

The Oregonian

Protesters again disrupt Portland City Council meeting

By Brad Schmidt

May 13, 2015

So much for Portland polite.

About a dozen hecklers on Wednesday disrupted for an hour the Portland City Council's afternoon meeting, booing loudly as officials considered a tentative vote to demolish reservoirs at Washington Park.

Wednesday's demonstration marked the second time in three weeks that protesters halted a City Council session. City employees with decades of experience said they could not remember such a disruptive outcry as Wednesday's breach of decorum.

Amid a chorus of boos, the City Council voted 5-0 to tentatively approve the demolition. It was all but impossible to hear the decision. Officials must finalize their action with a second vote June 10 at 10:15 a.m.

"Obviously these kinds of tactics don't accomplish much in terms of action," Mayor Charlie Hales said after the meeting.

Water issues have become a particularly divisive issue in Portland, where watchdogs have repeatedly challenged city efforts tied to water treatment and storage -- even in the face of hard science or federal regulations. Voters in 2013 shot down a proposal to add fluoride to Portland's water supply and neighborhood activists have questioned federally required projects to cover the city's open-air reservoirs.

Tensions ran high just after the 2 p.m. session began. A city attorney advised officials to dismiss morning testimony from Floy Jones, a leader of Friends of the Reservoirs who testified against demolishing Washington Park reservoirs. Officials say the reservoirs must be replaced to meet federal regulations.

Portland's attorney said Jones' testimony came after the April 23 public hearing and beyond a May 7 deadline for public comments. That declaration prompted protesters to begin booing.

Hales warned them to stop and, when they didn't, he abruptly adjourned the meeting. Privately, officials considered options to move the vote to another location.

The City Council returned at about 2:50 p.m. hoping to vote but again ran into vocal opposition.

"You don't get to come in here and shout," Hales told the crowd.

"Yeah, we do," a woman responded.

The protesters' boos stretched another 10 minutes. The City Council voted to tentatively approve the demonstration, although their action went almost unnoticed amid the spectacle.

"This is our public water," said one man.

After the vote, Hales tried to keep the meeting rolling. But an unrelated presentation by the city auditor's staff wasn't audible.

"I was really disheartened that people couldn't hear your presentation," Commissioner Amanda Fritz later told the auditor's employees.

Business didn't return to normal until about 3 p.m.

Wednesday's protest was far more disruptive and angry than an Earth Day demonstration last month over a proposed propane terminal. On April 22, protesters carried large cut-out images of politicians' heads and read from a prepared statement. In that instance, Hales and members of the City Council walked out but quickly returned.

After Wednesday's meeting, Hales said he's becoming concerned about the frequency of disruptions but is hopeful that protesters' behavior doesn't discourage more mild-mannered citizens from attending.

Hales echoed the recollection of other city employees, saying he hadn't seen a similar scene in his previous 10 years on the City Council, which began in 1993, or since he became mayor in 2013.

Hales said he could ask police to arrest protesters but, in reality, that's a bad idea.

"I'll keep trying," he said of efforts to quickly adjourn meetings before they're hijacked.

As for the reservoir issue, protesters could get another crack to disrupt Robert's Rules of Order, even beyond the looming June 10 final vote.

The City Council's decision will only authorize demolition of two reservoirs, each built in 1894. But after that, officials will likely need to formally approve a land-use plan for reservoir replacement.

Portland adopts \$15-an-hour minimum wage for full-time workers, some contractors

*By Andrew Theen
May 13, 2015*

The Portland City Council voted unanimously Wednesday to amend its fair wage policy, boosting pay for more than 150 contractors and a handful of full-time workers to \$15 an hour.

The policy applies to about 20 contractors that employ parking attendants, security guards and janitorial staff at city-owned and -operated buildings. Sixteen full-time city employees will also receive raises. The companies have until July 1 to enact the new minimum.

Mayor Charlie Hales and Commissioner Dan Saltzman introduced the increase in February, a reaction to grass-roots organizers who pushed the discussion in 2014 and kept it on the front burner in the months since then.

