

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Pool ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes
February 13, 2019

ATTENDEES

Present: Ad-Hoc Committee Matt Miller (Chair), Rebecca Kay, Risa Buck, Mike Hitsky, Jocelyn Sanford, Gary Simms; Commissioners Gardiner and Landt; School District Liaison Todd Lantry; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Senior Services Liaison Bachman; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Recreation Manager Flora; Recreation Superintendent Dials;

Absent: Director Black; City of Ashland Finance Director Mark Welch; Committee Member Marc Heller

I. CALL TO ORDER

Matt Miller called the meeting to order at 2:32 p.m. at the Community Center, 59 Winburn Way.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – It was asked if there were any corrections to the January 16, 2019 minutes and Flora mentioned that there was a correction made to the public input portion.

Motion: A motion was made for approval of the minutes.

Buck moved / Bachman seconded approval of the minutes.

Vote: All Yes

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Citizen Nancy Boyer introduced herself. Nancy wanted to know how the neighborhood surveys would get to the property owners as many of the homes in her area were rentals. Nancy also asked what the percentage of the surveys was going to other than Ashland residents.

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Landt suggested that Park Goals be added under New Business. Miller agreed to the addition.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Needs Assessment / Outreach Subcommittee Report

i. February 19 Listening Session Update

Buck said that they had a Listening Session workshop for all committee members who are helping with the Listening Sessions, so they understand the format. Flora said that they still need to get all the roles assigned and asked for committee members to sign up with their preference. Flora gave details on how the Listening Sessions would be conducted. Buck asked if it would be possible to get contact information as people sign in. Kay mentioned that APRC will provide nametags for those attending.

Kay mentioned that Lithia Motors has volunteered to shoot a video and they have started collecting video clips to use of the Ashland High School swim team. Kay mentioned the different demographics that they would like to have for the video. Dials said the goal of the video is to gather clips for future use and are not a part of the Listening Sessions.

ii. Survey Updates

Flora gave an update as to how the mailing and randomization process of the surveys would work. Flora said they do not have a specific date as to when the mailing would go out. There was further discussion on the assigned survey number that was required to complete the online survey. Buck suggested bolding each survey number and Flora stated that all the information would be on one ballot. Gardiner reminded everyone that the surveys would help gather quantifiable baseline data. Kay reminded everyone that the survey and Listening Sessions were geared to gathering input from our number one stakeholders which is the community.

b. Site Planning and Design Subcommittee Report

Hitsky said they had a meeting at the end of January and they are still in the conceptual and early brainstorming stage. Hitsky said there is nothing to report at this time until they have more information. Bachman brought up fundraising for the pool. Sanford said that people can donate through the Ashland Parks Foundation.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a) Messaging and Stakeholder Outreach Organization (Kay, Flora)

Flora said that in the last meeting it was discussed developing a script that people can use to keep the message and facts in the forefront. Flora said the point of a script would be to ensure that the message is getting out clearly and consistently. Flora discussed Google Docs and developing a way for all Committee members and those reaching out to Stakeholders to be able to track all of the information. Flora stated that everyone on the Committee could view the information and Flora would enter and edit any information. Kay asked if the idea was to have each Committee member contact a Stakeholder and Flora said that everyone should approach those Stakeholders they are comfortable with. Flora said there is no set date to do this. Kay volunteered to develop the script and Lantry said that he would work with Kay. Flora asked the Committee to send him any edits to the Stakeholder Connections/Inquiry form.

b) Website Information for Public (Flora)

Flora said that the intention is to have a City webpage that is the go to spot for the community to keep up to date on what is going on with the pool.

c) Park Goals (Landt)

Landt said that the existing Park goals for the pool are awkward and outdated. Glatt located and read the wording for the biennium 2015-2017 Park goals. Landt read two drafts that he created for updated Park goals. Landt read the first goal which was to: 1) Ensure continuous operation of a community pool in Ashland during summer months at a minimum 2) Take necessary steps to develop a year-round competitive pool in Ashland, either stand alone or incorporated into the community pool. Discussion ensued on the language/wording for the new Park goals. Sanford stated that the pool should be a multi-purpose, multi-generational pool that can accommodate a variety of programs going on at the same time and would benefit the citizens of Ashland. After much discussion the two recommended Park Commissions goals were as follows:

Goal #1 – Act on recommendations of the Pool ad-Hoc Committee

Goal #2 – Ensure continuous operation of a public recreational pool in Ashland during the summer months, at a minimum.

Motion: A motion was made by Bachman to approve the two Commission goals/Landt seconded the motion.

Vote: All Yes

VII. UPCOMING MEETING DATE

a) Establish regular schedule of 1st or 4th Wednesdays for March, April, May and June.

It was decided by all present that the Pool ad-Hoc Committee would meet on the first Wednesdays of the month.

The next meeting date was set for March 6, 2019, 3:30 p.m., Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:46 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Wysocki, Temp Office Assistant
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION
Minutes
January 14, 2019

ATTENDEES

Present: Commissioners Bell, Gardiner, Landt, Lewis, Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Parks Superintendent Oxendine

Absent: Commissioner Heller, City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gardiner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at The Grove 1195 E. Main, Ashland, OR.

Gardiner introduced the newest member to the APRC Board of Commissioners – Julian Bell. He stated that the Commissioners were looking forward to working with Bell over the next four years.

JAPANESE GARDEN DISCUSSION (INFORMATION)

Gardiner announced that the evening's discussion regarding the design and implementation of the proposed Japanese Garden improvements was in preparation for approval/denial of the plan submitted by Japanese Garden landscape architect Toru Tanaka and benefactor Jeff Mangin.

Black outlined a short history of the proposal and the number of meetings held for public input during the development process. He stated that a final listening session would be held at the Grove on January 24, 2019 at 5:30 p.m. The meeting would provide a venue for additional public input prior to the final decision by the Commissioners. A schematic of the proposed design would be available for viewing at that time.

Black detailed the process that developed after talks with donor Jeff Mangin. Mangin had expressed a desire to give back to the community he loved and create a memorial to honor of his late wife Beatrice. After several meetings, it was agreed that a plan to transform the existing Japanese-style garden located in Lithia Park into an authentic Japanese garden would be fitting. The renovations would celebrate Japanese culture and provide a garden of lasting beauty to be enjoyed by the citizens of Ashland as well as visitors of the Park.

During the development phase for the Japanese Garden, the planned Lithia Park Master Plan project kicked off three open houses where members of the public could discuss the proposal, share their ideas, and provide feedback. It became apparent that a majority of those who participated, supported the concept that would create an authentic garden sensitive to Japanese heritage. A list of desirable attributes was developed in response to comments from the community.

The ensuing design plan was presented to Ashland's Historic Commission and Tree Commissioner for additional input. Each Commission was asked to review the plan and provide feedback – particularly regarding the proposed removal of two Douglas Firs to accommodate an expansion of the Garden. The plan called for replacing the firs with approximately 200 additional trees that would be more representative of an authentic Japanese Garden.

Black explained that donor Jeff Mangin subsequently donated \$1.3 million dollars to the Ashland Parks Foundation – a 501-C3 tax exempt organization. He expressed his appreciation for Mangin's generosity – noting that an additional grant would ensure that the garden would continue to be maintained.

Black displayed pictures of the Japanese Garden from the earliest times available – stating that garden was depicted in the Lithia Park Master Plan of 1916. The outline of the garden was a V-shaped portion included a tree, a teahouse and a small water feature. Also, early on a rock stairway out of the garden to Granite Street was installed and 12 Douglas Firs were planted adjacent to the garden. In 1950, the garden was refurbished by Chuck Corey. Corey added plantings, including a Gingko tree. By the late 70's and 80's the garden had once again fallen into disrepair. In 1983 the garden was restored largely due to the dedication of Don Todt, a Parks employee. It was Todt that planted the maples and other trees that are part of the garden today.

Black displayed an outline of the existing garden, with an overlay that depicted the proposed expansion - noting that the expanded footprint ranged from about 25 -30 ft. on one side of the garden decreasing to about 8-10- ft. in places.

Mangin spoke briefly about the donation, noting that friends and his late wife's family - the Marechal family - had participated in the donation. He highlighted their commitment to the Japanese Garden.

Mangin noted that planning for development of the garden was an extended process. He noted that those Ashlanders of Japanese heritage, had commented that they enjoyed some elements of the existing garden but found others offensive. Mangin stated that overall, residents that he had come in contact with were supportive of the plan.

A competition between two of the foremost Japanese Garden landscape architects led to Toru Tanaka whose design contained all of the criteria that the competition sought. The basic design would be faithful to Japanese design, and provide a more immersive experience without eliminating the open spaces on each side of the garden. The garden would be protected from wildlife and utmost care would be given to preserving the existing trees. Mangin stated that in his opinion the resulting plan was masterful in design while remaining respectful to the historical aspects of Lithia Park.

Tanaka described elements of the plan, noting that the gardens depicted within the design were venerated by the Japanese. They include a mountain garden – with a forest of bamboo – a natural garden that copies nature. Part of the garden encompasses a pond/stream water feature, a Zen garden with the elements of sand and rock, and a teahouse garden. When completed, the garden would provide Ashland residents a place where they can immerse themselves in Japanese culture and discover the meanings behind each element. Trees, for example perform an important function – much like a jacket wraps the wearer. Just as popular styles change, so too do the trees within the garden and it becomes appropriate to change tree species from time to time.

Black explained that the plan calls for removal of two of twelve Douglas Fir trees and for that reason, feedback and advice was sought from the Ashland Historic Commission and Tree Commission. A site visit allowed the Commissioners to envision the garden in situ. Black noted that the Historic Commission was supportive of the plan as presented.

Parks Superintendent Oxendine reported on the Tree Commission's recommendations, noting that the Commissioners asked APRC to redesign the garden so that the Douglas firs would remain in place and the existing trees would be adequately protected during the construction phase of the plan.

PUBLIC INPUT

Jim Falkenstein of 540 Lakota Way, Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Falkenstein spoke in favor of leaving the firs in place – stating that refurbishment of the garden was not a necessity for the City. He emphasized their age of approximately 100 years and stressed the value of the carbon sequestration that the trees provide. He stated that in his opinion, planting 200 small trees as a replacement would not compensate for the amount of carbon sequestration that the mature trees provide.

JoAnne Eggers of 221 Granite St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Eggers talked about a compromise – finding a way to preserve the existing Douglas firs while achieving an authentic Japanese garden. She recommended that Lithia Park should respect both the Japanese culture and the American culture (as represented by the Douglas firs).

Eggers noted concerns about energy conservation, water and parking that would be best addressed at the meeting held on January 24th.

Katheryn Thalden of 550 Ashland Loop, Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Thalden highlighted her experience as a landscape architect who together with her husband had actively participated in beautification projects in Ashland. Thalden stated that she supported removal of the trees – stating that they were not stand-alone trees or specimen trees. She talked about the big picture – stating that removal of two trees out of the twelve Douglas firs was an acceptable loss that would facilitate accommodation of 200 more.

Thalden discussed her opinion that the lean of the trees was a symptom of a root system that could not provide enough support for future growth. She indicated that there was a distinct possibility that the trees could topple in a strong wind with resulting catastrophic damage to the garden.

Thalden urged the Commissioners to consider the big picture, with its focus on the best possible outcome for garden and therefore the residents of Ashland.

Spencer Goddard of 278 Idaho St. #7, Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Goddard advocated for the garden, stating that the design was beautiful and amazing. He also advocated for leaving the Douglas firs in place – urging the Commissioner's to find a solution that would preserve the trees and allow that garden to flourish.

Commissioner Lewis read a letter into the record from **Donna Ree**. (See attachment I)

Ree stated that it was time for a “paradigm shift in our things about the future of Lithia Park.” She talked about the potential for transformation of the Japanese Garden – one that would “incorporate the many outstanding maple trees, evergreens and conifers...” currently in place while creating a place “for Ashland citizens to relax, meditate and gain solace.”

Ree reminded Ashlanders of the gift that benefactor Mangin was providing to the City. She praised Tanaka for his design and discussed the impact of moving the design by 10 ft. to accommodate the Douglas firs. Ree states that the move could “impact the integrity of the design” and the existing plants. She also talked about the value of using the wood from the trees to construct structures within the garden. She recommended that Commissioners approve the plan as submitted.

Commissioner Discussion

There followed a lengthy discussion about the recommendations made by the Tree Commission. Landt was concerned about the health and viability of the two trees. Black stated that Tanaka had talked about the lean of the trees implying a stress position – with one side being pushed and one side pulled. It was intimated that there was a difference of opinion as to the impact of the stress position.

Tanaka explained that the lean and the pressure it exerts was simple mathematics – that a 15% lean would exert enough pressure to keep the trees from growing any further. In his opinion, the existing root system increased the potential for a catastrophic fall. In their recommendation, the Tree Commission appeared to find that the potential for causing damage was negligible.

Lewis stated that the APRC staff had exposed the roots of the trees for a clearer idea of what was happening underground. He characterized the view as interesting but somewhat shocking.

Landt pointed out a discrepancy as to when the Douglas Firs had been planted – thereby initiating a discussion regarding a possible timeline for the plantings. Gardiner pointed out the facts that were known beginning with the Park’s dedication on July 4, 1916. He noted that the Douglas firs were the result of a Boy Scout project dated 1924.

Bell asked about the appropriateness of the firs as an element of the Japanese garden. Tanaka replied that the species was not usual or customary in Japanese garden design.

Lewis advocated for the big picture. He argued against handicapping or restricting the design, stating that micromanaging the design was counterproductive and narrowed the perspective of a long-range plan – one that would be in place for more years than a person’s lifetime. He stated that looking at the big picture rather than individual trees, would facilitate focused consideration on the health of Lithia Park as a whole. Lewis talked about catastrophic loss in terms of the negative impact the Douglas firs – whether it be by falling into the garden, destroying the vegetation in its path, or by dropping debris.

Gardiner agreed, stating that it was not about this moment in time – rather it was about the garden for the next 100 or more. He stated that over time, he had watched other trees of significant size in the park topple. He indicated that just as one would be concerned if a tree had the potential to fall on one’s residence, so too the Douglas firs have the potential to fall and cause damage to the garden. Gardiner noted that the plan carried with it a responsibility to protect the integrity of the design so that the best possible outcome would ensure longevity once the design is in place.

Landt stated that in his opinion, design projects often begin with constraints – monetary constraints, footprint constraints and other parameters. He explained that in this case one important constraint – what to do about the Douglas firs – was not discussed at the beginning of the project. The design advanced forward without a decision regarding their protection or removal. If a decision had been made early on to keep the trees, the designer would

have designed the project differently. Now the design has a momentum of its own, there is also a conflict with a potential mandate to save the trees.

Landt spoke of his desire to find a solution that would leave the trees in place without compromising the garden. He stated that the trees were magnificent and, in his opinion, healthy. Landt asked that a certified arborist testify as to the health and viability of the trees, noting that the information would be helpful in deciding their fate.

Tanaka stated that he understood the rationale for saving the trees. He noted that in his opinion, the trees would not continue to grow, and their lifespan was threatened because of a weak root system. In addition, there was a very real danger that the trees were vulnerable to the winds and if they were to topple, would threaten the garden. That said, Tanaka acknowledged that he was willing to redesign the garden if asked to do so.

After further discussion, it was agreed that a professional opinion from a certified arborist would be obtained and presented to the Commissioners prior to a decision regarding the proposed garden design.

Lewis talked about the opportunity – stating that the future of Lithia Park was at a crossroads. He highlighted the Lithia Park Master Plan currently underway, noting that the garden was part of a 100-year planning process that would ensure that the Park sparkles for the foreseeable future. With the help of a world-renowned Japanese garden designer, and the funding from a generous benefactor, the garden could become a significant jewel in the crown that is Lithia Park.

Lewis shared stories from Ashland’s past, of similar crossroads and the resulting impacts; urging his fellow Commissioners to consider the Park in its entirety rather than focus on individual trees.

COST AND REVENUE ANALYSIS DISCUSSION (INFORMATION)

Dials noted that APRC began reviewing fees, charges, revenue and expenses in 2006. She stated that there were several different ways to measure cost recovery (the amount of money collected in fees or charges). Dials introduced cost recovery data for fiscal year 2017/2018, indicating that units of measurement would differ depending upon the program or service. Most of the direct and indirect costs were reflected in the data – including personnel expenses, contract services, supplies, materials, and utilities. In response to a question by Gardiner, Dials stated that the frequency of reporting was dictated by the Commissioner’s preferences – and that the report could be prepared either annual or bi-annually.

Dials explained that although cost recovery data was tracked and managed, it simply represented the subsidization of the program or service – and was not a reflection of the value to the community. The numbers as tracked or estimated are as follows:

Program/Service	# of Visits or units	Revenues	Expenses	COST RECOVERY
<i>Daniel Mayer Pool</i>	<i>13,504 visits</i>	<i>\$ 94,919.68</i>	<i>\$172,241</i>	<i>55%</i>
<i>Calle Guanajuato</i>	<i>4733.75 sq. ft.</i>	<i>\$ 32,019.50</i>	<i>\$22,634.00</i>	<i>141%</i>
<i>Ice Rink</i>	<i>21,309 visits</i>	<i>\$118,869.37</i>	<i>\$174,000.87</i>	<i>68%</i>
<i>Oak Knoll Golf</i>	<i>11,400 rounds</i>	<i>\$223,383.87</i>	<i>\$502,116.84</i>	<i>44%</i>
<i>Nature Center</i>	<i>17,937.94 visits</i>	<i>\$33,212.94</i>	<i>\$328,761</i>	<i>9%</i>
<i>Community Gardens</i>	<i>81 gardeners</i>	<i>\$3670.25</i>	<i>\$19183.39</i>	<i>19%</i>

<i>Ball Fields</i>	<i>20,200 visits</i>	<i>\$52,287</i>	<i>\$106,719.48</i>	<i>49%</i>
<i>Park Rentals</i>	<i>103 rentals</i>	<i>\$9,675</i>	<i>\$17,147</i>	<i>56%</i>
<i>Pioneer Hall</i>	<i>401 rentals</i>	<i>\$7,1299</i>	<i>\$26,170.733</i>	<i>27%</i>
<i>Community Center</i>	<i>558 rentals</i>	<i>\$37,942</i>	<i>432,600.14</i>	<i>116%</i>

Dials commented on each category individually, noting for example, that the **Daniel Meyer Pool**: operated 10 months of the year. During the winter season, the pool is leased to various groups, such as the Rogue Valley Master Swimmers.

The **Calle Guanajuato** is leased to vendors and artisans from mid-March through mid-November of each year. Costs include custodial time, staff time to administer contracts, and Parks staff time for maintenance and upkeep.

The **Darex Family Ice Rink** operates from mid-November through late February. Expenses for FY 2017/2018 were higher than normal due to one-time costs for retrofit of a donated trailer. Dials noted that expenses should decrease by approximately \$11,000 for the next FY.

There followed a short discussion initiated by Commissioner Lewis that highlighted year over year increasing revenues and decreasing expenses. Black noted that the expenses had been refined, resulting in the addition of expenses not previously counted. Results excluding the additional expenses would have increased the cost-savings.

Per unit measurements for the **Oak Knoll Golf Course** included the number of rounds, driving range users and gift certificate holders. Special events held at the Golf Course, were not included in the data. Dials indicated that revenue from annual fees, golf cart fees, driving range fees, beer, wine and merchandise was substantial. Maintenance expense, communications and operations accounted for 3 full-time staff. (the unit of measurement is by FTE's or full-time equivalent), temporary staff and seasonal staff.

A short general discussion followed that determined a need to change the report to differentiate between the Oak Knoll Golf Course and Oak Knoll Clubhouse rentals.

Nature Center tracking included school programs, special events, community events, and visitors to the Park. Dials stated that in future reports, visitors would be represented more accurately because of the addition of trail counters. Revenue comprised of community workshops and educational programs. Operating costs for communications, office supplies, contractor services, staff time (3 FTE), and temporary employees were a large part of the expenses. The Community Gardens – which is managed by Nature Center staff was counted separately.

Landt inquired about the number of visits from Ashland schools versus the number of visitors from schools located elsewhere. Dials replied that school programs accounted for approximately 2352 visits, while community programs accounted for 879. 180 people participated in offsite programs, and 2500 people visited the Nature Center. All in all, an estimated 7400 people visited the Nature Park. School programs did not differentiate between School Districts. Landt explained that a request for additional educational programs could be accommodated if the programs were not substantially subsidized.

Discussion focused on the amount of funding needed to subsidize school programs for Ashland versus the amount of subsidy for schools outside the Ashland School District. Black stated that school revenue was counted but expenses included unrelated costs.

Lewis noted that educational programs were labor intensive – with current staffing of 3 FTE's. He commented that the programs higher rate of subsidy pointed to the higher intrinsic value of the service to the community. Lewis stated that the efficiencies were directly related to staff costs and that it would be helpful to know how cost-effective the programs were.

Gardiner asked about expenses for maintenance of the natural area as well as for the ballfields. Dials replied that maintenance costs of approximately \$23,300 was primarily Parks staff time. This included maintenance of the ball fields, help with irrigation and the gardens, as well as general maintenance.

Black stated that the school programs could be tracked and reported separately. Landt agreed, stated that the split reporting should occur at a minimum of each biennium.

Community Gardens

Dials reported that with 81 gardens, the count was for 81 gardeners. Approximately 10% of the personnel cost is Nature Center Staff, with the remainder incorporating contract administration and Parks maintenance.

The Grove

Dials stated that tracking units for the Grove was somewhat more complicated. The count includes people who rent the building, those who come to the programs, and others who come for outside services such as AARP tax consulting, people who are interviewed by the volunteer coordinator, and people with general questions. Parks maintenance is minimal but offset by increase office supplies and other program costs. Staff time includes office staff, a Recreation Manager, Volunteer Coordinator and administrative costs.

Landt commented that some of the expenses were office expenses, as well as a custodial contract and utilities that do not provide revenue from Recreational programs. He advocated for a realistic accounting of office expenses as separate from recreational program costs and services.

Ball Fields

Dials stated that the percentages listed represents the Little League fields at Hunter Park as well as those at North Mountain Park. Revenue is derived from lights and user fees – charged per each season. She explained that the fees were minimal – approximately from \$150 to \$300 per entity. Ashland School District contributed revenue of approximately \$45,000 for use of the ball fields. Electrical expenses and maintenance supplies are approximately \$5000. The charge for Parks staff time equates to 1 FTE annually. Ball field expenses account for \$102,000 of the \$106,719.48.

Pioneer Hall

Dials noted that a portion of the rentals were revenue producing – but that there were unpaid rentals as well. She stated use of the facility as a homeless shelter and/or for meals were services provided to the community without charge. The City of Ashland pays the utilities, but APRC incurs approximately \$900 annually for maintenance expenses.

Community Center

Dials relayed that the Center was well used. She stated that it was currently undergoing a cosmetic refurbishment designed to increase the desirability of the facility and that revenue was expected to increase as well.

Dials presented a series of graphs outlining a comparison APRC programs and services per highest percentage of cost recovery. She indicated that the Calle was the most effective program with a percentage of return at 141%, with the Community gardens (19%) and the Nature Center (9%) the least.

Not included in the analysis, were Senior programs and services. Black explained that the new Superintendent of Senior Services had requested a year to prepare for the analysis, given the newly instituted reorganization of the Center and its programs. He stated that the goal was to provide the seniors services needed in a way that was fully funded and the development of revenue sources would be postponed for a period of time.

There followed a brief discussion about the value of the percentage comparisons. Landt pointed out that although the Community Gardens were at 19% cost recovery the dollar amounts were minimal. Dials agreed, noting another dollars and cents example – namely that the Golf Course is the most expensive service offered, but it also returned the most revenue. Landt highlighted the number of users – stating that the Ice Rink had twice as many users as the Golf Course, with considerably less subsidy. The Daniel Mayer Pool attracted about 20% more people than the Golf Course with four times less subsidy. Landt stressed the significance of dollars and cents values rather than an apple to apples comparison. He noted that managing the budget more efficiently – getting the most bang for the buck – was an important component of a cost-recovery analysis.

Lewis stated that the Golf Course had also undergone changes as did the Senior Center. He suggested that the new Golf Course Manager be given time to make improvements. Lewis advocated for the intrinsic value of the recreational services provided – particularly for the more expense programs to administer such as the Daniel Mayer Pool.

Landt commented that it was important for the Commissioners to continue to monitor large budgetary costs and to evaluate the highest use of the lands under APRC stewardship with the initial goal of making the programs and service work as efficiently as possible.

Bell asked about an increase in the Golf Course budget to facilitate expansion of Golf Course programs and services as well as promotions. There followed a short discussion about budgetary efficiencies. Lewis highlighted the impact of deferred maintenance for the Golf Course, stating that deferred maintenance was continual for the foreseeable future. He also noted seasonal variations that greatly affect revenue for the Golf Course – such as the many weeks of wildfire smoke that prevented people from golfing the previous summer.

In response to a question by Gardiner, Dials suggested that she prepare some potential goals for cost recovery for Commissioner review and/or approval. Lewis noted that the data provided a starting point for important discussions that facilitate good stewardship.

Bell asked about accounting for deferred maintenance. Black explained the difference between funding for general operations and funding for capital improvements. He stated that the cost recovery account, for example, is detailing actual dollars – revenue and expenses – from the General operating fund. Funded and known unfunded liabilities over a certain dollar amount are recorded under capital improvements. Black talked about ways to quantify the

unknowns, stating that a Master Plan for each of the facilities would help to reduce the unknowns and quantify deferred maintenance.

In response to a comment by Landt, Black stated that determining the capital improvement priorities was a component of goal setting.

GOAL SETTING – PUBLIC INPUT PROCESS

Black proposed February 22, 2019 from 1:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. or 7:00 p.m. for setting goals for the upcoming fiscal year and next biennium. He suggested that the goal setting be limited to the one day, stating that any follow-up could be completed at a work session or regular meeting.

Black proposed a systemic approach to public input – describing a process completed by the City Council that had been successful with the idea that APRC might try something similar. Alternatively, he proposed a listening session as a way to gather information prior to goal setting.

Lewis recalled that several groups had given presentations during goal setting two years previously. He commented that it had been helpful in establishing goal setting priorities. Black advocated for both a listening session for input from individuals as well as presentations from groups who are more focused on a particular mission.

Discussion focused on a number of ways to connect with the public for feedback opportunities. Gardiner noted that a February article in the Park Views could provide information about the goal setting process and ways to provide feedback. Landt suggested a survey with three open ended questions. Solicitations could also include email with links on the APRC and City of Ashland websites and APRC's Facebook page. Bell proposed a canvass of Ashland neighborhoods. Dials indicated that paper surveys at the Senior Center and the Grove would be helpful.

It was agreed that solicitations would include a basic survey, Park Views, a press release, information and links on the APRC website and Facebook page, a listening session (to be held at the Study Session on February 11, 2019) and paper surveys available at APRC facilities.

SUBCOMMITTEE REORGANIZATION

Gardiner introduced a plan to reorganize and consolidate APRC Subcommittees. He proposed five Subcommittees as follows:

- Aquatics (Pool) Subcommittee
This Subcommittee will take the place of the current Pool Ad-Hoc Subcommittee.
- Dogs Subcommittee
This Subcommittee would be combined with Current Parks, Conservation and Maintenance Subcommittee's.
- Real Estate/Open Space Subcommittee
This Subcommittee would incorporate the Long-Range Park Planning Subcommittee.
- Signs, Plaques & Memorials Subcommittee
This Subcommittee would be combined with Current Parks, Conservation and Maintenance Subcommittee
- Recreation Subcommittee

This is a newly formed Subcommittee that will act as an Advisory Board for Recreation programs and services.

APRC representatives also hold positions as a voting member for the Ashland Parks Foundation and the Forest Lands Commission and liaison with the Ashland Public Arts Commission and Joint Powers Committee.

Landt advocated for a stand-alone Subcommittee for Conservation. He conveyed a sense of urgency when working towards a reduced carbon footprint and stated that a separate Subcommittee devoted to Conservation was a value statement that signaled APRC's commitment.

Lewis suggested that conservation was an important component of all APRC Committees and Subcommittees. He talked about the Golf Subcommittee as a case in point. With conservation as a priority, the Subcommittee could begin to plan for reducing dependence on gas-powered golf carts in preparation for more energy efficient models. After further discussion, it was agreed that conservation should be a priority for APRC at every level.

Gardiner stated that condensing subcommittees would standardize the processes and allow for more frequent – quarterly or monthly - meetings of substance.

ITEMS FROM COMISSIONERS AND STAFF

Lewis suggested that a future topic for discussion might be how to reduce the carbon footprint of APRC's special events. He noted as an example, the amount of trash generated by the Salmon Festival dinner – a successful event appreciated by all – but one that generated multiple bags of trash.

ADJORNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 8:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

The Minutes are not a verbatim record. The narrative has been condensed and paraphrased at times to reflect the discussions and decisions made. Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission Study Sessions and Regular meetings are digitally recorded and are available upon online.

This is a time for a paradigm shift in our thinking about the future of Lithia Park.

Twenty one years ago when my family moved to Ashland, Lithia Park was indeed the "jewel" of Ashland. Wonderful conifer specimens, historic design, great picnic areas, stretches of clean, green lawns, a Japanese style garden, beautiful roses and annual flower gardens. It sparkled and tourists and locals reveled in its beauty.

Today some of the sparkle is gone and gardens lost, but the Japanese style garden remains with "good bones".

Before us now is an opportunity to take this garden and develop it into a truly authentic Japanese garden that will incorporate the many outstanding maple trees, evergreens and conifers that presently exist within the garden area and serve as a tourist destination and special place for Ashland citizens to relax, meditate and gain solace.

Please recognize this is a gift to the people of Ashland. The garden design submitted by renowned landscape architect Toro Tanaka, is stunning. Tanaka who appreciates the potential influence of climate change has included recycling (for the water features), and proposed the addition of plants that will have a good chance for long-term survival.

In recent discussions there has been a suggestion to shift the landscape design over 10 feet to allow two large Douglas fir trees (a vulnerable species) to remain. This will clearly have an impact on the integrity of the landscape design and most likely preclude incorporation of some of the existing plants, including mature maple trees that are critical to the proposed design.

The decision to sacrifice the two Douglas firs would be softened by the use of their wood in the construction of the Asian style wall designed to protect and enhance the Garden.

We suggest that this is a time for you as a Park's Commissioner and spokesperson for the general public to leave your personal biases on the table and consider making a decision for the greater good, for our beautiful Park and therefore our Community.

Donna Rhee

[REDACTED]

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
LISTENING SESSION

Notes

January 24, 2019

ATTENDEES

Present: Commissioners Landt, Lewis, Director Black; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Analysts Cottle and Kiewel

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gardiner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at Senior Center Grove 1699 Holmes Ave, Ashland, OR.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

• *Japanese Garden Design in Lithia Park*

According to the sign-in sheet 16 Ashland residents attended the Japanese Garden Listening Session held on January 24, 2019. The following is either a compilation of statements made or a synthesis of questions and/or concerns.

Questions and concerns

- Would it be shortsighted to remove the trees?
- Could we have access to the arborist's report?
- Will the cherry trees have enough light?
- What about the security of the garden?
- How will the enclosed garden be accessed? Will the gate discourage people from entering the garden?
- What are the times when the garden would be closed?
- What is the plan for maintenance and how will the additional maintenance be paid for?
- Will admission be charged?
- What are the provisions for keeping people safe within the enclosure?

Comments and opinions included the following:

- Appreciation for the design's authenticity
- A tremendous opportunity for a beautiful garden
- Keep the design as it is
- Donor said that keeping the trees would not be a deal breaker
- The cherry trees will be beautiful
- The design should not be messed with
- The bamboo will eventually be of equal value as the firs
- 10 firs are still a nice stand of trees
- Taking out the firs makes sense to accommodate the garden

- Consider moving the garden to accommodate the trees
- The trees are part of Ashland's heritage (and should remain)
- Consider moving the bamboo garden closer to the wisteria
- Consider moving the garden upslope
- Plan doesn't meet the criteria of the Parks Commission as stated on website

- There should be harmony between the two cultures
- Contact the boy scouts to let them know that the trees are going to be removed
- Do the Master Plan first?
- Removing the trees will affect the roots of all of the trees – not just the two that would be removed
- We are disrupting the ecosystem – large conifers capture carbon

ADJORNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:10 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

DRAFT

The Notes are not a verbatim record. Narratives have been condensed and paraphrased to reflect the discussion as described by APRC staff notes.

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Minutes
January 28, 2019

Present: Commissioners Bell, Gardiner, Heller, Landt, Lewis; Director Black; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Analyst Kiewel; Assistant Manuel

Absent: City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gardiner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street, Ashland

APPROVAL OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MINUTES

Executive Session	December 4, 2018
Pool Ad-Hoc Subcommittee	December 5, 2018
Golf Course Subcommittee	December 12, 2018

Study Session November 19, 2018

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Minutes of November 19, 2018 as presented. Heller seconded.
The vote was all yes.

Regular Meeting December 10, 2018

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the Minutes of December 10, 2018 as presented. Gardiner seconded.
The vote was all yes.

INTRODUCTION

Recreation Superintendent Rachel Dials introduced new Golf Course Manager Patrick Oropallo.

Oropallo talked briefly about his background, noting that he had learned to play golf as a child at the Oak Knoll Golf Course. He stated that he was pleased to return to the Ashland community as Manager for the Golf Course, stressing his desire to convey his passion for the game to the youth of Ashland.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- *Open Forum*

Terry Doyle of 462 Allison St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Doyle noted that his deceased wife, Chiyemi Katsuyoshi Doyle had been born in a Tule Lake Oregon Japanese Internment camp in June of 1945. He asked for permission to erect a memorial in her honor, suggesting that a Japanese Lantern (or Toro) would be appropriate. Doyle relayed that he would defray the costs for acquiring and placing the Lantern in a suitable place within the Japanese Garden. (see Attachment I)

Martin Stadmueller of 2248 Lupine Dr. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

As President of the Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association, Stadmueller advocated for additional mountain bike trails – noting a particular need for trails that would serve young riders. He suggested that APRC consider ground

for a pump track that would prepare riders for safe travels when skilled enough to ride in Ashland's watershed. Stadmueller also proposed a low-angle easy trail for novices along the east side of Lithia Park. He indicated that such a trail would provide safe access from town as well as reducing traffic along roads that lead to Ashland's watershed as well as removing riders from Winburn Way.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS (Action)

Motion: Landt moved to approve Michael Gardiner as Chair of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Board of Commissioners for 2019. Heller seconded.

The vote was all yes.

Gardiner accepted the nomination.

Motion: Lewis moved to approve Rick Landt as Vice-Chair of the Ashland Parks and Recreation Board of Commissioners for 2019. Bell seconded.

The vote was all yes.

Landt accepted the nomination.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Japanese Garden (Action)

Tanaka introduced a rendering of the proposed garden, noting that it would modestly enlarge the existing garden and provide easier access into the garden. The garden would offer an authentic view of Japanese culture and garden design.

Tanaka stated that people seemed to be in agreement that the proposed design met the project's criteria transforming the current Japanese-style garden into a beautiful traditional garden steeped in the elements of Japanese design. He acknowledged concerns about removal of two Douglas firs in order to facilitate the garden's design, stating that in his opinion, the health of the tree closest to that garden was problematic. Because of the lean, further growth (if any) would be limited and if toppled by the wind, there was a potential for catastrophic destruction of the garden.

Black provided a visual display of the existing garden with an overlay depicting the proposed expansion. He explained that the garden would expand from .5 acre to approximately .65 acre – an additional 6500 square feet. He stated that the original Japanese Garden had been very basic -and by 1924 there were only two mature trees in the area. He talked about the current interest in enhancing the garden that began with incorporation into the Lithia Park Master Plan. In August 2018, workshops were held to discover what people wanted in improvements to the garden. In October 2018, a conceptual drawing was presented to the Commissioners at a public meeting. Additional meetings were held since then to discuss the plans. Interested citizens were included all along the way and recommendations from the Tree Commission and the Historic Commission were sought.

Black explained that ADA (Americans for Disabilities Act) access to the garden became a guiding principle based upon public input. People also wanted an immersive experience – the experience of being in a garden that was authentic in detail, honoring Japanese culture. Black noted that there were several features in the current garden that were not accurate - and APRC was working to rectify that.

The Douglas fir trees were also a major theme. APRC had received approximately 80 written public comments regarding removal. Black expressed his appreciation for the public feedback.

Black reported that a certified arborist from outside the area (Michael Oxman of Seattle Washington) was asked to evaluate the trees and report his findings. Oxman stated that the two leaning trees were healthy and that removal of the trees could affect the remaining firs. Trees 1 and 2 had protected the Grove from the wind and were part of a network of roots that were underground. Removal could jeopardize that system. Oxman estimated that the remaining lifespan of the two trees was approximately 20 years. (see Attachment II)

Black stated that no public dollars had been spent on construction of the garden. He acknowledged that ongoing maintenance would increase – with current annual maintenance costing approximately \$20,000 for the .5 acre. When completed, maintenance for the enlarged and enhanced garden was estimated to be \$80,000. The Ashland Parks Foundation donor has agreed to defray \$60,000 of the \$80,000 maintenance costs to facilitate the ongoing maintenance expenses going forward. Black emphasized that with the maintenance costs covered, there would be no need to charge for admission.

Black noted that the Parks Foundation was asking for approval to move forward and if approved, it was anticipated that construction would begin as soon as was feasible. The project would be completed in the Fall of 2020.

Donor **Jeff Mangin** was called forward.

Mangin relayed that he had been working with the Ashland Parks Foundation to develop an authentic Japanese garden. The \$1.3 million dollars was gifted in honor of his late wife – Beatrice Mangin Marechal. Mangin stated that not only was he willing to finance the construction costs, he would offset maintenance costs of \$60,000 annually until such time as the garden becomes self-sufficient.

Mangin talked about the time spent in the discovery phase of the garden – the many public meetings, the gathering of information compiled from those meetings, the process of choosing a renowned landscape architect and the subsequent plan for enhancement of the Japanese garden. He spoke of the give and take - the compromises and sacrifices made. Mangin stated that the design that evolved was a best effort to balance “the desire for authenticity, respect for the integrity of the design and the desires of the public.” (see Attachment III) Mangin acknowledged that approval would mean removal of two Douglas Fir trees, stating that removal would be offset by development of a beautiful garden.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

Gardiner reported that Ashland’s City attorney had reviewed the public meeting protocol to date and determined that there had been no protocol violations throughout the process.

Gardiner also noted that a citizen had asked him to recuse himself from the proceedings due to a perceived conflict of interest. He stated that there was no conflict of interest - per findings from a legal review.

Charlotte Nuessle of 156 Oregon St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Nuessle advised consideration of the impact that climate change would have on Ashland’s watershed when making a decision regarding the removal and/or replacement of trees for the Japanese Garden project. She questioned whether climate change had been considered as a factor in development of the Japanese Garden design. She suggested that careful deliberation take place from the perspective that healthy trees could better withstand wildfire.

Larry Korn of 465 Taylor St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Korn relayed his preference for a modified design for the Japanese Garden that would include the Douglas firs.

Horace Quick of 910 Glendower St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Quick emphasized the impact that wind would have on the remaining trees in the Grove, should the two Douglas fir trees be removed. He talked about the people who had planted the Douglas Firs, noting that they did so knowing that the trees would remain beyond their lifetime. He advised relocation of the bamboo grove to accommodate the existing grove of Douglas firs.

Quick also inquired about the maintenance costs and whether economic factors such as inflation had been anticipated when arriving at the proposed dollar amount for future maintenance.

Barry Eggener of 1775 Bristol St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Eggener reviewed his background in landscaping, including studies of Japanese gardening. He described the atmospheric impact that trees provide – in particular older trees. He proposed incorporation of the two firs into the design.

Julie Norman of Helman St & **Marlene Stowe** of 290 Arnos Rd. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Norman spoke in favor of retaining the trees and provided written comments as well as an informal poll resulted in 64 people opining for the retention of the firs with 2 people against. The comments were admitted into the record (see Attachment IV).

Stowe read a prepared statement describing her career as a forest ecologist. She stated that removal of the two relatively large Douglas Fir trees would change the light and wind environment as well as the below ground environment for the remaining cluster of Douglas Fir trees – potentially putting the entire cluster at risk. Stowe emphasized the 100 years of growth that had resulted in the now mature trees, noting that they were healthy and still growing. She recommended that the firs remain in place.

JoAnne Eggers of 221 Granite St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Eggers indicated that an alternate location for the bamboo forest – up-slope from what was depicted in the proposed plan – would allow the two Douglas Firs to remain in place without sacrificing any of the elements that would constitute a beautiful, authentic Japanese garden. She described components that in her opinion, are expressions of the essence of Lithia Park, advocating for the existing trees.

Eggers was critical of the public process generally. She emphasized a goal articulated early on that stated that APRC would do everything possible to preserve and respect the existing trees without encroaching on the contiguous spaces surrounding the Japanese Garden. Eggers stated that there was no need to destroy the Douglas fir trees, indicating that they were considered a part of Ashland's native culture and should not be removed to accommodate Japanese culture. Eggers stressed her respect for both cultures and the harmony that could be created if both were accommodated.

Bryan Holley of 324 Liberty St. Ashland OR. was called forward.

Holley noted his background as the former chair of the Ashland Tree Commission. He highlighted what he called "the objectification of trees" with regard to the Japanese Garden project specifically and as a common belief system generally. He stated that in fact, the two Douglas firs were living beings and worthy of the same consideration that is currently given to other living things. He advocated for postponement of any action for at least a month and recommended a book called The Hidden Life of Trees by Peter Wohlleben.

Maddie Dirienzo of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Dirienzo talked about her experience exploring the gardens of Japan. She described the gardens as magical places, noting that they provided spiritual comfort. Dirienzo stated that others experience similar feelings about natural forests or in this case, in a grove of Douglas Fir trees. That said, Dirienzo applauded benefactor Jeff Mangin's generous gift, stating that a renovated Japanese Garden would benefit the community as a whole and create a legacy for the people of Ashland. She expressed a concern, based upon past experiences in Ashland, that a compromise might jeopardize the entire project. Dirienzo noted that the public process was a difficult one – particularly for donors. She urged the Commissioners to support the larger vision – one that would define the future of Lithia Park – and create a world class Japanese Garden.

Mark Dirienzo of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Dirienzo thanked the Ashland Parks Foundation for working with the donor to develop an authentic Japanese garden. He described the positive long-term economic impact that the garden would establish for the City of Ashland and its residents.

Dirienzo urged the Commissioners to consider themselves *founders of the Park* who have the responsibility to define the Park and its future. He highlighted the struggle that deciding controversial matters entails, noting that those types of decisions resulted in infrastructure for Lithia Park that would otherwise not be enjoyed. He noted that many times, trees or plants were sacrificed to accomplish components such as the bandshell and the duck ponds. He also spoke of the importance of donors and their contributions, stating that extraordinary accomplishments were difficult to achieve without them.

Finally, Dirienzo noted the complexities of designing a Japanese garden, stating that changing the placement of an element or elements could cause a ripple effect with negative consequences.

Carol Command of 635 Ashland St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Command stated that the proposed new design for the Japanese Garden was a wonderful gift – one that she did not want to associate with sacrifice. She stressed the importance of saving the trees, noting that there were only 3% of the old growth trees left in Oregon. Command asked the Commissioners to compromise so that Ashland could keep the trees and enjoy a new garden.

Sarah Mix of 243 N. Mountain Ave. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Mix highlighted her native American heritage as a member of the Cherokee nation. She commented that the Portland Japanese Garden had incorporated some very large trees into the garden – contributing to the poetry of design that the garden expressed.

Mix stated that she was concerned about maintenance costs for a new garden and the extent of the donor's commitment to defray them.

Nichole Danziger of 192 Van Ness Ave, Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Danziger talked about the arborist's analysis regarding the Douglas Fir Tree Grove, referencing his opinion that removing the two trees could cause damage to the entire Grove. She noted the importance of the wind and sun factors as well as the synergy of the underground environment. Danziger recommended a book written by Suzanne Simard called How Trees Talk to each Other.

Danziger had questions about access to the garden – given that the proposed garden would be fenced and gated. She asked about hours of operation, expressing a concern about limited access.

Rivers Brown of 2067 Ashland St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Brown described a walk-through Lithia Park, noting his appreciation for the garden's ambiance. He talked about the existing Sycamore Grove, stating that those particular trees were not as healthy as those in the Douglas Fir Grove. Brown suggested replacing the Sycamore Grove with the proposed Japanese Garden – noting that the Douglas Fir Grove would remain in place and the garden could be accommodated.

Mary Kwart of 1467 Siskiyou Blvd. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Kwart shared her expertise in forestry and familiarity with the gardens of Japan. She stated that in Japan, Japanese gardens often incorporate mature trees into the garden's design, protecting them with bamboo stakes. She advocated for keeping the trees – noting Ashland's status as a Tree City USA.

Darwin Thusius of 897 Beach St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Thusius drew comparisons between removal of the two Douglas Firs to statements made by the then President Reagan about logging old growth timber. He questioned the donor's right to direct the use of his money to achieve an end. Thusius likened the donation to a hypothetical example of a donor converting the duck pond into a pond for other uses espoused by a donor such as rowboating.

According to Thusius, a former Parks Commissioner and longtime Ashland environmentalist stated that one Douglas fir was worth an entire Japanese garden. Thusius questioned the need to remove the two firs characterizing them as survivors who had survived 100 years. He likened the dilemma as similar to one that happened years ago where the Mt. Ashland Ski organization questioned the need to remove trees for construction of ski runs. The contractor responded to public opposition by withdrawing the plan. Thusius stated that the contractor noted that he would not take on a project unless there was widespread support.

Michael Dawkins of 646 East Main was called forward.

Dawkins noted that although he was President of the Ashland Garden Club, he would be representing his personal views. He stated that he had been fortunate to study under Chet Corey – one of the master gardeners who had shaped Lithia Park. He noted that after a lifetime of gardening - one of the lessons learned was that mistakes can be made and that sacrifice happens when it becomes necessary.

Dawkins talked about re-designing the proposed Japanese garden – likening the design to a piece of art. Once created, altering the design could be problematic. He noted the Japanese influence in creating a masterpiece – indicating the complex interplay between texture and scale.

Dawkins relayed that as a native Ashlander, he was dismayed with the direction the negative comments made. He stated that there were disparaging remarks made that disparaged the benefactor and his gift.

Candace Cave of 348 N. Main St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Cave emphasized her love of trees as evidenced by the fifteen Incense Cedars that she planted in her small yard. She described their growth – now at nineteen feet as a small forest surrounding her small corner lot. Cave also stated that she loved Japanese gardens and that the atmosphere in such a garden was different than the atmosphere she experiences in the forest.

Cave relayed her conviction that Lithia Park should be as diverse as possible and an authentic Japanese Garden should be facilitated. If that meant removing two out of twelve Douglas Fir trees, the sacrifice was a reasonable one. She commented that it was her belief that the design could not be changed without disrupting the entire garden. If found to be necessary, the only option would be to start over. Cave questioned the need to do so, however, listing all of the factors already in place or underway. She advocated for a Douglas Fir Grove of 10 trees and a formal Japanese Garden as designed.

Zed Lancaster of 348 N.E. Main St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Lancaster spoke in terms of three spirits – the trees, the garden, and the community. He stated that in any relationship, sacrifices happen and if two trees must be removed to retain the integrity of the garden's design then the sacrifice was reasonable. He talked about the benefits of the Garden, noting the places of respite and tranquility that that Garden would provide. Lancaster stated that visitors would come to experience the garden and it would lift their spirits as well.

Cate Hartzell of 859 C. St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Hartzell noted the importance of sustainability and the benefits of protecting mature trees. She referred to a study underway in Ashland's watershed that was to document forest edge effects -a phenomenon that seems to increase the possibility of wildfire in the region. Hartzell indicated that the potential for wildfires was a concern of Ashland residents.

Hartzell talked about the value of shared spaces and the importance of trees. She expressed a concern about introducing invasive species such as bamboo into the Park. Hartzell commented that Parks had a responsibility to set an example in ecosystem management and in prioritizing projects that would help to address climate change.

Hartzell questioned the privatization of parks and the setting of boundaries that were not compatible with community values.

Christ Hardy of 1193 Ashland Mine Rd. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Hardy described his background as a professional landscaper, stating that he was from a farming family, was a plant person and an outdoors person. He noted the science of long-term impacts of climate change and the carbon impacts of removing old growth trees.

Hardy spoke about the youth and the importance of getting the young ones involved. He suggested that Commission work to obtain feedback regarding the trees from Ashland's youth. He asked the Commissioners ensure that they are acting with integrity.

Jean Fyfer of 215 Sherman St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Fyfer expressed gratitude that the project was under consideration because of the benefits the garden would bring to the community. She also said that the Grove of Douglas Fir trees was historically and culturally significant – circumstances that should be considered prior to removing the two trees. Fyfer stated the Douglas Fir Grove had historical and cultural relevance to Lithia Park.

Fyfer noted that in Ashland private citizens must consult and abide by recommendations of the Tree Commission if removing a tree. She stated that APRC should do the same.

Angie Thusius of 897 Beach St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Thusius referred to the Parks mission to preserve and maintain the parks and open spaces in Ashland -efforts that help to avoid negative ramifications. Removing the two Douglas fir trees when they are healthy and still growing would disrupt the interlinking of the root system of the remaining trees. She indicated that in her opinion, there is no argument that supports the killing of the grandfather trees.

Thusius noted that APRC had accepted the standards developed by the City of Ashland – therefore the Tree Commission's recommendations should stand. That said, Thusius noted Japanese Garden architect Toru Tanaka had stated that he could work around the trees - a more palatable solution than removing them completely. She went on to describe the enchantment that the "garden of giants" provides.

Thusius urged the Commission to accommodate both the Fir trees and the new garden.

Dara Crockett of 162 5th St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Crockett explained her philosophy regarding the trees, as an elementary school teacher and student of Japanese culture. She stated that the venerable old trees were elders – and as such much respected in Japanese culture. She asked the Commission to send the children of Ashland the message that Ashlanders don't throw old things out when they are inconvenient – rather allowances are made.

Cat Gould of 114 Van Ness Ashland, OR. 97504.

Gould stated that she had been watching a pair of red-shouldered hawks that have been nesting in the larger of the two Douglas Fir trees. She noted that when the design for the Japanese Garden was presented to the Tree Commission, the hawk swooped through the meeting. She said that red-shouldered hawks were not common in the area and retaining them was a matter of concern.

Gould also expressed a concern about the ongoing maintenance costs that the City would have to absorb once the donor's annual maintenance contributions had ceased. She asked that the donor's contributions be clarified in a contract along with plans to maintain the garden once his support has been withdrawn. Gould also noted that the donor had indicated that keeping the trees would not be a deal breaker for the project. She asked that the Commissioners reconsider and develop a plan that works for everyone.

Michael Bryant of Ashland was called forward.

