

MINUTES FOR THE ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, April 26, 2017
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

1. Call to Order

Chair Marni Koopman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Roxane Beigel-Coryell, Risa Buck, Jamie Rosenthal, James McGinnis, and David Sommer, were present. Staff member Adam Hanks was present. Commissioner Cara Cruickshank was late. Council liaison Rich Rosenthal, and commissioners Mark Weir and Bryan Sohl were absent.

2. Consent Agenda

Beigel-Coryell/Buck m/s to approve the minutes of March 22, 2017, as presented.

Discussion: None. Voice Vote. All Ayes.

3. Announcements

The next commission meeting will be May 24, 2017.

The SOU celebrations of Earth Week and Arbor Day were very successful. Next month SOU will start working on an update to their climate action plan.

4. Public Forum

Kristy Mergenthaler – stated that she is from the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy. She gave an overview of conservation easements and how they are used by the public. She gave background on how they are hoping to bring together a partnership for easements on the Imperatrice Property. There is a high conservation value of the property and encouraged the group to learn more about the Imperatrice Property and the efforts of SO Land Conservancy.

Commissioner Cara Cruickshank arrived 6:08 p.m.

Pepper Trail – stated that she is from the Audubon Society and that they are working with SO Land Conservancy to survey the Imperatrice Property, specifically the native birds. She described some of the birds found on the property and the concerns they have with loss of habitat.

Huelz Gutchen – stated that one quarter of all species have been lost due to climate change. He suspects this is largely due to human overpopulation. He informed the group that at the Earth Day festivals there was a Tesla that he got to sit in and he was very impressed with the design. He stated that he is encouraged by some of the solutions to climate change and wonders if new technology will be the key to solving it.

5. Reports/ Presentations/ Updates

Recology Quarterly Report – Rosenthal stated that the Earth Day event was good. Recology received many questions regarding why the Plastic Roundup is no longer available. She stated that now more than ever reducing and reusing is important (and is Recology's focus) because changes in China's regulations means recycling of those materials isn't an option. May 6th is the

Household Hazardous Waste event at the Rogue Disposal transfer station in White City. Also on May 6th is the annual Firewise Clean Up day at the Valley View Road transfer station. Recology has started a “lend me a plate” project, the goal of which is for large events to have low or no waste. If you’re holding a large event, you can borrow plates, cups, etc. from Recology. More information on these programs is available on their website.

City Conservation Programs and Operations – Hanks stated Conservation staff also attended the Earth Day event and thought it went well. Staff is currently working on an update to the net metering policy, in hopes it will pave the way for more community solar installations. They also need to update the Land Use Code in order to use the new smart build program. Hanks gave the group an overview of the upcoming budget process and when the proposed CEAP position is likely to be discussed.

Group asked Hanks questions about how CEAP activities might be handled if the staff position is not approved. He gave an overview of some of the prioritizations of activities which would likely occur in order for current staff to take on the work.

Water Subcommittee – Buck handed out a flyer for their upcoming laundry to landscape event. They are hoping to have a good turnout. She stated that she is impressed with the number of water and rainwater catchment related classes in the Park’s guide. Cruickshank stated that the group is hoping to reach out to the building and plumbing community for their classes in the fall.

6. Old Business

Sneak Preview Column – group discussed Cruickshank’s article regarding water and offered small grammar edits.

Buck/Sommer m/s to approve the article with changes as suggested. Discussion: Hanks asked who should be named in the byline? Cara or the whole water subcommittee? Group agreed that as Cara did the actual writing it should be her byline. **Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

Group discussion potential article topics and agreed to the following:

- July – a CEAP recap, written by Sohl and McGinnis
- August – Storm water/drains (keeping leaves out of streets), written by Cara

Conservation Commission Powers and Duties - Group reviewed what their role, projects, activities and focus was prior to the Climate and Energy Action Plan ad hoc Committee, which took up so much of multiple commissioners’ time. They also discussed what duties and areas of focus they assume the proposed CEAP commission will handle and what might be missing.

See notes from brainstorming session, attached.

Group discussed concerns that most of what the current commission does is education and outreach and that this would likely not occur with the new commission. Group discussed the ways the commission can bring the most support to the City of Ashland.

Group agreed that a hybrid of a traditional commission style (one which received specific direction for it's work from Council) and the current commission style (one which bases its focus on the interests of those appointed to the commission) would be the most preferable of the commission options. Group agreed that they would like Koopman to draft a memo for Council regarding this discussion.

McGinnis/ Buck m/s to adopt/ choose the Option A recommendation (hybrid model).

