

**MINUTES FOR REGULAR BUSINESS MEETING  
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION  
January 27, 2020  
Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street**

Present: Commissioners Gardiner (Chair), Landt (Vice-Chair), Bell, Heller, Lewis; Director Black, Recreation Superintendent Dials; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Assistant Sullivan

Absent: City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

**I. CALL TO ORDER**

The meeting was called to order at 7:00 p.m.

**II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

APRC Regular Meeting – November 25, 2019

**Motion:** Landt moved to approve the Minutes from November 25, 2020 as presented. Lewis Seconded.

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

APRC Regular Meeting – December 9, 2019

**Motion:** Landt moved to approve the Minutes from December 9, 2020 as presented. Lewis Seconded.

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

**III. PUBLIC FORUM**

**Dan Van Dyke of Ashland** spoke regarding the trail APRC is planning on building on the Mace property. Van Dyke who lives adjacent to the property stated concern with social problems along public paths such as the Bear Creek Greenway. Van Dyke provided a [letter](#) containing concerns and suggestions regarding the management of the trail.

**Rosemary Dunn Dalton of Ashland** spoke regarding the trail APRC is planning on building on the Mace property. Dunn Dalton expressed concerns regarding fires and homeless issues encountered on public trails in the region. Dunn Dalton supports the letter provided by Van Dyke.

Landt suggested the group contact staff directly to work on issues related this this project.

**IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**V. CONSENT AGENDA**

1. Subcommittee Minutes Acknowledgment

- Bee City USA, September 25, 2019
- Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee, August 12, 2019
- Ashland Senior Advisory Committee, November 4, 2019
- Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee, December 10, 2019

**Motion:** Heller moved to approve the Consent Agenda as presented. Lewis Seconded.

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

**VI. UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

1. **Municipal Code Amendment: Alcohol/Park Hours (Action)**

Dials reviewed the staff report included in the [meeting packet](#). The following items were discussed.

- Ordinance amendments would allow APRC to create rules to govern the use of Alcohol in the Park

- Dials read and updated proposed Ordinance Amendment regarding alcohol that differs from what was provided in the meeting packet. The updated proposal is as follows:

No person shall be in any City park, as defined in AMC 10.68.010, between the hours 12:00 AM (midnight) and 5:00 AM, except for City officials or their designees on official business, and as authorized by the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission consistent with established parks rules and regulations.

- Black stated that the rules for alcohol are not being presented at this time. If the Commissioners move forward with approving an ordinance amendment, staff will begin working on the proposed rules that would be presented to the Commissioners prior to taking the ordinance amendment to the City Council
- Park hours rules would also need to be finalized if Commissioners approve an ordinance amendment regarding park hours
- Heller inquired if the signs would change that state no alcohol allowed. Dials stated that signs could be amended with language referencing permits
- Black stated that use of alcohol would be limited to civic organizations, such as the Lions who hold the Feast of Will event in Lithia Park. Staff is not supporting carte blanc consumption of alcohol in parks. It will be highly regulated through the rule making process
- Police have the authority to enforce APRC rules
- The ability to create rules and regulations is granted to Commissioners through the City Charter, which allows APRC to regulate parks without the need to make legislative amendments to ordinances every time a change is proposed

#### **Public Input:**

**Eric Navickas of Ashland** stated that a women's civic club was responsible for establishing Lithia Park. Navickas stated that temperance was promoted by these this civic groups. Navickas stated that the values establishing the park were rooted in the City Beatification Movement, which sought to reduce social ills and to provide natural spaces for healthy recreation. Navickas stated that allowing alcohol in parks strikes a blow to the principles of those who founded Lithia Park. Navickas also spoke out against commercialization and exclusivity within the Ashland park system.

#### **Park Hours Discussion:**

**Motion:** Landt moved to approve the recommendation for a municipal code change as presented by staff, including the amended language provided by staff in the meeting. The motion includes that this will not go to City Council until the Parks Commission has reviewed and approved the exceptions. Seconded by Heller.

