

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TRAIL MASTER PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
January 25, 2017

PRESENT: **Parks Commissioners:** Mike Gardiner and Jim Lewis
 Additional Committee Members: Luke Brandy, David Chapman, Torsten Heycke, Stephen Jensen and Jim McGinnis
 City and APRC Staff: GIS Analyst Lea Richards, Forestry Resource Division Fire Chief Chris Chambers, APRC Director Michael Black, APRC Interim Parks Superintendent Jeff McFarland and APRC Executive Assistant Susan Dyssegard

ABSENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Mike Gardiner called the meeting to order at 12:45 p.m. in the Otte-Peterson Room of The Grove, 1195 E. Main Street in Ashland.

II. INTRODUCTIONS

The group introduced themselves and identified current agency associations and past involvement with the 2006 Trail Master Plan Committee and the Ashland trails system.

III. NEW BUSINESS

a. Overview of 2006 Trail Master Plan & Brief Discussion

McFarland reviewed the 2006 plan and talked about trail routes and their associated creek corridors. He acknowledged the work of GIS Analyst Lea Richards in creating maps for the original document and her ongoing map updates. McFarland asked committee members to review the existing document and consider potential changes such as:

- a. New chapters
- b. Visionary insights
- c. Future climate change affects

McFarland said he hoped the document could be updated within a six-month period.

Discussion

Lewis said some landowners along the TID previously resisted allowing easements. He talked about the community's enjoyment of the Ashland trails system, his excitement about looking for future possible connections and the visionary, long-range nature of the Trail Master Plan document.

Richards suggested including a City Planner in the project. If a planner could not be identified initially, she offered to create a GIS layer that could be handed over to Planning.

Black said Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC) had funds on hand for purchasing property. He said a contracted realtor had been tasked with seeking properties for APRC. He

reported on the recent APRC purchase of the Hitt Road property, a parcel not identified on the City's Open Space Acquisition Plan but still valuable.

Lewis spoke about Ashland Woodland and Trails Association's (AWTA) four-year process in creating a watershed master trail plan. He suggested referring to that plan to identify helpful tie-ins.

It was stated that the Forest Lands Commission recently underwent a four-year update process for its Ashland Forest Lands Plan, relying heavily on the 2006 Trail Master Plan and the AWTA plan.

For the Trail Master Plan update, Jensen suggested a chapter on trails outside City limits (not included in the 2006 version).

Richards said the City's 2012 Transportation Plan could serve as a good resource for the project.

McFarland talked about two required approvals for the Trail Master Plan Update upon completion: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission and Ashland City Council.

Black said the plan updates would be handled in-house due to the project's small budget. He expressed that the group would create a good product.

Heycke spoke about AWTA's challenging efforts to obtain easements along Bear Creek and the TID. He said AWTA preferred watershed trail building as opposed to the creek corridors because of challenges with private property owners, among other reasons.

b. Selection of Committee Chair and Vice Chair

The group discussed selecting a Chair and Vice Chair.

Chapman moved to appoint himself as **Chair** of the Trail Master Plan Update Committee; McGinnis seconded the motion.

Discussion: Heycke stated that the chairmanship of the original document was a big job that proved overwhelming. Lewis said the updated document would be a smaller undertaking.

Vote: All yes

Gardiner moved to appoint Stephen Jensen as **Vice Chair** of the Trail Master Plan Update Committee; Jensen seconded the motion.

Discussion: None

Vote: All yes

IV. ASSIGNMENT FOR NEXT MEETING

a. Review 2006 Trail Master Plan and Suggest Updates

McFarland asked the committee to study the 2006 document and bring back suggested updates.

V. SET NEXT MEETING DATE AND LOCATION

The group discussed meeting twice per month throughout the term of the project, preferably on Friday mornings from 10 -11:30. The next meeting date and location was tentatively set for Friday, February 10, at 10:00 a.m. in the Siskiyou Room of the Community Development Building, 51 Winburn Way [later cancelled].

Final Discussion

McGinnis said he no longer served on the Transportation Commission. He asked if it would be helpful to include someone from that commission in the Trail Master Plan update process. He said his employment with the Forest Service would provide "cross-pollination" during the project.

Brandy spoke about his work with the BLM and said they were currently building new trails, including the pedestrian-only Jack-Ash Trail connecting Jacksonville to Ashland and the Applegate Ridge Trail from south of Grants Pass to the Jacksonville Woodlands.

VI. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 1:47 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Dyssegard, Executive Assistant
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission