

## **The Oregonian**

### **Readers Respond: Commissioner Fritz on Firefighter Contract**

*By Commissioner Amanda Fritz  
August 29, 2018*

Regarding the Aug. 23 editorial, "One step forward, two steps back with Portland firefighter policy": I was disappointed to read "It barely matters that Commissioner Amanda Fritz was able to amend the new policy to make it effective for only the current contract term. Leaders change. Attention to new policies wanes. Contractual provisions, however, are far harder to dislodge."

That is precisely why my amendment is crucial and why I insisted on it. Without it, the new contract next year would automatically contain the language making discipline documentation disappear. With my amendment, the new provision sunsets and the 2019 contract negotiations start from the position that it no longer exists. I made sure the council "weighed in now" and that the union is on notice that approval in the new contract is not a given.

At the hearing, I made exactly the arguments in the editorial, regarding the vague nature of the language, the experience in other public organizations, and the fact that serious offenses like driving under the influence could be included.

Given that it's hard to change a contract when there is already a tentative agreement, I'm glad the council adopted my amendment.

## **The Portland Tribune**

### **City Hall Update: Meeting to Discuss Historic Status for Part of Laurelhurst**

*By Jim Redden  
August 28, 2018*

**Plus, Ezones in the city are being updated and a public campaign system position is open.**

An information session about granting National Register Historic District status to a portion of the Laurelhurst neighborhood is scheduled from 5 to 7 p.m. Thursday, Aug. 30, at All Saints Parish, 3847 N.E. Glisan St.

The State Historic Preservation Office has notified property owners about the nomination, which was commissioned by the Laurelhurst Neighborhood Association. The nominated area is approximately 392 acres in size, is generally zoned R5 for single-dwelling residential use, and does not include sites along Sandy Boulevard zoned for higher density development.

The nomination will be considered by the Portland Historic Landmarks Commission, State Advisory Committee on Historic Preservation, and National Park Service before a listing decision is made.

## **Ezones being updated**

The Bureau of Planning and Sustainability is updating the city's Environmental Overlay Zones for the first time in 20 years, beginning in Southeast Portland, including the Johnson Creek Watershed, Mount Tabor, and other buttes and open space areas south of I-84.

Ezones limit certain uses and activities in environmentally sensitive areas to protect streams, wetlands and wildlife habitat. They also are intended to minimize risk of damage to homes from natural hazards, including landslides, flooding and wildfires. The first drop-in sessions are scheduled from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Wednesday, Aug. 29, at the Woodstock Library, 6008 S.E. 29th Ave.

Planning for the Columbia River and Slough will begin this winter, with the West Hills to follow in late 2019. For more information, visit: [tinyurl.com/y7wrcqhz](http://tinyurl.com/y7wrcqhz).

## **Campaign system position open**

Portland is advertising for a deputy director to administer its upcoming public campaign finance program, known as Open & Accountable Elections.

The program was championed by Commissioner Amanda Fritz to replace a previous one that was repealed by city voters. It will not take effect until after this year's elections.

The position will pay \$63,960 to \$85,238 a year. The deadline for applying is midnight Sept. 3. Desired knowledge includes principles, practices and methods of public campaign financing matching programs, and administrative and organizational analysis.

To apply, go to: [tinyurl.com/y82tfpj9](http://tinyurl.com/y82tfpj9)

## **Portland is No. 1 in U.S. for Public Park Spending**

*By Zane Sparling  
August 28, 2018*

**The Trust for Public Land praises city's investment, even as City Council cuts Parks & Rec budget.**

That's a lot of green!

Portland spends more per resident on its tree-filled public parks than any other city in the nation, according to a new report.

The Trust for Public Land says Portland ranks No. 1 among the United States' 100 largest cities — with more than \$243,000,000 invested annually in plazas, playgrounds, rec fields and burbling splash pads by several parks agencies.

That's equivalent to \$382 per Rose City resident, well above the national median expenditure of \$83 per resident.

"More and more cities are competing in many different ways. With regards to parks, they see it as a strategic advantage in terms of attracting the population they want, the jobs they want," explained Charlie McCabe, director of The Trust's Center for City Park Excellence.

Portland also ranked second for the number of community garden plots and dog parks per 10,000 residents. We have 35 garden plots per 10,000 residents, and 5 canine parks per 10,000 residents, as tabulated by The Trust for Public Lands.

Forest Park is the seventh largest city park in America, according to the 2018 report. The oldest park in town is Chapman Park, established in 1852. The median park size here is 4.9 acres, compared with 3.8 acres across the U.S.

"Portland is one of the better parks systems in terms of both funding and acreage and programming," said McCabe. "I think Portland has been leading the way for 20 years, if not 25."

McCabe — reached on a train traveling toward New York — praised the leadership of former Portland Parks and Rec Director Mike Abbate, who was shown the door by Commissioner Amanda Fritz in May.

The latest budget passed by the Portland City Council included a nearly \$1 million cut to the city's Parks & Recreation department.