Discussion: Cruickshank expressed concerns that the two absent members of the commission did not have a chance to participate in the discussion. **Voice Vote. All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

7. Wrap Up

Group requested that the following be on the next agenda:

- Final recommendation to Council on the commission options
- Presentation and discussion from the Southern Oregon Land Conservancy

Meeting adjourned at 8:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Shiplet
Executive Assistant

Conservation Commission (Currently)

Mission:

Educate and Advocate for the wise use of resources by City Government and the people of Ashland

Policies, implementation strategies, and funding related to:

- Recycling, waste reduction
- Electric conservation
- Water conservation
- Resource conservation
- New power resources
- Renewable resources
- Education about efficiency issues

Activities and Events the Commission has undertaken:

Storm drain marking	Car wash kits
Graywater conference	Plastic bag ordinance
Sustainability Awards	Earth Bowl
Anti-idling campaign	Sneak Preview column
Compost classes, other classes	Bottle/can collection baskets downtown
Cigarette butt pilot program	CEAP planning – started as a subcommittee
Sustainability planning – ICLEI	Catchment education
Leaf blower discussions/ research	Master water plan involvement
Recycle-center ad hoc	Green Business Awards
4 th of July	Leaf bag program
Garden Club	Earth Day

Expectations of this Commission:

- Arrive on-time
- Attendance rules (3 and then off – established by the City Council)
- Guideline for Membership - 6 citizens plus 3 reps from Ashland School District, Recology, SOU
- Meetings should be noticed, have minutes taken, and be accessible to the public
- Participation on Subcommittees (everyone should be working on something)

CEAP Commission Potential Duties

- Monitor/ advise CEAP implementation
- Monitor/ recommend modifications to targets
- Monitor progress of the Greenhouse Gas Inventory
- Make sure public input is considered on impacts to:
 - Social
 - Environmental
 - Economic
- Recommend changes to ordinances, policies, practices for greenhouse gas reduction (businesses and citizens)
- Make sure decisions are socially equitable
- Protect Ashland’s quality of life
- Communication with other commissions and city staff
- Guideline for membership: 9 members; at least two 35 and under, with one of those 25 and under; representing diverse interests, a Council liaison, a city staff liaison

Two Potential Commission Options

Option A		Option B
Separate Commissions		Conservation Commission has CEAP actions incorporated into it (could become the CEAP commission)
Business as Usual	Traditional Comm.	Many current activities (focus areas) will go away:
Continue outreach and education	Recommendations based on what needs identified by the City and/or CEAP	Where would the activities go?
Commission does activities based on expertise and interests of members	Research, respond to needs (might not be interest of members)	What about subcommittees?
Free to come up with actions of our own	Other commissions do AN activity rather than multiple activities	Activities outreach, education not a part of the CEAP committee
Probably more requests	More influence	Conservation Commission has a huge role in bringing information to other commission – staff would do that
		More resources, energy, cost to have two commission
		Could work with strong subcommittees

MINUTES FOR THE ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, May 24, 2017
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

1. Call to Order

Chair Marni Koopman called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m.

Commissioners Mark Weir, Cara Cruickshank, Jaime Rosenthal, James McGinnis, Risa Buck, and Roxane Beigel-Coryell, were present. Staff member Adam Hanks and Council liaison Traci Darrow were present. Commissioner David Sommer was late. Commissioners Bryan Sohl was absent.

2. Announcements

The next commission meeting will be June 28, 2017.

McGinnis encouraged the commission members to attend the 3rd budget meeting, to show support for finding funding for the proposed CEAP staff position.

Commissioner Sommer arrived 6:05 p.m.

There is a climate action group which is regularly meeting on the first and third Wednesdays of each month from 5:30 – 7:00 p.m. in Jim Hartman’s classroom at Ashland High School.

The group welcomed new Council liaison, Traci Darrow, and introduced themselves to her.

3. Public Forum

Huelz Gutchen – stated he has been attending Conservation meetings since 2003 and that increases in climate issues are now starting to cause real-life freak outs. He described the four parts of energy and stated that each part deserves to be its own commission. He stated that the federal government is likely removing lots of energy efficiency funding but that it’s okay because the only way to really improve anything is to build new houses with solar panels and wired for electric vehicles. He stated that the biggest bang for our buck is solar panels. Every Friday at 5:30 p.m. he is at the public library to teach people about any technical questions they may have.

4. Reports/ Presentations/ Updates

SOU Quarterly Report – Beigel-Coryell stated that there are many projects going on including:

- Commencement will be held on June 17 and they are working with ECOS to re-sell used caps and gowns. It’s the 3rd year of the program and the use has increased.
- They are also encouraging people to not use one-time-use plastic water bottles at commencement by doing a giveaway of reusable bottles and they will also collect the unused ones for prizes later.
- Working with Goodwill again to recycle goods from students moving out of the dorms.
- There is a new notification system for broken sprinkler heads.
- On campus there is a new botanical tour, trees are labeled with QR codes so people can look up more information on their smart phones.

- The school is working on getting LEED certification on the currently in-progress construction and remodel projects.
- They are working with the dining facilities to do a “meatless Monday” program. So far they have agreed to do so once a quarter.
- The dining facilities agreed to change from single-use ketchup bottles to bulk dispensers.
- The Student government is working on an agreement to help finance solar panels which are being installed this summer.
- On June 5th there will be the first ever SOU Sustainability Awards in the Meese Room of the Hannon Library.
- They are working with the Southwest Point transportation system to move the local stop closer to campus.