Bryant stated that he had recently taken his parents on a tour of Lithia Park and they were able to view the proposed plan, agreeing that it was beautiful. He stated that the information circulating was somewhat confusing – with some maintaining that the design could be changed and others stating that it could not. Bryant advocated for a compromise – so that the trees could remain and the new garden could be built.

Bryant praised the donor for his willingness to pay for construction of the garden as well as donate an annual fee for maintenance. He stated that he believed that the Commissioners would make a good decision – one that would allow the Japanese Garden project to move forward and the Douglas Fir Grove to continue to grow and thrive.

Victor Novic of Ashland was called forward.

Novic stated that in some gardens in Japan the trees were worshipped and surrounded by prayer ropes. He suggested that the veneration of the trees should be a characteristic of Ashland's Japanese garden.

Novic reiterated a concern regarding access to the garden, stating that the garden should be enjoyed at all times and access should not be restricted.

PUBLIC HEARING CLOSED

In response to a question by Bell, Director Black indicated that Lithia Park was closed from 11:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. and that it was assumed that the Japanese Garden would follow the same guidelines. He explained that the fencing and gate were preventative measures to keep the wildlife from damaging the garden.

Landt read a prepared statement as follows:

I am disappointed that the re-envisioning of the Japanese Garden has moved us towards a zero-sum game, where there would be clear winners and losers. I am frustrated that Ashland Parks Foundation staff has put Parks Commissioners in a position where we have to take sides, by asking us either to protect the pair of one-hundred-year-old four-foot diameter Douglas fir trees or cut the trees so the Garden plan can be implemented exactly as shown on the presented plan.

I believe most people in this room, and most of the eighty plus people whose emails I have read on the topic, and most people in Ashland would support a well-designed, authentic Japanese Garden and the preservation of the Douglas fir trees.

I believe a win/win solution is possible and reasonable. What I am going to propose has come from comments of Ashland citizens.

I am going to make every effort to vote for the Japanese Garden renovation if I possibly can, because it is a generous gift and because I believe it will enhance the current Japanese-style Garden and Lithia Park as a whole. In the spirit of offering a win/win solution I move:

Motion: Landt moved to approve with the Park's Commissioners acceptance, the presented design of the Japanese Garden with the following conditions:

- 1) All twelve of the Douglas Fir Boy Scout Grove to be retained.
- 2) Construction and any other work within the drip line of the Douglas Fir Boy Scout Grove would only occur as recommended by certified arborists with the goal of maximizing protection for these trees above and below ground. The exception to the above being that the area within the drip line south of the existing north south sidewalk by the Douglas fir trees may require root disturbance to gain ADA access and other reasons. It is understood that work in this area would include supervision by certified arborists but reasonable measures to allow Garden construction and planting work would be allowed.
- 3) The garden may be expanded into the adjacent mostly lawn areas shown on the accompanying diagram to compensate for the areas lost around the Douglas fir trees.
- 4) With acceptance of this motion, Park Commissioners sign off on the project, in an effort to expedite completion of design, as long as the Parks Foundation, staff and Japanese Garden Committee approves the final plan, consistent with this motion.
- 5) All parties would agree that new issues would not trigger reconsideration by Parks Commissioners of the modified Garden.
- 6) Park Commissioners authorize that work may begin on digging up plants to store for future inclusion in the renovated Garden and other preliminary Garden construction work.
- 7) Plantings that occur within the drip line of the Douglas fir trees shall not be invasive plants like bamboo.

Bell seconded the motion.

Commissioner Discussion:

Bell commended donor Mangin for his extremely generous offer to development an authentic Japanese Garden. That said, Bell explained that the garden would generate a large amount of carbon pollution and the most efficient solution for carbon sequestration was mid-age Douglas Fir trees. For that reason, he expressed the view that it was important to leave the two Douglas firs in place.

Bell stated that in his opinion, the proposed Japanese garden design was flexible and could be re-designed. Trees, on the other hand were not flexible. He talked about the value of a long-term investment for both the trees and the garden – arguing for preservation of the Grove and a new design plan that would work for everyone in Ashland.

Lewis highlighted the protocol of discussion and debate that the Commissioners typically follow, noting that for this proposal, the process had not yet taken place. The debate would be more difficult to achieve because of the preempted motion. Lewis referred to the public statements received, indicating that the opinions of those present should be thoroughly deliberated and the project critiqued. Lewis noted that the conditions proposed by Commissioner Landt should also be reviewed and discussed.

Landt replied that he did not want to vote against the proposed Japanese Garden – that if a motion had been proposed without conditions, he would have to vote against the plan – something he was reluctant to do. Staff's recommended motion was to approve the proposal or approve with conditions.

Bell stated that Landt's motion touched on the issues that he felt were important.

After some back and forth between Lewis and Bell, Lewis stated that the proposal had been presented by the Ashland Park's Foundation and that their ideas should be reviewed and discussed prior to adding conditions.

Heller indicated that he was uncomfortable going forward with a new design or a plan to shift the location without discussion with the designer and donor. He stated that the proposal was the result of months of study along with a robust public process and to change the design without the benefit of the designer's analysis, and donor feedback, Heller would be reluctant to approve the changes.

Heller noted that a second plan had been submitted by another designer that was much more extensive than the one presented. At that time, the donor and Director Black declined to entertain the proposal – stating that a more modest expansion was more appropriate for Ashland.

Lewis spoke out against the savaging of the donor, stating that disparaging commentary was reprehensible. He noted the long history of donors that benefited Ashland. He stated that without donations, there would not have been a Lithia Park – and that the Park had begun as the brainchild of civic leaders at the turn of the century. Those leaders established funding and a Board to oversee the creation of Lithia Park. Others such as the Perozzi's, the Enders, and the Butlers contributed to the community through enhancements in the Park. Other examples of donor largess include the Walter Phillips family - who donated the football field in honor of Walter Phillips who was an aviator during World War I. The Meyers family's donation helped to create the Daniel Myer Pool. These people were all proactive in our community and Ashland continues to receive donations of all kinds that benefit Ashlanders.

Lewis talked about his relationship to Douglas firs – noting that he has planted thousands, and picked cones for reforestation. He has also logged firs. He noted that many homes were built of Douglas fir – homes that contribute to the well-being of many Ashlanders. Lewis stressed the complexities that are inherent in our use of natural resources, remarking that the issues surrounding them were not simple. He said that he was saddened by the characterization of the donor's intent – stating that it was not commercialization – rather one donation of many that Ashlanders have considered a civic duty.

Landt responded to Heller's concerns, stating that the conditions were meant to provide direction as well as to propose an alternative. He indicated that he would be amenable to a better alternative, and that some re-design would be necessary regardless.

Heller replied that he did not want to suggest a better alternative without talking to the designer and the donor. He noted that the Japanese Garden was one of his favorite places in Lithia Park and that the Douglas Fir trees seemed to be less well-known. A letter that resonated with him talked about fir trees as the most common tree in Oregon - and in fact there were hundreds of firs within Lithia Park and in the surrounding forests. Comments from a friend who is also a Master Gardener emphasized that trees and plants were often replaced or re-planted if there was interference with a garden's plan. Heller indicated that he would be supportive of continued research into alternatives prior to a vote.

Bell reiterated that the donor was very generous and most people would support the proposed Japanese Garden because of its added value to the City and Lithia Park. In his opinion, it was not unreasonable for the Commissioners to have some input into the design. He stated that the issues regarding the Douglas firs was a small part of the overall design. Bell stated that the public's concern was sufficient to make an effort to either incorporate or work around the trees.

Gardiner stated that he was prepared to discuss the Ashland Foundation's plan for a Japanese Garden, followed by a motion to approve or decline the plan as presented. He indicated that the project had many challenges and opportunities and it was understood that his decision would not please everyone. Gardiner described his view as a broader view in the trees versus garden debate. He explained that in his opinion, the garden was more important and he would not vote for the motion as currently proposed.

Lewis stated that a Commissioner's duty was to address the big picture rather than a narrow focus on two trees. He discussed examples of healthy trees such as the library's Gingko tree that were removed for the good of the community. Pieces of the Gingko are currently on display in the library today. In addition, there was an alder tree that was converted into a totem pole, now residing at the SOU library -and trees along the Plaza that were removed because of an issue with the sidewalks and so on. Lewis emphasized that civic leaders often much make decisions regarding trees and that the decision should be based upon what is good for the community at large. He noted that the Commissioners have a project before them that was an opportunity to do something special. He characterized Lithia Park as an idea that was transformed into a Park as the result of human ingenuity. He stated that the purpose currently awaiting a decision, was to put in place a garden that Ashland's citizens could enjoy. He stated that the conditions proposed by Landt would most likely remove the opportunity. Lewis stated that he was saddened by the narrow focus rather than the bigger perspective.

Bell replied that climate change was not a small issue. Landt explained that three of the seven conditions would not limit the project. He stated that he was attempting to accommodate the plan in order to expedite the process and if the motion would pass, it would continue to move forward even if new issues were to develop.

Heller asked about the possibility of talking with the designer prior to a vote. He stated that it would be difficult to support the proposed conditions without the input of designer and donor. Their feedback as to whether the proposed conditions were workable would be essential to his decision.

Gardiner indicated that the Ashland Park's Foundation had asked for a vote on the proposal as presented. He cautioned against attempts to design a better plan rather than voting for or against the proposal. Landt replied that Mr. Tanaka had stated that if asked to so do by the Ashland Parks Foundation, he could design a garden with the trees in place.

Gardiner called for a vote.

Motion: Landt moved to approve with the Park's Commissioners acceptance, the presented design of the Japanese Garden with the conditions listed above. Bell seconded.

Commissioners Landt and Bell voted in favor of the proposal with conditions.
Commissioners Heller, Lewis and Gardiner voted against.
The motion failed.

Bell called a point of order, asking that if the proposed amended motion failed could a vote then be called for the original proposal? Gardiner answered affirmatively.

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the proposal submitted by the Ashland Parks Foundation as presented. Gardiner seconded.

Commissioner Discussion

Lewis summarized the project process noting the many opportunities for public input, the multiple discussions and presentations that had taken place since October 2018. He stated that the community would benefit socially and culturally, spiritually and aesthetically. Lewis talked about the many economic and educational aspects of the garden as well.

Gardiner acknowledged that there were different points of view and that his decision was based upon his perceived obligation to future generations to create a space that will be useable and appreciated for 100 years or more. He stated that he accepted the plan as presented.

Bell stated that the Japanese Garden would be a great asset to Ashland but that in his opinion, it did not have to be the presented design. He suggested that there was room for compromise.

Lewis replied that people who are unfamiliar with design techniques might assume that changing a design is a simple matter. In his experience, once a component is changed, it has a ripple effect affecting other elements of the design as well. He stated that the proposed design has a sense of entry, a symmetry, a flow, a logical progression throughout each area, centered around a pond. The well-thought-out design is comprised of many individual areas that are part of a cohesive whole. He stated that the effects of Landt's conditions were unknown, but the proposal as presented seems to work well. Lewis emphasized that Lithia Park and the gardens within it have been created for people to enjoy and the opportunity to have an authentic Japanese Garden was a chance that shouldn't go away.

Heller added that the Commission had listened to the comments received from the community at large. He stated that in his opinion, the comments were fairly evenly split between those who accept the garden as it and those who do not.

Landt disagreed, indicating that the split was closer to 40% in favor the proposal of and 60% against. Landt stated that he had discussed the design with other designers and it seemed to be a consensus that the design could be reconfigured. He noted that the process was flawed in that the removal of trees was not known until after the design had been completed. Landt stated that removal of the trees would create an unnecessary stain on the garden and in his opinion, the trees and the garden could exist harmoniously together.

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the proposal submitted by the Ashland Parks Foundation as presented. Gardiner seconded.

Commissioners Landt and Bell voted against the proposal as presented.
Commissioners Heller, Lewis and Gardiner voted in favor.
The motion carried.

Black stated that he would forward the approval to the Parks Foundation.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

NEW BUSINESS

- a. *Proposed Senior Service Division Mission, Goals, and Priority Strategies (Action)*

Glatt referred to the Senior Services goals for 2019 that the Commissioners had approved, noting that the strategies proposed to support those goals were the result of a long study. The development of goals and strategies for the reorganized Senior Services Division were developed beginning with the Ad-Hoc Senior Program Advisory Committee and adoption by the S-PAC Subcommittee. The results of both processes were merged into a cohesive whole with the strategies prioritized.

Landt asked about accomplishing the goals and strategies within the existing budget. Glatt replied that the strategies would provide a starting place towards accomplishment of the goals. The initial steps taken would be within the general budget.

Gardiner added that the goals and strategies articulated the future direction of the program and various ways to achieve that direction.

Landt indicated that he was uncomfortable with the title of the Statewide program that will be utilized. He stated that in his opinion, the Gatekeeper name does not appropriately describe its function. He asked Glatt to determine whether the program could be known locally by another name that more accurately describes the intent of the program.

Glatt replied that the intent was to be an organization that opens the gate – that provides a bridge or an essential connection. She stated that the program was chosen because it included a valuable training component that would teach the community to recognize the signs of seniors that need help and how to connect them to the services they need. She committed to determining whether a name change would be feasible.

Bell asked about connections to other entities that provide services to seniors, such as Rogue Community Health. Glatt replied that a program was not yet in place – but that building partnerships was a priority. She stated that the Gatekeeper program, for example provided a conduit for the average citizen to connect with a source that will direct seniors to programs based upon their needs. The source is an Agency called the Aging and Disability Resource Connection (ADRC). Once the needs are identified then the senior is connected to the proper organization such as Rogue Community Health or La Clinica or other service providers. There are so many resources in our community that it takes intensive navigation that is often difficult for seniors. ADRC provides that direction.

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Senior Services Division mission, goals, and priority strategies as recommended by the Senior Services Advisory Committee. Lewis seconded.

The vote was all yes.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

- *2019 Subcommittee Assignments and Appointment of Parks Commissioner to serve on the Ashland Parks Foundation Board (Action)*

Gardiner explained that the current list of Subcommittees and Committees had been reorganized and their mission expanded for broader applications. Black noted that the consolidation combined like Subcommittees.

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the Subcommittees as presented. Heller seconded.

The vote was all yes.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

- **Ice Rink**

Landt recognized the Ice Rink, stating that the program provided so much enjoyment for participants, that he wanted to recognize the hard work that staff does to operate such a successful endeavor. He thanked the Commissioners of the past who had approved the program and the donors who helped to make it happen.

Dials noted that it had been a good year and that an End-of-the-Year report would be presented in March or April 2019.

- **Budget Alert**

Black announced that Budget season was underway with planning for the upcoming biennium.

MB: The Budget season is beginning and it is for two years. Looking forward to the process that will continue to June.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

Golf Course Subcommittee	February 6, 2019	@ Oak Knoll Golf Course - 3070 Hwy. 66	-2:00 p.m.
S-PAC	February 11, 2019	@ Ashland Senior Center - 1699 Homes Ave.	-3:30 p.m.
Study Session	February 11, 2019	@ The Grove -1195 E. Main	- 5:30 p.m.
Pool Ad-Hoc Subcommittee	February 13, 2019	@ TBD	- 2:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting	February 25, 2019	@ Council Chambers - 1175 E. Main	-7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

These Minutes are not a verbatim record. The narrative has been condensed and paraphrased at times to reflect the discussions and decisions made. Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission Study Sessions and Regular meetings are digitally recorded and are available online.

Proposal for Japanese Lantern Memorial* - 4/29/18

Goal: commission, oversee and dedicate a *Tōrō* or stone lantern in the Lithia Park Japanese garden.

Exact location and general design to be subject to Ashland Parks & Recreation approval.

Artistic design and creation the lantern to be done by Wataru Sugiyama, long-time local artist, SOU graduate. There are several traditional forms for the Japanese lantern, made both of stone and bronze. Generally the lanterns are place along paths, next to water and near buildings.



Sonnenberg Gardens, NY

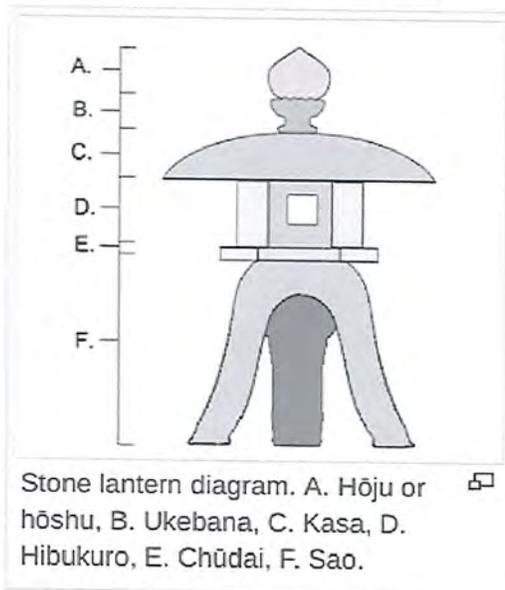


Chiyemi

Design to be traditional. Japanese lanterns are an element of Japanese gardens along with bridges, paths, trees & plants, water, stone basins, tea houses, etc.



Kasuga Temple**, Nara Japan



Yukimi-doro



Kasuga-doro

The proposed lantern would be appropriate for any Japanese garden, anywhere.

** (春日大社 *Kasuga-taisha* - UNESCO World Heritage Site)

If the redesign and refashioning of the Japanese garden in Lithia Park takes place after the lantern is completed, it could be moved and repositioned in the redesigned garden.

Stone lanterns [\[edit \]](#)



Tachi-dōrō of the *kasuga-dōrō* type



A *kirishitan-dōrō*



Ikekomi-dōrō of the *Kirishitan-dōrō* type



An *oki-dōrō*

Bronze lanterns [\[edit \]](#)



Bronze lantern at [Hōryū-ji](#)



Bronze lantern at Tōdai-ji (National Treasure)



Bronze lantern at [Nikkō Tōshō-gū](#)



Bronze lantern at [Itsukushima Shrine](#)

Yukimi-dōrō variants [\[edit \]](#)



Four-legged *yukimi-dōrō*



Three legged *yukimi-dōrō*. One leg rests on ground, two in water.



Two-legged *yukimi-dōrō*



One-legged *yukimi-dōrō*



*Chiyemi Katsuyoshi Doyle lived in Ashland for 28 years, married 48 years, worked at SOU in International Programs. Born in Tule Lake Japanese Internment camp June 19, 1945, she passed March 6, 2018 at University of California San Francisco Medical Center. Contact info: Terry Doyle - 462 Allison St. - 541-890-2924

Michael Oxman

Professional Tree Surgeon

ISA Certified Arborist #PN-0756A

TRAQ Tree Risk Assessment Qualified

10236 37th PL SW, Seattle WA 98146

(206) 949-8733 www.treedr.com michaeloxman@comcast.net

Michael Black
Ashland Parks & Rec
340 S. Pioneer St
Ashland, OR 97520
(541) 552-2251

1-18-2019

Arborist Report and Risk Assessment of 2 Douglas Fir trees at the Japanese Garden.

Date of inspection: January 17, 2019

Species: Douglas Fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*)

Height: 120'-130 tall

Trunk diameter measured: Tree #1: 53"; Tree #2: 46".

SCOPE

I was asked by Parks Superintendant Mike Oxendine to examine 2 fir trees and give my opinion of their stability. I was told a proposed remodel design of the Japanese Garden included a proposal to expand the size of the garden and place a bamboo garden where the 2 trees are located. The assignment requires completion of the attached International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) Basic Tree Risk Assessment protocol checklists to determine a rating of potential risk in case structural failure causes the trees to break apart or fall over.

METHOD OF INSPECTION

I used only my eyes to visually examine the site from the ground. No off-site assessment, document review, tools, measuring devices, digging, drilling, or climbing techniques were used to determine conditions.

Photographs were taken, which are attached to email.

FINDINGS

Lithia Park is a century-old garden 100 acres in size. It is in a sloping ravine where Ashland Creek flows north. The Japanese Garden within the park is located between Winburn Way and Granite Street. It is on the west side of the creek, and the ground slopes east towards the creek. An entry path leads up a set of stone steps from Winburn Way, thru a Torii gate, and meets another path that runs parallel to the street. The Japanese Garden's current location is uphill, west of the 2 fir trees that are the subject of this report .

The 2 Douglas Fir trees are at the northwest corner of the junction of these 2 paths. The 2 trees are the southernmost members of a linear grove of 12 Douglas Fir trees. The 200' long grove is composed of 12 Douglas Fir trees lining the path that runs parallel to the street. The individual trees in the grove are closely spaced from each other, ranging from 8 feet apart to 20' feet apart. Length of lower limbs is about 30', which means dripline width of Tree #1 and #2 is about 60'.

Tree #1 is the dominant end tree of the grove, and Tree #2 is slightly suppressed in size, about 12' away, to the north. The remaining trees in the grove are separated from Tree #1 and Tree #2 by a gap of about 20', and have smaller trunks, The height of all the trees range from about 110' to 125'. There are many other trees of similar height and age close by.

Tree #1 has a canopy that wraps around the trunk on 3 sides. No limbs grow directly towards the stem of Tree #2. The assymetrical canopy receives afternoon sunlight primarily from the south and west, because other trees block morning sunlight from the east and north. The tree has a slight lean towards the south-southwest where it can capture the most sunlight. The weight of the foliage contributes to this lean, which is not of concern. The form of the trunk tapers evenly from the ground to the top. No cavities or other defects in the wood are evident. Tip growth is short, which is typical of trees of this age. Many dry cones are still attached at the top of the tree. The base of the tree and visible root collar appear sound.

Tree #2 has a smaller trunk and canopy that contains less cubic volume. No limbs grow directly towards the stem of Tree #1. The assymetrical canopy receives afternoon sunlight primarily from the west, because other trees block morning sunlight, and Tree #1 blocks afternoon sun from the south. The tree has a slight lean towards the southwest where it can capture the most sunlight. The weight of the foliage contributes to this lean, which is not of concern. The form of the trunk tapers evenly from the ground to the top. The base of the tree and visible root collar appear sound. No cavities or other defects

in the wood are evident. Tip growth is short, which is typical of trees of this age. Many dry cones are still attached at the top of the tree. The base of the tree and visible root collar appear sound.

A few days prior to my inspection, the site within the dripline of the grove had been cleared of all understory plants and trees, such as Ash and Madrone. The stumps and roots of these trees were still present.

An air pressure gun called an Air Spade had been used to blast away soil from the root crowns of all 12 trees in the grove. This is a low-impact investigative technique that exposes the upper part of the woody roots near the trunk for examination. I performed a root crown inspection of the portions of roots that were made visible by removal of the good quality sandy loam soil. The trunks of the trees flare out in size at the base of the trees for extra stability. The buttress points where each root is attached to the trunk were found to be sound. The bark on top of some of the shallower surface roots has rough texture from soil disturbance, and was found to be growing very fast as a growth response. There are places where roots had grafted onto each other. The stumps and roots of the understory trees that had been removed were visible, and were found to have wrapped around encircled the roots and trunks of other trees in the grove.

The metabolic condition of the trees is healthy. These trees are growing well, and becoming larger each year. The trunks appear to be clear of limbs for about 30' above the ground. The faint appearance of limb scars from clearance pruning indicates the lower limbs have been gone at least a decade. No tree removal history or stumps are visible that would indicate recent stand thinning maintenance.

In the remainder of trees in the grove, there was only one apparent recent failure, located at the northernmost Douglas Fir tree in the grove. A 4" diameter limb about 40' above the ground broke off at its attachment point on the trunk on the north end of the canopy. The stub of the limb appears freshly broken, with no evident decay or structural weakness at the fracture point. This may mean that very high wind caused the breakage of 1 limb out of hundreds of limbs in the grove. This limb stub can be seen in the photograph.

CONCLUSIONS & RECOMMENDATIONS

The metabolic condition of the 2 trees is healthy and sound. The uniform taper of the trunks and lack of cavities or seams indicates strong wood. The asymmetry of the canopy indicates mature stand conditions resulting from close spacing of trees. The excavation of the root crown to inspection confirms soil quality is good, and there is no decay of structural roots.

The consequences of removal of the 2 largest trees in the grove could have adverse side effects. The remaining trees have developed qualities of resisting stress from wind and other conditions within the protected shelter of Tree #1 and Tree #2. The edge effect of newly exposed trees that were previously shielded could promote unanticipated breakage and tree failure.

The accompanying forms list relevant factors in assessing risk for each tree. They tabulate a numerical score which rates trees with multiple obvious defects as being the most prone to failure. Trees #1 and

#2 have a low risk rating because they do not have such defects, and have a long life expectancy. The life expectancy of this grove may be at least 20 years.

Attachment III

January 23, 2019

Chair Mike Gardiner
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission
340 South Pioneer Street
Ashland, OR 97520

Re: Lithia Park Japanese Garden

Dear Mr. Gardiner,

The Ashland Parks Foundation (*APF*) has been presented with a gift in the form of funding that will allow for the transformation of the existing “Japanese Style Garden” in Lithia Park to an authentic Japanese Garden. *APF* has worked with Toru Tanaka, a nationally recognized designer, who has prepared the attached Japanese Garden plan (The “*Plan*”). The Plan is very specific to the space that already exists for the current garden and includes a modest expansion on both the north and south side of the garden to accommodate the Plan.

The Plan calls for the reorganization of the garden and the introduction of new elements, such as a koi pond, moss gardens, sand and stone garden, a significant increase in the number of trees and ADA accessible walking paths, in order to meet the following goals:

1. Ensure accessibility in the garden for all users
2. Create a design that allows for nodes, alcoves and sitting along paths
3. Incorporate authentic elements into the plan
4. Ensure garden is protected from outside elements via appropriate fencing or barrier
5. Create an immersive Japanese Garden experience
6. Honor the history of the garden in the larger Lithia Park

The current garden property is owned by Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (*APRC*) and is part of Lithia Park. The board of directors of the *APF* are presenting the attached plan for the consideration of *APRC* and we recommend that the Commissioners vote on the plan as it is presented.