**Discussion:** Landt stated that the ordinance language references Lithia Park only and this amendment will bring the law up to date. Gardiner stated that law enforcement has been supportive of changing park hours in the past.

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

#### **Alcohol Discussion:**

- Landt stated that the prohibition of alcohol in parks is good for the community as a whole. Landt stated an openness to allow limited uses of alcohol in parks on a trial period that could be reviewed by Commissioners at a later date. Commissioners would have the ability to directly alter the rules if the current ordinance is amended by the City Council. Landt clarified that the issue being discussed is not opening up Lithia Park to alcohol use, rather the topic on the agenda is regarding limited use of alcohol by certain groups and would be required to secure permits from APRC and the OLCC
- Black restated the proposed amendments to the ordinance and stated that this is a small step in creating rules and regulations for limited alcohol use in parks which will be completed prior to sending a request to amend to ordinance to the City Council

*It is unlawful for any person to take any intoxicating liquor or beverage into any portion of the public parks of the City, except ~~that~~ as authorized by the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission, consistent with established parks rules and regulations.*

- Landt stated that based on the amount of work this will take to create and administer, the program should have a positive impact on revenue
  - Dials agreed that this program should generate revenue above and beyond cost recovery
  - Black stated that the program has the potential to generate revenue while serving community groups who seek to obtain a permit for events
- Lewis stated that exemptions to complete prohibition of alcohol already exist and reviewing additional exemptions could be undertaken with careful consideration
- Heller requested clarification on eliminating the exemptions that are currently listed in the ordinance
  - Black stated that staff will recommend that the exemptions that are currently listed in the ordinance be adopted into APRC rules and regulations. Additionally, Commissioners would have the direct ability to revise the rules and regulations on an as needed basis without going through the ordinance amendment process
- Bell stated that the initial request to allow alcohol in the park came from a charitable community organization. Bell also stated that the City of Ashland and APRC are facing budget constraints and expanding the use of alcohol could increase revenue for APRC
- Landt stated that if the ordinance amendment request is passed by Commissioners, the rules and regulations will still need to be drafted through a public process

**Motion:** Landt moved to accept staff's recommendation that 10.68.090 (Intoxicating Liquor Prohibited) be amended as follows: "It is unlawful for any person to take any intoxicating liquor or beverage into any portion of the public parks of the City, except as authorized by the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission, consistent with established parks rules and regulations." Additional changes to the ordinance are as follows:

~~A. Intoxicating liquor or beverages may be transported through the Lithia Park extension area which is located between North Main Street and Winburn Way and between Ashland Creek to the west and the Plaza to the east.~~

~~B. This section and the prohibitions on the possession and use of intoxicating liquor shall not apply to that portion of the park that is leased to the Oregon Shakespeare Festival Association.~~

~~C. This section and the prohibitions on the provision and use of intoxicating liquor shall not apply to the park property commonly known as Calle Guanajuato only when such is served with prepared meals and with the express approval of the Ashland Park and Recreation Commission and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.~~

~~D. This section and the prohibitions on the provision and use of intoxicating liquor shall not apply to the park property commonly known as Oak Knoll Golf Course only when such is served as part of the City Golf Course operation or approved concession with the approval of the Ashland Park and Recreation Commission and the Oregon Liquor Control Commission.~~

E. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter is subject to Section [1.08.020](#) of the Ashland Municipal Code. Any violation of this section is a Class II violation. (Ord. 3137, amended, 2017; Ord. 3026, amended, 08/03/2010)

In addition, the motion includes that this does not move forward until such time as the Park Commission has established specific rules for alcohol use and prohibition in the parks system. Seconded by Bell.

**Discussion:** Lewis stated that this is a recommendation to the Council for the municipal code change and that there will be additional opportunities for public participation.

Gardiner stated that the Lions approached APRC to use alcohol in the park, APRC does not have option to provide a permit. The Lions then approached city staff. City staff then discussed the possibility with APRC of moving forward with amending municipal code to so the Commissioners can directly regulate alcohol use.