Hales advanced the policy as his own, naming it a priority in his State of the City address in January.

All members of the council agreed that Wednesday's action is just a first step, but an important one, in addressing income inequality in Portland.

The mayor said he was proud of the council for acting quickly. "We're not passive passengers on a national ship that maybe is going somewhere we don't want to go," Hales said.

Wednesday's vote will cost an estimated \$900,000 a year, funding that Hales requested in his proposed 2015-16 budget. The final budget will be adopted in mid-June.

The policy doesn't apply to the estimated 2,000 parks workers who are classified as part time or seasonal. Commissioner Amanda Fritz, who oversees the Parks Bureau, said it's not OK to ignore those workers.

Joe Walsh, a frequent City Hall critic, applauded the City Council but said it should help parks workers, too.

"What you're doing is a good thing," Walsh said. "Pat yourself on the back --- gently."

OK or oops? Portland can't document Timbers naming deal

*By Brad Schmidt
May 13, 2015*

Oops. Portland officials say they goofed last year when they approved a first-of-a-kind deal to name a city sports field after the Portland Timbers.

Turns out, Portland Parks & Recreation never bothered to put the deal in writing – until The Oregonian/OregonLive asked for documentation last month.

City officials say the paperwork flub shouldn't detract from what otherwise has been a great partnership.

Last summer, in advance of Portland hosting the Major League Soccer All-Star Game, the Timbers paid for a new futsal field inside Montavilla Park at Northeast 82nd Avenue and Glisan Street. Futsal is a version of soccer, played with a heavier ball on a smaller field.

In exchange for covering costs, the city named it "Portland Timbers Field at Montavilla Park" – the first time a city sports field has been named after a company.

But officials didn't memorialize the agreement until April 24 – nine months after dedicating the field – and only because The Oregonian/OregonLive filed a public records request.

"The final step has been missing," Jennifer Yocom, Parks Bureau communications manager, wrote in an emailed response. "We do, as a protocol, always have final documentation for our files around the verbal agreements we make with donors."

In this case, they didn't.

Why not? The answer's a bit complicated.

Portland officials first began discussing a futsal field in spring 2014 after the city-owned turf at Providence Park, where the Timbers play home games, failed to meet league standards.

The Timbers agreed to pay for a new futsal field at Montavilla, using turf from Providence Park.

In July, city officials recommended approval by Commissioner Amanda Fritz – as called for under a parks sponsorship policy, not a firmer naming policy that discouraged company monikers.

But then, according to parks spokesman Mark Ross, city officials never followed through under the sponsorship policy, which requires a formal written agreement.

"The Timbers wanted us to just treat the futsal field as a donation to PP&R, and did not want to do a binding contract nor formal sponsorship agreement," Ross wrote in an emailed response. "We were OK with that arrangement."

Until now.

According to Portland's April 24 letter to the Timbers, the new name will remain in place as long as the city-owned turf holds up, which officials say could be another six years.

The Timbers have splashed their logo on the walls of the enclosed futsal field, while a hanging banner and metal plaque note the official "Portland Timbers Field at Montavilla Park" name.

Parks officials emphasize that terms had been widely publicized before now but that putting the deal in writing is appropriate.

"It makes sense to memorialize for future staff how well the partnership is going," Yocom wrote to The Oregonian, "and our shared existing understanding of the timeline of that partnership."

Hales should let Legislature lead on helping ex-offenders in job market: Editorial Agenda 2015

*By The Oregonian Editorial Board
May 13, 2015*

It can be difficult at times to tell the difference between political leadership and political campaigning. But Mayor Charlie Hales' fast-tracked plans to help ex-offenders in the job market seem firmly planted in the latter category.

It didn't start off that way. Hales in March unveiled a proposal, crafted with the help of the AFL-CIO and the Urban League of Portland, that aimed to help those with criminal histories get an unbiased look from employers who might otherwise screen them out. He argued, correctly, that ex-offenders who have the qualifications deserve the chance to explain their past to potential employers. And when businesses pointed out some of the flaws – such as a requirement that employers wait until after a conditional offer of employment before checking criminal backgrounds – Hales tabled the proposal to allow a work group to hammer out improvements.

