



AGENDA FOR SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

August 4, 2021

Electronic Meeting – 6:00 p.m.

To view or listen to the meeting or to provide public input, see public participation instructions on page 2

6:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a) APRC Regular Business Meeting – July 7, 2021
- III. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- IV. PUBLIC FORUM
- V. CONSENT AGENDA
 - a) Subcommittee Minutes Acknowledgment
 - Ashland Senior Advisory Committee – May 3, 2021
- VI. DIRECTORS REPORT
- VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- VIII. NEW BUSINESS
 - a) Lithia Park Court Discussion – Consideration of converting the mixed use (lower court) to dedicated pickleball courts and addressing safety issues associated with the rock stairs separating the courts. (Possible Action)
- IX. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF
- X. UPCOMING MEETING DATES
 - a) Recreation Division Advisory Committee — August 12, 2021
 - Electronic Meeting—4:00 p.m.
 - b) E Main Park Public Listening Session — August 18, 2021
 - Location & Time TBD
 - c) Joint Parks Commission/City Council Study Session — August 23, 2021 (Tentative)
 - Location & Time TBD
 - d) Ashland Senior Advisory Committee — September 1, 2021
 - Senior Center—3:30 p.m.
 - e) APRC Study Session — September 1, 2021
 - Council Chambers—6:00 p.m.
 - f) APRC Regular Business Meeting — September 8, 2021
 - Council Chambers—6:00 p.m.
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number (800) 735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I). Parks Commission meetings are broadcast live on Channel 9, or on CHARTER CABLE CHANNEL 180. Visit the City of Ashland's website at www.ashland.or.us.

Public Participation Instructions

This meeting will be held electronically. The public can view on Channel 9 or Channels 180 and 181 (for Charter Communications customers) or live stream via rvtv.sou.edu - select RVTV Prime.

Written testimony will be accepted via email sent to sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us. Please include "**Public Testimony for August 4 Regular Meeting**" in the subject line. Written testimony submitted before Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 11:00 am will be made available to the Parks Commissioners before the meeting. All testimony will be included in the meetings minutes.

Oral Testimony will be taken during the electronic public meeting. If you wish to provide oral testimony, send an email to sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us before Tuesday, August 3, 2021, 11:00 am. Late requests will be honored if possible. Please provide the following information: 1) make the subject line of the email "**August 4 Speaker Request**", 2) include your name, 3) the agenda item on which you wish to speak on, 4) specify if you will be participating by computer or telephone, and 5) the name you will use if participating by computer or the telephone number you will use if participating by telephone. Staff will provide information necessary to join the meeting upon request.

**MINUTES FOR SPECIAL BUSINESS MEETING
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION
July 7, 2021
Electronic Meeting – 6:00 p.m.**

Present: Commissioners Gardiner (Chair), Landt (Vice-Chair), Bell, Eldridge, Lewis; Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt, Analyst Kiewel; Manager Sullivan.

Absent: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:00 pm

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

APRC Regular Business Meeting – June 9, 2021

Motion: Landt moved to approve the minutes from June 9, 2021. Seconded by Bell.

Vote: The vote was all yes

III. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

None

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

None

V. CONSENT AGENDA

a) Subcommittee Minutes Acknowledgment

- Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee – January 12, 2021
- Bee City USA – April 28, 2021
- Recreation Division Advisory Committee – May 13, 2021

Motion: Landt moved to approve the consent agenda. Seconded by Lewis.

Vote: The vote was all yes

VI. DIRECTORS REPORT

City of Ashland Emergency Declaration

- The City of Ashland Emergency Declaration has been extended to August 17, 2021. As a result, car camping will continue to be allowed at North Mountain Park while alternatives are being explored by the City

Fire Restrictions

- City of Ashland is in high fire danger. APCR closed fire rings and BBQ pits in parks earlier in the season. Additional signage will be posted in Lithia Park

Lithia Pickleball Courts

- A large tree recently fell onto the pickleball courts and caused damage to the fence requiring some of the courts to be closed
- Staff is working with contractors to provide multiple quotes that include fixing the damaged area only and lowering the fence that surrounds the pickleball courts to 6'