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

Black stated that Dials has drafted rules and will bring them back to Commissioners at the study session in February.

Landt stated support of limiting permits to 501(c)3 organizations and that expanding exemptions be undertaken on a trial basis.

## VII. NEW BUSINESS

### 1. 2020 Subcommittee/Chair and Vice Chair Assignments (Action)

Black reviewed the staff report included in the [meeting packet](#). The following items were discussed.

- Gardiner referenced the list of committee representation on the last page of the packet. Gardiner stated that the only change being made from 2019 to 2020 is Landt taking the place of Gardiner as the representative on the Forest Lands Commission.
- Landt stated that since appointing representatives to committees is in the purview of the Chair, there is no need for an official motion
  - All Commissioners agreed with this assertion

**Motion:** Landt nominated Gardiner to serve as Chair. Seconded by Heller

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

**Motion:** Gardiner nominated Landt to serve as Vice Chair. Seconded by Lewis

**Vote:** The vote was all yes

Black requested that Gardiner create a working group to advise on development plans being created for East Main Park. Black suggested one Commissioner from Long Range Planning Subcommittee and one from Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee. Black stated the workgroup would gather input on a regular basis. Black stated that the two committees identified for participation in the working group could both claim purview on working on the establishment of a new park. Discussion on this item included the following points:

- Black recommended adding stakeholders to the working group from the following areas
  - Mountain Bikers
  - Community Gardeners
  - Neighbors
  - Dog Park Community
- Heller stated Bee City would like to be involved in the planning process
  - Black suggested Bee City work at a higher level across the park system rather than focusing on the development of one park
  - Black stated that a member of the Nature Center staff is likely to participate in the process who could represent Bee City issues
- Landt inquired why staff is recommending a work group rather than an Ad-Hoc Committee
  - Black stated working groups can meet on a more regular basis and are logistically less restrictive
  - They are not charged with bringing back specific recommendations to the Commission, but are valuable to the process by gathering input and by providing suggestions
  - The items that come out of the working group will be presented to the Long-Range Planning and Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittees prior to being brought to the Commissioners
  - The working group would be Ad-Hoc, disbanding once the project is complete
- Lewis agreed with the inclusion of a member of the Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee in the working group. Lewis stated that this park could be used as a model park with 21<sup>st</sup> century design
- Black stated that the working group could meet a few times in the coming months and then 1-2 times a month or more once a designer has been selected and begins work. Black stated the group would likely need to meet for 6-8 months

Black also stated that he will be inviting individual Commissioners to meetings with himself and the Chair or Vice Chair to provide an opportunity to provide additional input for APRC business.

## VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

Bell stated that he sits on the City Climate Policy Committee as an individual and inquired if other Commissioners would like him to seek establishing an official APRC seat for this committee. After discussion, it was determined that Bell will continue his role on this committee as an individual and not seek an established seat held by an APRC representative. Bell will report back on issue relevant to APRC business.

Heller stated with the exception of the pool, the greatest lack in the APRC system is not having an indoor facility for the community to play sports and would like to see the issue addressed at public meetings.

Gardiner requested Commissioners volunteer to write a Parks View article.

**IX. UPCOMING MEETING DATES**

1. Golf Course Subcommittee – January 28, 2020
  - Oak Knoll Golf Course, 3070 Hwy 66—2:00 p.m.
2. Recreation Division Advisory Committee – January 28, 2020
  - Lithia Cabin, 340 S. Pioneer St.—4:00 p.m.
3. APRC Study Session—February 10, 2020
  - The Grove, 1195 E. Main St.—5:30 p.m.
4. APRC Regular Meeting—February 24, 2020
  - Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main St.—7:00 p.m.

Black stated the Long-Range Planning Committee meeting will be held on January 30 at 2:00 p.m.

**X. ADJOURNMENT**

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

**XI. EXECUTIVE SESSION** (pursuant to ORS 192.660(2)(a) & ORS 192.660(2)(e))

The meeting went into Executive Session at 8:22 p.m. Executive Session adjourned at 9:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,  
Sean Sullivan, Executive Assistant