So far, so good.

Except it appears that Hales the mayor is now giving way to Hales the mayoral candidate, looking to prove his more-progressive-than-thou credentials.

All signs suggest that waiting is the prudent move. Members of the work group disagree on when businesses can run a criminal-background check. And at the same time, state legislators have taken up the issue and are working on their own version of a "ban the box" law that takes businesses' concerns into greater consideration than the city proposal does. Yet Hales is pushing forward, and has tentatively scheduled a discussion on the proposal for the May 27 City Council meeting.

It's important to remember what the goal is supposed to be – to give ex-offenders fair consideration in the job market, a goal that the Portland business community says it supports. But employers deserve consideration as well, and forcing them to wait until after making a job offer ignores their need to have the conversation, weigh the information and still hire in a timely fashion. While the delay may not be great if the employer proceeds with hiring an ex-offender, it can pose a serious setback in a competitive job market if the employer must start all over again. The provision goes beyond what many cities, such as Seattle, have adopted in striking a balance between helping ex-offenders without penalizing businesses who already know the value of a good employee, even one with a criminal record.

Meanwhile, House Bill 3025 offers a different path. The bill, which has already been passed by the House in a 33-27 vote, would allow businesses to run criminal background checks at the time of an interview or after a conditional offer of employment if the employer skips an interview process. While it has some problems – the bill includes a right of private action, meaning that candidates could sue if they believe they were unfairly excluded from consideration due to their criminal background – the proposed legislation recognizes businesses' concerns, notes Marion Haynes, who represented the Portland Business Alliance on the work group.

In addition, a statewide law makes sense rather than forcing businesses, such as hospitals and restaurants, to have a patchwork of different policies across cities or counties, she said.

The pragmatic solution is for the city to stand down for now. Let state legislators move their bill which currently sits in the Senate Committee on Workforce. But tabling the matter would take an act by Hales the mayor. And for now, it appears that Hales the candidate is the one in charge.

The Portland Tribune

New beach on east bank offers place to recreate

*By Michaela Bancud
May 14, 2015*

There's a splash of summer fun in Portland Mayor Charlie Hales' budget.

Amid the usual line items, his office set aside \$300,000 for the development of a beach on the east bank of the Willamette River between the Hawthorne and Marquam bridges.

Getting Portlanders to plunge into their river is the mission of Human Access Project, the nonprofit group behind the The Big Float, an annual celebration of the drifting life during which a stream of DIY boats, inner tubes and self-styled "river-huggers" float down the Willamette. This summer's Big Float on July 26 is expected to draw 3,000 people.

The Human Access Project (HAP) first drew attention to the proposed beach site. Over the past four years they cleared massive pieces of concrete and wood pilings from a spot they dubbed Audrey McCall Beach after the late Gov. Tom McCall's wife. The nickname forges a symbolic link across the river to Tom McCall Waterfront Park.

"But it could just as easily be called Inverness Beach," says HAP's Willie Levenson, who lives in Northeast Portland. That's because a work crew from Inverness County Jail cleared the area, putting backs to boulders and allowing people to see the potential. "World's most ancient workout," Levenson calls it.

Levenson picked the site for its easy grade toward the river, but the discarded concrete dumped there offended him. "I started moving them into a pile and it started to anger me. Who puts discarded concrete chunks right on the river?"

It took permits from seven different agencies to get the green light to clear the area, with a stipulation that no heavy equipment be used.

Levenson and a 10-person inmate work crew got to work. They brought in an approved vehicle and eventually cleared 18 tons of concrete from the river's edge and removed 30 wood pilings. The project cost \$7,000 funded by proceeds from the Big Float.

"The river is our largest public open space," Levenson says. "And five different agencies (Oregon Health Authority, EPA, city of Portland, Columbia Riverkeepers and Willamette Riverkeepers) say it's safe to swim in the Willamette."