Ashland Creek Water Quality

- The swim reservoir and wading area have tested for unsafe amounts of E Coli. Both areas have been signed that swimming or wading is not recommended. Testing is done on a weekly basis at the swimming reservoir and the wading area near the Lithia Park playground

Facility Reopening

- APRC facilities will begin reopening on a limited basis and will follow OSHA (Oregon Occupational Safety and Health) guidelines. Programs will be allowed indoors on a staggered and ongoing basis

Bike Donation Drive

- 140 bicycles were recently donated to APRC. A group of volunteers and RVTB (Rogue Valley Transportation District) recently worked on tuning up bikes so they can be donated to individuals in the community

July 28, 2021 Special Meeting

- There are various actions that need to be taken on budget matters before the next fiscal year begins. The administrative team at the City of Ashland who were going to assist moving the necessary items forward have resigned or have submitted their resignations. This meeting will focus on how to move budget matters forward
- There will also be an item on the agenda to purchase electric mowers

VII. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

None

VIII. NEW BUSINESS

a) John and Jean Sully, Non-Standard Memorial Request (Action)

Sullivan reviewed the [staff report included in the meeting packet](#). A non-standard memorial request was submitted by Louise Mintun in honor of John and Jean Sully. Mintun is requesting the dedication of a new wooden bench on the property recently donated by the Lord family that is adjacent to Bear Creek and North Mountain Park. The bench would be maintained as a permanent amenity of the property. A donation of \$5,000 would be made to dedicate this memorial.

Public Input: Louise Mintun and Bob Palzer spoke in favor of the memorial

Discussion: Landt stated support of the idea of a memorial for the Sully family but has concerns about dedicating a memorial in perpetuity because future expenses will ultimately be higher than the amount donated. Landt added that a standard memorial is dedicated for a 10-year period and would support dedicating the memorial for a 50-year period based on the proposed donation of \$50,000.

Lewis stated the Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee recommended approval of the request as an exception outside of the standard memorial regulations.

Motion: Lewis moved to approve the non-standard memorial for John and Jean Sully on the Cynthia Lord Property. Seconded by Bell.

Additional Discussion: Lewis stated that non-standard memorial requests are reviewed on an individual basis and that that he supports this dedication based on the merits of the proposal. Bell stated this particular memorial is a part of the history of the property and has a timelessness about it and that the historically based connection deserves a longer dedication period.

Vote: Bell, Lewis, Eldridge, and Gardiner voted yes. Landt voted no. Motion Passes 4-1.

b) Trail Review Committee Formation (Action)

Black reviewed the staff report included in the [meeting packet](#) which included the following items:

- Commissioners adopted the following goal for the current biennium, ranked number 5 out of the 15 adopted goals

Explore the feasibility of and make decision on all trails and proposals by the Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association

Objective a. Review and decide on requested mountain bike trail in lithia park
Objective b. Review proposed trails sustainability plan for mountain biking in Ashland

- The [plan proposed by Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association \(RVMBBA\)](#) has clear and distinct recommendations for specific trails
- Black is proposing reconvening the committee, which recently reviewed the Trails Master Plan update in 2016 with the addition of two (2) members representing mountain biking interests as listed below, to review the individual proposals:

Composition / Proposed Members

1. APRC Commissioner
2. APRC Commissioner
3. Ashland Forest Lands Commissioner
4. Ashland Forest Lands Commissioner
5. Conservation Commissioner
6. Member of Public Torsten Heycke
7. Member of Public David Chapman

Staff Liaisons

1. APRC Director Michael Black
2. APRC Open Space Supervisor Jason Minica
3. Ashland GIS Specialist Lea Richards
4. Ashland Fire Department Forestry Div. Chief Chris Chambers

Mountain Bike Representatives

1. RVMBBA Member Casey Botts (author of the RVMBBA proposal)
2. Member of Public (mountain bike trails user)

- Black recommends authorizing the APRC Chair to create the committee and appoint members as desired to review the RVMBBA trail proposals to provide recommendations to Commissioners. The approval of any aspects of the proposal would be included as an addendum to the Trails Master Plan
- Gardiner stated that he, Eldridge, and Black recently held a meeting on this topic to develop the recommended process being proposed

Motion: Landt moved to that the Trails Master Plan Review Committee be reconvened to assist the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission in reviewing the proposal for trail modification by the RVMBBA and that the Chair be given permission to appoint the members of the committee as outlined in the attached document. Seconded by Lewis.