Background

The design of the Garden began with the Lithia Park Master Plan (*LPMP*) site analysis process. During this process the *LPMP* team reviewed the site and determined that a modest increase in the size of the Japanese Garden would not be detrimental to the *LPMP*. In fact, it was commented on by the team that the addition of the enhanced garden to the park would be a significant element to the longevity and viability of the park, in general.

When it was determined that the *LPMP* planning process and the garden design process were not disadvantageous to each other, the process began to move forward with garden design. Toru Tanaka, a former director of the Portland Japanese Garden, was selected to complete the design and he began work on the design in late Summer – early Fall of 2018. While Mr. Tanaka was busy preparing a

On the outskirts of the existing Japanese Garden is a grove of twelve significantly sized Douglas Fir trees. On the leading southern edge of the grove are two of the largest trees of the group that fall within the proposed boundary of the new Japanese Garden. APF acknowledges that these trees are healthy; however, their location in the garden is not consistent with the proposed plan and we recommend that those two trees be removed. The wood from the trees could potentially be milled to provide materials for the new Japanese Garden for fencing, benches and so on.. The two large trees in question were planted with the grove of twelve in 1924 by the Boy Scouts of America.

Recommendation

Attached to this letter, you will find a professionally designed Plan for the renovation of the existing Japanese Style Garden in Lithia Park. A generous donation has made this design possible and the same donation will cover the expenses of the construction of the project. The APF wishes to gift this plan to APRC with the funds to complete the construction. In addition, the donor, through the APF, is also dedicating a yearly stipend of \$60,000 for the increased maintenance cost of the garden.

The APF is very excited to be able to offer this gift to APRC and the citizens of Ashland. We hope that this letter will solidify the gift that is being proposed and will find favor with the Commissioners. We truly believe that this gift will be enjoyed for more than a century, just as the original plan for Lithia Park – including a Japanese garden – has been enjoyed by residents and visitors alike for more than 100 years.

Thank you again for your consideration and partnership in this endeavor.

Your truly,

The Ashland Parks Foundation

ANALISIS LINDAS BOKI IMPERSONAL LINDAS CINA POKOK



**Julie Norman's Testimony for Parks and Rec Commissioners Meeting
Mon. Jan. 28, 7pm**

Hi, my name is Julie Norman.

Commissioners, thank you for the opportunity to make these suggestions:

1. Honor the primary goal of the Parks Commission.

Your website says: "The goal of the Parks Commission is to provide and promote recreational opportunities and to **preserve and maintain** public lands." Deciding to kill two of the twelve healthy trees in the historic Boy Scout Grove, planted 100 years ago by local Scouts, would conflict with your mission to "preserve and maintain."

2. Take the kind offer from your expert garden designer, Mr. Tanaka, when he said "he could work around" the fir trees.

[Larry Cooper confirms this statement was made recently at the site visit.]

3. Describe the process that Parks and Rec staff went through with the consulting team led by MIG, Inc. and confirm that the garden design was found to be consistent with the guidelines being developed for the Lithia Park Master Plan, as claimed by the Ashland Parks Foundation.

(a) The Ashland Parks Foundation website (<https://www.ashland.or.us/News.asp?NewsID=4070>) states that their Board has worked with MIG, Inc. (Ashland Park's and Rec's team of consultants led by Laurie Matthews) to review the garden design. Mr. Mangin, APF Board Member, is quoted saying, "I wanted to be sure that the Garden dove-tailed with the {Lithia Park Master} Plan, and it does, so we are ready to move ahead with next steps."

Neither Parks Commissioners nor Staff have supplied any details to substantiate this claim, on their website or at public meetings. Consequently, the vote on the proposed design should be delayed until citizens see information about the design review with MIG, Inc., as described by Director Mangin.

(b) The only reference to the Lithia Park Master Plan is on the Parks and Rec website, as follows: "The current Japanese Style garden was evaluated during the Lithia Park Master Plan. During design week in June 2018, it was determined that the [Japanese] garden could potentially be redesigned and even expanded **without negatively affecting the adjoining park spaces.**"

Neither the Parks Commission nor Staff has shared documentation verifying that

their proposed design was found to be consistent with this direction from June 2018. Consequently, the Parks Commission's vote to approve the current garden design must be delayed until documentation is provided.

3. Publicize the third-party arborist's Health Assessment to correct previous misinformation that was distributed by Parks.

A licensed third-party arborist was commissioned by the Parks Director to do a health assessment as part of vetting the conflicting views about the fir trees' health.

The arborist found the two fir trees to be "healthy" and "mature" with "a long life expectancy." Unfortunately, his detailed report was not publicized on the Parks website, until last Thursday, Jan. 24th when it was included in the Director's packet for this meeting tonight. It could have been passed out in hard copy or read in full by the Parks Director at the Listening Session on Jan. 24, but he chose to downplay its contents. This was a great disservice to the public, on both sides of the controversy.

In fact, with diameters of 4 feet, and heights over 130 feet, these firs are large for their age of 100 years. The length of the lower limbs is "about 30 feet," making the width of the dripline "about 60 feet."

Other health indicators the arborist cited include:

"No cavities or other defects in the wood"

"Base of the tree and root collar appear sound."

"No decay of structural roots"

"Metabolic condition is "healthy."

"Growing well and becoming larger each year".

"Strong wood"

"Soil quality is good"

This matches the opinion of the Ashland Tree Commission's inspector.

These trees were alive before any of us were born, and they will likely outlive everyone in this room.

Opinions by non-experts, that Tree # 1 and #2 are not healthy, are false and have misled many people. Unfortunately the Parks Department spread these opinions (most notably in the minutes of the January 14 Special Meeting with the Tree Commission). And when the report by the licensed arborist was completed (Jan. 18, 2019), the Parks Director did not read them or supply copies (most notably at the Jan. 24th Listening Session for public input.).

has resulted in significant confusion and divisive conflict.

4. Prevent increased risks to the remaining 10 fir trees from high winds. The arborist's report warned that the removal of the fir trees 1 and 2 "could have adverse side effects" on the remaining firs in the Boy Scout Grove. He explained that "edge effects," where "newly exposed trees that were previously shielded" could suffer from "breakage and tree failure."

The current wind resilience in the Boy Scout Grove was demonstrated last summer after a period of powerful, 50 mph winds. JoAnne Eggers and Parks maintenance staff found only one fallen branch in the entire grove.

5. Honor the recommendation of the City of Ashland's Tree Commission, even if you're not legally required to do so.

The City of Ashland's Tree Commission inspected the two firs, found them to be healthy, and declared that removing them would violate Commission's criteria. They unanimously recommended that the trees not be cut down.

Unfortunately Parks Commissioners and Staff claim that the Tree Commission does not have jurisdiction in Lithia Park, and that they are not bound to comply with the Ashland Tree Commission standards.

Nevertheless, back in 2000, Ashland Parks Commissioners voted to manage the Parks according to the same standards as the City of Ashland. That vote should be upheld, not skirted.

6. Acknowledge that these long-lived conifer trees are exactly what we need to meet our City's official goals of counteracting carbon pollution.

7. Adopt a win-win, revised design that incorporates the firs.

You can choose the path of bitter, ongoing conflicts with a broad constituency of Ashlanders who love Nature very deeply, or you can choose the path of reasonable compromise and harmony.

8. Do not rush to judgement by avoiding proper public notification of project planning details and bypassing the process of adding this project to the Parks Strategic Planning Goals.

Acknowledge that tonight's "Japanese Garden" agenda item is not "Unfinished Business" requiring "Action" (a vote on the plan). At the Dec. 10th

Commissioners' meeting last month, there was no "New Business" discussion or documentation of this project as being proposed by the Ashland Parks

Foundation, much less a notice of tonight's vote.

Acknowledge that the Japanese Garden project is so new that it is not listed in the 20 Parks and Rec Strategic Planning Goals for the 2017-2019 biennium.

9. Recognize that there is a conflict of interest resulting from Parks Commissioner Mike Gardiner's overlapping responsibilities to the Parks and Rec Division in the City of Ashland and the Ashland Parks Foundation. Mr. Gardiner's role as a voting Board Member of the APF, a private, non-profit grantmaking organization, conflict with his role as a Parks Commissioner. Commissioner Gardiner does not disclose this conflict in his bio on the Parks and Rec website or in garden project documents. He must recuse himself from this and other financial decision-making processes for projects being promoted by the Ashland Parks Foundation.

10. Lastly, avoid conflict that could taint the Garden Renovation Project. The Garden's annual maintenance costs are projected to jump from \$20,000 to \$80,000 per year. Your project's kind donor made it clear on June 24th that his pledge to make an annual donation of \$60,000 for the increased maintenance will eventually fade away. So this revenue source is not "permanent" as claimed on the Parks website, making it important to cultivate a feeling of community spirit and good will that will encourage other donors to contribute.

I imagine a vibe of harmony is what the donor's beloved Beatrice would value the most.

Thank you for listening.

Collected by:



Ms. Julie Norman

64 Comments

pro-trees

2 comments

anti-trees

January 2019

TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

Re: Public input for Jan. 28 Parks Commission Vote on the proposed expansion and renovation of the Japanese Garden in Lithia Park

I love the prospect of an improved Japanese Garden, but I disagree with your proposal to remove two mature Douglas Fir trees in the north expansion area. Chopping down these healthy trees is not consistent with your June 2018 project design direction: to implement the project "without negatively affecting the adjoining park spaces."

It would be a tragedy to remove these trees, against the official recommendation of the Tree Commission and despite the clean bill of health from the arborist.

Please redesign the Japanese Garden project so these historic trees can be maintained. There is clearly a win-win solution.

Respectfully yours, *There isn't any strong needs for cutting down healthy, mature, beautiful trees! Diane Juggers*

2
January 2019

TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

Re: Public input for Jan. 28 Parks Commission Vote on the proposed expansion and renovation of the Japanese Garden in Lithia Park

I love the prospect of an improved Japanese Garden, but I disagree with your proposal to remove two mature Douglas Fir trees in the north expansion area. Chopping down these healthy trees is not consistent with your June 2018 project design direction: to implement the project "without negatively affecting the adjoining park spaces."

It would be a tragedy to remove these trees, against the official recommendation of the Tree Commission and despite the clean bill of health from the arborist.

Please redesign the Japanese Garden project so these historic trees can be maintained. There is clearly a win-win solution.

Respectfully yours, Please leave the trees, there
are other ways to expand that wouldn't include
cutting down trees. Mind.

January 2019

TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

Re: Public input for Jan. 28 Parks Commission Vote on the proposed expansion and renovation of the Japanese Garden in Lithia Park

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Respectfully yours, *Sam Butzer - Ashland resident*
+ frequent park user

January 2019

TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

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Respectfully yours,



5
January 2019

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Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

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Respectfully yours,

Forest Ezekiel Noreis

677

January 2019

TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

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Respectfully yours,

Sylvia Moore Sofy Moore

January 2019

8

TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

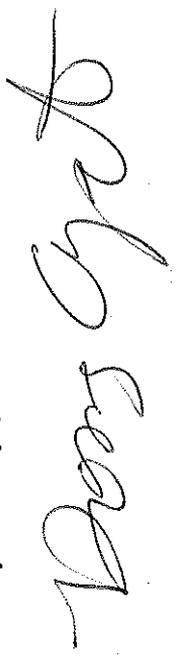
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Respectfully yours,



January 2019

2

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Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

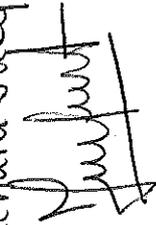
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Respectfully yours,
Richard Jacquot



January 2019

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12
13
January 2019

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Barbara Connor
Ashland Parks

Barbara Connor
Ashland

January 2019

14

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Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

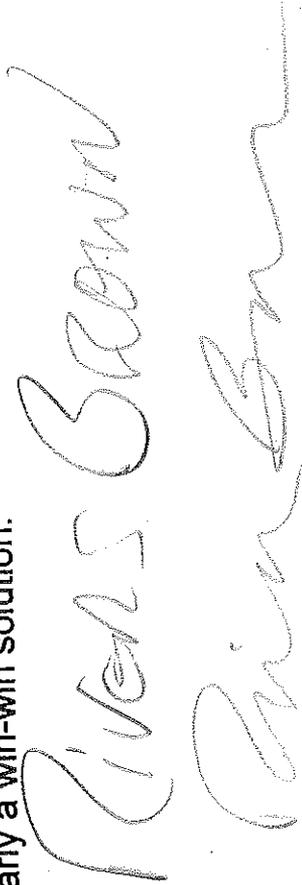
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Respectfully yours,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Rivers Brown". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above a horizontal line.

15
January 2019

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January 2019

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Brenda Jackson

January 2019

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Susan Hirth

January 2019

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19
20
21
January 2019

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Respectfully yours,

Anna, Josh + Kate

January 2019

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Krista Bauer
KRISTA BAUER

January 2019

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Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

Re: Public input for Jan. 28 Parks Commission Vote on the proposed expansion and renovation of the Japanese Garden in Lithia Park

MA Perfecta Sittis!

The Have the prospect of an improved Japanese Garden, but I disagree with your proposal to remove two mature Douglas Fir trees in the north expansion area. Chopping down these healthy trees is not consistent with your June 2018 project design direction: to implement the project "without negatively affecting the adjoining park spaces."

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Respectfully yours, *Suzie Schumacher*



21

January 2019

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Dominique Brown
Dominique F. Brown

January 2019

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TAMM KEMP


January 2019

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January 2019

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Respectfully yours,

John Zuck
HORACE ZUCK

Melanie Mark



TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

January 2019

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Respectfully yours, *Paula Phillips & Mayda Poz*

January 2019

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Risa Roberts

January 2019

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K.A. Groove

January 2019

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Respectfully yours,

Please reconsider your current proposal to remove (forever) the 2 Douglas Fir

Karen Correia

frequent visitor to Lithia Ashland

January 2019

36

TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

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January 2019 37434

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Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

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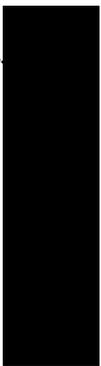
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Respectfully yours,

Fulke and Joseph
Ashland



January 2019

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Respectfully yours,


[Redacted]

January 2019

yp

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Respectfully yours,


Jeffrey Reaman (Jeffrey Reaman)
Cover

January 2019

TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

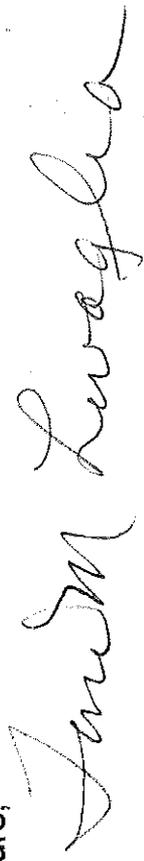
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January 2019

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Respectfully yours, *Not only are these trees a part*

of our town's history --- They are great oxygen producers!

M. Baker
↑

43 44
45 46

January 2019

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Alison Lyzara Dana Harris Jan Brown ~~Jake Brown~~

January 2019

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Respectfully yours,

Manisha Tare

*Kathy Friedman
Do not cut healthy trees*

TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

January 2019

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Respectfully yours, *Kimberly Faith - Please respect the life of the trees & work around them.*

50
51

January 2019

TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

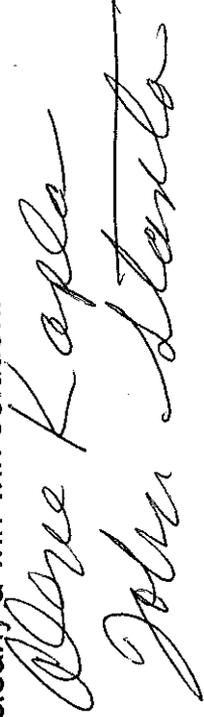
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Respectfully yours, SILVIA KOHEN kohehsil@gmail.com
PLEASE preserve the healthy mature of
OUR TREES

January 2019

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Respectfully yours, Big trees remove CO₂ from the atmosphere!

Jheshana Alexander



January 2019 54

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It would be a tragedy to remove these trees, against the official recommendation of the Tree Commission and despite the clean bill of health from the arborist.

Please redesign the Japanese Garden project so these historic trees can be maintained. There is clearly a win-win solution.

Respectfully yours,



January 2019

TO: Ashland Parks and Rec Commissioners
Ashland Parks Foundation Board Members

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Respectfully yours, *Stamulore Fleming*

January 2019 58
59

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Anthony Heard

January 2019

41

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Respectfully yours,

~~Erin~~ ERIN PAULSON

Christina

62
65

January 2019

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Respectfully yours,

Margaret Maguire

2 ENDORSEMENTS OF DESIGN AS IS

January 2019 |

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Respectfully yours,

I disagree with your resistance to cutting these
DF's. You are off base. Give it up!

January 2019

2

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Respectfully yours,

Jeffrey
Johnson → *See over*

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Respectfully yours,

I do not believe there has been any thing to the Japanese Garden - besides these are 8 other very fine that will

gave bigger in the same area!!

As seems to me we have an opportunity to enhance our very own Japanese Garden and outgrowndly the Fithia Park with a beautifully designed garden executed by a master of garden design and I can't imagine why we would sacrifice this for a couple of dog pens? Besides, such trees are a dime a dozen in the Pacific Northwest and no one is talking about removing the remaining 8 trees!

Please, for the garden genius John Tanaka work his magic and create something that will bring peace, beauty and peaceful comfort to all who visit. And those two Dog pens will be & part of their gates now - about the Peromysci fountain.....

M. Tompkins

Bara



Orlando Parks & Rec

541-488-5340

340 S Pioneer

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION
Minutes
February 11, 2019

ATTENDEES

Present: Commissioners Bell, Gardiner, Heller, Landt, Lewis, Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Analyst Cottle; Assistant Manuel

Also Present: Assistant Sean Sullivan

Absent: Commissioner Gardiner, City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

CALL TO ORDER

Acting Chair Landt called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at The Grove 1195 E. Main, Ashland, OR.

Landt announced that the evening meeting was a Study Session and that no decisions would be made or approved. Final debates and decisions are scheduled to take place at the regular business meeting scheduled for 2-25-2019.

Black introduced new employee Sean Sullivan, noting that he would be working with the Commissioners as needed.

PUBLIC INPUT – GOAL SETTING

Melissa Mitchell-Hooge of 271 High Street Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Mitchell-Hooge stated that she represented the group Save Our Schools and Playgrounds. She noted that the intent of the organization was to preserve the Brisco and Lincoln schools and playgrounds for public use. She thanked APRC for securing the Brisco School playground as a neighborhood park – an effort that took two years of negotiations.

Mitchell-Hooge asked that APRC set a goal specifically for the preservation of Lincoln Park as a neighborhood Park. She stated that implementation would include discussing the property with the Ashland School District, and emphasizing that the property was listed on Ashland's Open Space Plan. Mitchell-Hooge noted that the ball fields at Lincoln were still in use, although the School District had not continued to maintain the area. As a result of the School Districts decision, several trees had died because of lack of water.

Mitchell-Hooge suggested that the Ashland School District, the City of Ashland and APRC work together to resolve the issue. She asked that APRC designate the property as a priority.

Andrew Gramley of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Gramley stated that he was head coach of the Ashland High School water polo team. Both swim teams (boys and girls) were currently 4th in the water polo Championships. He detailed the benefits that the students enjoy – the

fitness and comradery, inclusiveness and other benefits. Gramley commented that while he was appreciative of the opportunity to practice in the Daniel Meyer Pool, it was not a deep-water facility. He explained that a deep-water pool was a necessity because competitive sport championships were held in deep water. He asked that APRC consider a competition pool.

Howard McEwan of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

McEwan talked about a goal to build dedicated pickleball courts in Ashland. He told stories about the number of people who wished to play pickleball, but must wait until an existing court becomes available. He estimated that 30 to 50 people are wanting to play at any given time.

McEwan suggested that Lithia Park would be an ideal location for additional pickleball courts and that it was his observation that the tennis courts were lightly used. He stated that the pickleball community was underserved in Ashland and new courts were needed.

Saundra "Sandy" Theis of Ashland, OR. was called forward. the

Theis noted that as Chair of S-PAC (Senior Program Advisory Committee), she wished to reiterated S-PAC's goals and the need for continued support of APRC. She reiterated the Senior Program's mission and goals, asking that APRC continue to fund the program at current levels. (see link: <http://www.ashlandseniorcenter.org/>)

Jocelyn Sanford of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Sanford noted that as a physical therapist, she was aware of the many benefits that exercise in water brings. She stated that she taught water skills and was a former member of the National Water Polo league, and she was appreciative of the life lessons she learned through aquatics – teamwork, community, dedication, perseverance and adoptability. Sanford indicated that she was aware of the challenges faced at the Daniel Meyer Pool, and that it was time to prioritize funding for a new pool.

Casey Botts of the Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association (RVMB) was called forward.

Botts talked about the need to design, build and operate a pump track and bike skills park for the benefit of younger and inexperienced riders. Botts noted that mountain biking was a growing trend around the United States – offering a healthy active lifestyle for families. He indicated that while children outgrow playgrounds, mountain biking was a life-long sport.

Botts stated that a secure location was needed and that once the pump track was built there would be very little maintenance needed. He stated that the ideal would be to have two pump tracks side by side – with one for beginners (2000 sq. ft.) and one for more advanced riders (10,000 sq. ft.). Phase II of the project would be a skills zone with water features and more challenging twists and turns designed to increase balance and confidence. Phase III would be a perimeter loop trail.

Botts suggested that one of three locations be chosen: either Ashland Creek Park, Lincoln School, or the APRC property on Clay St. He stated that the cost of full build-out would be approximately \$250,000. with various sources of funding including grants, fundraisers, and other sources in addition to sponsorships from the City of Ashland.

Botts indicated that community support was substantial and pumps tracks had been proven to be successful in other cities of similar size. (see Attachment I)

Martin Stadtmueller of RVMBA was called forward.

Stadtmueller noted that building a dedicated trail for mountain bikers on the eastside of Lithia Park would facilitate a mountain bike route to the Ashland watershed without adding to the traffic on Ashland's roads.

Stadtmueller relayed that the average American child spent 7 minutes a day outside and 7 hours per day watching TV or playing video games. He stated that RVMBA would like to change that. Mountain biking would provide a feasible alternative that would encourage kids to adopt healthy activities.

Stadtmueller explained that existing mountain bike trails were too difficult for children or beginners to navigate. Access to the trails was also problematic as children must depend upon their parents to for transport to appropriate mountain bike trails.

Stadtmueller noted that transitioning to the watershed was a natural extension of the pump track programs. A trail along the hillside of Lithia Park could function as the gateway to the forestland trails. He displayed a rendering of two proposed side-by-side trails, noting that the location would be ideal and the trail easy to construct. Stadmueller noted that the up-trail could be shared with other types of users while the down-trail would be dedicated to mountain bikers. (see Attachment II)

Philippe Sprague of Southern Oregon Association (SOVA) was called forward.

Sprague stated that he was a pickleball convert. He talked about pickleball being the fastest growing sport in America and cities across the country were adding dedicated pickleball courts to their recreational opportunities. Sprague noted the need for dedicated courts in Ashland, indicating that four pickleball courts could be placed on each existing tennis court. With the Lithia Park tennis courts converted, 32 people could be accommodated on the two remaining tennis courts where normally only four tennis players would play.

Sprague suggested removing all of the painted lines on the courts in Lithia Park and re-painting with pickleball lines. He stated that would allow for dedicated courts without the cost of new construction. It was his opinion, that the remaining tennis courts in Hunter Park and elsewhere would be sufficient to accommodate tennis players.

Sprague noted that pickleball tournaments could provide another source of revenue for the City.

Jack Methot of Ashland OR. was called forward.

Methot stated that he was a member of SOVA and that each year he provided an update regarding the sport. He stated that pickleball players in Ashland numbered approximately 225 members in 2017. In 2018 membership grew to 487 members. Methot detailed the number of educational classes conducted by members, including a new program teaching vets to play. He named the institutions in the Valley that were participating and recognizing the value that pickleball offers – from the YMCA, the Ashland School District and VA as well as others. He asked that APRC continue to support the sport and allow for growth by providing dedicated pickleball courts.

Todd Lantry, Head Couch of the Ashland High School (AHS) Swim Team was called forward.

Lantry reported that of the 30 swimmers on the AHS swim team, 25 were asked to compete at the District level and eight swimmers qualified for State championships. He noted that the swimmers must dive on the side of the existing pool because the Daniel Meyer Pool was not deep enough to practice competitively.

Lantry talked about the disadvantages of practicing in an outdoor pool during the winter – noting that the kids get wet and cold going into and out of the pool. He stated that a deeper pool with a roof would be appreciated so that the kids could practice racing starts and sprints properly without being subjected to the weather. Lantry explained that there was a potential for 50 kids and their families to swim given a more amenable environment.

John Weston of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Weston commented that he was a member of the Rogue Valley Masters (RVM) – a club that had its origin at the Daniel Meyer Pool in 1984. He expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to use the pool in the winter as well as the summer. Weston asked that a remodeled pool be given consideration.

Jerry Stein of Ashland OR. was called forward.

Stein relayed the impact of tennis on older bodies, stating that pickleball was a gentler option. He stated that tennis players were converting to pickleball because of the smaller courts and the less intensive action. He asked that APRC provide additional dedicated pickleball courts.

Jeff Eisenbaum of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Eisenbaum stated that he had the opportunity to play pickleball in many different cities and to his chagrin, Ashland's courts were in greater disrepair than any he was familiar with in other cities. He asked that APRC resurface the courts in lieu of building new ones.