HAP's spiritual father is Tom McCall. He led the charge for Oregon's public beaches and cleaning up of the river when its oxygen levels were so low fish couldn't swim through it.

The recent change in the river's health is largely due to completion of Big Pipe, a \$1.4 billion project paid 100 percent by sewer ratepayers.

"People still say, 'I would never swim in it or that's disgusting.' What they don't understand is that it's clean," says Levenson. "You paid for a river you can swim in."

Since its completion there are an average of 2-3 days a year that people are advised not to swim in the river, compared to 50-100 times a year before Big Pipe. There have only been 11 times since 2011 that people have been advised against going into the river.

Near the proposed beach is "the dock," where people already gather to swim on hot days. Last Saturday some people read books, their feet dangling in the water and a can of Olympia in easy reach.

Levenson says there are several other areas where access can be improved and beaches formed: Tom McCall Waterfront Park near the bowl, and the existing Poet's Beach under the Marquam on the west side.

He's not happy about the concrete ramp that leads down to the river in the new South Waterfront Greenway that's been described as for use by maintenance workers only.

"Hopefully we won't see any more of that."

Access to the river is worth fighting for, he says.

Sources Say: At City Hall, Fish and Novick play Abbott and Costello

By Jim Redden

May 14, 2015

Commissioner Steve Novick took the opportunity to crack wise after Commissioner Nick Fish announced the appointment of Michael Jordan to head the Bureau of Environmental Services on Friday.

Deliberately confusing the former State of Oregon and Metro executive with the retired NBA star, Novick's office sent out an email urging Fish to appoint retired NBA player Scottie Pippen to replace David Shaff, who is retiring as head of the Water Bureau. Pippen played for the Portland Trail Blazers from 1999 to 2003.

"The utilities should work together as a team, and with Jordan and Pippen you get a championship team," Novick said. "Mr. Pippen spent four good years in Portland, and I'm sure he'd be happy to return. And, of course, Commissioner Fish and (Chief of Staff) Sonia Schmanski both have extensive experience with the triangle offense. Indeed, Sonia has long been known to insiders as the Tex Winter of City Hall. We have a tremendous opportunity here," it said.

Uber's super-duper spending

If money actually does talk, that may help explain why the City Council approved the 120-day pilot program that is allowing Uber and other transportation network companies to operate legally in Portland.

According to the most recently filed disclosure forms, Uber Technologies spent the most money lobbying the city in the first quarter of the year — \$12,616.35. The only opponent of the pilot program that reported any lobbying spending was Broadway Cab, which spent just \$7,500.

Other big spenders include Pembina Pipeline Corp., the company that wants to build a propane terminal at the Port of Portland, which reported \$5,880; the Portland Business Alliance, which lobbies on a variety of issues, at \$6,979; and the Port of Portland, which also lobbied on the Pembina project, among other things, at \$3,200.

Portland's chintzy lobbyists

None of that money apparently went for any bribes to the City Council members, according to their filings of gifts received in the first quarter of the year.

In fact, most of the gifts sound more like work than anything else. For example, Commissioner Nick Fish reported \$200 worth of tickets for a crisis line fundraiser. Hales reported receiving \$120 in tickets for the

"Worst Day of the Year" bike ride. He also reported \$50 in tickets for a brunch fundraiser for the Blanchet House social service agency. Commissioner Steve Novick received a DVD worth \$19.95 about the reported disappearance of bees.

Commissioners Amanda Fritz and Dan Saltzman didn't report receiving any gifts, which may say something about their personal integrity or lack of clout at City Hall.

Protests echo as council approves reservoir demolition

*By KOIN 6 News
May 13, 2015*

A group protesting a proposal to demolish two of Portland's open reservoirs in Washington Park interrupted Wednesday's City Council meeting, drowning out city commissioners prior to a vote on the plan.

For the second time in three weeks, Mayor Charlie Hales and commissioners walked out of the meeting after protesters raised their voices. The lights in the chambers were turned off and the chambers were cleared.