Discussion: Landt stated this is an appropriate approach to working on the adopted goal.

Lewis stated he participated in the committee process to adopt and then update the Trails Master Plan and stated that it was incredible community effort and added his hope that Heycke, Chapman and Botts will all be able to participate in the process. Lewis later added a preference for Jeff MacFarland, former APRC staff, to participate as well.

Eldridge stated agreement with comments made and also stated a preference to bring more women and diversity to the group when appointing the position slotted for a member of the public representing mountain bike trail users.

The following items were clarified:

- "Chair" referenced in the motion refers to the Chair of APRC
- Reconvening the committee does not mean that the participants who represented the various groups need to be the same people. For instance, new Commissioners could be selected to serve on the committee and other personnel changes may have been made in other groups that will need to be considered when appointing members
- The proposal for the low angle trail through Lithia Park would be reviewed by the reconvened committee
- The Chair would appoint the committee members and report back to Commissioners without a need for a vote

Vote: The vote was all yes.

c) APRC Employee COLA (Cost of Living Adjustment) Increase (Action)

Black reviewed the staff report included in the [meeting packet](#). Black requested a COLA increase of 2% for all APRC regular employees. This approval would require the suspension of a policy regarding COLA that states:

Rather than adjusting all salaries by a specific percentage, parties recommend a range of 1-5% based upon the Consumer Price Index (CPI-W) 12-month average from March of the prior year to March of the current year.

The policy would require a 2.5% increase, which is not possible under current budget. The City of Ashland non-represented employees have received a 2% COLA increase.

Motion: Landt moved to approve the proposed suspension of the Benefit Adjustment Policy and approve a COLA increase at 2% for all APRC employees for the 2021/22 fiscal year. Seconded by Lewis.

Discussion: Landt stated a preference to follow the policy, but that this is a reasonable approach based on available funds. Lewis stated agreement with Landt.

Vote: The vote was all yes.

d) Kestrel Park Bridge Funding – CIP Budget Amendment (Action)

Black reviewed the staff report included in the [meeting packet](#) and noted the recommendation in the staff report is different than what he is proposing.

- APRC has spent funds on planning activities to eventually install two (2) bike/pedestrian bridges over Bear Creek connecting Kestrel Park to Nevada St and to the Riverwalk Property. The Oregon Department of Transportation (ODOT) granted APRC \$555,000 for a Federal Grant from the Oregon Community Paths Program for the Kestrel Park Bridge
- The match for this grant was originally thought to be 10%; however, it is now necessary for this project to be carried out utilizing state funds, which requires an additional matching funds from APRC. Black displayed a [table identifying the cost estimates](#) for the project for both state and federal grant programs
- The Commissioners approved a line item in the CIP (Capital Improvement Projects) for a second bridge over Bear Creek that would be ancillary to the Kestrel Park Bridge. That line item has \$75,000 budgeted to it that was intended to act as match money for a future grant from the Community Paths Grant Fund. That grant will not be available for another three years. Black displayed the [CIP Budget](#)
- Black requested that the Commissioners consider reallocating \$40,000 from the CIP Fund dedicated to the Second Bear Creek bike/pedestrian Bridge to the Kestrel Park Bridge to ensure that the grant funds from Oregon Community Paths is not lost and we can move forward with the construction of the Kestrel Park Bridge. The Bear Creek Greenway Foundation will be providing an additional \$40,000 to meet the matching requirement
- Black noted that this project will provide a significant active transportation option both to and from the neighborhood located near Kestrel Park

Discussion:

- Gardiner stated that he is on the Bear Creek Greenway Board and that this project has been in the works for more than three (3) years and that construction of both bridges will provide a connection to North Mountain Park from Nevada Street
- Landt stated support for this proposal, but noted that APRC will be providing two-thirds of the necessary matching funds at the end of the day and that a 50/50 split would be more desirable for future projects

Motion: Landt moved to reallocate \$40,000 from CIP funds currently dedicated to the 2nd Bear Creek Bridge to the Kestrel Park Bridge, along with Bear Creek Greenway Foundation and or other entities, to meet the required funding match. Seconded by Bell.