Group discussed the challenges of receiving LEED certification and the future of solar installations on campus.

Council Update – Darrow stated that they are in the middle of the budget process and that she has been encouraged by the community participation in the process. Group discussed the best ways to help the Budget Committee understand the importance of finding funding for the CEAP staff position.

City Conservation Programs and Operations – Hanks gave an overview of the current budget process and some specifics of the Conservation Department budget request. He gave information on program changes with BPA funding. He gave an overview of some net metering changes he and the Electric Department will soon be proposing.

Water Subcommittee – Buck stated that on June 3rd at North Mountain Park there will be a course related to laundry to landscape and rainwater catchment. It’s both a tour and an information session.

5. Old Business

Sneak Preview Column – McGinnis handed out his draft article and the group made some minor suggested edits.

Buck/Weir m/s to approve the article with the understanding that small edits will be made between now and the due date. Discussion: McGinnis requested that any edits be sent to him by June 15th. **Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.**

Group discussion potential article topics and agreed to the following:

- August – Car Wash Kits, written by Cruickshank with assistance from Buck
- September - ??
- October – Keeping leaves out of storm drains

Conservation Commission Powers and Duties – Koopman gave an overview of the draft recommendation that she wrote up based on last month’s discussion. Group gave some edits in the wording.

Buck/Beigel-Coryell m/s to approve the draft recommendation report, including the edits made at this meeting and request that the recommendation be forwarded to the City Council. Discussion: Weir stated that he doesn't see the need to propose two separate commissions, that the Conservation Commission can handle all the duties of CEAP with a change in powers and duties. He is also concerned with the extra financial burden of two commissions. Koopman wondered if her report isn't written clearly enough if he still doesn't see the need for two commissions. Beigell-Coryell reminded the group that in the past two years, with a large percent of the Conservation Commission members on the CEAP ad hoc Committee how few projects were actually able to be done by the Commission. Buck stated that she thinks the report does a good job laying out all the things which will not occur without the Commission. Weir stated that he doesn't think it's a bad thing for some of those ancillary duties to stop while the group focuses on the CEAP. Cruickshank stated that she originally also started on Weir's side in thinking only one group made sense but at the last meeting she was moved by the discussion regarding the potential value of each commission's potential activities. Buck stated that for her, one of the great things of Ashland is the amount of public participation allowed and that this is democracy in action. Even though this participation does have a financial cost, she is uncomfortable with the alternative of less participation. **Voice Vote: 7 ayes, 1 nay. Motion Passes.**

6. New Business

SO Land Conservancy Presentation – Group discussed the public forum input from last meeting and what some of the current discussions surrounding the opposing uses of the Imperatrice Property might mean.

Additional North Mountain Park Class Opportunities – Buck stated the deadline to submit classes for the Fall class schedule is Wednesday, May 31st. She encouraged those who want to teach a class to submit the information to Parks by that date. Group discussed what classes they may want to include in the Low Impact Living series.

Commissioner Cruickshank left the meeting 7:45 p.m.

7. Wrap Up

Group requested that the following be on the next agenda:

- Imperatrice Property (presentation by SO Land Conservancy if they are available)
- Follow up discussion of June 3rd tour
- Update on downtown recycling pilot project
- CEAP Goals and Targets ordinance discussion

Meeting adjourned at 7:54 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Shiplet
Executive Assistant

ASHLAND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION

MINUTES

June 22, 2017

CALL TO ORDER

Graf called the meeting to order at 6:00 pm

Commissioners Present: Joe Graf, Dominic Barth, Sue Newberry, David Young, and Corinne Vièville

Commissioners Absent: Kat Smith

Council Liaison Present: None

Council Liaison Absent: Mike Morris, and Rich Rosenthal

SOU Liaison Absent: Janelle Wilson

Staff Present: Scott Fleury, and Tami De Mille-Campos

Staff Absent: Mike Faught

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Graf announced the appointment of a new commissioner, Kat Smith. She will be joining the commission at the next meeting. He reminded the commission that still leaves one vacancy.

Graf announced he is adding an agenda item under old business. Item A is going to be an update regarding Tuesday's Council meeting in which there were two transportation items on the agenda. He also reminded the commissioners that he and Scott meet the second Monday of every month to plan the agenda, so if anyone has any agenda items they would like to see added please get in touch with either of them beforehand.

He stated his philosophy is the task list is agenda items, so anything that is on the task list is fair game for discussion during that time.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Approval of Minutes: February 23, 2017

Newberry/Barth m/s to approve minutes as presented.

All ayes. Minutes approved.

Approval of Minutes: April 27, 2017

Barth/Newberry m/s to approve minutes as presented.

All ayes. Minutes approved.

