

Jul 22 PM Council Session - Item 616

No.	First Name	Last Name	Zip
1	Andy	Nelson	97232
2	Mike	Abbate	97024
3	Ted	Labbe	97232
4	Willie	Levenson	97209
5	Juntu	Oberg	97207
6	Bob	Sallinger	97210
7	Tony	DeFalco	97218
8	Daniel	Newberry	97236
9	Don	Stastny	97201
10	Pat	Wagner	97231
11	Jim	Etzel	97205
12	Tonya	DeCroce	97218
13	Julia	Brim-Edwards	

From: [Stephenie Frederick](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Cc: [Director, Parks Bureau](#)
Subject: Support levy for Portland Parks&Rec
Date: Saturday, July 18, 2020 9:34:51 AM

Dear Council Members:

I support the concept of a levy (based on property assessment) to restore financial viability to Portland Parks & Rec. Please approve this measure. Thank you.

Best regards,
Stephenie Frederick

5618 Se Malden Street
Portland OR 97206
(626) 399-5799

From: [Ariel Heintze](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: I support the P&R levy
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 10:09:27 AM

Hello Portland congress

I personally support this levy because P&R has been underfunded for so long, but we should each vote our conscience. As for the equity aspect, Director Long's letter states: "[The levy will] co-design recreational programming and provide resources to improve access to communities of color, families experiencing poverty, and refugees and immigrants, and provide community oversight." I take this to mean that even if rent or property taxes were raised, vulnerable communities would get it back through reduced fees for Park&Rec programs.

Thank you
-Ariel

From: [Alisa Kajikawa](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: Wednesday July 22 Hearing
Date: Monday, July 20, 2020 4:31:19 PM

Hello,

I would like to share my support for adding the Portland Parks and Recreation Levy on the November ballot. The parks system is vital to our communities' well-being. It provides community, education, fun, and a way to get away from our daily lives without having to leave the city!

I would also like to add that I fully support reallocating funds from the Portland Police to the Portland Parks and Recreation, and having the police ask for a levy. Supporting community engagement activities like the parks can and do provide will do far more for the stability and health of Portland communities.

With gratitude,
Alisa Kajikawa

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Due to the current situation with COVID-19, our offices are closed to the public. I am working from home normal hours and check my office voicemail regularly. If you need to speak to me more immediately, call my cell phone listed below. Thank you.

Alisa Kajikawa
(she/her/hers)

Community Outreach Supervisor &
Citizenship and ESL Instructor
Lutheran Community Services Northwest
[605 SE Cesar E. Chavez Blvd.](#)
[Portland, OR 97214](#)

Phone: 503-731-9548 Cell: 971-666-3268 | Email: akajikawa@lcsnw.org
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From: [Roberta Jortner](#)
To: [Council Clerk – Testimony](#)
Subject: July 22, 2020 - Support for Agenda items 615 and 616
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 2:06:39 PM

Dear Mayor Wheeler and Portland City Commissioners:

I am writing in support of two items on your July 22 agenda.

1. I support the resolution proposed by Commissioner Amanda Fritz (Item 615) to make broader use of city property, including for park space, community garden, and habitat. This will provide more equitable opportunities for access to nature and growing food in Portland's urban areas.
2. I support the Mayor's proposal to refer to the voters a five-year local option tax levy for the November 3, 2020 General Election to restore recreation programs and protect parks and natural areas (Item 616) These funds are needed not only to allow the re-opening of many community centers, pools, and camps, in 2021, but also maintain and enhance Portland's urban forest, and our parks and green spaces which have also been impacted by lack of funding and reduced staffing.

During the Covid-19 pandemic Portlanders flocked to local parks and natural areas to spend time in nature. There is a need to address inequities in access to nature and in distribution of tree canopy and associated benefits, including stormwater management, cleaning/cooling air and water, and reduce the impacts of urban heat island. Addressing these disparities will require funding so that the City can maintain trees in parks and natural areas, but also to continue its programs to plant trees on city streets and in yards.

Also needed is City investment in street tree maintenance, both to maintain this several billion dollar public infrastructure asset, and to reduce the cost burden on property owners that creates resistance to planting new trees and perpetuates disparities in tree canopy across the city. About two years ago, the City Council directed Portland Parks and Recreation to establish a task force to evaluate options for funding Street Tree maintenance. Unfortunately, this effort was subsumed under Sustainable Futures. It is important not to lose sight of this issue, and if the levy passes to continue moving forward toward a viable programmatic solution.

Thank you for your good work, and for considering this testimony.

Roberta Jortner
Portland, 97202

From: [Redisch, Meryl](#)
To: [Moore-Love, Karla](#)
Subject: Support Tax Levy comment letter
Date: Tuesday, July 21, 2020 1:46:28 PM

Hello Karla,

I sent a letter regarding the tax levy that will be presented to city council members tomorrow. I am not confident that the comments I sent via the website actually went through.

I support this tax levy to raise needed funds for parks and recreation programs.

I strongly encourage city council to approve this request from the mayor and Refer it to the voters in November.

I also support the levy because a portion of funding will be directed to urban forestry including the hiring of staff to ensure that the Tree Code is enforced and compliance is adequately met.

Thank you for making sure that this letter of support is received by council staff.

Thank you for your work. Stay safe.