Discussion: Bell stated it is appropriate to move the funds to complete the first of the two (2) planned bridges and that increased access to this area is a worthy goal. Lewis stated that APRC has stepped up in the community to increase bicycle infrastructure in Ashland. Gardiner stated he will work with the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation to continue providing funds for projects that extend the greenway.

Vote: The vote was all yes.

IX. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS/STAFF

Gardiner acknowledged Furlough days were completed in June and thanked staff for the sacrifices made as APRC responds to budgetary challenges. Gardiner added that the Lithia Park Nature Walks are looking like they will start up again August and run through September.

Black clarified that quotes are being sought to replace the HVAC systems at the Oak Knoll Golf Pro Shop and the Ashland Senior Center utilizing the \$150,000 allocated for infrastructure that to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and he will report back as more information is known.

Eldridge stated she has received concerns from community members regarding limited hours and opportunities at Daniel Meyer Pool and requested staff to provide information on pool operations. Dials stated the amount of people allowed in the pool is no longer restricted and added the following:

- The pool is open 10 hours a day, seven (7) hours a week
- There are numerous user activities to occur daily, such as Master Swimmers in the morning, lap swim, swim lessons, and community swim
- A mix of programs are offered throughout the day fitting as many as possible in with the number of hours the pool is open
 - Once swim lessons are finished, the number of recreational swim sessions offered may be able to be increased
- Dials confirmed that utilizing volunteers to staff the pool is not an option for safety reasons

X. UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- a) Ashland Senior Advisory Committee — July 12, 2021
 - Electronic Meeting—3:00 p.m.
- b) APRC Special Business Meeting Session — July 28, 2021
 - Electronic Meeting—6:00 p.m.
- c) Current Parks, Conservation, and Maintenance Subcommittee – July 29, 2021
 - Electronic Meeting—2:00 p.m.
- d) APRC Special Business Meeting — August 4, 2021
 - Electronic Meeting—6:00 p.m.
- e) Recreation Division Advisory Committee — August 12, 2021
 - Electronic Meeting—3:30 p.m.

XI. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 7:37 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted
Sean Sullivan, Business Operations Manager

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner
Rick Landt
Julian Bell
Leslie Eldridge
Jim Lewis



Michael A. Black, AICP
Director

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STAFF MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners
FROM: Sean Sullivan, Business Operations Manager
DATE: July 29, 2021
SUBJECT: Minutes for Acknowledgement

The following minutes are being submitted for acknowledgement by the Commission.

- Ashland Senior Advisory Committee – May 3, 2021

A motion to approve the Consent Agenda would adopt the following motion for this item:

I move to acknowledge the committee minutes as submitted.

City of Ashland
ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
ASHLAND SENIOR ADVISORY COMMITTEE (ASAC)
Meeting Minutes
May 3, 2021

Committee Members Present:

- Anne Bellegia, Chair
- Mike Hersh
- Mike Gardiner, Co-Chair
- Debra Johnson
- Stef Seffinger
- Sandy Theis

Committee Members Absent:

- Kathy McNeal
- Mary Russell-Miller

Staff Present:

- Michael Black
- Isleen Glatt
- Natalie Mettler

CALL TO ORDER

Bellegia called the meeting to order at 3:04pm.

OPENING

Bellegia acknowledged and welcomed the citizen guests present: Jackie Bachman (OHRA, Housing and Human Services Commission) and Rob Casserly (OLLI).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Motion: Theis/Gardiner m/s to approve the minutes from March 8, 2021. Voice vote – all AYES. Minutes approved.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO AGENDA

None.