PUBLIC FORUM

Lisa Hamilton, 1273 Iowa Street

Lisa described an experience she recently had when a vehicle crashed nearby her parked car. She saw the vehicle fly up onto what little sidewalk there is in that area. The vehicle collided with the power pole at the corner of Iowa and Avery Street. She described how scary that experience was especially since she has stood at this very pole with her children as they wait to cross the street. She quickly called 911. This is not the only vehicle crash in this area that she has witnessed first-hand. Months back there was another crash late in the night, involving a vehicle crashing into her neighbor's parked van. Many of the drivers on this street are new drivers in high school and living as though they are invincible. Many of the drivers are college students, heading home from parties and bars. Mistakes will be made and many have already been made. While those mistakes can't be stopped entirely, it is everyone's responsibility to do all they can and to help slow people down and make the street as safe as possible.

Karsten Peterson, 321 Bridge Street

They are part of an area that has a lot of kids on it. Her kids go to Willow Wind School on East Main. Their route to

school is to cross Iowa Street, cross Wightman Street, and then cross at Wightman/East Main. Her kids went on to share their own experiences.

Drake shared that he and his brother were taking their dog for a walk down to the park and they saw a car speed up and then start to drift. They started walking out and the car sped up headed towards them and almost hit them. They have made some routes around Iowa to help them get around but they take longer to get to school. They would really enjoy having a crosswalk there.

Bodhi agreed that it is really hard to cross Iowa Street without a crosswalk because cars park along the sides of the street and you have to walk almost to the middle of the street in order to get a view of what is coming. He thinks it would be good to have a crosswalk there so people will slow down and so people will have a safe place to cross the street.

Newberry pointed out that Iowa Street safety concerns is listed as an agenda item, under task items

Phil Hutchings, 2404 Siskiyou Blvd.

He is representing himself and his neighbors. He has noticed the speed trailer at the middle of Bellview Street. He isn't sure why it was set up there but he thinks it was probably due to excessive speed.

Graf pointed out that item is also on the agenda task list.

Colin Swales, 143 8th Street

He is a member of the Southern Oregon Electric Vehicle Association. He doesn't own an electric vehicle himself but having previously been a member of the Planning Commission and the Transportation Commission, he is interested in how the city is dealing with the infrastructure that comes with electric vehicles. He attended a meeting the other night and wanted to relay the information. SOEVA will have an entry in the 4th of July parade, the day prior and the day after that they will also have meetings at the Ashland library. The meetings have to do with ODOT sending a representative to discuss how to deal with autonomous vehicles and how that will effect infrastructure. One of the reasons he got involved with the club is because they were supporters of a shuttle coming to town. Josephine County is going to refurbish a bus to use as a shuttle between Grants Pass and Medford. He will send an email to staff with further details that can be forwarded on to the commission.

He also shared one of the things he has been doing for quite some time is monitoring traffic on arterial roads. He has always been a great proponent that we don't need three lanes of auto traffic in our downtown. To that end, he has been monitoring ODOT's figures. The figures are usually a few years behind but the figures have been dropping. 2013 was the lowest since 2003. It has had a slight uptick which may be because of the low fuel prices currently. He will also forward those details to show what the arterial traffic is doing in the downtown, and along Siskiyou, North Main and Ashland Street.

While there are still citizens in the audience that spoke about Iowa Street Commissioner Newberry had a few things to share. She shared she has a background in communities doing pedestrian/bicycle safety. One of the things she is going to be trying to encourage staff to do is to start including citizens and commissioners when doing studies such as the study on Iowa. Her experience is the best way to do that is to include people such as Lisa Hamilton who spoke earlier.

Newberry also mentioned that crosswalks won't slow people down by marking them. Those crosswalks are legal crossing places now whether they are marked or not. Marking them does help pedestrians feel more comfortable though.

NEW BUSINESS

Bicycle Swap and Education Program Presentation by Ashland Parks

Lori Ainsworth, City of Ashland Parks and Recreation

Egon Dubois, teaches bicycle safety classes throughout Ashland

Lori updated the commission on how this year's bike swap went. She shared that they use funds generated from the bike swap to facilitate the bicycle safety education program which is operated in the elementary schools. The

Ashland Parks and Recreation (ARP) assumed the role of managing this program back in 2012. It costs APR about \$9,000 per year and is included within their budget. That pays for the instruction and maintaining the fleet of bikes. This year the bike swap was on Easter weekend and it also happened to be the last day of skiing at Mt. Ashland, so the event was down by about eighty customers from the prior year. The gap between revenues and expenditures this year was \$2,600 compared to \$1,000 last year. Overall the bike swap is still a very popular community event.

Young said his experience was it was less publicized than in previous years. Lori said she would pass that along to the marketing group and to Rachel Dials, Recreation Superintendent. Young also recommended they get communicate to the commission a few months in advance of the event so it can be more on people's radar.

Egon stated last year this program was only taught at three schools which is unfortunate that it isn't taught at all of the schools especially because it is free of charge. He pointed out that he has approached Willow Wind every year and every time they have declined. In his opinion, Willow Wind is one of the most problematic schools in terms of access to the school. He wished that Karsten Peterson who had spoken during public forum had stuck around. He feels she could make a great champion for him at that school.