The chaotic council meeting followed an hour of protests outside City Hall.

The council was scheduled to make a procedural vote on whether they felt it was legal to move forward with the demolition plans. The city would then create underground water storage in their place, a plan estimated at \$67 million.

"There is no reason for this council to have been fast-tracking this expensive process, which is why our water rates have gone up," said Rosemarie Opp, who is against the underground reservoirs.

Jessie Sponberg, who wants the reservoirs saved, told KOIN 6 News, "I really want the people of Portland to understand how very, very serious this is."

Opponents want the city to continue to fight a federal requirement that all reservoirs be covered. They worry about construction impacts to the neighborhood and they want to preserve the historic reservoirs.

Brian Emerick, chairman of the Historic Landmarks Commission, said it was not an easy decision to make to support the demolition of the reservoirs.

"We didn't take this lightly," he said.

He said their support was based on landslide stability issues, the federal mandate and plans to preserve the water tower, fencing and lighting as reasons to support the plan.

Protesters tried to get the council to stop or delay demolition, but in the end, they did not.

The Portland City Council gave tentative approval Wednesday afternoon to a proposal from the Water Bureau to demolish the two open reservoirs in Washington Park.

After the vote, Water Bureau Administrator David Shaff issued a statement, saying the bureau appreciated the council's "thoughtful consideration of our application."

"Council's decision to approve is a step in the process that will give us the legal authority we need to decommission the open reservoirs at Washington Park, which is a step toward complying with the federal Safe Drinking Water Act," Shaff said. "The new reservoirs will make our system more reliable, resilient and secure. Following a robust public involvement process, the design presented to Council is supported by the neighbors of Washington Park."

The Portland Mercury

In Other News

By Mercury Staff

May 13, 2015

MAYOR CHARLIE HALES has a new plan to curb gang violence this summer. And it might be seriously compromised before it begins.

In the budget he unveiled on May 5, Hales proposes spending \$2 million a year expanding access to Portland community centers for gang-affected youth. The plan is especially focused on summer months, when teens are out of school and gang-related violence typically rises.

But the staffing of Portland's community centers became an open question just days before Hales released that budget, after an arbitrator ruled Portland Parks and Recreation was unfairly asking low-wage temporary and seasonal recreation workers to perform jobs that are supposed to be done by union members. The city's now facing a legally binding cease and desist order, and figuring out how to respond to the ruling.

Its options include bringing low-wage workers onto the union contract, which would be costly, or trying to get by with parks' limited supply of full- and part-time workers, which might make Hales' call for expanded programs impossible to meet.

Hales and city staff aren't saying much about the ruling. DVH

Hall Monitor

From Honored Guest to Invader

By Dirk VanderHart

May 13, 2015

WHEN PEMBINA PIPELINE'S flags appeared on the proverbial horizon last September, officials seemed ready to roll out a carpet and weave laurels.

The Port of Portland glowed over hundreds of new jobs (most in construction) promised by a \$500 million propane terminal the Canadian company had proposed in North Portland. Mayor Charlie Hales cheered potential millions in yearly property taxes that could be used for schools and infrastructure.

"This is great news," Hales said at the time.

Now, with Pembina's banners far closer at hand, the situation's turned weird and sinister. The company's going to try to storm the gates.

On Thursday, May 7, news emerged that Hales' position on the propane terminal has soured in the last eight months. Where he once saw a potential legacy project, the mayor now sees mostly scores of outraged citizens who won't stand for green Portland shipping millions of gallons of fossil fuels to China.

"They lost the public opinion in Portland in such a dramatic manner," says Dana Haynes, Hales' chief spokesman.

So Hales is urging Pembina to withdraw its proposal—which would require city council to modify the zoning code—and find another city.

Pembina straight up doesn't care.

The company responded to the news by saying it "plans to proceed toward next steps" for the terminal, mayoral support or no, and that it's "confident" the city will ultimately support the deal. The Port of Portland agreed, doubling down in support of the propane monstrosity.

