

From: Julie Downey [REDACTED]
Sent: Saturday, February 13, 2021 2:10 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19

I would like to see a goal set for opening the Daniel Meyer pool for the 2021 season. With the hope of Covid constraints diminishing along with the reality that Ella Redkey has managed to stay open YEAR ROUND during Covid, it seems that a 2021 season is feasible and very much desired by the swimming community. Given the time it may take to obtain funding for the new pool, a 2022 season is also a real possibility. I would hate to see all the planning for the new pool become a distraction (and possible excuse) for not getting our current pool open and running. We could look at increasing admission prices as just one option for funding the current pool. Ella Redkey is charging at least twice what Daniel Meyer has traditionally charged.

Thank you, Julie Downey

From: Jack Methot [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 4:57 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for Feb. 19 Goal Setting Meeting

Dear Sean,

Southern Oregon Pickleball Association requests Ashland Parks and Rec. to provide funds for the following: 1. continuing maintenance of the courts at Lithia Park, 2. the painting of pickleball courts at Hunter Park (which SOPA can paint), 3. funds to build pickleball courts at Oak Knoll Golf Course.

These are topics that we are all familiar with so I'll not elaborate.

Kind Regards,

Jack Methot
President, SOPA

From: Liz Olson [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 7:59 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Input for 2/19/2021 RE: Pickleball

APRC Members,

Please follow through on the previously approved plans to build additional dedicated pickleball courts at Oak Knoll Golf Course. We need them!

Let's make great pickleball one more reason to visit Ashland.

I was first introduced to pickleball 3 years ago at a class through APRC.

Since that time, the popularity of the sport has exploded and the courts at Lithia Park are well used. I play almost every day and there is seldom a time that there are not 4 or more courts in use. Often there are new groups taking instruction.

Out of towners are welcomed during open play at Lithia Park.

As we build back our town post pandemic, we need better pickleball infrastructure.

I have visited many towns similar in size to Ashland and have been impressed by the number of dedicated pickleball courts and support for their local pickleball communities. Ashland can do this!!

Thank you for your consideration.

Liz Olson

Ashland

From: Peter Warren [REDACTED]

Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 12:24 PM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Ashland Parks Department,

My name is Peter Warren, and I serve on the Friends of Lincoln Park Leadership Committee along with Melissa Mitchell-Hooge. I've lived on Beach Street a couple blocks up from Lincoln School since 2004.

I want to encourage the Parks Department to place acquisition and maintenance of the Lincoln School Field at the top of its goal priority list.

Lincoln field has the potential to be a tremendous community asset, but is instead languishing. The field is largely unusable for sports and recreation for much of the year. The field has been mostly unmaintained since the school closed in 2005, and has been unwatered for about a decade. In the summer in about mid-June, the field dries out completely and looks like a moonscape with hard, dry tufts of dead grass and weeds. It's very hard, lumpy from dead plants, and not something that's good for playing on. In the winter, unfortunately it's not much better. Even after months of rain the field only has minimal grass and a thin, fragile green layer on top of clay. It's very slippery and quickly gets beat up after even an hour of play. It's currently the middle of February, and the field is not really usable for sports.

I am not a primadonna about my athletic facilities - some grass and a level playing field is all we need. I understand that wanting a grassy field for children to play on is really a first world problem. But in a community like Ashland it doesn't seem like too much to ask for.

I also organize pick-up soccer scrimmages for my son's 3rd grade soccer team multiple times a week, and it's getting hard to find a field to play on. The two Mountain Park fields are closed because they're in bad shape and need rehabilitation after the soccer season, so Briscoe and Clay St. park are really the only two possible places to play, and they're often used by dog-walkers and others. Lincoln park is not an option for the majority

of the year because of the condition of the field. Glenwood park is very small, sloped, has many trees throughout and not suitable for any sports.

There are also numerous community stakeholders that would like to see Lincoln field maintained.

Ashland Soccer Club for one would love to have access to Lincoln field for practices and games. North Mountain Park is overloaded with users, especially during soccer season, and the fields there struggle under the heavy use. Having another available sports field would be a huge benefit.

The Rogue Valley Mountain Biking Association is also very interested in Lincoln field for a bike pump track and skills training area. The current plan is for them to build their track out on East Main, but Lincoln field is a much more preferable location. To access East Main, kids will be riding their bikes a good distance on a heavily trafficked road with cars driving relatively fast. Lincoln is centrally located and far more accessible.

During the winter in a pandemic, getting the kids out to play (with masks and distanced) is some of the only outdoor activity they get.

Having a place to play is critical, and there are not that many options.

Lastly I want to bring up the wildfire issue. In a wildfire there's really no way out of Ashland - only two exits that would likely both be blocked. Lincoln field is a large open space right in the center of town that's easily accessible. The idea of an irrigated, grass field where people could gather for fire refuge seems to make a lot of sense.

Lincoln field has been ignored for too long. It's time to make it the amazing community asset it could be.

Please make Lincoln field acquisition and maintenance a top priority for the Parks Department.

Sincerely,
Peter Warren
Leadership Committee, Friends of Lincoln Park

From: John Trivers [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 4:33 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Hello Mr. Sullivan,

As a resident of Ashland for over 25+ years, I've had the good fortune to send my kids to Lincoln school, coach soccer on the adjacent field, enjoy the 4th of July fireworks from a blanket on the grassy knoll alongside the field and countless other activities in this inviting space. I would like you to know that I and my family are strong supporters of our community and would like to advocate for Ashland Parks Commission partnering with the Ashland School Board to preserve Lincoln School Park as an official city park. The lifeblood of any vibrant community is the abundance of open spaces and locations for gathering to enjoy the company of our community members.