Barth said he had remembered talking about Bellview at a previous commission meeting and trying to make further attempts to get them on board but then it became apparent that they were not interested. Young said the Principal is adamantly opposed to the program right now because of the inadequate infrastructure. She doesn't want to encourage kids to bicycle because of this problem. Egon said in previous years he would approach the teachers and Principal of Willow Wind and Bellview via email, occasionally in person as well which he will do this year as well. Despite the fact that he primarily teaches bicycle safety education, he starts by teaching pedestrian safety education and he thinks maybe that is a good thing to point out to the Principal so she can reconsider the program.

Newberry suggested when meeting with the Principal that he find out precisely what the concerns are of the Principal. She lives nearby that school and has observed one of the issues is the parents driving in/out of the school. The drop off/pick-up area is inadequate. If we could get more specific information regarding the problems then maybe the school/commission could work together to solve all of the modal issues. She offered to join Egon, being that she has a lot of background in safe routes to school programs. Egon said he would reach out to the Principal first and then get back to Newberry.

Graf said it is discouraging because they had gone ahead with the four way stop at Tolman and he had hoped that would mean they would then take advantage of the bicycle safety program.

Discussion was had regarding the need for safe routes to school. Egon said he would be willing to meet at any time to have further discussion.

Zagster Bike Share Program

Andrea Napoli, Rogue Valley Council of Governments (RVCOG)

Fleury went over his staff report regarding how the bike share problem came to existence and the current desire to work with RVCOG in order to keep this program going.

Napoli shared that United Way began this program in 2015 utilizing grant funding. United Way approached the RVCOG a few months ago to see if they would be interested in taking it over as the grant funding was ending on July 24, 2017. The RVCOG had secured grant funding through ODOT and RVTD. Given the short time frame they decided to eliminate some of the current six stations, with half of the use at the Water Street station, and go with the stations that were performing. The ODOT grant funds two stations, twenty bikes for three years. The RVTD funds two stations, ten bikes. With that, the Front Street station in Medford will remain because that was important to RVTD. Other than that, everything through the grant funding will be in Ashland. They have also been working with the self-sufficiency office through the State, they administer Medicaid, SNAP, the jobs program, and Assistance for Needy Families etc., to be able to offer them free use of the system.

Young thinks the program is fantastic and it is mentioned in the 2012 Transportation System Plan. He asked if the Siskiyou Boulevard location is the location to serve the underserved. Napoli said it was. He thinks the tourist location

is very important than everyone thinks, he would love to see it move from Water Street to the Plaza. He thinks ScienceWorks would be a great partner because a lot of families that visit there from out of town and many of them say they don't want to drive when they get into Ashland. Napoli said there are definitely partnerships in the works and they plan to continue to work on securing private sponsors. Right now there is a system in Ashland that will work and once that is installed they can implement other phases if other interested parties come on board. Right now this is being funded with public money but her hope is that they can approach private parties and entice them to support the program by demonstrating that the program is being utilized. She said if anyone has any ideas for potential private sponsorships to please contact her and she will get it added to the list. Asante and OSF are currently on the list for future exploration.

Young/Vièville m/s recommend to Council that the commission supports the participation in the new RVCOG program, including two stations.

All ayes. Motion passes.

Young feels this will be a successful program and there will be opportunities for private partnerships in the future.

Vièville asked about the potential for adding a tandem bike to the system which could have the potential to benefit the visually impaired. Napoli said there aren't currently any tandem bikes in this system but she can discuss this with Zagster. Vièville asked Napoli if she would be willing to meet with the Lions Club to discuss this, if Vièville was able to set something up and Napoli said yes.

July 2017 Meeting Date

Fleury reminded the commission that this request is due to him being away at a conference that week.

Discussion was had and the commission decided on July 20 from 4:00-6:00 p.m. in Council Chambers.

TASK LIST

Discuss current action item list

Barth asked about the Hersey/Wimer signal warrant analysis and Fleury said that had been postponed due to budget meetings but it is on the July agenda, along with a quarterly update on the Road Diet.

Young asked about the super sharrows along Main Street. He said it has been approved by two bodies and he is wondering when this is going to take place. Fleury said the budget was just approved by the budget committee and that budget includes the Capital Improvements List of which the super sharrows was a part of. He is going to task Faught with getting that going this summer and gaining ODOT approval (it is their jurisdiction), so hopefully we can see some forward momentum very soon.

Barth asked about the TSP Update and Internal Feasibility Analysis. Fleury said the RFP for the TSP has been advertised and responses are due back by August 1, 2017. Once the responses come back they will begin the formal process, in which Newberry has agreed to be the Transportation Commission representative.

Graf shared that Newberry made a great presentation to Council on the East Nevada Bridge and the commission's stance on it. He said there was quite a bit of discussion on this and the vote was not unanimous; they did vote to not go forward with the bridge as proposed in the TSP. He further described how the Council meeting went.