PUBLIC INPUT

None.

APPOINT & WELCOME NEW ASAC MEMBERS: KENNETH BENNET, DEBRA JOHNSON

Gardiner welcomed and formally appointed Debra Johnson as a new ASAC member. Johnson summarized her relevant background: she is a retired geriatric care manager who remains active as a volunteer for hospice (Oregon Death with Dignity law) and the Red Cross, as well as with OLLI and Ashland Newcomers. She has joined ASAC out of her interest in aging and seniors and to share her expertise in these areas to further ASAC's work. Kenneth Bennet was not able to attend and has withdrawn his application. ASAC will continue recruiting for two open positions open as of July 1, 2021, keeping in mind diversity, equity and inclusion.

ELECT OFFICERS FOR 2021-2022 & REVIEW TERM DATES FOR ALL MEMBERS

Bellegia, Hersh and Russell-Miller's terms all end on June 30, 2021. Bellegia and Hersh will renew for another three-year term, while Russell-Miller will step down. McNeal and Theis's terms end on June 30, 2023. Gardiner volunteered for the Chair position.

Motion: Gardiner to serve as ASAC Chair from July 1, 2021 through July 1, 2022. Voice vote – all AYES.

There is no candidate for Co-Chair. Recruitment for this position will continue and be revisited at the July 12 ASAC meeting.

HOUSING & HOMELESSNESS SOLUTIONS IN ASHLAND

Linda Reid, City of Ashland Housing Specialist, was not able to attend. Glatt will reschedule this presentation for a later ASAC meeting.

STANDING REPORTS

a. APRC Update

Gardiner discussed the Ashland School District's planned remodel of Walker Elementary School, which includes relocating the parking lot and drop off area to the corner of Homes Avenue and Hunter Court. Hunter Court is a private road managed by APRC and will be impacted by the planned remodel. APRC has asked the School District for maintenance and cross-parking agreements for Hunter Court, but the School District has been hesitant to agree. Gardiner does not anticipate that the remodel will have any major impacts on the Senior Center, other than the loss of three street parking spots and a change in traffic flow, but warned that there will be major construction in the next 12-18 months.

Hersh requested a map to show the planned changes and other possible parking areas for the Senior Center; Black agreed to provide that information at the next meeting. Bellegia was concerned about the impact on parking and access to the Senior Center for patrons, and suggested that the Livable Ashland workgroup reach out to the School District to offer education on the benefits for the all generations in considering seniors in their remodel plans. Seniors are a too often underappreciated resource to their community; they can offer mentoring and financial support (via donations) to younger generations. Gardiner agreed that collaborating in sharing resources increases livability for all. Black and Gardiner are both working to advocate on behalf of the whole community in discussions with Ashland School District. Bellegia will pursue connecting with the School District to offer education.

b. City Council Update

Seffinger reported that currently the Council is absorbed in the budget process for the coming 2021-2023 biennium and that it continues to be important for ASAC to advocate for continued funding for programs relevant to community seniors. Theis shared that she contacted the Budget Committee, per Bellegia's request, and asked if there was more that could be done. Seffinger noted that the Council and Budget Committee consider the public emails and letters they receive, so it is important to advocate for continued funding for "enrichment programs," such as those provided by APRC, and highlight all the work to serve the community that APRC and SSD has carried out through the pandemic and Almeda fire, to balance out all the calls for cuts.

Gardiner reported that the Budget Committee has requested APRC be present to answer questions at their upcoming May 11, 2021 meeting. One of his priorities will be to clarify that cuts to the APRC budget will eliminate programs and services that make the community more livable for all. Black noted that the May 11 meeting is an important last opportunity to advocate, via public comment, on behalf of APRC, SSD and community seniors. Bellegia added that she could also invite other stakeholders from the Livable Ashland workgroup to offer comment, such as Ashland YMCA, SOU, Asante Ashland Community Hospital. Hersh asked if independent performance audits on City Departments are done and could be shared with the Council and Budget Committee. Black responded that APRC is audited financially annually, and that those reports are available on the City website. APRC has also undertaken a performance audit independently, and those results could be shared; performance audits are not standard practice for all City Departments at this time.

