th Ave., 2nd Floor, Council Chambers.

Susan Parsons  
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City of Portland  
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503.823.4085

**From:** lichenoccean@yahoo.com [mailto:lichenoccean@yahoo.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 28, 2017 4:08 PM  
**To:** Parsons, Susan <Susan.Parsons@portlandoregon.gov>  
**Subject:** Jan 24th testimony

Susan  
I plan to testify on January 24th to city council.  
B. Dugan.

Barbara Dugan

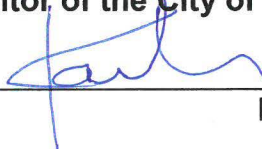
Request of Barbara Dugan to address Council regarding Forest Park  
(Communication)

JAN 24 2018

**PLACED ON FILE**

Filed JAN 16 2018

**MARY HULL CABALLERO**  
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  Deputy

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Eudaly		
Wheeler		