Young said he went to the RVCOG meeting last week in which Faught gave a presentation for a twelve foot bicycle/pedestrian bridge or a twenty foot bicycle/pedestrian/emergency vehicle bridge, citing the current fire code. He also presented the Independent Way project as an option. His sense was there had been discussions amongst people in advance of that meeting. The temperature of the room at that meeting was that a bicycle/pedestrian/emergency vehicle bridge would score far less with them than the Independent Way project. That is no surprise to him but is disappointing. Fleury explained we would have to submit a new application for transfer of

the grant funding (\$1,500,000) over to the Independent Way project. If the RVCOG supports it, then it would go to the RVMPO and they would decide if those grant funds will be reallocated. Young said the Greenway Board is also a potential for funding. They were present at the RVCOG meeting and there was a lot of discussion at that meeting. Fleury said the Greenway Board is very supportive of that connection. Newberry asked if this could be added on a future agenda rather than keep the people in the audience who are here for the next agenda topic waiting.

Newberry would like to have the support of the rest of the commissioners to work with Public Works on the Iowa Street Safety Concern issue. She would like to maybe do something like a walking audit, where they would go out there and observe. She doesn't want to have to wait until school starts to fix the problem. Fleury said part of the problem with school starting is the car counts for turn movements, the rest of it will begin when the new budget year starts. Newberry said she understood and would like to be involved in that process. The commission supported the idea.

Barth asked about the Sidewalk Clearance and Vegetation Maintenance item. He said they were previously told there was going to be an app for that and he wondered if that had taken place. Fleury said there is an App called My Ashland which you can submit complaints through.

OLD BUSINESS

Pilot Residential Parking Permit System for Gresham Street

Savannah Randall, 810 Park Street

She shared that she isn't a resident of Gresham Street but she does spend a lot of time on the street, as her Professor Craig Wright lives there. When she first moved to Ashland she lived across the street from AHS and she experienced a lot of congestion during the day but it tended to loosen up in the evening and during school breaks. In her opinion, if you are a homeowner you shouldn't have that struggle every single day.

Donna Wright, 1274 Munson Drive

Her grandson lives here and over the years she has seen how horrible it is to try to park nearby. She spoke about something as simple as having small children and trying to unload groceries while parked four blocks away. And other things like taking your child to school while the weather is bad, and the sidewalk is icy. If there was room to put a driveway in, her son Craig would have already done that. She feels people ought to be able to park within a reasonable distance to their house. She doesn't think this residential parking program will be harmful to anybody.

Craig Wright, 25 Gresham Street

His intent isn't to reiterate what he has already said. He thanked the commission for considering this. He wanted to take a moment to acknowledge Teri Disilva who is currently ill (she served the Ashland Police Department for many years).

This isn't a matter of convenience for his family, it isn't an issue they can speak of in idealistic terms and he doesn't think they can afford to look at it that way. It affects them each and every day, it is a basic necessity in life. He believes the community should try to provide for their residents. The library has designated parking spaces, a bike rack, is centrally located and even has a bus stop. He said he is getting older and plans to retire in ten years and he doesn't know how he will feel then. The stories such as the difficulty with unloading groceries, aren't exaggerations. He feels like he is being encouraged to drive more because he spends an extra 15-30 minutes per day driving just to find a place to park. He feels this is an opportunity to do something that is very low cost. He really wants to speak as highly as possible but he has been dealing with this for twenty-three years now and for twenty-three years now he has been asking for a solution. He has done all he can, even going without a vehicle for several years before having children.

Colin Swales, 143 8th Street

He said this has been a long, ongoing problem. He owned property at 461 Alison Street since 1995. He was surprised when he found out about this because he didn't receive notice of this and yet he is in that immediate area. He said this all started when the library was re-zoned from residential to downtown commercial and thus not requiring off street parking, which allowed them to quadruple the size of the library and cut the parking. His memory of it is that they were going to try to have parking on both sides of Gresham Street and then they found that it was too narrow to

do that. At the time the Planning Director (Mac) unofficially designated the north side of Alison Street as defacto library parking, which is what in fact happens with at least two-thirds of the block. He said it isn't just library patrons that come and go, it is library staff as well. He knows the situation that Craig is in and he fully supports this idea. He is just interested to see how this works out and possibly if it can be extended into the other neighborhoods that suffer from the downtown congestion. One of the things that could be done, is to possibly offer an incentive to downtown employees to park in the parking garage, rather than on the residential streets. He requested that any future discussion of this by either the Transportation Commission or the City Council be noticed to the residents on Alison Street and also Union Street.

Christina Hubbard, 850 Blackberry Lane

She used to live on Gresham Street. She shared with the commission that she appreciates them considering this. She feels it is wonderful for the commission to consider a local's need. The people who live on Gresham Street pay a premium to buy their homes and to keep them up to historical standards. It seems like they do their part to keep their houses looking the way the City wants them to look but it isn't right for them to have to work so hard to just be able to come and go. She spoke about this past winter with all the snow and ice that we got and how difficult that is for the aging residents in that neighborhood who have to park blocks away.