Seffinger also reported that the Council has approved the first reading of the City's Social Equity Commission. Bellegia asked if respect for aging is included in this document. Seffinger clarified that the focus is more on racial and gender diversity.

c. Education Report

Mettler shared about upcoming SSD educational events: **Veterans' Benefits: Are You Missing Out?** (5/12/21) and **RVTD Travel Training: New Programs and Services to Help Riders** (6/16/21).

d. Senior Services Superintendent Report

Glatt referred to her report included in the meeting packet. She added that SSD is wrapping up their work connecting community seniors to the COVID-19 vaccine with a final clinic with Rogue Community Health on May 4, 2021. Overall, SSD has helped over 600 seniors navigate to vaccine opportunities, and directly matched about 250 of those seniors to a vaccination appointment. SSD is now working with two Oregon Health & Science University (OHSU) students on a practicum project studying social isolation and loneliness about seniors, both of which have been exacerbated by the ongoing pandemic. The students will be conducting a literature review and helping SSD staff transition the Senior Phone Buddy peer-to-peer social call program to one that relies on volunteer callers, as this will be a more robust way to provide the service long term. She hopes they will be able to present their research to ASAC at the upcoming July 12 meeting. She also addressed questions about the Senior Center reopening: current Oregon Health Authority (OHA) guidance indicates that senior centers are not allowed to operate regardless of risk level, so further clarification on reopening will only come once OHA provides updated guidance. Finally, she invited ASAC members to the July 21 Ice Cream Social Drive-Through for Seniors and their Families.

Gardiner asked if Glatt has noticed the same level of vaccine hesitancy among seniors as exists in the broader Ashland community. Glatt answered she has noticed some hesitancy but noted that SSD staff was mostly hearing from seniors who were actively seeking the vaccine. In partnership with Community Volunteer Network (CVN), SSD may be able to enlist an epidemiologist to offer an educational presentation about COVID-19 and the vaccines.

ITEMS FROM ASAC MEMBERS AND WORK GROUPS

a. Livable Ashland (Theis)

Theis reported that the Livable Ashland steering committee is continuing to meet and make progress. At their upcoming May 13 meeting, they will wrap up the needs assessment and discuss the group's future long-term role. The group is linked to ASAC's Advocacy workgroup but also represents other community stakeholders, such as Ashland YMCA, Jackson County Library Services (JCLS), SOU and Asante Ashland Community Hospital. Overall, their role will be to facilitate collaboration and mutual education of programs and services that increase livability for all.

Some ideas of their role are:

- Assess and identify livability issues
- Convene meetings of stakeholder organizations
- Encourage collaboration among stakeholder organizations
- Monitor collaborative Livable Ashland initiatives
- Publicize Livable Ashland initiatives
- Advocate for support for Livable Ashland initiatives

The steering committee is considering several potential Livable Ashland initiatives, with an emphasis on multigenerational projects.

Johnson asked if the Livable Ashland workgroup is the same behind the “A Livable Ashland for Everyone” Facebook group. Glatt clarified that there is no connection, and that the Facebook group is facilitated by Jackie and Jim Bachman and represents a group of citizens who are also interested in livability,

b. Other Items from ASAC Members

Hersh shared that Ashland Emergency Food Bank (AEFB) is working to expand home delivery of food boxes to seniors. He asked if ASAC would like him to briefly report on AEFB projects at future meetings. Glatt and Gardiner agreed this would work well under the “Other Items from ASAC Members” part of the agenda. Glatt shared that SSD will include the news about AEFB’s expanded home delivery in a future newsletter. She will also invite AEFB Executive Director Isaak Oliansky as a presenter at a future ASAC meeting.

Next meeting – Monday, July 12, 3:30-5pm via Zoom.