Cathy Shaw of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Shaw stated that she was concerned about the wildfire danger in Ashland and hoped to accelerate wildfire mitigation. She proposed a series of steps with a goal to greenbelt Parks owned properties around the upper perimeter of the City. Shaw suggested that an access fee be charged of county residents who access their properties via streets owned and maintained by the City of Ashland.

Shaw also proposed accelerating wildfire mitigation techniques – removing dead and dying trees within the urban forest and on City owned properties, watering mature trees in the winter as well as the summer as well as other proven strategies.

Shaw proposed issuing a facilities bond as a funding source for property acquisition on the perimeter and enhanced mitigation work, as well as grants focused on wildfire prevention. She indicated that she would be willing to spearhead a campaign for a facilities bond – one that could include funding for a re-built pool. Shaw stated that stakeholders such as insurance companies might also be willing contribute significantly to efforts that would decrease wildfire liabilities.

Arnold Bleicher of Ashland was called forward.

Bleicher noted that in February 2017 dedicated pickleball courts were listed as a goal. He suggested that based upon the growth of the sport and the perceived decline in tennis players, that the Lithia Park courts be converted and the tennis courts at Hunter Park as well as elsewhere in the City be reserved for tennis players. He submitted a petition signed by 51 people in support of that request.

Eric Mitchener of (Rogue Valley Bike Polo Club (RVBPC) was called forward.

Mitchener stated that RVBPC would like to expand diverse recreational opportunities at Hunter Park modifying existing facilities and re-purposing one tennis court as a multi-purpose court. RVBPC uses a court at Hunter Park for bike polo. They conduct an annual tournament that brings aficionados from other states to Ashland. He stated that while they appreciate the opportunity to play at the Park, the condition of the court presents significant safety challenges. Mitchener noted efforts by the club to reduce the safety hazards such as filling in or covering surface cracks. Modifying one court would allow for continued use for other sports while leaving seven courts available for tennis players. He indicated that the court could be shared with other users such as for roller hockey.

Jake Crawford of RVBPC was called forward.

Crawford submitted a draft proposal for a multi-purpose court for Commissioner review, stating that he would be happy to answer any questions (see Attachment III).

PUBLIC INPUT CLOSED

Landt stated that February 22, 2019 had been set for a goal setting session. He noted that no public testimony would be solicited at the session but the public was welcome to come and observe. Once agreed upon, potential goals would be presented at a regularly scheduled public meeting where public input would be accepted.

Black stated that 188 written comments regarding APRC goals had been received and would be presented to the Commissioners as well as all public input received to aid them in their deliberations.

Gardiner noted that 20 goals had been selected for the previous biennium – indicating that new goals would be selected and prioritized. Landt explained that not all of the goals had been completed and might continue to be listed as priorities.

MARKING ASHLAND PLACES – PUBLIC ART AND HISTORIC COMMISSION

Public Arts Commissioner Andrew Stallman presented a joint project sponsored by the Public Arts Commission and the Historic Commission. He stated that the project would create historic markers and wayfinding signs in Ashland's four historic Districts for the purpose of creating a sense of pride and place for Ashlanders and to enhance the landscape for cultural heritage travelers.

Stallman explained the concept of developing Hub Sites to place historic themed sculptures and information introducing the significance of each historic District. Spoke sites would contain markers that tell stories about important places, events or people connected with each District.

Stallman proposed five sites in Ashland's Railroad District. The Commission is seeking professional artists, graphic artists and/or fabricators to produce a bronze plaque for each site. He indicated that Phase I would be the bronze plaques but that additional sites could be represented by benches, bike racks, or other types of markers.

Stallman talked about locating a hub sculpture and plaque in Railroad Park – with approval from the Parks Commission. He invited APRC's public arts liaison Commissioner Heller to attend project meetings in a cooperative effort to determine effective locations within the Parks system, noting that the project was a large one that would continue for some years.

CALLE GUANAJUATO POLICY – DISCUSSION

Dials explained that APRC oversees lease agreements for use of the Calle Guanajuato. Restaurants and artisans apply for a permit to offer outdoor seating for restaurants and concession booths for artisans during the warm months of the year – historically from mid-March through mid-November.

At the request of business owner Allan Sandler, the policy language was changed to accommodate his unique situation as the only building with a restaurant that has access directly from the Calle Guanajuato. The amended policy, if approved, would allow the building owner or landlord of the properties along the Calle first right of refusal for a 3-month period.

Dials stated that the space directly behind the Sandler building is a shared space – where a restaurant presides in the space Monday through Friday during the active season and artisans preside in the space during the weekend.

Black indicated that the concern was that because there was no access from the front of the building, customers must enter and exit from the Calle. The policy change would allow property owners the right to hold the permit – where previously it was the representative of the restaurant who had access to a permit for outdoor space on the Calle.

Lewis asked about the potential for other situations where a restaurant has only a singular access. Dials replied that while possible, it was not probable given the business opportunities that access from the Plaza offers. The way the policy stands currently, if a restaurant housed in the Sandler building closes, a competing restaurant could request the space. If granted, there would be an historical precedence, in essence removing the availability of the space from any new tenant restaurant of the Sandler building.

Dials announced that the draft language had been approved by the City attorney and all restaurants requesting permits on the Calle were kept fully informed regarding the policy change.

Landt suggested that the clause could apply to any restaurant not just those with a single access point. He noted that most restaurants would want to secure the space directly behind their building? Black noted that the policy change was specific to the Sandler situation where there was only one way to access the building. All other buildings along the Calle have access from the front of their building as well. Currently, existing restaurateurs seem to be satisfied with their assigned spaces.

In reply to a question by Bell, Black noted that the contracts were awarded based on seniority. Once the space behind a particular restaurant has been rented for a season, that restaurant has the right of first refusal for

subsequent years. The new policy would allow land owners – not just business owners – to reserve the space behind their business.

Gardiner explained that the new policy was proposed as a remedy for restaurant owners who do not have 2 entrances into their business. If there was no exit onto the Calle, the restaurant owners can still bring people into their restaurant via the Plaza entrance. This is true of every business except the one located in the Sandler building. In that case, there is no entrance on the Plaza – the Calle entrance is the only way into a business located in that building. The policy was an effort to prevent another restaurant from occupying the space directly in front of the Sandler building. If allowed, it would be catastrophic for business in the Sandler building, because there are no other options to reach the business other than from the Calle.

Lewis clarified that the arrangement was important when the business happened to be a restaurant. Other types of businesses most likely do not need seating in the Calle. He noted the importance of the Calle to APRC. He recognized Superintendent Dials for the tremendous effort to resolve this issue with minimal disruption.

Allan Sandler of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Sandler stated that he was not looking to change the contract. He was asking for the right to secure the space if a tenant were to vacate the property and a new tenant had not yet moved in to claim the space. Once they are in the building, they would be subject to all of the provisions in the contract – including the permitting process for seating on the Calle.

There followed a brief discussion about the workability of the arrangement. Black stated that if a season occurred when the Sandler building did not have a restaurant in residence, then another restaurant could utilize the space for that season. If a new restaurant takes up residence in the Sandler building during or after that season, then the Sandler property owner can secure the permit for the upcoming season.

REQUEST FOR ART IN THE PARK

Terry Doyle of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Black stated that the Doyle had initially asked for space to erect a sculpture in conjunction with the expansion of the Japanese Garden. In spite of subsequent developments that resulted placement of the Japanese Garden project on hold, Mr. Doyle remains interested in presenting his proposal to the Commission.

Doyle stated that he had asked for a memorial lantern in the Japanese Garden prior to the initiation of the garden's expansion plan. He stated that he was requesting permission to place a lantern in Lithia Park in honor of his late wife Chiyemi Katsuyoshi Doyle. He noted that the lantern would be created by local artist Wataru Sugiyama.

Doyle presented a plan to create a bronze lantern called a Yukimi-doro – the design of which he would select. He suggested that the lantern be placed just outside the existing Japanese across from the tennis courts in Lithia Park. Doyle stated that he would endow a fund for maintenance if necessary for approval.

In response to a question by Doyle regarding ADA accessibility, Black noted that the Lithia Park master plan did not propose any major changes to the area selected as the potential site for the lantern.

There followed a brief discussion regarding the process for approval. It was agreed that Doyle should approach Ashland's Public Arts Commission prior to seeking approval from APRC's Signs, Plaque's and Memorials Subcommittee. Once the process has been completed, then the proposal would come before the Parks Commission for final approval.

ITEMS FROM COMISSIONERS AND STAFF

- *Goal Setting Process*

Black referred to a memo addressed to the Commissioners regarding goal setting. He stated that similar to previously conducted goal setting processes, Commissioners would be asked to send in their ideas in advance so that staff could prepare a list for discussion at the goal setting session.

- *Public Input*

Lewis stated that he was appreciative of the extensive community input regarding goals for the next biennium. Landt agreed, noting kudos to staff for a job well done.

ADJORNMENT

There being no further business the meeting adjourned at 7:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

The Minutes are not a verbatim record. The narrative has been condensed and paraphrased at times to reflect the discussions and decisions made. Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission Study Sessions and Regular meetings are digitally recorded and are available online.



Vision for a Community Pump Track/Skills Park

APRC Recreational Goals Meeting 2/11/19

Who we are and who we represent

- RVMB, Advocacy group for Mt Biking in the Rogue Valley.
- Represent all Mtn Bike users in the Rogue Valley as a voice for advocacy, trail maintenance, trail building, and public outreach.
- Responding to a growing trend around the West Coast to provide this form of recreation for citizens of all ages and ability levels.
- A Pump Track/Skills Park is the foundation for any sustainable bike community.

A photograph of a person riding a mountain bike on a trail through a forest. The image is overlaid with a semi-transparent blue filter. In the top right corner, there is a logo for the Oregon Mountain Biking Coalition (OMBC) consisting of the letters "O", "M", and "B" in a grid, with "C" below them. Below the logo, the text "Oregon Mountain Biking Coalition" is written in white. On the left side, large orange text reads "THERE ARE 620,000 OF US." Below this, white text reads "PEOPLE OF ALL AGES & BACKGROUNDS ENJOY THE MANY BENEFITS OF CYCLING OFFROAD IN OREGON." At the bottom left, in small white text, it says "(Bergerson, 2018)".

Our Goals:

- Develop a plan in conjunction with industry professionals, the City of Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission to design, build, and operate a bike skills park as an entity of the Parks System.
- Convince APRC to add our plan to the Recreational Goals in order to streamline our design and build, as well as help with funding and other areas that a partnership with Parks will bring.
- Secure a location that provides the best possible outcomes in terms of usership, sustainability, community support, and proximity to schools/town.

What is a Pump Track/Skills Park?

-A collection of features consisting of variable terrain, surfaces, riding lines, and berms/rollers shaped in a way to offer a safe and progressive experience for all who choose to ride.

Pump Track with features



How would this benefit Ashland?

-Offer city youth more outdoor recreation opportunities to promote positive, active, healthy lifestyles in the ongoing campaign to get kids outdoors

-Foster a culture of growth, safety, and stewardship for our future watershed trail users by adding in the missing link - **the next generation**



How would this benefit Ashland?

-Meet the infrastructure demand of one of the fastest growing outdoor sports in the country

-Take pressure off of the well used skate park and replace the current BMX park if Wastewater expands

-Continue to create a top bike-tourism destination on the West Coast by tapping into additional mountain bike demographics not currently served



How would this benefit Ashland?

-Allow new mountain bikers to learn fundamental bike skills before taking on our valley's advanced trail system

-Children outgrow playgrounds but bike parks are a lifelong source of recreation

-Our citizens and constituents have asked for it en masse!



BICYCLE TOURISM ALONE FEEDS

\$400 MILLION

INTO OREGON'S ECONOMY.
(THAT'S A LOT.)

Dean Runyan Associates (2012) The Economic Significance of Bicycle-Related Travel in Oregon



Oregon
Mountain
Biking
Coalition

What would our Park look like?

3 main phases

Phase 1

We propose to build asphalt surfaced Pump Tracks with artificial grass interior.

The following are the benefits of asphalt and artificial grass:

- Can be used year round
- Minimal maintenance
- Cannot be altered once installed(great for liability)



What would our Park look like?

- Inclusive to scooters, skateboards, and bikes with road tires
- Aesthetically pleasing by offering clean, sharp lines and maintain an open park look.
- Artificial grass requires no mowing or watering of infield, and can be ridden when wet without leaving damage or drainage issues.



Design details

- Two pump tracks side by side to separate distinct ability levels

One asphalt pump track would be a beginner only, suitable for riders as young as 2 on balance bikes, up to beginning adult riders looking to learn how to safely ride. A beginner pump track would require a small area roughly 40 feet x 100 feet, or 2000 sq ft.

A second asphalt pump track would be suitable for all other riders from older beginners to advanced. This would offer many more lines, options for riding, and would be larger. Recently built parks in the same model are roughly 8-10k square feet, or 120 ft by 80 ft.

Phase 2

-Skills zone with wooden features/ramps/twists and turns to develop balance and confidence

-Wood or composite prefab materials used to create standardized and consistent, unalterable riding surface



Phase 3 - Perimeter/Loop trail with features

A flow trail or slopestyle line to offer a short trail experience more in line with what a true mountain bike trail would involve.

- Progressive lines so anyone could ride it and attempt the features that they wanted to, skipping the ones they weren't ready for.
- Trail would align with the perimeter of the pump tracks to always keep aesthetics in mind and provide a loop experience for users.
- Trail would be the last progression for riders practicing for watershed trails, and would serve as a community teaching area for trail maintenance, building, and design.
- Could combine phase 2 and 3 to create a perimeter trail with multiple line choices and features

Phase 3 - Perimeter trail with features



Location

RVMBAs has explored several locations over the past year that would check the following boxes:

- Close access to schools and town for people who can't drive to existing trails
- Visible to public for safety, aesthetics, and good sightlines. A park of this caliber should be showcased to the public, not hidden in a corner.
- Existing grades conducive to construction
- Connectivity to existing play areas, bike trails, roads, etc.
- Community support

Location

3 main locations we have identified as checking some or all aforementioned areas:

- Ashland Creek Park - Master plan
- Lincoln School - Currently ASD owned
- Property on Clay/East Main- No master plan, accessible, large area to incorporate different user groups, conducive grade to construction of park

Costs and funding

Costs range from 250-300k for full build out

- RVMBAs plans to use 501c3 status to apply for available funding from multiple sources
- Portions of costs can be offset by grants, in-kind donations, and fundraising.
- Park can be built in phases by acquiring funding for individual portions of park.
- City funds. We hope that by adding this to recreational goals and with support we've demonstrated from community that the city would consider investing in this project.

Build and Design

- Professional design and build is paramount to a successful project
- Hiring a professional bike park company only option in today's market.
- There are many examples of projects and portfolios online
- Important for RVMBAs, city, and contractor to work together to ensure product conforms to needs of city and RVMBAs.



Community Support

-Support from our constituents and residents

-Positive Statistics coming from cities and communities who have bike parks. Hood River, Redmond, Redding, Truckee, South Lake Tahoe, Leavenworth, WA are all examples

Ashland is a town with 8 bike shops, the biggest youth team in Oregon, hundreds if not thousands of local mountain bike riders, and a travel destination for riders all over the West Coast.



Community Support

Parks Survey as well as large turnout at meeting demonstrates the overwhelming support for this project.

Supporters include teachers, doctors, nurses, and pillars of the community that understand the continued need for unique outdoor recreation opportunities.



Closing

- Changing demographics
- Outdoor professionals and families moving to area
- Bike tourism has a large role in local and state economy
- Projects surrounding Ashland have been successful
- Numerous examples and models of how to do things the right way
- People willing to get involved to make this happen, and don't want Ashland left out!



Closing

Vision of a community gathering place in which beginner to advanced riders can have a safe, progressive, and sustainable space to ride.

Returns on investing in our youth through bikes will be tenfold; building the next generation of stewards and riders by opening the sport to those who may not have access otherwise



Thank you!



Sources

- Tahoe Area Mountain Bike Association
- Redding Trail Alliance
- Central Oregon Trail Alliance
- Blue Lotus Foundation, Leavenworth, WA
- Morgan Benbough, VP of Operations, Alpine Bike Parks
- Oregon Mountain Biking Coalition



Bringing Beginner Singletrack to Ashland (and Getting Kids Back to Nature!)

APRC Recreational Goals Meeting 2/11/19

Nature Deficit Disorder

- The average American child spends 4 to 7 minutes a day in unstructured play outdoors, and **over 7 hours a day in front of a screen.***

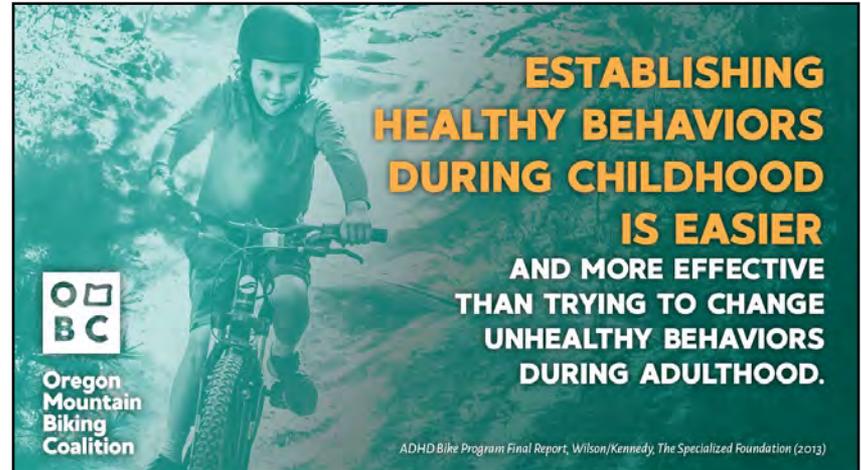
*"Why Kids Need to Spend Time in Nature", Child Mind Institute

Why Play Outside

- It gets kids moving
- It builds confidence
- It promotes creativity and imagination—you can see, hear, smell, and touch outdoor environments
- Researchers agree: kids who play outside are smarter, happier, more attentive, and less anxious than kids who spend more time indoors.

*Richard Louv, *Last Child in the Woods: Saving Our Children From Nature-Deficit Disorder*

How Can We Get Kids Outside And Into Nature?



What's wrong with existing MTB trails?

- Much too difficult
 - Like skiing Mt Ashland without Sonnet or Comer
- Hard to access without driving
- Unlikely to happen without direct parental involvement

I thought you guys wanted a pump track?

We do!

Symbiotic relationship

- A. Pump track builds skills
- B. Beginner trail lets kids take those skills onto real singletrack *while* getting them into nature

Communities are recognizing the value in trails.

“Trails used to be seen as something communities had to ‘deal’ with. Trails are now seen as the 21st century version of ball fields. If you don’t have a mountain bike trail system, you’re probably not part of the 21st century.”

Rich Edwards

IMBA Trail Solutions Director of Construction and Operations

Communities are recognizing the value in trails.

- Grants Pass spending \$2 million on Dollar Mountain trail network
- Coos County spending another \$150,000 on Mtn biking trails
- City of Klamath and local trail assn. are working together to make the area a Mtn biking destination
 - Spence Mtn, Moore Mtn, Brown Mtn, Klamath Ridgeview Trail, 150+ mi Great Klamath Circle Trail



OAKRIDGE,
A SMALL TOWN OF 3,200,
SEES 35,000 MOUNTAIN BIKERS
EACH YEAR THAT SPEND
\$2.3-\$4.9
MILLION

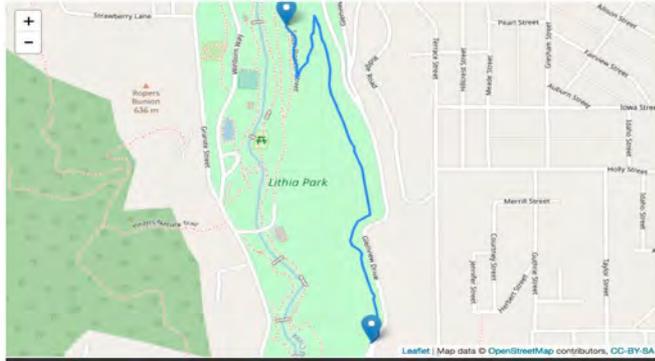
OMBC
Oregon
Mountain
Biking
Coalition

Meltzer, N. (2014) The Impacts of Mountain Bike Tourism in Oakridge, Oregon

The ideal Ashland beginner trail would be:

- Close to town
 - No driving necessary
 - No parents necessary (appeals to kids and parents alike)
- Low angle
 - An easy climbing trail (multi-use ok)
 - An easy downhill MTB only trail
 - Would allow kids and beginners to play and hone skills
- Would serve as a gateway to the watershed trails for kids and adults
 - Would give beginners a safe place to ride while giving experienced riders a road-free way to access watershed

The ideal Ashland beginner trail would be:



Outer Lithia checks all the boxes!

- ✓ Close to town
- ✓ Low angle for easy up and down
- ✓ Perfect location to serve as a gateway to the watershed trails for kids—*and* adults

What's there now?

Homeless
Camps



Poison Oak



More Homeless Camps



A QUICK CHECK FOR YOUR FLOW TRAIL PROJECT

To check your flow trail project before you build it, we've put together a quick check to know if you're on a good way to a sustainable trail or if you should rethink some aspects first. This check does not replace any planning or design work, but we hope it helps to share some of our experience. Just follow these steps:

1. WHAT IS THE ELEVATION AT THE STARTING POINT ?

In meters above sea level,

A: _____

2. WHAT IS THE ELEVATION AT THE END POINT ?

In meters above sea level,

B: _____

3. WHAT IS THE TRAIL'S PLANNED DISTANCE?

In meters,

C: _____

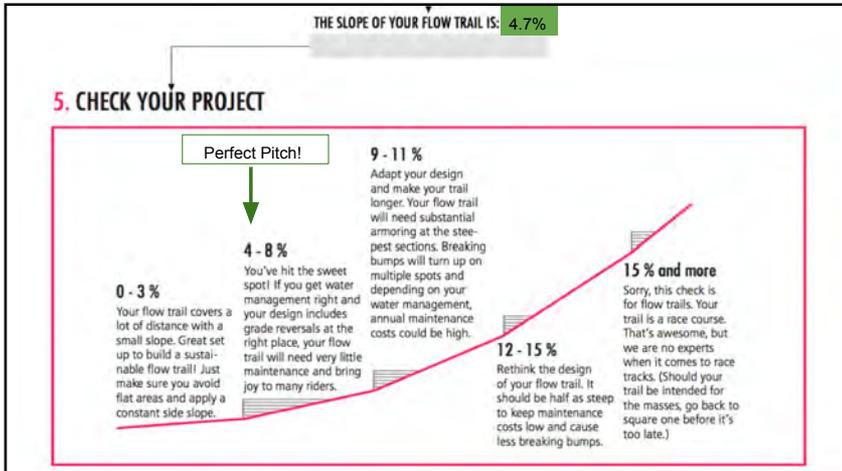
4. DO THE MATH!

$$(A-B) / D \times 100\%$$

THE SLOPE OF YOUR FLOW TRAIL IS:

$$D=(C-(A-B))^{1/2}$$

$$185 \text{ ft elevation loss} / 3854 \text{ ft} = 4.7\% \text{ grade}$$



Objections: Why not use Pioneer St.?

- It doesn't accomplish the goals of:
 - A. Getting kids onto singletrack and into the woods
 - B. Getting riders off the street (doesn't go anywhere)
 - C. It's not mountain biking

Objections: That area of Lithia is already being used.

- Won't impact existing users
- Under-utilized compared to the rest of the park
- Observed only five (legal) users in 8+ hours!

Strava Heatmap--Runners & Hikers



How are Mtn Bikers getting to/from watershed trails now?



Two small trails with many benefits

- Do it for the kids—but also for the adults
- Gets Mtn Bikers off the road
- Also gets drivers off the road
- Safer, reduces driver conflicts, more people ride from town (great for business!)
- Less carbon pollution

Added benefit

More active users in East Lithia = fewer homeless camps in East Lithia

Ok, how much is this going to cost?

- Average trail building cost for machine built downhill = \$7 per linear ft.*

$$\$7 \times \sim 4,000\text{ft} = \$28,000$$

Morgan Benbough, Vice President Alpine Bike Parks

- “Ashland desperately needs this. I’ll do it for \$9999.”

Jake Contreras (Builder of Lizard and Jabberwocky II)

- Uphill trail hand-built by volunteers. Aka free!

The real question is how much is this going to save?



**MOUNTAIN BIKING
SAVES OREGON**

\$26 MILLION

**ANNUALLY IN HEALTH
CARE COSTS.**

**OM
BC**
Oregon
Mountain
Biking
Coalition

(Rosenberger, 2018)



**EVERY \$1 SPENT
ON TRAILS LED TO
\$2.94 IN DIRECT
MEDICAL BENEFIT.**

**OM
BC**
Oregon
Mountain
Biking
Coalition

A Cost-Benefit Analysis of Physical Activity Using Bike/Pedestrian Trails, Wang, C., et al., (2004)

It's time to recognize
Ashland for what it is:
The mountain biking capital of
Southern Oregon

It's time to recognize MTB trails for
what they are:

Hugely beneficial to the health,
happiness and wellbeing of Ashland
residents and visitors alike.

The Outer Lithia Trail would solve two
critical issues by providing low-angle
beginner terrain, plus road-free
access to the watershed.