Young feels there are two issues here. One, is specifically related to Craig's issue. He feels there is some level of service that is owed to him if there is absolutely no off street parking option. He feels that is legitimate. The issue for him is he wonders if you can do an individualized thing as a pilot. He thinks we can do a pilot for a particular residence on a request basis, if it is allowed. He remembers exactly what Colin Swales described with the changes to the library parking. He shared that the Downtown Parking Committee started to look at a residential parking permit program and that's when everything got tense, and things got pushed off. That parking plan got voted down by Council. With that said, he thinks we should look at individual requests, based on a residence having no off street parking.

Newberry isn't sure that it is practical given what Diamond Parking said at the first meeting she isn't sure how feasible and practical it is. If we have something that isn't enforced, it's useless. She feels it is more enforceable if we have the five spaces. She is concerned about the letter opposing this, which was just handed out and inserted here into the record. The resident is concerned about pushing the vehicles further up Gresham. She would anticipate if this was done as a pilot project to see how it worked, that there would be parameters set but she believes we will have requests coming in from nearby residents very quickly. We need to be careful because whatever is decided for this situation is likely going to determine what happens for residential permits. She thinks we may want to consider limiting the number of permits per household but not limit the people that would be eligible, that way residents along Gresham, Alison and Union could apply, and limit the permits to two per household (no off street parking) or one per household (off street parking). She believes we should do this as a pilot and if it doesn't work then we will know what doesn't work about it, which will give us a foundation to improve. We need to approach it very carefully and approach it as a new pilot program.

Vièville feels it is important to be able to be close to where you want to get to, especially if you have an illness or develop a disability at some point in life.

Barth thinks some sort of permit system is overdue and he is hoping this will maybe effect metered parking downtown. He thinks the five spaces that were presented at the first meeting, is a good place to start.

Graf agrees with Young and is fully supportive of doing one or possibly two spaces for Craig, but he is not supportive of starting the precedent of giving "free reserved parking" to everybody who feels they don't have adequate off-street parking.. He supports the situation that the Wright's are in and he supports supplying one space for them but he doesn't think we should supply five spaces just because it is easier for Diamond Parking or because that is the block section.

Fleury pointed out when he and Faught first went out there they talked about installing a driveway in the front yard so there was dedicated parking. If a driveway was installed, per our standard, he could take up thirty feet of frontage which would equate to almost two parking spaces there. If he were to do that you would lose more spaces than you

would gain by having the off street parking in front of his home.

Wright informed the commission that he attended every one of the library meetings pleading his case about how it was going to affect parking and he was reassured about how it was going to be ok.

Newberry m/ move forward with a pilot project that would create the five spaces on Gresham as a pilot project that would run 6-12 months. At six months, at a minimum, the pilot program would be evaluated.

Motion died sue to lack of second.

Young/Vierville m/s due to compelling circumstances and lack of off-street parking the Commission requests Council approve the provision of one reserved parking space in front of 25 Gresham Street for use by the homeowner, to be reviewed after one year.

All ayes. Motion passes.

FOLLOW UP ITEMS

None

INFORMATIONAL ITEMS

Action Summary

Accident Report

Officer MacLennan went over the accident report for March and April and they discussed a few of the accidents listed.

Officer MacLennan spoke regarding the residential parking issue. This was something that was brought up to him about six months ago by the Director of SOU Security who would like to come and speak to the commission in the near future. SOU just purchased a program that uses a license plate reader and his theory is that his students shouldn't be bothering residents that are surrounding the school. The resident's license plates would be saved in the system and if they have visitors, you can go on any smart phone and add the plate info to the system (or call in). He thought this might be something we want to look at if we do venture into more residential parking permits.

Officer MacLennan shared he had a complaint about parking on Tolman Creek, just above Siskiyou Blvd. (County roadway). The road is narrow and people tend to park along the shoulder, and there aren't any no parking signs. He said he wasn't sure there would be anything that could do about enforcement because it is a county road. He passed the information along to Fleury.

Officer MacLennan spoke regarding the issue with Iowa Street. He said Karl Johnson (Engineering) did a speed study and the average speed was 22.4 mph, there isn't a speed issue up there. We need to remember when they are talking about these crashes that are happening, these crashes are due to intoxication. There is a blind spot issue with the power pole on the SE corner of Garfield.

Officer MacLennan mentioned that is just so happened that Washington/Ashland got brought up today because he had two crashes out there today involving U-turns. ODOT has talked to him and want him to enforce U-turns out there and he has asked them to install signage and they have said no.

Making an Impact Newsletter (May)

COMMISSION OPEN DISCUSSION

FUTURE AGENDA TOPICS

Next Meeting Date: July 20, 2017

ADJOURNMENT

Meeting was adjourned at 8:27 p.m.