Hales' response? It looks like city council won't take up the matter at all.

An agenda of upcoming council items issued Tuesday, May 12, shows a conspicuous absence where the June 10 Pembina zoning hearing had been. Mayoral staffers didn't respond to my repeated queries about the meeting, but auditor's office employee Sue Parsons confirmed "they're not rescheduling it."

It's an interesting move, since Pembina's ask is no run-of-the-mill ordinance. It comes with a stamp of approval from the Portland Planning and Sustainability Commission, which last month passed the proposal along with a recommendation city council make proposed zoning changes.

City law says the auditor has to schedule a city council hearing after such a recommendation—though it doesn't technically say one needs to be held.

Even if Hales decides, ultimately, to bring the matter forward, there's no sign Pembina's "confidence" is remotely warranted. Commissioner Amanda Fritz is considered a near certain 'no' vote, and Commissioner Steve Novick has serious questions about how a propane terminal could be made safe for the Big One. (Both commissioners, like Hales, are up for re-election next year.) The remaining commissioners, Dan Saltzman and Nick Fish, haven't shown strong feelings either way.

I asked Port of Portland spokesman Steve Johnson twice if he saw a way forward for the terminal, given all this. The first time, he didn't answer. The second, he sent along a canned statement that still didn't answer.

"We have no interest," it said, "in trying to predetermine the outcome of this process before it runs its course."

And if this somehow isn't the finish line? Things are about to get a lot more interesting.

Port Director Reaffirms He's Mad at Fossil Fuel Charlie

*By Shelby R. King
May 13, 2015*

Port of Portland Commission Executive Director Bill Wyatt opened today's regular commission meeting by telling the audience—which was largely made up of activists sporting "NO TERMINAL" signs—how disappointed he is that Mayor Charlie Hales pulled the plug on a \$500 million propane terminal project in North Portland.

"I think it's a good climate story," Wyatt said. "It's a story that would create jobs here; it would create wealth here."

Hales last week flip-flopped on his support for the Canada-based Pembina Pipeline Corporation's proposed propane storage and export facility, which he welcomed when the project was announced last September. Hales said he changed his mind in the face of widespread community opposition.

Pembina wants to deliver propane to the port's Terminal 6 by freight train, store it in 33 million gallon tanks, then pipe it onto ships in the Columbia River for transport to China. The company touts their propane as a "transition fuel" in China, used as a cleaner-burning substitute for coal.

Wyatt isn't pleased that his port won't be getting the millions in tax revenue from Pembina. He brought a slide show to illustrate to commissioners how bad the smog problem in Beijing is and said Portland would be helping China go green by shipping them propane.

"There is a lot of science around the use of propane suggesting it can be a really good transition fuel," he says. "It will help create cleaner air and a healthy environment."

Wyatt blamed Hales for Pembina's decision to pump boatloads of cash into preparations for the project they apparently thought was a sure thing. For Portland Rising Tide, the Climate Action Coalition, and other anti-fossil fuel folks, who had begun hanging "Fossil Fuel Charlie" signs around town, Hales' about-face was a victory for "green" Portland.

Portland City Council was scheduled to vote on June 10 on a zoning change that would have allowed the project to proceed, but Hales cancelled the vote. That didn't stop Pembina—which issued a statement saying they intend to continue pursuing Portland—or Wyatt, who chose to speak this morning even though the item wasn't on the agenda.

"I appreciate the fact that not everybody agrees with this, but it's something we gave much thought to," Wyatt said.

Dozens of protesters showed up to testify against the Pembina project this morning, choosing to do so during discussion around the Port of Portland's proposed Risk Management Plan.

Those waiting to testify were warned by port commission President Jim Carter to stay on the risk management topic, not repeat what others already testified, and respect the time limits lest he have to "politely interrupt" them. The nearly two dozen people waiting to testify identified a lot of potential risks to tying Portland to exporting fossil fuels: climate change, train derailment, propane explosions, earthquakes, acts of terror, fracking, decreased property values, increased insurance, and water use, to name a few.