Adjournment – 4:30 pm

Respectfully submitted by Natalie Mettler, Senior & Adult Services Coordinator, Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner
Rick Landt
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Jim Lewis



Michael A. Black, AICP
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PARKS COMMISSIONER STAFF REPORT

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Sean Sullivan, Business Operations Manager

DATE: July 29, 2021

SUBJECT: Lithia Court Discussion – Dedicated Pickleball on Lower Court/ Safety Issues (Action)

Situation

Court Striping:

Several members of the public have requested that APRC consider converting the lower court in Lithia Park from mixed use (tennis/pickleball) to dedicated pickleball. The item was also requested to be discussed in a Commission meeting by the Chair of the Parks Commissioners.

Safety Issue:

A safety issues has been raised by Lithia Park court users that staff would like direction on addressing. There are historic rock steps separating the upper and lower courts that presents a trip and fall hazard.

Background

Court Striping:

Commissioners approved changing the upper court in Lithia Park from mixed use (tennis/pickleball) to four dedicated pickleball courts on August 12, 2020. The motion also included a reevaluation of usage after one year. The meeting Minutes and Packet are attached for reference.

When the court was resurfaced in 2020 it did not properly dry, resulting in some of the paint wearing through. The company has been scheduled to re-paint the courts under warranty on August 5, 2021. This would be the best time to make any changes in the striping, if the Commissioners choose to create the additional dedicated pickle ball courts.

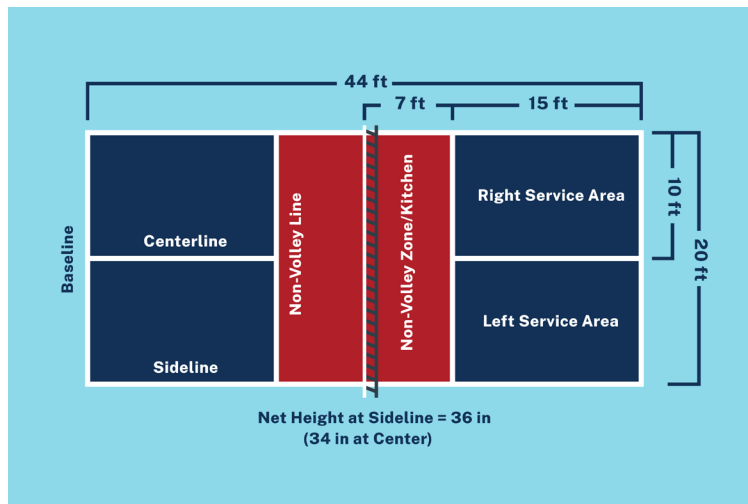
Safety Issue:

After receiving comments from multiple users about the tripping hazard presented by the steps separating the two courts, staff investigated alterations necessary to install a fence and a gate that would separate the upper and lower courts and provide a safety barrier between the two elevations of the courts.

Assessment

Court Striping:

If Commissioners decide to make the lower courts dedicated for pickleball, the resurfacing company will be able to do this at no additional cost. However, several pickleball users have requested that the kitchen (see area below in red) on all of the pickleball courts, upper and lower if approved, be painted a different color. This would incur additional costs. The Southern Oregon Pickleball Association has offered financial assistance to help cover these costs. There would also be nominal costs associated with installing permanent posts and purchasing nets.



Safety Issue:

After staff review, it was determined that it would be necessary to remove rocks to install two poles to extend the fence across the upper and lower courts while also providing a gate for movement between the courts. This could be done only in areas where the poles need to be installed, which would maintain the surrounding rocks that serve as stairs. However, the rocks are uneven and may still be a tripping hazard themselves. All of the rocks could be removed, and stairs could be formed in with concrete to provide an even transition between the courts and reduce hazards associated with the uneven rock stairs.



Recommendation

Staff is planning to add the fence and gate between the upper and lower courts, and we believe that the rock stairs should be replaced in total. The stairs are original to the courts, so we are seeking the approval of the Parks Commissioners before making this change.

Staff is also seeking direction from the Commissioners on the use of the lower court.

Attachments:

[August 12, 2020 Meeting Packet](#)

[August 12, 2020 Meeting Minutes](#)