

RESOLUTION No. 36539

Update the Mt. Tabor Master Plan (Resolution).

WHEREAS, Mt. Tabor Park is one of the largest and most historic of the City's parks; was envisioned in Olmsted's 1903 Report to the Parks Board; and was established in 1909 by Parks Superintendent Emanuel Tillman Mische, a highly-trained horticulturist and long-time landscape designer in the Olmsted firm, who also established the Mt. Tabor Park Nursery in 1914, which continues today to provide trees and other plants that have helped to build the reputation of the City of Portland, and the region, as a place of both beauty and botanical interest, and

WHEREAS, the 1999 Mt. Tabor Park Master Plan focused on the public areas of the park and excluded the nearly 20 contiguous acres of the Mt. Tabor Park Central Maintenance Yard, Nursery, and Long Block; and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Tabor Park Central Maintenance Yard, Nursery, and Long Block are within the original, and current, boundaries of Mt. Tabor Park, which in its entirety was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in 2004; and

WHEREAS, existing working conditions at the Mt. Tabor Park Central Maintenance Yard, Nursery and Long Block do not meet organizational or employee needs; and

WHEREAS, the more than 100 employees who work from the Mt. Tabor Park Central Maintenance Yard are responsible for services that provide care for the entire park system, including horticultural, turf, plant material, tree production, fleet services, construction and trades work, and maintenance of park structures and recreation facilities; and

WHEREAS, conflicting demands between recreational opportunities, open space, and the need to provide for the Parks staff and equipment that serve the entire park system can create tension, and often compete for limited space and financial resources; and

WHEREAS, Portland's parks belong to the citizens, and those citizens want to be actively involved in decisions that substantially change the use of park land, or dispose of park land, and further want to participate in helping to identify opportunities for broader public discussion and involvement; and

WHEREAS, Bureau Innovation Project #9, developed by Public Involvement staff throughout the City, provides a tool and a process for such decision making; and

WHEREAS, it was the intention of the Portland City Council for Portland Parks & Recreation staff to work with the community to identify a mutually supportable Public Involvement strategy dealing with the future of the Mt. Tabor Park Central Maintenance Yard; and

WHEREAS, community members and Portland Parks & Recreation staff mutually agree to update the Mt. Tabor Master Plan to include the important acreage in the Mt. Tabor Park Central

Maintenance Yard, Nursery, and Long Block, and in so doing, to understand and carefully take

into consideration the critical needs of providing for the maintenance of the entire park system; and

WHEREAS, any changes must improve efficiency to park service delivery and be sustainable and environmentally sound; and

WHEREAS, the Mt. Tabor Joint Committee, a group composed of more than 20 community stakeholders working with Portland Parks & Recreation staff, collectively spent hundreds of hours, over more than four months, developing a Public Involvement process, aligned with the Bureau Innovation Project #9, that extends beyond the recreational possibilities for the land to include the critical nature of the maintenance and horticulture needs of the whole park system and provide safe and efficient space to deliver exceptional service.

NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council supports the updating of the Mt. Tabor Park Master Plan to include the parcel commonly referred to as the Mt. Tabor Park Central Maintenance Yard, and including the Nursery and Long Block, in a process that follows the Public Involvement proposal brought forth by the Mt Tabor Joint Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that this process will:

- Be open, transparent, community-wide and inclusive – where all ideas are welcomed and considered; and
- Explore the best use of the Mt. Tabor Park Central Maintenance Yard and Nursery within the public domain, and under public administration consistent with the values articulated in the current Mt. Tabor Park Master Plan; and
- Consider community and Portland Parks & Recreation pros and cons for maintaining, refurbishing, enhancing, or relocating the Mt. Tabor Park Central Maintenance Yard and Nursery; and
- Conduct financial analyses in response to the needs identified during the public process; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the work will commence when funds are allocated, and be completed within 12 months of that time; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Portland City Council commit to prioritizing the necessary funds in the amount of \$465,000 to complete this Master Plan Update work in the budget process.

Adopted by the Council: September 26, 2007

Commissioner Dan Saltzman
Prepared by: Karen Loper
September 13, 2007

GARY BLACKMER
Auditor of the City of Portland
By /S/ Susan Parsons
Deputy

BACKING SHEET INFORMATION

AGENDA NO. 1135-2007

ORDINANCE/RESOLUTION/COUNCIL DOCUMENT NO. 36539

COMMISSIONERS VOTED AS FOLLOWS:		
	YEAS	NAYS
ADAMS	X	
LEONARD	X	
SALTZMAN	X	
STEN	===	===
POTTER	X	