Multi Goal Sport Court Proposal

January 31, 2019

To: Ashland Parks and Recreation Department

From: Rogue Valley Bike Polo Club

Re: Proposal for Multi-sport court project at Hunter Park

Thank you for the opportunity to present our proposal to expand recreation opportunities at Hunter Park. Our goal is to serve a more diverse demographic of hard court-based sports by modifying existing facilities and repurposing an existing court at the south end of Hunter Park.

Presently, Court 5 at Hunter Park serves as the location for Rogue Valley Bike Polo, which meets regularly throughout the year on Monday nights and hosts an annual tournament that brings participants and spectators from up to 500 miles away. Court 5 also serves as one of several available courts for local tennis players, however its use is limited and other opportunities remain available to interested tennis players throughout town.

In its current form, each night the court is in use we must construct and deconstruct the bike polo court by temporarily removing the tennis nets, filling holes with fitted wood pieces, and moving side-boards that we custom built and funded to support our club. We appreciate the opportunity to play at Hunter Park, but this current situation presents safety and logistic challenges.

We are proposing a modification to existing infrastructure that will expand existing recreation opportunities for goal-oriented hard court sports by dedicating one court to serve a mix of sports, while still allowing its current users to enjoy the remaining 7 courts at Hunter Park as well.

This project would serve several popular recreation activities, including Bike Polo, Futsal, Roller Hockey, Street Hockey, and Roller Derby; to name a few.

Below you will find a draft proposal with estimated costs that can serve as a first step in evaluating our proposal. In short, we propose minimal changes that will improve the safety and logistic challenges we currently face, for instance the light posts will remain unchanged and the court structure will remain the same material. But by installing dasher boards and safety nets the light posts are removed from the field of play and the nets would help keep balls in their designated court.

Thank you for the opportunity to present our proposal, we are happy to answer any questions and look forward to working with the City of Ashland to partner in this great opportunity to expand recreation opportunities in the area.

Rogue Valley Bike Polo

Proposal details:

Changes to be made and estimated costs

- Remove tennis nets
- Remove fencing to North, East and West
 - \$1500
- Construct viewing area
 - Bleachers (2x20') on East side
 - \$2,000
 - Covered area 9x30
 - \$5,000
 - BBQ
 - \$400
 - Install concrete ramp and landing to connect sidewalk. Approximately 700 sq ft
 - \$5,000
 - Railings, approximately 90'
 - \$3,000
- Install dasher boards with netting
 - Materials \$19,000
 - Installation \$5,000
- Landscaping

Total project cost	\$40,900
If skating rink boards may be repurposed, subtract	-\$17,000
	\$23,900

Contact

Eric Michener



Daryl Witmore



Hi Daryl,

Good talking with you this morning.

I updated your 60' x 120' quote with the following changes:

- Added the Hockey Netting that we discussed
- Calculated the freight from St. Paul, MN to Ashland, OR
- Applied our upcoming Spring Flash Sale Discount

I plan to send you a Welcome Video and other useful videos that discuss rink planning, installation, etc. The videos are designed to be useful, but you may always opt out.

Your Rink Build

Rink Components	Qty	Price	Total
Tall (42") Boards	81	\$187.00	\$15,147.00
Tall (42") Gates	1	\$263.00	\$263.00
Tall (42") Corners	4	\$363.00	\$1,452.00

Anchor Plates

5' x 40' Hockey Netting

10' x 60' Hockey Netting

86

5

2

\$22.00

\$95.00

\$320.00

\$1,892.00

\$475.00

\$640.00

Rink Component Subtotal: \$19,869.00

Shipping: \$1,125.00

2019 Spring Flash Sale Discount (YOU SAVE):

(all discounts good thru 03/31/2019) (\$2,200.00)

Grand Total: \$18,794.00

Thanks again and I look forward to hearing from you!!

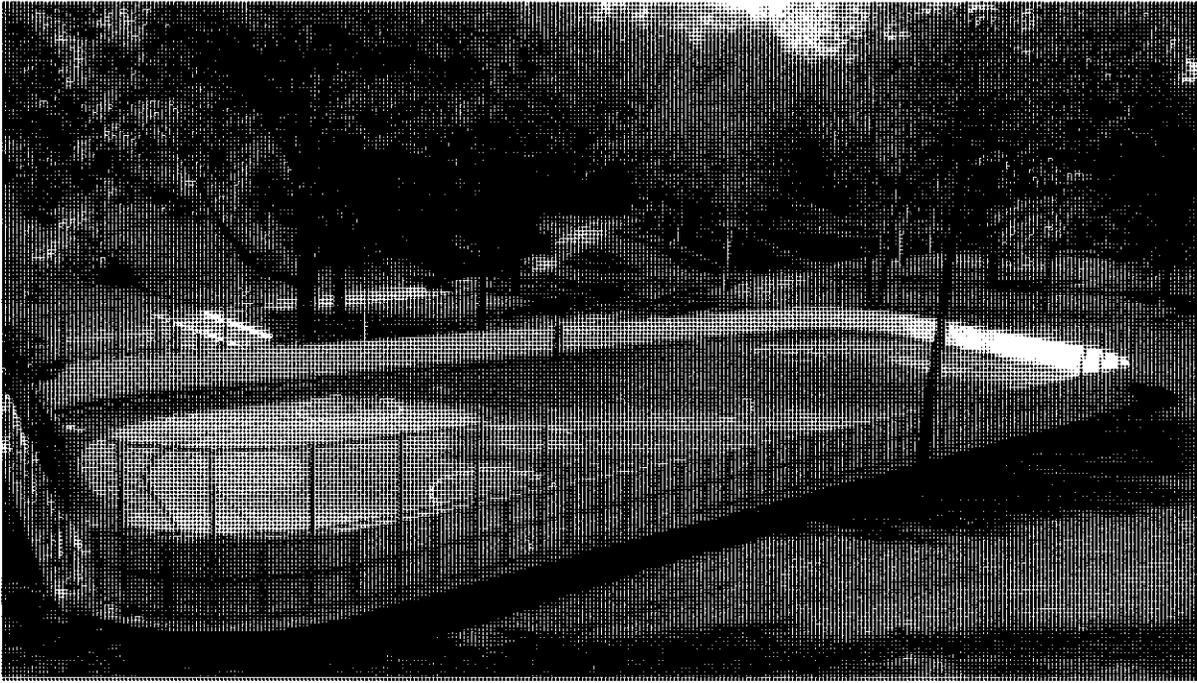
Thank you.

Mike Miller

Mobile Direct: 612-281-8855

Toll Free: 855-355-3131

Email: sales@d1backyardrinks.com



Example of proposed court



City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
2019 Goal Setting -Special Meeting

MINUTES

February 22, 2019

ATTENDANCE

Present: Commissioners Bell, Gardiner, Heller, Landt, Lewis; Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Analyst Cottle; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Analyst Kiewel; Assistant Manuel

Also present: Managers Oropallo, Flora, VanWhye, Minica, Miller

Absent: City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gardiner called the meeting to order at 1:00 p.m. at the Ashland Community Center 59 Winburn Way

PUBLIC INPUT

Larry Cooper of 259 B. St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Cooper talked about the challenges of good communications with the public – particularly in the area of policy setting. He suggested consideration of the issues from the viewpoint of the complainant. Proactively reflecting on potential concerns would assist APRC when communicating hot button issues. He stated that complainants should thereafter be kept informed about their particular area of interest, including meeting dates and times.

INTRODUCTION

Black noted that Cottle, Kiewel, and Minica were present representing specific areas of expertise. He proposed that the meeting be conducted as if it were a work session – working together to craft goals that would become part of the strategic planning for the next biennium. The biennium budget would then reflect the goals as prioritized.

Black explained that twenty goals had been set for the previous two years. Of those, six were fully completed and eight had been partially completed. He reported results as follows:

- ***Trails Master Plan Update***

The Trails Master Plan was updated via a two-year process that was accomplished by volunteers. It is currently under planning review and once approved by the Planning Department, the Master Plan would go before the Ashland City Council for adoption into Ashland's Comprehensive Plan.

- ***Open Space Master Plan***

Black highlighted three property acquisitions that were purchased with guidance from the Open Space Master Plan. The properties included the Mace property, East Main property, and the Brisco property.

- **Senior Program Reorganization**

Black stated that the Senior Program had been reorganized and new Superintendent Isleen Glatt was currently working on expanding senior programs and services.

- **Performance Audit**

Black noted that the Performance Audit emphasized the potential for community outreach for the Oak Knoll Golf Course. In keeping with that direction, new manager Patrick Oropallo is focusing on the opportunities for growth that are currently available.

- **Budget**

Black reported that APRC was currently underbudget per the 2017/2019 biennium budget. He stated that the budget would be stringent for approximately the next decade, given the increasing costs for PERS. Once Tier 1 employees retire during the upcoming ten years, then it is anticipated that the budget would plateau.

OAK KNOLL GOLF COURSE

Black stated that Oropallo would be giving a presentation on opportunities at the Golf Course for the next two years and beyond.

Oropallo highlighted the opportunities to expand, noting that increased community events and golf tournaments along with expanded programming are part of a comprehensive plan to more intimately interact with visitors and residents. Engaging the business community would be a critical aspect of the expansion. He indicated that in addition to golf tournaments – a traditional aspect of corporate involvement - businesses can bring their employees to the Golf Course for other activities such as team building events. In-house tournaments will also be added including an Ashland City Championship. Oropallo stated that scheduling these events during the slow times is one way to keep top-of-mind involvement throughout the year.

Oropallo talk about developing co-branding opportunities – particularly with hotels and in the APRC Play guide. Programming would be designed to attract beginning golfers with event markers as they increase their skill levels. New classes such as the Chip, Sip, and Giggle event would pair golf with wine tasting. A Jr. League program would begin with one or two teams of approximately 12 children per team. Working with SOU, Oak Knoll would offer a football and soccer class as well. Oropallo indicated that he would be offering free lessons on Fridays for boys and girls. A new class for Veterans will be instituted with approximately 220 hours of free golf lessons provided by Oak Knoll. He stated that the White City VA has agreed to bus interested veterans to the golf course.

Oropallo relayed that he planned to increase food service – by utilizing the existing kitchen and or by allowing caterers to prepare food onsite. He estimated that the existing kitchen could provide light meals for approximately 30-40 people. People who use the golf course for activities other than golf such as dog walking or for personal fitness would be tracked. Oropallo stated that it was anticipated that approximately 70% of those users would be captured.

Oropallo talked about ways to make tees more interesting and inclusive for junior golfers. Point of sale equipment and communications would be improved. Community events such as community concerts, a putting course and others would provide entertainment as well as recreation at the course.

Environmental programs such as activities for birders and the creation of an Audubon conservation sanctuary would be introduced. Oropallo stated that water monitoring and conservation would be economically feasible and would create a more naturalized course. He commented that historic renovations would also enhance the course – so that aficionados could play on an historic course with historic equipment for an extra element of fun.

Ideas for future enhancements include:

- Pickleball courts on site
- Catering food services and program packages that include exploring local restaurants and or a separate banquet hall.
- A playground

Commissioner Discussion

In response to a question by Landt, Oropallo noted that there was room for a playground adjacent to the #10 tee with room also at the upper parking lot for 5 or 6 pickleball courts.

Lewis noted that transitioning from gas carts to electric carts had been discussed at the Golf Subcommittee as a conservation effort.

Landt stated that the goals presented did not include infrastructure needs. He asked whether there were any items that would impact the budget such as infrastructure repairs. Landt applauded Oropallo for creating a program that would work on the existing grounds, indicating that he was appreciative of the innovative thinking and emphasis on the positive.

Black stated that he too was appreciative of Oropallo's focus – but given the age of the golf course, there would be some course improvements needed. He noted that the cart paths had not yet been completed, and the Clubhouse was in need of repairs etc. Black indicated that the important point was that in spite of those needs, Patrick was moving forward without major improvements.

In response to a question by Bell, Dials stated that Oropallo was confident that he could increase revenue by 80%. She recommended 70% as a more conservative starting place. In addition, she noted that at some future date, she would present plans to the Commissioners to adjust golf course fees.

In response to a question from Bell about minimal infrastructure changes, Gardiner noted that last year's infrastructure improvements included new sprinkler heads. Because of that work, the course grounds are currently in reasonable shape.

Lewis cautioned that revenue was highly dependent upon factors beyond control – such as the weather and wildfires etc. He supported the plans for enhanced programs and services, stating that engaging more people was an important component of a healthy golf course.

Landt agreed with establishing an aggressive goal provided incentives for achievement.

Bell asked about a plan to divest APRC of the golf course if it could not become more efficient. Lewis replied that alternatives such as converting the course to a park would not make financial sense because the use would not be revenue producing. He stated that selling the property for development like affordable

housing would entail a transfer to the City who would then decide the property's fate. He stated that continuing as a municipal golf course was the best alternative for APRC at this time. He expressed excitement over the innovations planned.

Bell talked about the tight budgetary environment with the golf course being the most costly program to run. He stated that it seemed reasonable to have a contingency plan that might include divestiture. Black replied that the best process for testing that idea would be continued discussions and the establishment of a benchmark that would signal the appropriate time to consider an alternative plan. In the meantime, APRC would work towards the most cost-effective program possible.

Gardiner noted that APRC promotes recreational activities that serve a portion of the populace. If public opinion were to change and there was to be outside pressure to decommission the golf course, then the options would be considered at that time.

Landt suggested that failure to improve the return on investment would, in his opinion, trigger consideration of other options. He stated that initially every effort should be made to increase the efficiencies. He indicated that Oropallo should first be given an opportunity to increase cost recovery and expand the services.

STAFF LEVELS OF SERVICE

Black commented that the goal is to continue to provide programs and services at the current level of service.

- ***Recreation Division Level of Service***

Dials stated that it was her responsibility to advocate for APRC's recreational programs and the staff that brings them to fruition. She stated that the unsung heroes are the staff that welcome the public on a daily basis. Dials noted that staff works to solve problems at the point of contact. They are welcoming, friendly and kind in spite of the many hats they wear.

Nature Center

Dials reported that the Center welcomes approximately 4000 visitors in the last few months. She highlighted Nature Center staff, highlighting their dedication to the programs offered at the Center. Dials noted that the Nature Center offers a wide range of activities for people of all ages and abilities. Dials detailed the behind-the-scenes work that must be completed for a seamless experience – noting that community programs included school based educational opportunities, demonstration gardens, special events and more.

Recreational Programming

Dials talked about the diverse programs offered in APRC facilities - stating that there is an average of 95 programs presented each season. Recreation manager Flora works to facilitate partnerships with the business community and other organizations with a goal of enhancing revenue and increasing community outreach.

Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink

Dials noted that family-oriented programming at the Rink attracts approximately 20,000 people per season. Parks staff plan and manage operations, including training and scheduling 19 seasonal staff.

Daniel Meyer Pool

Dials reported that over 13,000 users utilize the pool annually. She stated that the summer season runs from mid-June through mid-September, employing approximately 20 lifeguards, swim instructors, and aquatic fitness instructors.

Recreation and Visitor Services

The Grove functions as the main office for customer services – including registration for programs and services as well as the management of facility leases. Staff disseminates materials such as brochures and maps and answers basic questions regarding parks and open spaces. APRC also facilitates the annual tax program sponsored by AARP.

Calle Guanajuato

Dials noted that she is responsible for oversight and management of the lease agreements and contracts for restaurants and coordination with the APRC Parks Division for maintenance during the season which runs from mid-March through mid-November.

Special Events

APRC special events sponsored by the Recreation Division include the annual Bike Swap, 4th of July run, Ashland World Music Festival, First Frost, and Island Night.

Volunteer in Parks Program (VIP)

Dials described Volunteer Coordinator Lori Ainsworth's duties in recruiting, screening, training and assigning volunteers who assist APRC in various capacities. She noted that in 2018 there were over 1500 volunteers who donated 13,574.20 hours.

Clubhouse Operations at Oak Knoll Golf Course

Dials commented that the year-round golf course features a covered driving range, putting green, short game practice green, a clubhouse and outdoor patio. APRC provides rental clubs and golf carts as well as merchandise for purchase. The clubhouse is available for special events.

Dials spoke briefly about internal customer service, staff committee attendance, budget oversight and other activities that contribute to APRC as a whole, as well as the municipal golf course.

- ***Parks Division Level of Service***

Oxendine stated that Parks primary responsibility was to maintain existing parkland. He stated that he was supportive of the goals and ideas that have been expressed with the focus of improving what is already there.

In response to a question by Bell, Oxendine stated that he recommended a review of the parkland to determine the current level of service. Once established as a baseline, a goal could be set to monitor improvements.

Landt asked about the current level of service of lower Lithia Park. Oxendine stated that in his opinion, the level of maintenance was approximately a 3 or 4. Scenic Park, on the other hand is a little higher because it is a newer facility and the hardscape is in acceptable shape. He noted that the entrance to Lithia Park should be maintained at the highest level possible given the amount of resources available.

Oxendine noted that the Performance Audit recommendations were to improve operations in general by establishing formal maintenance standards, a comprehensive asset inventory and other actions to determine performance indicators. He suggested that a consultant assist with establishing comparative benchmarks to measure the level of service in the parks.

Black clarified that Parks maintains APRC parkland at the levels that can be physically viewed. He stated that when a compliment is received about a park – they are really commending the parks staff that ensure that the park is maintained.

Glatt highlighted staff's maintenance of the public restrooms, stating that keeping them cleaned was a critically important part of the parks experience.

Gardiner asked about hiring a third party to recommend benchmarks. Black replied that one of his goals was to complete a Master Plan for each of the Parks. In essence that would provide an evaluation that could become the foundation for improvements.

There followed a brief discussion about self-rating such a large area – and the amount of time and effort it would take. Heller suggested empowering volunteers to review the levels of service and evaluate each of the parks with that criteria. He stated that the outside assessment could provide helpful information at minimal cost.

- ***Forestry Division Level of Service***

Minica stated that the Forestry Division oversees 563 acres of Parks forestland with a focus on managing for biological diversity of native plants and controlling non-native invasive species. Minica provided an overview of the environmental impacts that Parks works to incorporate, while maintaining Parks trails and open space. He stated that hikers are generally very appreciative of the almost 50 miles of trails that Parks provides.

Minica told a story about a property owner who allows Parks to access forestland from his driveway – noting that wildfire mitigation is an important part of Parks maintenance. He stated that the property owner was so pleased with the work that Parks does, that he donated funds to support their work.

Minica talked about dog servicing stations and the number of bags of waste that are removed from the trails by Parks workers. At almost 400,000 bags per year, the service to the citizens of Ashland is a substantial one.

Minica outlined the number of partnerships that provide volunteer workers to keep the forests environmentally sound and urban forest safe. He noted that they partner with the Fire Department on requests for grants for fuel mitigation.

Other services provided include working with landowners on property disputes – helping other departments with construction needs and more.

Commissioner Discussion

Bell noted the large amounts of Ivy that is present in Lithia Park, asking about mitigation efforts there. Minica replied that Parks crews come together periodically to remove the ivy.

Heller suggested an article in Park Views regarding doggie waste. He asked about building a mountain bike trail along the Eastside of Lithia Park.

Senior Services Division Level of Service

Glatt stated that historically the senior program referred to programs provided at the Senior Center. She indicated that as part of the redesign, the senior program is expanding to include referral services to other organizations as part of a more comprehensive look at what seniors need. The scope of the program has also been expanded to serve seniors community wide. She highlighted the importance of building a network for seniors based upon their specific needs.

Glatt talked about the fitness, recreation, and education services provided, noting that Food and Friends meals often attract seniors who need the social contacts – not just a meal. Support services for seniors and their families provide assistance in accessing benefits and navigating the social services available.

Glatt told stories that illustrated how valuable building connections for seniors becomes as they age and their circumstances change – noting that the goal was to build a more age friendly community and greater awareness of the needs of older adults.

Heller commented on the importance of social media in building awareness. He encouraged Glatt to continue to reach out to the community via the Ashland Tidings and digital communications. Glatt agreed, noting that the Senior Advisory Committee was looking at the Gatekeeper program that would assist with increased social marketing.

Bell noted that organizations like Rogue Community Health could offer more intensive case management. Glatt agreed noting connections to the organization and others who specialize in specific areas that were part of the concept of directing people towards the services that are needed.

Gardiner asked about capacity at the Senior Center. Glatt replied, stating that the busy times are between 11:00 a.m. and 2:00 p.m. She stated that she wanted to expand the program's offered during the 3:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. timeframe. In addition, caregiver classes would be offered at night. She stated that many classes were full and scheduling additional classes required prioritization. With a portable structure, more classes could be offered at optimal times.

In response to a question by Landt, Glatt noted that the model for Ashland senior services was Oregon's Aging and Disability Resource Connection – a program that emphasizes fewer intensive services for a larger number of people rather than intensive services for fewer people. Training of the public sector and interested citizens would create a network of people who have learned how to recognize vulnerable seniors – particularly those who might be isolated and therefore unable to communicate their needs. Glatt talked about goals for outreach and increasing community awareness so that people have the tools to respond as loved ones age.

- ***Administration Division – Level of Service***

Kiewel described a day in the life of administrative staff – handling meeting preparations, preparing the budget, reviewing projects and more.

Cottle stated that she was looking forward to organizing and maintaining APRC policies and developing access to policies online that are easy to navigate. She stated that familiarizing APRC staff with tools for website management, and the City's communications system called Nixle was being actively pursued. Cottle talked about the capabilities of Nixle in communicating mass alerts or advisories. As an example, she noted uses for sending text or emails when there is a closure due to wildfire smoke at the pool.

Cottle highlighted in-house marketing and promotions such as the Recreation Programs Guide – produced for three seasons each year. She stated that advertising revenue from the guides is projected to be \$6800 for the 2018/2019 budgetary year. Cottle told a story related to forging a partnership with the Oregon Shakespeare Festival that resulted in a half-page ad in the Shakespeare Festival guide. She stated that because of that and other partnerships, advertising effectiveness increased 26.5% over the annual marketing budget.

Cottle noted that articles in the Ashland Tiding Park Views was a popular and effective way to reach the community – recently contributing to the success of a previous solicitation for public input on goals.

Cottle shared examples of ways to leverage marketing while promoting special events – noting creative ways that resulted in benefits for APRC and APRC's community partners as well.

- ***2019/2019 Budget / CIP Status Update***

Black quoted from the report given by Mark Welch, Admin Director from the City of Ashland, regarding the 6th Quarter Financial Review – noting the following: “The Parks General fund continues to show a positive trend with their Fund Balance increasing. Parks has collected 46.6% of the budgeted revenue and only spent 41.9%”.

Black expressed kudos to Division Superintendents and Department managers – stating that it was a concerted effort to save money, given the current biennium's budget restrictions. Because of their vigilance, the next biennium would be better able to meet personnel, materials and service expenses more expeditiously.

In response to a question by Landt, Black stated that he had asked the City Finance Director if APRC would be allowed to roll over a fund surplus and the reply was affirmative. There followed a brief review of times when the City laid claim to APRC's ending fund balance. Landt remarked that a change of strategy should be determined if that were to happen again. Black stated that he assumed that surplus funds of approximately \$400,000 would go to contingencies and capital outlays. If that were to be the case, the General Fund would become more robust.

Heller suggested getting confirmation that the fund balance would remain with APRC.

Bell asked about segregating the funds into a line item for PERS unfunded liabilities. Black noted that he would take that under advisement.

CIP Budget

Black reviewed the projects completed that were budgeted in the CIP (Capital Improvement Plan) including the Calle Guanajuato improvements, Garfield Water Play replacement, the North Mountain Culvert repairs, the Riverwalk improvements and the Shade Shelter at Ashland Creek Park.

Other line items include projects that are ongoing such as the second Dog Park construction, development of a neighborhood park to replace the YMCA park. Black suggested that the two projects should be combined. The \$265,000 set aside for construction of the Dog Park is a conglomeration of funds from various sources. Approximately \$5600 has been spent to date on survey work for that project. Also ongoing is the Lithia Parks Master Plan which is about 75% complete,

Black stated that the sale of the YMCA Park yielded \$480,000 and the purchase of the Clay Street property in its stead resulted in \$91,000 surplus funds. Those surplus funds have not yet been added to the budget but would be included in the draft budget for the upcoming biennium. He stated that \$120,000 from the sale of a portion of the Clay St. property was also not yet recorded in the budget and would also be reflected in the upcoming budget.

Black indicated that the \$3,250,000 budgeted for the pool has not yet been secured. The source of funding would be a bond if the project comes to fruition.

Trails and Open Space Master Plan Update was budgeted for \$30,000 with an actual cost of approximately \$5000.

Black talked about land acquisitions budgeted at \$1.48 million which was spent on property acquisitions of the East Main property, the Mace property and Brisco park.

There followed a brief discussion about the status of remaining funds minus the budgeted items where the funding source has either not yet been identified or sought. Black stated that there would be approximately \$1.0 million remaining in actual dollars for CIP projects. The majority of the remaining funds comes from Food & Beverage Tax revenue.

Oxendine talked about Oak Knoll irrigation improvements, stating that the project was close to completion with approximately \$11,000 remaining in the budget. He stated that any remaining funds would be spent on a new filter for the system.

In response to a question by Landt, Black noted that the amount budgeted for the North Mountain Park Nature Play area was \$15,000 in seed money. The project as a whole was approved for up to \$150,000. Black explained that funding was dependent upon alternative sources of funding that once obtained would be spent. Work done to date resulted in expenditures of \$23,000 for design of the play area and \$35.00 for a permit. Expenditures of \$41, 895.53 were reported in error. Black clarified that \$15,000 was actual CIP funding from the Food and Beverage tax revenue.

Pending projects include funds for a storm drain project, funds for a sidewalk along Winburn Way and others. No funding from the \$55,000 set aside for pickleball courts has been expended. Total expenditures including property acquisitions are at \$2.2 million of the CIP. Heller noted that there was an additional \$1. 6 million that had not yet been expended on the East Main Park and other smaller projects.