Respectfully,
Meryl A. Redisch
1918 SW Pendleton Street
Portland, Oregon 97239
503-330-8960

Sent from my iPad

July 21, 2020

Mayor Ted Wheeler
Commissioner Joann Hardesty
Commissioner Amanda Fritz
Commissioner Chloe Eudaly

RE: Testimony on the proposed PP&R levy measure

Dear Mayor Wheeler and members of the City Council,

I am writing to express support for the proposed \$48 million annual five-year levy to support operations for Portland Parks & Recreation, though with one caveat.

Our parks, greenspaces and community centers are a central part of Portland's culture for all of us. As PP&R has pointed out, the loss of community centers through closure and their underuse because of an inability to pay usage fees represents an equity issue for the City, as these public centers are us. Using voter-approved levy funding will help to address that issue.

Although I am a member of Portland's Urban Forestry Commission, the views I express here are my own, as the Commission has not discussed the levy in depth. For several years, I and my fellow UFC Commissioners have explored ways to provide public funding for street tree (in the right-of-way) planting and maintenance. Currently, the financial burden for street trees falls on the adjacent property owner. It comes as no surprise that lower income neighborhoods, especially those where people of color live, have lower canopies. High tree canopy has been shown to have a number of health benefits, including those offered by the reduction of street-level temperature afforded by shade trees.

In 2018 the City Council approved a \$100,000 budget amendment (BMP) for a study to look at public street tree issues, including how to fund it through the public sector. That funding directive became lost in the larger Sustainable Futures effort. That entire issue has been left out of the levy funding. I encourage you to include public street tree planting and maintenance as one of the PP&R efforts funded under the levy. This is an equity issue. All Portlanders should experience the health benefits, including temperature street-level temperature reduction, in the places they live and work.

Sincerely,

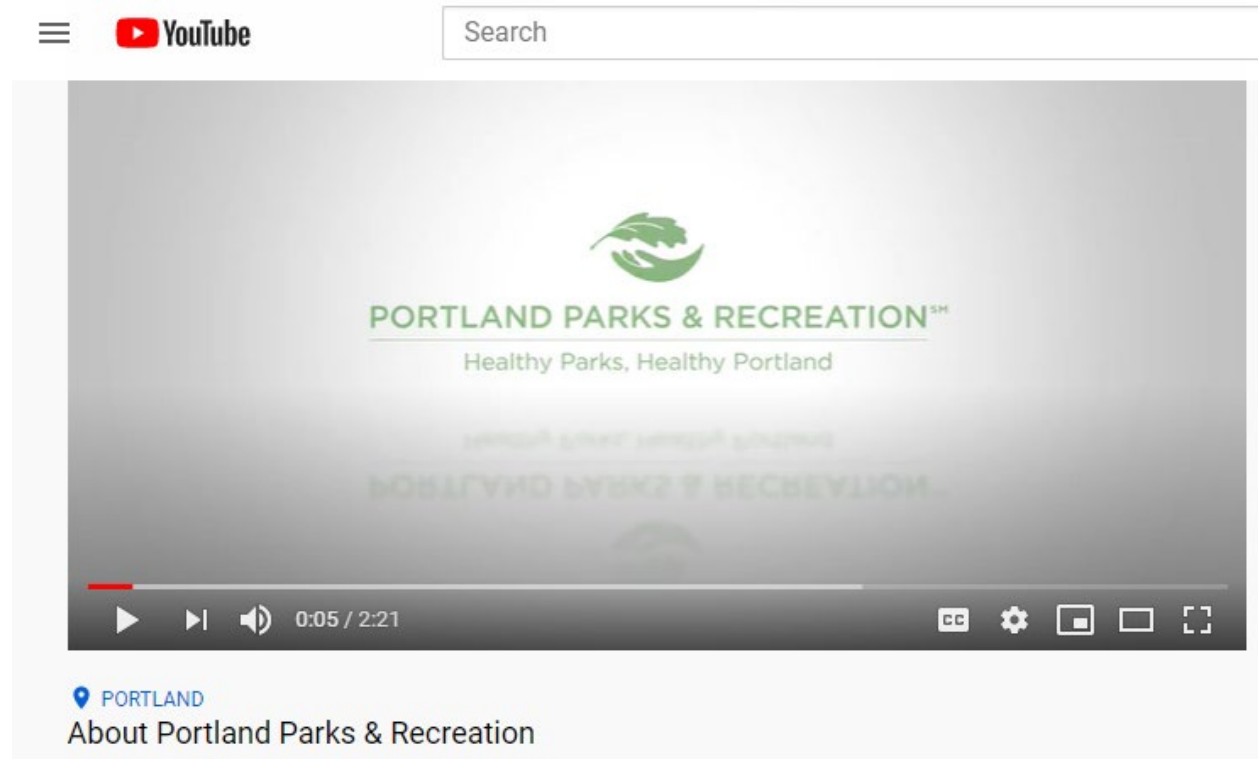


Daniel Newberry
13338 SE Cora St.
Portland, OR 97236

Item 616: Video

About Portland Parks & Recreation

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=xPCwSEk6KY>



The image shows a YouTube video player interface. At the top left, there is a hamburger menu icon and the YouTube logo. To the right is a search bar with the text "Search". The main video area is a blurred screenshot of a video. In the center of the video, the Portland Parks & Recreation logo is visible, featuring a green leaf and a hand. Below the logo, the text "PORTLAND PARKS & RECREATION™" is displayed in green, followed by the tagline "Healthy Parks, Healthy Portland" in a smaller font. At the bottom of the video player, there is a progress bar and control icons including play, next, volume, and a timestamp of "0:05 / 2:21". Below the video player, there is a location pin icon and the text "PORTLAND", followed by the video title "About Portland Parks & Recreation".