

April 10, 2013

To members of the Portland City Council:

My name is Joanie Beldin. I live in St. Johns, next door to Pier Park. I'm a daily walker in this park and supporter of the Chimney-Pier Bridge project. However, it's important that this project go forward in a way that not only benefits the people, but also assures the present and future health of the Sequoia grove. I believe that both can go hand in hand.

Myself and other concerned citizens hired Terry Flanagan, an ISA certified master arborist, to come to the grove and give an independent professional opinion about the Pier-Chimney Bridge project as it relates to the long term health of the Sequoias. He had a copy of Portland Parks and Recreation's (PP&R) design plans and Tree Protection Plan. You have a copy of his report. Please read the full report. At the St. John's Neighborhood Association meeting, PP&R's urban forester did not refute any of the findings in this report. The report identifies two areas of concern – please refer to the design plans.

#1 – During the construction of the bridge, damage may be caused to the trees (there are four of them) that line the gravel road that is to be used for access to the project. There's a need to strengthen PP&R's Tree Protection Plan.

#2 – The 65' paved trail off the bridge dead ends in the Sequoia grove. This is a straight shot from the bridge and will invite bridge users to enter the grove off trail, causing soil compaction and damage to surface roots. This, over time, will lead to the potential decline of the Sequoias. I question whether PP&R ever gave thought to this impact. To ensure long term health of the trees, Mr. Flanagan recommends that a continued trail through the grove be constructed in conjunction with the building of the bridge project. If this cannot be done, then no *ADA trail into the grove should be built at this time.

We have one more concern. The Sequoia Grove was planted in two sections – I'll call them front and back. The trees in the front section were planted in a circle. The planned ADA trail lands right in the middle of this circle and to continue, will need to go through several sets of trees. PP&R never considered an alternate direction for the ADA trail. We believe there is a viable alternative that would direct the trail between the two sections, keeping both sections intact and minimizing the number of trees affected. ~~Two options are marked in red on the design plan.~~ Since no public input was ever solicited concerning the ADA trail, we are asking that our input now be given serious consideration.

We ask that:

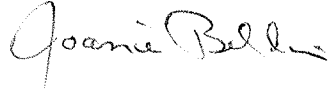
1. Portland Parks and Recreation follow the recommendations in Mr. Flanagan's report. Elizabeth Kennedy-Wong of PP stated that if a game changer surfaced, they would give due consideration - we believe the findings in this report are a game changer.
2. Alternate routes for the ADA trail be given thorough consideration and if viable, replace the current planned trail - simply redirecting the trail so to keep the grove's sections intact and minimize the number of trees affected.
3. The ADA accessible trail through Pier Park to the bridge should be designed in it's entirety, with no harm to any trees. Per Mr. Flanagan, it needs to be completed at the same time as the construction of the bridge. The public should be involved in the trail design process.
4. Construction begin on the Chimney Park side to allow adequate time for concerted study and possible redesign of the Pier Park ADA trail.

5. A way to prevent off-trail use must be designed for any uncompleted ADA trail.

Thank you for considering our concerns.

Sincerely,

Joanie Beldin

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Joanie Beldin". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the typed name.

*"ADA trail" refers to the 65' ADA compliant section extending from the bridge into the grove.

Parsons, Susan

From: Joanie Beldin [joanibldn@gmail.com]
Sent: Wednesday, March 13, 2013 8:54 AM
To: Parsons, Susan
Subject: City council meeting

Dear Susan,

Thank you for your phone call. I want to confirm my 3 minutes to speak before the city council on April 10th.

Please let me know you received this.
Thank you.

Joanie

*Regarding trail and Giant Sequoia grove at
Chimney/Pier Park*

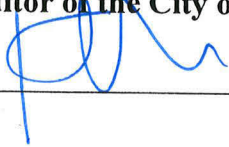
Request of Joanie Beldin to address Council regarding the trail and Giant Sequoia at Chimney and Pier Parks (Communication)

APR 10 2013

PLACED ON FILE

Filed APR 05 2013

LaVonne Griffin-Valade
Auditor of the City of Portland

By  _____

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
1. Fritz		
2. Fish		
3. Saltzman		
4. Novick		
Hales		