Minica noted that the Beach Street project ongoing even though listed as complete. He stated that there was some additional planning for the project that was outstanding. Landt questioned the notation that the project was completed - noting that there were some repairs that were stopgap measures until more extensive fixes could be initiated.

- *Update regarding current goals*

1. Facilitate a partnership between Parks and Recreation and a community partner, such as the YMCA, SOU and Ashland School District, to build new competition-style and recreation year-round indoor swimming pool for the community.

Black noted that an Ad-hoc Committee was working on a preferred solution and the project was not yet developed.

2. Update Trails and Open Space Comp Plans and continue to purchase land according to the plans. Black stated that the Trails Master Plan update project would be completed once it has been adopted into the Comp Plan – something that would happen whether or not it is included in future goals. He stated that the Open Space Plan could be moved forward.

3. Move forward with the process of selection for a consultant for the Lithia Park Master Plan and begin planning process.

This portion of the project has been completed.

4. Evaluate all APRC facilities and structures for seismic and flood safety.

Black suggested that the evaluation could be completed as a Master Plan, recommending that the goal be replaced.

5. Expand Bear Creek Greenway to its originally planned beginning/ending point at Emigrant Lake.

Black stated that this goal was proposed as a new goal as well and could be discussed when the new goals are reviewed.

6. Evaluate expanded and alternative use of the Senior Center to meet community needs.

Black noted that the evaluation was close to completion.

7. Evaluate and present a cost recovery implementation strategy for Commissioner Approval.

Black reported that the goal was partially complete – with APRC operating under a new MOU with the Ashland School District.

8. Develop parks development standards and guidelines.

Black suggested that this goal be moved forward, noting that revised standards might result in some cost reductions – particularly in the area of water conservation and use.

9. Follow all of the adopted recommendations of the 2016 Performance Audit.

Black indicated that the recommendations were guidelines that should become followed whenever possible without being listed as a goal.

Landt commented that if there were related issues with regard to the Audit – specific goals could be set to address those issues. Black replied that there were some issues – for example with the golf course - that were important enough to be considered a guideline, and listed as a goal.

10. Pursue the evaluation of, and funding for, a rebuild of Daniel Meyer Pool into a year-round eight lane competitive/recreation aquatics facility.
It was agreed that the goal should be combined with goal number one – with the understanding that the Subcommittee would be accountable for any solutions proposed.
11. Negotiate with the Ashland YMCA to rid APRC of the restrictive deed that currently governs the use of APRC's "YMCA Park."
This goal has been completed.
12. Continue to consider options for APRC's use of the Imperatrice Property.
Black noted that the City was reviewing options for the property with APRC contributing to the discussion.
13. Work to identify at least six "dedicated" pickleball courts through various means including partnerships with Ashland School District and Southern Oregon University and/or private partnerships.
Black stated that there were additional goals with regard to the courts that would be discussed when new goals were discussed.
14. Plan and build a second dog park on APRC property somewhere toward the south end of Ashland.
Black stated that there were several related goals and that the goal should be discussed in tandem with new goals.
15. Master plan for park shop/yard areas, dog parks and skateboard park
Black recommended expanding this goal as a Master Plan after additional discussion.
16. Restore the area of Beach Creek below pedestrian bridge.
This goal has been completed.
17. Continue the process of evaluation currently underway at the Senior Center, with the goals that have been established, and work to incorporate and evaluate the program and determine whether the program should be located in the APRC or City budget.
Black noted that there were other related goals to be discussed or combined.
18. Implement/attain easement and purchase agreements on Ashland Pond property and through the few remaining private properties, with dogs excluded from the property via a wildlife preserve designation.
Black suggested that a better goal might be to continue to obtain easements on properties for trail access continuity. He noted that it could include the Ditch Trail and others.

Landt stated that obtaining access to APRC owned properties should be the first priority. It was agreed that the goal would be re-worded for a broader focus.

19. Evaluate, create plan and improve irrigation at Oak Knoll.

Black recommended removing this goal in favor of one of the new goals proposed.

20. Evaluate grant and other funding opportunities for a Nature Play area at North Mountain Park.

Black relayed that funding has been obtained, suggesting that a goal to build the Nature Play might not be needed.

There followed a lengthy discussion about combining and/or eliminating goals. Landt commented on the relevancy of Goal #5. Heller suggested that new goals be reviewed prior to a decision to move former goals forward. It was agreed that Goal #13 should be addressed during discussion of the proposals for new pickleball goals and other goals modified based on discussion of the new proposals.

2019/2021 BUDGET PROCESS DISCUSSION

Black talked about the likelihood of a flat budget, noting that while the City would not fund any increased budget requests, expenses would continue to go up. He projected a budget shortfall of approximately \$750,000 for the biennium - given increases in PERS liabilities, increased fees for utilities and insurance and other expenses.

Black stated that because the budget shortfall was projected to be significant, he asked the Commissioners be aware that increases in levels of service per the adoption of new goals, would most likely result in a decrease in levels of service elsewhere.

Black listed many budget positives such as increased revenue from the School District, and the new Golf Course manager who had a very real opportunity to increase in revenue. He noted that there was an opportunity to increase SDCs (System Development Charges). Ashland's SDCs were very low in comparison to other cities. Black suggested a goal to work on a Master Plan to increase SDC fees during the next biennium. He stated that an increase would create some flexibility in how the Food and Beverage tax would be utilized. Black noted that Parks received approximately \$50,000 per year in SDCs and increase to the mid-range of SDC's would increase revenue significantly.

In response to a question by Heller, Black noted that a case needed to be made to justify an increase in system development charges. He indicated that a Parks Master Plan that details deferred maintenance would become part of the analysis by the City Council – who would ultimately approve the request. Bell suggested that the unfunded PERS liability could be presented as justification as well.

Black explained that SDC's typically pay for infrastructure improvements (increases in the system or major maintenance projects). The PERS liabilities are in the Materials and Services Budget and therefore not funded by SDCs. That said, Black noted that extra revenue from SDCs could take the place of Food and Beverage (F & B) revenue, freeing F & B funds for Materials and Services.

In response to a comment by Heller, Black noted that the F & B funds were down due to the excessive smoke in the Valley during the summer. In response to a question by Gardiner, he stated that it would most likely take a year to prepare the Master Plan prior to presenting the request for an increase in SDCs. He indicated the increase would need to be justified by many years of projects and a demonstrated need to maintain the system.

Lewis observed that the rules for SDCs were complex and included a capital outlay in the general area of collection.

Black stated that the high levels of service demonstrate that APRC staff's accomplishments were substantial. He highlighted the creative and innovative ways that staff had responded to opportunities. He noted that new manager Oropallo was a case in point – proposing increased programming that would translate to increased revenue without a major influx of capital.

Black noted that the community was asking for services that called for significant investments – such as the rebuild of the Daniel Meyer pool. He stated that such reaching goals should be carefully considered given budgetary constraints. The pool would be funded by a general obligation bond that must be repaid over a long period of time. An upgraded pool would also cost significantly more to maintain. A careful assessment should be reviewed to determine the potential for cost recovery. Gardiner suggested that an expedited process was necessary and a decision regarding the pool should be addressed in the near future, given the demand for aquatic services and the deteriorating condition of the existing pool.

Black stated that APRC should pursue opportunities compatible with the ability to maintain the current level of service. Projects should be discussed in conjunction with the opportunities for volunteer assistance, alternative sources of funding, cost recovery ratios and more. New sources of revenue such as endowment funds or new ways of earning money should be considered and actively pursued.

Gardiner noted that new projects must also be justified to the satisfaction of the Budget Committee and City Council.

REVIEW PUBLIC INPUT

Black noted that substantial public input had been received and evaluated. One requests that should be discussed in depth would be the proposal by Cathy Shaw.

DRAFT GOALS/GOALS BRAINSTORM

- ***Bear Creek Greenway***

Black reviewed current Trails and Open Space goals regarding the Bear Creek Greenway. Black suggested that the Bear Creek Greenway goals were already supported through the Trails and Open Space Master Plan. In addition, he proposed setting aside \$250,000 to build a trail from Sleepy Hollow on the Mace property to North Mountain Park.

Heller asked whether budgeting \$250,000 for a new trail that would add to the cost of maintenance was appropriate given budget constraints. Black replied that much of the trail would be asphalt needing very little maintenance. Funding would come from CIP funds.

Gardiner noted that the Greenway's goals did not need to be reflected in APRC's goals. He suggested either leaving it as a placeholder or amending the goal to the reflect creation of a trail on APRC property. After some back and forth, it was agreed that the goal would be restricted to trail construction from the Dog Park to North Mountain Park.

- ***Lithia Park Single Track Bike Trail***

Black proposed that the feasibility of a low angle bike trail be explored on the East Side of Lithia Park.

There followed discussion that included an assessment by Forestry Supervisor Minica – who indicated that a new trail, would add congestion in Lithia Park, conflict with various user groups, and add stress to an unstable hillside. He stated that signage would have to be erected to establish the restricted use – when APRC’s policy limits signage in Lithia Park.

Black suggested amending the goal to state “Explore feasibility and community support of a low-angle bike trail on the east side of Lithia Park”.

In answer to question by Heller, Gardiner noted that if the bike track becomes a goal, then additional public input would be obtained and the decision to move forward would be prioritized. Landt noted that a feasibility study would also explore alternatives, such as Winburn Way.

- ***Wildfire Prevention Strategies***

Black noted the AFR (Ashland Fire Resiliency) actively works on wildfire prevention. APRC participates through the Forestlands Commission.

There followed discussion regarding the Shaw request to accelerate wildfire mitigation efforts. Minica noted that there were approximately 50 acres of Lithia Park land that were in need of wildfire mitigation treatment. Black stated that Shaw’s request had a myriad of implications – he suggested that the place to begin would be to determine what the Forestlands Commission and other partners were working on and how APRC could support that effort.

Landt noted that the legislative process for the Shaw proposal would continue to gather support with voters given the opportunity to approve a bond for mitigation. APRC’s goal should be to explore parks and open space fire vulnerability to determine if a significant amount of work needs to be done.

Bell noted that fire suppression work was underway by APRC and its partners. Shaw had proposed buying land to secure a perimeter around – which in Bell’s view, was a different project. After a substantial discussion about ways to accelerate wildfire management, the Commissioners agreed to support a goal proposed by Landt as follows: “Explore wildfire vulnerability of APRC land and if there is a significant backlog of fire mitigation that needs to be done, consider a bond.”

It was agreed that goals 6, 7, and 8 would be incorporated into one goal as stated above.

Black noted that goals 9,10, an 11 and 12 were specific projects, with goal #10 referencing the Mace property. It was agreed to leave those goals a stated. Goal #13 was a goal to purchase a specific easement to access Ashland Pond. It was agreed that the goal would be changed to refer to Ashland Pond and *other landlocked properties*. Goal # 14 was removed in favor of goal # 7.

Mike Oxendine noted that goal 15 should include a replacement schedule for trees that have a limited lifetime. Goal 19 was removed in favor of goal 25. Goals 16 and 17 were combined, as were goals 20 and 21. Black commented that utilizing the maintenance budget as well as capital funds to renew or replace aging infrastructure and update equipment for the purpose of using TID water instead of domestic water, would actually result in a cost-savings.

Black explained that a strategy to improve the infrastructure in this way, would impact capital spending but it would also result in longer term savings in the maintenance budget. Oxendine shared examples such as the upgrade of trash compactors or a new pump and filter that would allow for TID water. He stated that TID water would be much less expensive. The savings will reside in the maintenance budget to be used for other projects.

Black reviewed goals 22 and 24 – noting that the two referred to a collaborative effort to create an indoor activity center to provide a healthy environment for children when the air quality outdoors puts them at risk. Goal 23 would be to build such a facility. It was agreed that 24 would be removed as redundant. Goals 24,25, and 26 were to be combined. Goals 27, 28, 29 and 30 would be combined as well.

- ***Pesticide Management Improvements***

Black introduced goal 31 on pesticide management. After some discussion, it was agreed that the Commissioners would support the goal but not move the goal forward. Landt noted that additional data from staff was needed to address specific biological practices. Lewis commented that the Pesticide Management program had a history of continuous improvements and that the policy was reviewed by the Commissioners on an annual basis. Oxendine highlighted the high cost of some organic pesticides and the limited budget, noting that staff was as efficient as possible given the constraints. VanWhye suggested that developing plans for each specific species could be helpful in terms of managing shade and other controls that work. She stated that weed-whacking could be problematic at times by facilitating the spread of seeds. Landt agreed noted that sometimes spraying an annual would not prevent the plant from going to seed.

- ***Passenger Van***

Black proposed removal of goal 32, noting that the purchase of a van could be prioritized internally. Goals 34, and 35 were combined. There was some discussion about the difference between developing indoor alternatives because of air quality and/or because of programming needs.

- ***Historic Structures and Art in the Parks***

Heller noted that 36 might refer to the historical markers proposed by the Arts and Historic Commissions. Oxendine clarified that the intent was to include all of the historic structures and art that was in need of repair or rejuvenation. Black suggested that the goal could be addressed with a master plan. The Perrozi fountain and Lincoln School fields could be addressed via a Parks Master Plan.

- ***Managerial Software, Marketing Plan and CAPRA***

After some discussion, it was agreed that Goal 37 could be addressed inhouse without listing as an official goal. Oxendine explained that Goal 38 - the purchase of operations software – would increase efficiencies with enhanced tracking. He noted that there would be a budget impact of approximately \$50,000.

Black explained that the MOU with the City of Ashland covers the development of a Marketing Plan and/or a communications guide. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that goal 39 could be removed.

In response to a question by Landt, regarding goal 40, Black explained that CAPRA is an acronym for Certified Accredited Parks and Recreation Agency.

- ***Aquatics Facility***

Goals 41 through 47 were related to the pool replacement or upgrade. It was agreed that goal 44 would replace goals 41 – 47. Goal 48 would stand alone.

- **Pickleball**

Goals 51 – 57 and 58 were related to pickleball. Heller proposed the resurfacing of the courts at Lithia Park as an interim step prior to building dedicated courts. He stated that APRC set aside \$100,000 for 6 pickleball courts. Heller requested \$50,000 in additional funding so that \$150,000 could be used to build 8 dedicated courts. He stated that more work needed to be done to determine the ideal location for the courts but once built – there would be minimal upkeep. Landt noted that goal 56 was a proposal for a multi-use court at Ashland Creek Park. There followed a detailed discussion about shared uses, scheduling conflicts and compatibilities between pickleball and tennis. Heller stated that the first-come, first served rule seemed to be working well. In response to a question about revenue by Bell, Heller noted that asking for a small donation for play would be appropriate. He stated that he would ask APRC to build the courts with assistance from SOVA on lights, and other amenities. There followed a debate regarding the need to resurface all APRC courts, and/or build dedicated courts. Heller requested that the priority be dedicated pickleball courts (goal # 53). It was agreed that follow-up would be needed to determine the budgetary impact. In conjunction with pickleball, it was also agreed that goals 58 and 59 be removed in favor of goal 62 – which was to resurface the Hunter Park tennis courts with the addition of one multi-use court. Goal 61 would be removed.

- **Conservation and Sustainability- Parks Development**

Black suggested that goal 63 should emphasize that potential sites for electric charging stations be considered in the Master Plan processes for Parks.

Goals 64,66 and 67 were removed. It was agreed that goal 69 would need further discussion. Goals 70 and 71 represent opportunities for solar and hydropower where feasible.

Goal 80 - wetlands creation and/or restoration could become potential sources of revenue.

Black stated that there was a potential for resolution regarding goals 81, 82 and 83. The acquisition would impact the maintenance budget. Landt noted that Lincoln Park was in the Comp Plan. He suggested that Goal 84 be revised to read “Ensure that the Lincoln School playground and fields remain open to the public *in perpetuity*”.

Goals 85 and 86 would stand as written. Goals 87,88,89 also stand as written. Bell noted that Goal 90 was to build a park similar to the Park in the Westmoreland Neighborhood in Portland. VanWhye noted that the North Mountain Nature Park was modeled on Westmoreland. It was agreed that goal 90 would be removed.

- **Senior Services**

Landt suggested that goal 91 be incorporated into like goals. There were no comments for goals 93 through 99. Landt indicated that the Paradise project (goal 100) was intended as a visionary goal that once evaluated, could be paid for with grants.

Glatt noted that the 7 goals (101 through 108) contained objectives that she would seek support from the Commissioners on. Black added that he would like to see goals prioritized as well as receive support. Landt

stated that budget impacts should be estimated by staff. It was agreed that the senior services goals would be voted upon outside the goal setting meeting.

- ***Oak Knoll Golf Course***

Black recommended removal of goals 110 and 112 in favor of 111. Goal 113 was covered elsewhere. There followed a brief discussion about the cost of completing the cart path paving (approximately \$250,000) and the playground (approximately \$100,000). Goals 114 and 115 could be included in goal 111.

Black talked about the wetland area dredging, noting that the Army Corp of Engineers must approve of the project. Goal 117 would stand as written. Goal 118 presented different options for plantings.

- ***Recreation Expansion***

Dials noted that goals 119 and 120 were taken from the Performance Audit. She stated that with the advent of the Recreation Subcommittee, the Performance Audit recommendations would likely become Recreation goals. Goal 123 will be removed.

Goals related to pickleball would be identified in goal 56.

Goal 122 The Lithia Park goal and the Oak Knoll bridges projects would be covered under Parks Master Plan.

Oxendine stated that the North Mountain Park Facilities (goal #122) was needed because there was no longer room to store APRC equipment – similar to the maintenance yard at the Oak Knoll Golf Course. He stated that the expansion could be accommodated by utilizing seldom used parking spaces.

- ***Facilities***

Dials referred to plans to turn an underutilized ball field into a soccer field. She introduced goal number 124 – talking about upgrades to the Grove that would include ADA door and keycard access and others.

Dials stated that APRC facilities are put to use during smoke events but air quality levels might put users at risk. She suggested that air scrubbers and door and window seals be addressed for all facilities. Landt suggested that the costs involved should be obtained and analyzed at a future goal setting session.

Dials spoke briefly about goal 129 – noting that an Interpretive Plan for APRC as a whole should be developed with a focus on history, flora and fauna.

Black noted that goal 129 notes that additional funding is needed for the Nature Play area but that funding would come from grants. Construction of the playground is anticipated to start in summer of 2019.

VanWhye noted that she was currently approximately \$10,000 short but that a funding source had been identified to cover that. She noted that the unknown would be increased construction costs. Black suggested that the budget cover a shortfall of \$25,000 or less if a shortfall were to develop.

VanWhye noted three ponds at North Mountain Park need to be dredged to remove silt and create an open water habitat. She stated that the ponds have been filling for so many years that the natural characteristics have changes from open water habitat to more of a wetland habitat. She stated that there is a sediment trap that needs to be maintained.

Landt suggested that goals 11, 130 and 131 should be funded from grants.

Black stated that the goals would be clarified and newly formatted based upon discussion and a vote will be scheduled.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 6:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

DRAFT

These Minutes are not a verbatim record. The narrative has been summarized to reflect the discussions made. Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission Study Sessions, Special Meetings and Regular Meetings are digitally recorded and available upon request.

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Minutes
February 25, 2019

Present: Commissioners Bell, Gardiner, Heller, Landt, Lewis; Director Black; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Analyst Cottle; Assistant Manuel

Absent: City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gardiner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street, Ashland

APPROVAL OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MINUTES

Pool Ad-Hoc Subcommittee

January 16, 2019

Landt stated that there would be a correction to the Pool Ad-Hoc Subcommittee Minutes: Commissioners present were recorded as three, when only two Commissioners attended. Former Commissioner Miller was present as a citizen member.

Golf Course Subcommittee

February 6, 2019

Gardiner reported that there would be a correction to the Golf Course Subcommittee Minutes: Two Commissioners were present – not the three reported.

Both sets of Minutes with the corrections noted, were acknowledged.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- *Open Forum*

Eric Mitchener of 492 Willow St. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Mitchener noted that the Rogue Valley Bike Polo Club was requesting conversion of Court #5 in Hunter Park into a multi-use court. He stated that in his opinion, Hunter Park was underutilized by other users as well. Mitchener suggested that the Park be upgraded to better serve a myriad of users – not just bike polo.

Kelly Marcotulli of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Marcotulli stated that she was the founder of an organization called Oregon for Safer Technology. She noted that the organization represented a growing number of concerned citizens nationwide that believe that science has uncovered strong evidence that wireless technology is dangerous. She stated that the wireless technology and infrastructure that supports it was creating an excess of harmful radiation. Marcotulli shared data that depicted the effects of radiation on plants and animals - most particularly on bees.

Marcotulli noted that cell phones in Lithia Park were a distraction in a place meant for the enjoyment of nature. She suggested signs that say “Keep Lithia Park pure and natural -no cell phone use allowed except for emergencies” be erected throughout the Park

She stated that APRC could contribute to a cell phone safe Ashland.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Calle Guanajuato Space Agreement (Action)

Dials noted that seating agreements are approved annually by the Commissioners. This year eight restaurants and the Lithia Artisans Market have requested space. She outlined the space requests per restaurant, noting the amount of square feet per entity and the number of days per week that the space would be utilized. Dials displayed a map that distinguished between shared spaces – typically shared between restaurants and artisans, exclusive restaurant spaces and exclusive artisan spaces.

Dials reviewed fees charged by APRC for the spaces as follows:

Restaurants:	\$8.00 per square foot	for 7 days per week	(red)
	\$5.00 per square foot	for 5 days per week	(blue)
Lithia Market:	\$5.50 per square foot	for 2 days per week	(purple)

The season requested for approval runs from March 12, 2019 to November 10, 2019. Dials asked that the Commissioners approve the boundary map, the assigned seating arrangements and the season.

In response to a question from Heller about changes in boundaries, Dials noted that there was a 2 ½ month window between the time when applications were received and the application deadline. Respondents could request a change during that timeframe.

Landt highlighted the pricing – stating that inequities such as the cost of weekend use were apparent. He noted that restaurants were paying \$3.00 per square foot for weekend coverage while the artisans were paying \$5.50. He suggested that the matter be taken under consideration by the Commissioners. Gardiner noted the establishment of a Calle Guanajuato Subcommittee that had reviewed the pricing and decided against a change at the time. The Subcommittee did address several other issues. Landt replied that it was time to ask the Subcommittee to review and refine the pricing.

Motion: Landt moved to approve the 2019 season from March 11, 2019 through November 10, 2019. Lewis seconded.

The vote was all yes.

Motion: Landt moved to approve the nine seats as presented. Gardiner seconded.

The vote was all yes.

Motion: Landt moved to approve the boundary map as presented by staff for the 2019 season. Bell seconded.
The vote was all yes.

b. Calle Guanajuato Commercial Use Policy (Action)

Dials reported that the current policy was approved by the Commissioners in December of 2016. She stated that the draft proposal of changes had been approved by the City attorney as written. She stated that one restaurant had singular access only onto the Calle – an unprecedented situation that initiated the policy change. Dials noted that because there was no other way to access the restaurant or building, the property owner (and landlord) had requested first right of refusal for the space allotted in front of the restaurant entrance.

Dials reported that a second change to the policy would allow any landlord or property owner to secure the space directly behind their building with the understanding that the space must be filled within a three-month period during the season of operation.

Commissioner Discussion

Landt questioned the connection between the single entry and the proposed change to allow the landlord right of first refusal. He stated that in his opinion, all landlords would prefer the option to secure the space behind their building. Dials replied that in the case of the Sandler building, the space was a shared space and without the right of first refusal, assignment to another restaurant was possible resulting in catastrophic loss for a restaurant residing in the Sandler building. Bell clarified that this would mean that people approaching any other restaurant along the Calle would have the option to enter from two locations whereas in the Sandler case, if the space was reassigned, people would essentially walk through someone else's business environment in order to reach the restaurant. Gardiner noted that the Sandler restaurant could not be accessed from East Main Street, while all of the other buildings have access from both sides.

Bell indicated that if the other businesses had no objections, then in his opinion, the solution was reasonable enough to be acceptable. Dials agreed, stating that the draft policy had been presented to the restaurants several times without protest.

Allan Sandler of Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Sandler noted that he was the landlord and property owner. He stated that the rationale for right of first refusal was due to the potential risk that if the space in front of his building was not spoken for and another restaurant was assigned to the space, then the restaurant in his building would most likely not survive. People would choose the outdoor seating instead. Sandler indicated that the policy changes were acceptable to him. He was appreciative of Superintendent Dials who had been working on this change for the past two years.

Sandler explained that there were times when no restaurant was in residence at the beginning of the season – and it was during those times that he wanted the option to purchase the permit to secure the space. If it were to happen that no restaurant was present in his building for the season, another restaurant could expand their space accordingly but only for that particular season.

Commissioner Discussion

Landt stated that his preference would be to offer the same provisions to all of the property owners rather than a single exception. He proposed continued consideration even if the policy changes are approved.

Gardiner reiterated that no other business had a situation similar to the singular access of the Sandler building. All remaining restaurants had space on the Calle that is behind their business. Landt noted that there was a potential for all building owners to find themselves without a restaurant when a season begins. Because they do not have the right of first refusal, they forfeit that space without the option to reclaim it. Dials replied that all property owners have the right of first refusal within a three-month period. Black emphasized the additional benefit that the space would be continually rented.

Landt proposed that Article VI. under Conditional Use Review Criteria be amended to read: "A Calle restaurant and/or Landlord/Owner with singular access onto the Calle Guanajuato will have the right of first refusal **for the space directly behind their building (immediately adjacent to their building)** as long as it does not interfere with the already established concessionaire areas."