"When I was delivering babies, it was all about risk management," says Kelly O'Hanley, a retired Portland obstetrician/gynecologist. "A propane terminal is only a good risk for those who are in denial. You must do better than this."

Vancouver resident Don Steinke spoke about recent derailments, asking the commission if Pembina has given them all the facts about safety.

"Did they tell you the (train car) tanks are not puncture-resistant above 12 miles per hour?" he asked. "Did they tell you they only have two people manning those one-and-a-half-mile trains?"

Steinke said the Port of Longview in Washington recently rejected a similar proposal to locate a propane facility at their port. Bob Sallinger, Conservation Director for the Audubon Society of Portland, reminded the commission that when Pembina started the project, COO Mick Dilger said the company would only proceed if Portland wanted it.

"He's heard from the people of Portland, as has the mayor," Sallinger says. "They overwhelmingly oppose this facility."

Listen to the rest of Sallinger's testimony in the video below.

Portland City Council Won't Even Consider That Massive North Portland Propane Terminal

*By Dirk VanderHart
May 13, 2015*

Mayor Charlie Hales' office has pulled a June 10 hearing over zoning changes that would allow a massive propane terminal in North Portland, with no plans to take up the matter going forward.

Barring intervention from another commissioner, the move effectively ends Pembina Pipeline's plans to build the \$500 million terminal at a plot of Port of Portland land on the Columbia River—at least as currently envisioned. The project needs permissions to criss-cross protected beach land with propane piping. Pembina was counting on city council to enact zoning changes to allow that use.

"The mayor is taking the ordinance off the agenda because he doesn't support the proposal," says spokesman Dana Haynes. "That doesn't prohibit any of the commissioners from submitting it. They could, but I don't speak for them."

No commissioner plans to do that, if my discussions with commissioners and staff members hold.

That probably ends discussion of a pipeline over the shoreline. It might not end Pembina's overtures. The Alberta, Canada-based company has said it will press on with its proposal in the face of the mayor's surprising new opposition. The Port of Portland, which began talks with the company last year, backs that.

"Entering a partnership with Pembina meant that we are committed to supporting them through the entire proposed development process, and they are interested in taking next steps in that process," port spokesman Steve Johnson tells the Mercury.

As I write in this week's Hall Monitor (online and on newsstands shortly!), Johnson declined to give specifics on whether the Port sees a viable path forward for the terminal, which would receive millions of gallons of propane by train, transporting it to ships bound for Asia.

"We have no interest in trying to predetermine the outcome of this process before it runs its course," Johnson says.

The decision to ditch the zoning ordinance is interesting, because of how the ordinance came before council. It was forwarded by the city's Planning and Sustainability Commission last month, with a

recommendation council make the zoning tweak. For such recommendations, relevant city code dictates "the City Auditor will schedule a public hearing."

Haynes says that scheduling doesn't matter, if no commissioner puts it on the agenda.

Sit tight. Pembina's almost certainly not done, and new options it comes up with probably won't involve as much public process as the current plan did (which was a fluke).

Portland Business Journal

Portland's newest park gives South Waterfront workers a place to play

*By Andy Giegerich
May 14, 2015*

A new Portland park that could host plenty of lunchtime business visitors is set to open this morning.

The South Waterfront Greenway will welcome its first visitors to a spot at the end of Southwest Curry Street just east of Southwest River Parkway. The park will feature five river overlooks with benches, permanent lawn chairs, public art and almost a quarter-mile of running, walking and bicycle trails.

Various commercial projects, including Oregon Health & Science University's Collaborative Life Sciences building, have brought thousands of workers and residents into South Waterfront in recent years.

The site is a brownfield redevelopment enrolled with the state's Voluntary Cleanup Program.

"The city used clean materials on top of the remains of past industrial activities such as sawmills, ship building and breaking facilities, a concrete plant and various dump sites," according to Portland's Parks and Recreation department. "More than 32,000 tons of contaminated soil and debris were removed and disposed of in a responsible manner.

A grand opening celebration is set for June 27.