*Respectfully submitted,
Tami De Mille-Campos
Public Works Administrative Supervisor*

Thursday June 22, 2017

Due to the lack of residential parking in front of our home, we are never able to accommodate guests, workers, trucks or moving vans. So, whenever we need to have any work or maintenance done, trucks often need to park blocks away and hand carry equipment, because library employees and others who don't live on Gresham Street take up all the spaces in front of our houses. There is never a free space in front of our home, the Wrights' home, or the home on the other side of them. Consequently, our guests need to carry luggage or potluck dishes, often from several blocks away.

It's an ongoing headache for everyone who lives on this street, especially as we get older, facing broken bones, other health complications, etc. What good will building wheelchair access do us if we can't access the house because non-residents are taking up the few spaces in front of our homes? The situation is extremely difficult for us and impossible for the Wrights.

It should also be noted that we own historic homes, which require extra expenses for maintenance and repairs, as that's what the city requires of us. Reciprocation for these expectations through the establishment of residential parking would at least help us, by giving us a place for us and our workers to park.

Thank you for your consideration.

Steven and Patricia Cutler
31 Gresham Street

Tami Campos

From: Mike Faught
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 8:16 AM
To: Scott Fleury; Tami Campos
Subject: FW: Pilot Residential Parking Permit for Gresham Street (5 spaces between Hargadine and Beach Streets)

From: Thomas G. Paterson [mailto:paterson@mind.net]
Sent: Tuesday, June 20, 2017 7:38 AM
To: Mike Faught
Subject: Pilot Residential Parking Permit for Gresham Street (5 spaces between Hargadine and Beach Streets)

To Michael R. Faught, Public Works Director:

Thank you for your letter of June 14, 2017, about a "Pilot Residential Parking Permit for Gresham Street." We cannot attend the June 22 meeting of the Ashland Transportation Commission. I welcome your putting this message into the record and letting me know that it arrived.

I think this proposal is a bad idea that will compound, not remedy, the parking issues on Gresham Street and connecting neighborhoods.

First, removing five spaces will simply push cars farther up Gresham Street, thus negatively impacting parking for residents above Beach Street, who already see a clogging from heavy Library users' parking.

Second, it seems clear that five spaces are more than are needed. There are three buildings on Gresham between Hargadine and Beach. One of the houses has a garage and a driveway just off Beach. The "house" at the corner of Hargadine and Beach offers rental units and already has parking places on Hargadine. The only house that apparently has no parking on its premises sits between these two mentioned places. The owner has two very large vehicles that really take up three spaces. But, regardless of the car sizes, your granting the owner any specially-designated spaces will privilege him/her over all of his neighbors, including many who live up Gresham, or on Allison and Vista.

Third, the question of enforcement of the use of the proposed five spaces looms large. People who are determined to visit the Library, even for a "short time," will not always honor the parking permit restriction. Such people already park in front of a nearby driveway, sometimes blocking it, and they even knock over recycle and garbage bins placed on the curb for our Tuesday pick-ups. Who will enforce the parking permit requirement? The police? The police have a lot more important activities to undertake than to drive constantly on Gresham Street

looking for violators, be they Ashlanders or tourists. The police department has more important business to conduct than to answer phone calls about the misuse of the spaces.

Sincerely,

Thomas G. Paterson

63 Gresham Street

Ashland, OR 97520

541-201-0369 (home)

paterson@mind.net

6/23/17

Commissioners Graf, Barth, Newberry, Young and Vieville

I had intended to see you all last night (June 22, 2017) at the TC meeting, but had a conflict come up at the last minute which prevented me attending.

I want to THANK each of you for your extraordinary hard work on the E. Nevada Bridge project (N17) and in particular commend Sue Newberry for her concise, summary of your work to the City Council meeting on June 20, 2017. Joe Graf's presence further added credibility & accountability to the TC presentation.

Clearly your work , public feedback and factual engineering data came together to convince Mike Faught (to support to reject) and the CC to vote to reject N17.

The CC was well informed of the complexities of N17 and it was clear they appreciated they had received a comprehensive briefing prior to the 6/20/17 Council meeting. Your efforts contributed to the Council being well informed. Members of the CC were very complimentary to you all & one also thanked the TC for the letter (penned by Joe & Sue) the CC received shortly after the March 23, 2017 meeting at which the TC recommended N17 be rejected.

It is my opinion that the CC has a new found respect for the work- ethic and dedication to examining details & facts you have shown you deliver. I also believe the TC performance will continue as new projects & proposals land on the TC desk. These will be well vetted & examined by the TC to the

benefit of the residents of Ashland.

I look forward to attending further meetings and am especially interested in the discussions around a green solution for crossing Bear Creek at E. Nevada (bike & walking) and getting down Main Street by electric trolley/bus.

Thanks again for volunteering to work so diligently for Ashland residents and the City.
I am submitting this letter for the record.

Susan Hall RN
210 E. Nevada St.
Ashland
510-828-1344
srhallrn@comcast.net

Sr Hall RN