Landt called for further clarification concerning the unique privilege given to the property owner of the Sandler building. There followed additional discussion regarding exercising the right of first refusal. Black noted that in past times, the Sandler building did not have a restaurant and in that case, their space was occupied by artisans.

Motion: Landt moved to approve the draft policy as brought forward by staff with the change to VI as previously stated and that within the calendar year that a Subcommittee would be appointed to review the policy. Lewis seconded.

The vote was Commissioners Landt, Lewis, Gardiner, and Bell voting affirmatively and Commissioner Heller against.

Heller explained that he voted against the motion because in his opinion, the policy could be reviewed in-house – thereby shortening the process for amendment.

c. Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy Adoption (Action)

Cottle asked that the Commission review and adopt the policy by reference.

In response to a question by Landt, Black noted that the phrase "by reference" meant that even if the policy were to change, it would remain valid as amended.

Commissioner Discussion

Lewis commented that the policy was updated in 2005 and subsequently adopted by the City Council. It was agreed that the policy reflected current protocols without further updating.

Landt called for an explanation of the request to adopt the Harassment and Non-Discrimination Policy that was addressed to the City of Ashland rather than APRC. Black explained that the MOU (Memorandum of Understanding) between APRC and the City of Ashland specified that APRC would abide by all City of Ashland administrative policies for risk management purposes.

Black stated that the policy was brought before the Commissioners to publicly acknowledge that APRC values diversity and works to ensure that the workplace is a safe work environment for all employees. Black indicated that administering two policies – one from the City of Ashland and one from APRC would be unnecessarily awkward, given that both would have legal implications.

Landt agreed, noting the public acknowledgment of support.

Motion: Landt moved to accept and support the City of Ashland's Harassment and No-Discrimination Policy by reference. Lewis seconded.

The vote was all yes.

d. *Cost & Revenue Analysis (Informational)*

Dials stated that in 2006, APRC set a goal to review cost and revenue data annually. The information that Dials was presenting before the Commissioners represented data from fiscal years 2017/2018. She explained that the units of measurement varied according to the program or service offered. The information captured includes direct and indirect costs for each program or service, staff, materials and services, utilities and maintenance. Capital improvement costs were excluded from the analysis.

Dials emphasized that the report represented the amount of subsidization of the program but not its value to the community. Dials presented a list of the facilities and programs offered by APRC along with the fund subsidy, the cost recovery %, and the cost, revenue and subsidy per unit. (see Attachment I)

Landt questioned the cost per unit for the Calle – noting that the fees were approximately \$1.25 less than charges for the space. Dials replied that it was adjusted for weekend rentals.

In response to a question by Bell, Dials reported that the Daniel Meyer Pool data included the three months that the pool was open to the public as well as the lease agreements with the Ashland and Phoenix/Talent School Districts and the Rogue Valley Master Swimmers who lease the pool during the off season.

Bell presented ways to quantify the value of the program or service based upon the staff time, the number of people who visit and the amount of time they are there. Dials noted the many different reasons people visit the parks or participate in programs and services – indicating that it might be difficult to assign a value because of individual preferences. Bell noted that the differences between popular programs such as the Ice Rink and the Daniel Meyer Pool and the community gardens was striking. Lewis stated that another factor would be the total cost of the program – noting that the gardens cost APRC much less than the more heavily used facilities such as the Ice Rink and pool. Lewis agreed with Bell that attempting to quantify the value would assist Commissioners in responding appropriately to the programs and services that are paid for with tax payor dollars. Not only would doing so be more transparent, a rough measure of the value to the community could be more closely tied to the community's preferences.

Dials highlighted the breakdown of services offered by the Nature Center – stating that the amount of subsidy varied from service to service. The Nature Center as a stand-alone service, experiences approximately 14 707 visitors annually, but generates no revenue and considerable expense. Expenses include staffing for the Nature Center and Parks staff time in maintenance costs for the Park. The Nature Center School programs, on the other hand, produce revenue that results in approximately cost-recovery of approximately 27%. The Nature Center community programs generate a greater percentage of revenue with a greater percentage of cost recovery - approximately 40%. The Community gardens return about 19% in cost recovery

Dials detailed data for the Grove, APRC ball fields, Park rentals, Pioneer Hall, the Community Center and Oak Knoll Golf Course as well as the Daniel Mayer Pool, the Calle Guanajuato, the Nature Center and the Ice Rink. Dials noted that revenue for Pioneer Hall had decreased significantly each year due the cost of maintenance. and the deteriorating condition of the building.

Landt stated that given the labor-intensive expenses with regard to APRC rental programs, it might be cost efficient to allow access without a fee – thereby saving staff time. There followed a brief discussion about other factors that affect the cost of doing business, such as accountability for the use and the tracking of facilities that offer specific services such as electricity. Dials noted that Pioneer Hall also functioned as a homeless shelter three days per week during the winter. That use was technically a *non-paid* facility rental. There followed a discussion regarding inconsistencies between the shelter use and Park’s mission to provide recreational programs to the public.

Dials talked about the Community Center – a building that was typically rented 7 days per week. With cost recovery at 116%, the facility was highly sought after by the public. Cost recovery for the golf course was at 44%. Dials stated that the new manager had prepared a substantial business plan that should increase revenue and contribute to an increased cost-recovery rate. In response to a question by Lewis, Dials stated that it was possible that the capital expense for the cart path had been reflected in the expenses for 2017/2018. Lewis noted that it was important to determine whether any CIP improvements had been included in the analysis – because of the need for consistency in the data report. It was agreed that major improvement projects should not be reflected in the data.

Dials presented recommendations for cost recovery that were dependent upon the project 2019/2021 budget, and factors such as consideration of wildfire smoke in reducing program revenues, as well as an increase in the percentage of cost recovery for the Oak Knoll Golf Course based upon manager Oropallo’s projected expansion of programs and services. A decrease was projected for Pioneer Hall rentals due to the condition of the building. Dials presented a summary of the current goals compared to projected goals – explaining the rationale in some detail.

In response to a question by Gardiner, Dials stated that the only increase under consideration was a fee increase for visitors to the Ice Rink. In addition, Nature Center staff would be reviewing contracts with instructors with a goal to reduce costs associated with the contracts.

Gardiner asked about rental percentages at the Grove. Dials stated that there was some unscheduled time available – and that staff was actively working on partnerships to fill the Recreation Center to capacity.

Landt suggested increasing the cost recovery goal for the Ice Rink to 75%. He stated that goals should be reaching to encourage innovation and creativity.

In response to a question by Heller, Dials indicated that rental rates for the Community Center were approximately \$25.00 per hour during the week days and \$30.00 per hour during the weekends for regular renters. Dials noted that rental costs for the Community Center could be evaluated for increased rates.

The Commissioners reviewed the timing of reports on cost recovery. Heller stated that the report could be generated bi-annually in conjunction with the budget. Gardiner’s preference was an annual report because of the importance of the data in a continually changing environment. Lewis indicated that the report was a helpful tool in determining the value that the community received for their tax dollars.

Dials agreed that an annual report was possible as long as the timing did not conflict with administration of the Calle Guanajuato contracts. Black suggested that the analysis could become a consent calendar item. Gardiner agreed, stating that the information was particularly meaningful in tight budgetary times.

Landt noted that adding depreciation of the facilities into the analysis could be an important decision-making factor. Black suggested that the data be harvested from the master planning for Parks. Once obtained, depreciation could

be tracked for future infrastructure investment. Landt noted that depreciation tracking would be particularly appropriate for the Calle Guanajuato given APRC's role as landlord.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

Gardiner called for Park Views articles.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

S-PAC	March 11, 2019	@ Ashland Senior Center - 1699 Homes Ave.	3:30 p.m.
Study Session	March 18,2019	@ The Grove -1195 E. Main	5:30 p.m.
Pool Ad-Hoc Subcommittee	March 6, 2019	@ Ashland Senior Center -1699 Homes Ave.	3:30 p.m.
Regular Meeting	March 25, 2019	@Council Chambers - 1175 E. Main	7:00 p.m.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 8:50 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

DRAFT

These Minutes are not a verbatim record. The narrative has been condensed and paraphrased at times to reflect the discussions and decisions made. Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission Study Sessions and Regular meetings are digitally recorded and are available upon online.



Cost and Revenue Analysis

February 25, 2019

Rachel Dials, Recreation Superintendent

- 2006 -APRC set an annual goal of reviewing costs and revenue.
- 3 years since the last review.
- Assumptions as part of the review include:
 - Expenses and Revenue for FY 17/18
 - Unit measurements=amount of visits to the park or facility, amount of square feet, number of garden plots, rounds of golf
 - Direct and indirect costs for each program or service part time staff, full time staff assistance, materials and services , Utilities, park maintenance staff time

This analysis represents the amount of subsidization of the program.

It does not represent the value that is placed on the program by the Commission and/or the community.

Facility or Program	Unit Measurement	Revenue	Expense	Units	Fund Subsidy	Cost Recovery %	Cost per unit	Revenue Per Unit	Subsidy per Unit
Daniel Meyer Pool	Visits	\$ 94,919.68	\$ 172,241.79	13504	\$ 77,322.11	55%	\$ 12.75	\$ 7.03	\$ 5.73
Calle Guanajuato	Square Feet	\$ 32,019.50	\$ 22,634.00	4733.75	\$ (9,385.50)	141%	\$ 4.78	\$ 6.76	\$ (1.98)
Ice Rink	Visits	\$ 118,869.37	\$ 174,000.87	21309	\$ 55,131.50	68%	\$ 8.17	\$ 5.58	\$ 2.59
Golf Course	Visits	\$ 223,383.87	\$ 502,116.84	11400	\$ 278,732.97	44%	\$ 44.05	\$ 19.60	\$ 24.45
Nature Center	Visits	\$ -	\$ 273,295.81	14707	\$ 273,295.81	0%	\$ 18.58	\$ -	\$ 18.58
Nature Center School P.	Participants	\$ 11,850.00	\$ 44,660.47	2352	\$ 32,810.47	27%	\$ 18.99	\$ 5.04	\$ 13.95
Nature Center Comm. P	Participants	\$ 17,692.69	\$ 44,017.66	879	\$ 26,324.97	40%	\$ 50.08	\$ 20.13	\$ 29.95
Community Gardens	Garden Plot	\$ 3,670.25	\$ 19,183.39	81	\$ 15,513.14	19%	\$ 236.83	\$ 45.31	\$ 191.52
Facilities - Grove	Visits	\$ 52,900.06	\$ 86,601.78	8000	\$ 33,701.72	61%	\$ 10.83	\$ 6.61	\$ 4.21
Facilities - Ball Fields	Visits	\$ 52,287.00	\$ 106,719.48	20200	\$ 54,432.48	49%	\$ 5.28	\$ 2.59	\$ 2.69
Facilities - Park Rentals	Rentals	\$ 9,675.00	\$ 17,147.00	103	\$ 7,472.00	56%	\$ 166.48	\$ 93.93	\$ 72.54
Facilities - Pioneer Hall	Rentals	\$ 7,129.00	\$ 26,170.73	401	\$ 19,041.73	27%	\$ 65.26	\$ 17.78	\$ 47.49
Facilities - Comm. Center	Rentals	\$ 37,942.00	\$ 32,600.14	558	\$ (5,341.86)	116%	\$ 58.42	\$ 68.00	\$ (9.57)

Daniel Meyer Pool

13,504 Visits

Revenue: \$94,919.68

Expense: \$172,241

Cost Recovery: 55%

Calle Guanajuato

4733.75 Square Feet

Revenue: \$ 32,019.50

Expense: \$ 22,634.00

Cost Recovery: 141%

Ice Rink

21,309 Visits

Revenue: \$ 118,869.37

Expense: \$ 174,000.87

Cost Recovery: 68%

Nature Center

14707 Visits

Revenue: 0

Expense: \$ 273,295.81

Cost Recovery: 0%

Nature Center

School P.

2352 Visits

Revenue: \$11,850

Expense: \$44,660.47

Cost Recovery: 27%

Nature Center

Comm. Programs

879 Visits

Revenue: 17692.69

Expense: \$44017.66

Cost Recovery: 40%

Community

Gardens

81 Gardens

Revenue: \$3,670.25

Expense: \$ 19,183.39

Cost Recovery: 19%

Grove

8000 Visits

Revenue: \$52,900.06

Expense: \$86,601.78

Cost Recovery: 61%

Ballfields

20,200 Visits

Revenue: \$52,287.00

Expense: \$106,719.48

Cost Recovery: 49%

Park Rentals

103 Rentals

Revenue: \$9,675

Expense: \$17,147

Cost Recovery: 56%

Pioneer Hall

401 Rentals

Revenue: \$7,129

Expense: \$ 26,170.73

Cost Recovery: 27%

Community Center

558 Rentals

Revenue: \$37,942

Expense: \$ 32,600.14

Cost Recovery: 116%

Oak Knoll Golf Course

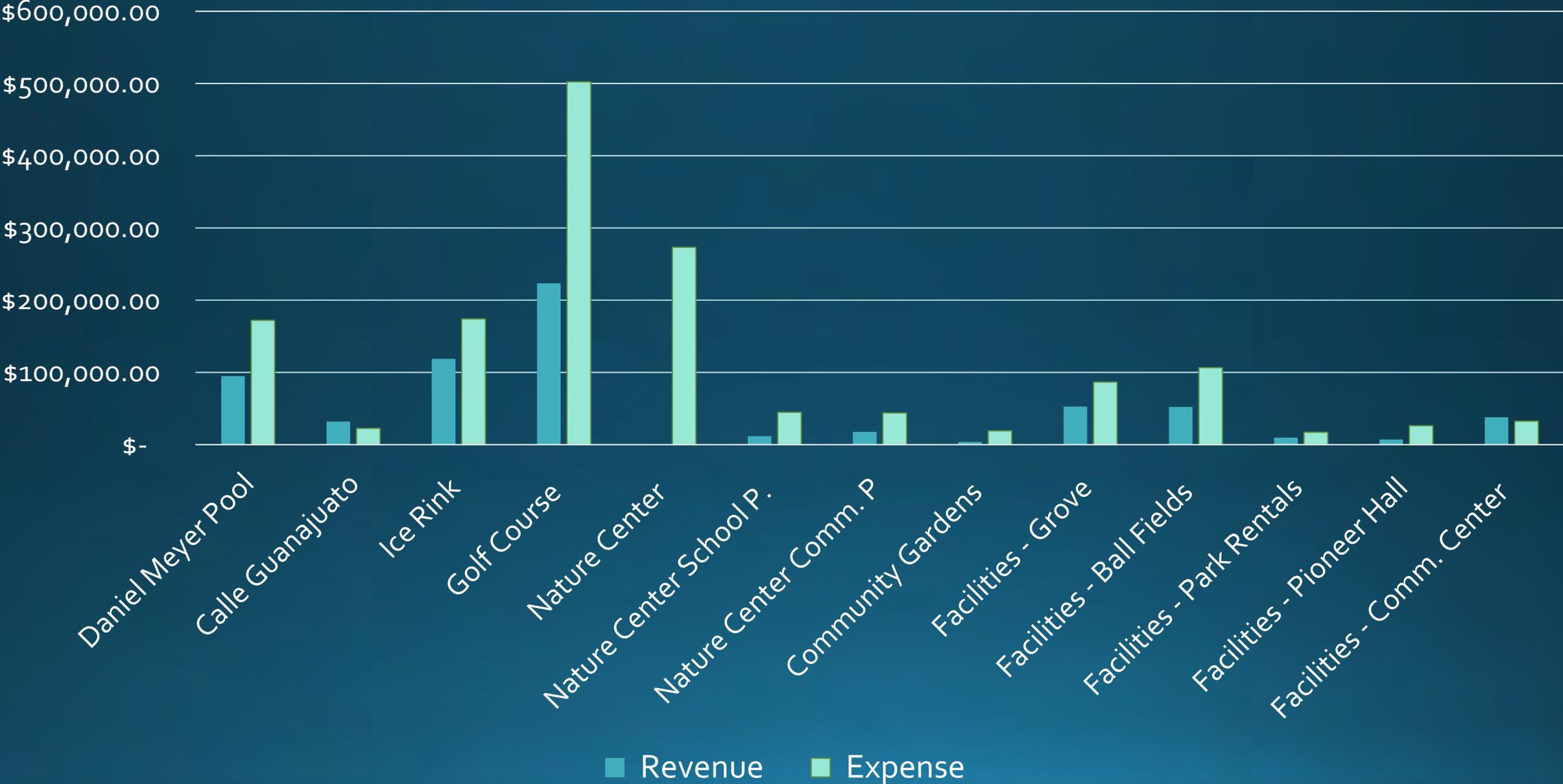
11,400 Visits (rounds)

Revenue: \$223,383.87

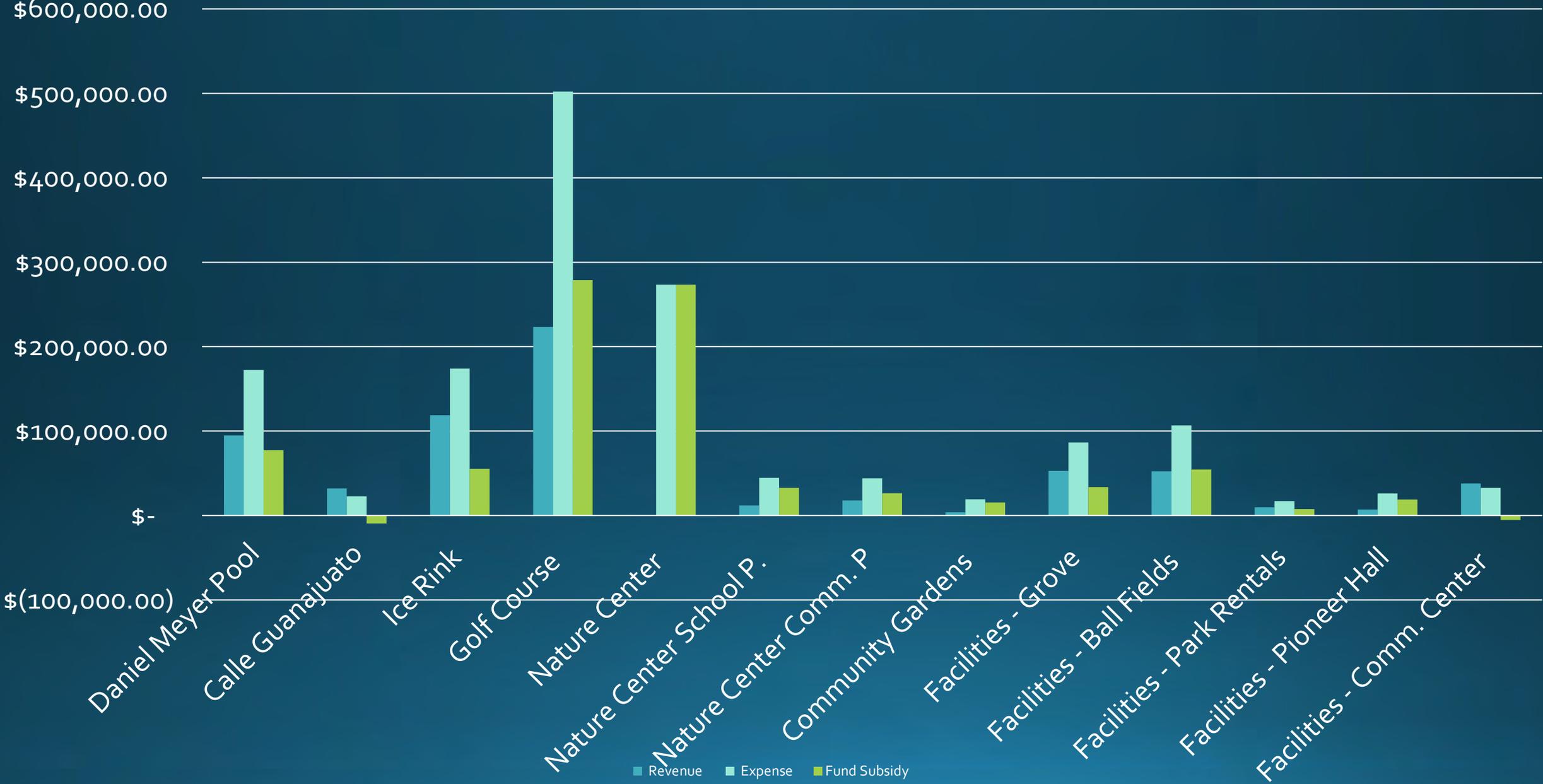
Expense: \$ 502,116.84

Cost Recovery: 44%

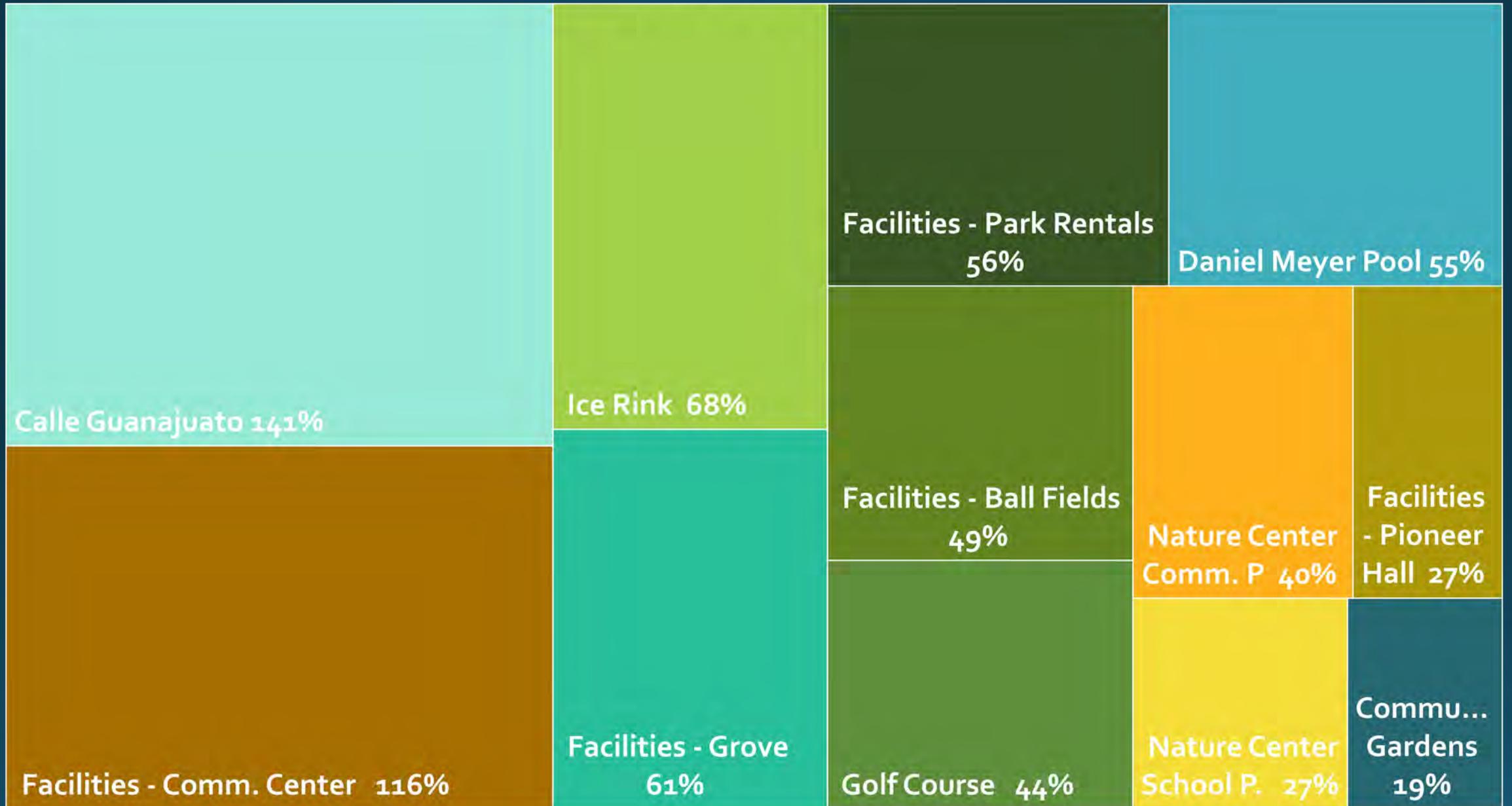
Revenue vs Expenses



Fund Subsidy



COST RECOVERY



Recommendations

The cost recovery goals are based on:

- The current budget and future 19-21 biennium budget. With expenses into the next biennium expected to remain flat with little or no increase in staffing numbers we are projecting little gains in revenue and in some cases, a decrease in revenue.
- Consideration of wildfire smoke. Smoke affected programs and revenue at the Daniel Meyer Pool and OKGC.
- A projected cost recovery goal increase for the OKGC because of staffing changes and implementation of new programs and revenue streams as part of a business plan.
- A projected decrease in rentals at Pioneer Hall due to building conditions.

Program	GOAL	CURRENT
Daniel Meyer Pool	55%	55%
Calle Guanajuato	141%	141%
Ice Rink	68%	68%
Golf Course	70%	44%
Nature Center	0%	0%
Nature Center School P.	27%	27%
Nature Center Comm. P	40%	40%
Community Gardens	19%	19%
Facilities - Grove	61%	61%
Facilities - Ball Fields	49%	49%
Facilities - Park Rentals	56%	56%
Facilities - Pioneer Hall	20%	27%
Facilities - Comm. Center	116%	116%

Next Steps

- Review cost recovery on a bi-annual basis as part of the budget process
- Approval of cost recovery goals at a future APRC meeting