

## Executive Director's Report January 2017

### News and reminders:

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**Board documents are now easy to access on-line!** Simply log on to [portlandmaine.com](http://portlandmaine.com), click on the "About Us" tab and then click on "Board Resources". You will be prompted to enter a password. The current password is downtown549.

**February Greendrinks:** Portland Downtown was awarded the honor of being the nonprofit partner for February's Green Drinks event! Mark your calendars for February 14<sup>th</sup>, 5pm-7pm at the Custom House.

**Board Retreat:** Thank you to the Hyatt Portland Old Port for hosting our retreat, which is scheduled for January 28<sup>th</sup> from 1pm to 5pm, with a cocktail reception to follow, and March 1<sup>st</sup> from 8am to Noon. We will do a deep dive into the strategic plan, have guest facilitators, do some fun team-building, and chart our course for 2017! Please RSVP.

### Committee Cliff Notes

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***Merchant:*** reviewed holiday events and 2017 goals. Winter operations/clean-up was also discussed.

***Events:*** reviewed Merry Madness and discussed improvements and changes for next year's event.

***Marketing:*** discussed Merry Madness, changes to the website, Old Port Festival and Green Drinks.

***NLOC:*** reviewed calls for service and liquor license renewals. The committee also discussed upcoming changes to laws regarding marijuana sales and use.

***District & Community Services:*** received an update from the panhandling ad-hoc committee, heard a presentation from Kay Mann from Maine Green

Power, the monthly DEL update from Amy Geren, SSA agreement updates, and committee goals for 2017.

***Parking & Transportation:*** Nell Donaldson presented an update on the parking study that is a partnership between Portland Downtown and the City of Portland. Portland Downtown staff provided a Park & Shop and Park & Work update, and John Peverada updated the committee on upgrades to the City's parking technology infrastructure.

***Panhandling Ad-hoc:*** On Jan 9, established regular meeting times and goals for the committee. On Jan 19, asked for comments from attendees about how they are effected by panhandling and started to chart a course forward to collect data and research from other cities. On Jan 26, committee members volunteered to call specific cities and the committee discussed various approaches and policies used in other cities.

## **Advocacy Issues**

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**Sound:** The Sound Oversight Committee of the City of Portland is meeting monthly and is open to public comment. As part of the agenda, the committee reviews all of the noise complaints that the City's Police Department receives each month, regardless of whether or not they meet the 92dbL 'trigger' criteria. I have been attending regularly, but am usually only one of two people at the meeting. I will work with Adam to put together a press release and/or email blast to educate our constituents about this new function of the committee in an effort to increase interest/attendance. However, I think as the warm weather hits in the spring/summer months, there may be a natural increase, in both complaints and attendance, due to the prevalence of outdoor patios, outdoor concerts, etc. This advocacy issue has been referred to the Health & Human Services Committee and I will keep the board apprised of upcoming meetings. Councilor Ray has taken an active interest in the conflicting ordinances and will be representing the issue at the committee and eventually, at City Council.

**Parking & Transportation:** Nell Donaldson from the City's Planning Department met with Portland Downtown's Parking & Transportation Committee in January to provide updates on the parking study conducted by

Fort Hill Associates. The study was funded through a partnership with the City of Portland, Portland Downtown and supplemented with a PEDPID grant from the City. Thus far, the City has received the existing supply & demand results from the consultant. The next two drafts that are expected in March include: future supply and demand analysis and recommendations.

Jessica Grondin is drafting an RFP for a multi-modal marketing campaign, which will be presented to a large group of stakeholders for feedback before it is sent out to bid in March.

**Panhandling:** Ken Cianchette and Suzie Rephan are co-chairing the panhandling ad-hoc committee, a committee that has been formed with the blessing of the District & Community Services Committee. They have scheduled weekly meetings – each Thursday at 2:00pm at 549 Congress Street. In January, the committee established members and drafted a timeline for research. Committee members will report back in March and a public forum will be scheduled for late April/early May.

### **Notes of interest**

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In January, I: attended the **Portland Community Chamber Board** meeting, met with Carol Aten from **Lift 360** to discuss participating in an upcoming event (**Portland Unwrapped**) as a panelist, attended the **State of the City** address at City Hall, presented **SFAC** donation check to **Milestone Foundation** in partnership with **Machias Savings Bank**, attended **Maine Voices Live** event at Portland House of Music (Portland Downtown is sponsoring this event series), conducted quarter 2 staff reviews, interviewed new IT subcontractors, attended the **PCCC Economic & City Affairs Committee** meeting, attended **Portland Regional Chamber's Annual event: Imagine Portland** at Portland Company Complex, met with **Bonnie Norlander** to discuss an upcoming art conference and offered to have Amy Geren participate as a panelist on a discussion around graffiti, met with **Julie Sullivan** (Senior Advisor to City Manager) to discuss a pilot program, and met with Avery Windham at the **Hyatt Portland Old Port** to finalize plans for board retreat.