Please support this endeavor and work to preserve this community treasure.

Sincerely,

John Trivers

[REDACTED]
Ashland OR 97520

From: John Engelhardt [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 5:24 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19, Goal Setting

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I want to thank APRC for installing dedicated pickleball courts in Lithia Park. I enjoy playing in that setting, and the new courts are a great enhancement of the previous setup. I would like to encourage consideration of dedicated pickleball courts at Helman School playground. Realizing that the area is undergoing significant construction at this time, perhaps there is an opportunity to include dedicated courts that would be of benefit to the students during the school day and to community members after hours. The court surfaces there previously were cracked in a number of places and players had to bring their own nets. Dedicated courts at Helman with the possibility of nearby bathrooms would be a significant enhancement to the recreational opportunities of those many people who enjoy this sport.

Regards,

John

--
John Engelhardt
[REDACTED]
Ashland, OR 97520
[REDACTED]

Only people with inner authority will use outer authority correctly.

From: Leslie Mills [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 5:58 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Pickleball courts

Dear Ashland Park and Recreation Members,

The four designated pickleball courts you have provided in Lithia Park are a great start to acknowledging the demand for more opportunity to play pickleball. It is my hope that you will be addressing the surface

problems soon and the repair of the courts will allow for a safe and pleasurable experience for our players. Beyond that, I would like to encourage you to consider adding more pickleball courts to the city of Ashland. Hunter park could certainly be an option. Oak Knoll Golf Course should be reconsidered.

Kudos to Ashland Parks and rec to supply lessons to promote the game for our community. Pickleball is the fastest growing sport in the US. It is played by ages 8-90. Tournaments held in communities bring in participants from all across the country. What a great source of tourism! Imagining coming to Ashland to play your favorite sport, eat at fun restaurants, shop in town, and take in a Shakespeare play.

This year, due to Covid restrictions, we have learned that pickleball can be played outside, year round in Southern Oregon. Some additional courts in Ashland would unquestionably see widespread use by residents and serve as a focal point for increased tourism in Ashland.

Thank you for your consideration.

Leslie Mills
[REDACTED]

From: Jana Carole [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 9:42 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony submitted for Feb. 19 Goal Setting session

Hello Parks and Recreation!

FYI... I just sent the email below to the Ashland School Board, in support of Lincoln School Park becoming an official city park. Please consider this as one of your goals when considering your goal setting on Feb. 19th. Thank you so much for your consideration.

Kind regards,
Jana Carole

From: Jana Carole [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 9:35 PM
To: 'eva.skuratowicz@ashland.k12.or.us' <eva.skuratowicz@ashland.k12.or.us>;
'victor.chang@ashland.k12.or.us' <victor.chang@ashland.k12.or.us>;
'sabrina.prudhomme@ashland.k12.or.us' <sabrina.prudhomme@ashland.k12.or.us>; 'tomas.monter-rangel@ashland.k12.or.us' <tomas.monter-rangel@ashland.k12.or.us>; 'jim.westrack@ashland.k12.or.us' <jim.westrack@ashland.k12.or.us>
Cc: 'samuel.bogdanove@ashland.k12.or.us' <samuel.bogdanove@ashland.k12.or.us>;
'alana.valencia@ashland.k12.or.us' <alana.valencia@ashland.k12.or.us>
Subject: A plea to ASD for Lincoln School Park

Dear Ashland School District Board,

I am writing to you to express my own views, an opinion I believe is shared with many Ashland citizens, regarding the playground and park area of Lincoln School. It is my belief that passing the stewardship of Lincoln School's "park" area into the hands of the City of Ashland Parks & Rec Department (in much the same

way that Briscoe Park has been successfully sold to/ maintained by the City of Ashland), would be the best solution for the use of this property.

We are aware that the ASD School Board has published their determination that they will not “sell or surrender” the Lincoln School property, yet a compromise is still certainly possible, if the ASD School Board could remain more open-minded and visionary. Allowing the city to take over a more comprehensive and caring stewardship of the school’s fields would be a better way to allow the community to “continue to enjoy responsible use of the playground and greenspace,” as you have stated on ASD’s website. It does without saying that the building, and adjacent acreage needed for future expansion, could still remain in the hands of ASD.

It is my understanding that the City of Ashland has expressed an earnest interest in acquiring Lincoln School Park. I believe that the community of Ashland would like to see ASD’s School Board begin to negotiate in good faith with our city, instead of watching ASD so stubbornly cling to community assets that it can no longer successfully manage. It is heartbreaking to see the state of neglect and disrepair that the acreage of Lincoln School Park has fallen. Please help make this a mutually beneficial deal, so that the children of Ashland may benefit from this park now, and for generations to come.

We understand that there will be an immediate need to continue to use Lincoln School as temporary housing for John Muir School, and certainly those students should have priority access to the playground and fields during school hours (as any students using that building should). Furthermore, should that day come (and we hope that it might!) that the high school may need to expand onto the Lincoln School land, there is still plenty of acreage to allow that to occur. No one is advocating that ASD sell the entire acreage, or the building itself, but certainly there can be a conservatorship plan for a portion of the land that is mutually beneficial to the school district and to the community. A portion of the open space could be negotiated and dedicated as park now, so that the city can properly maintain the existing parkland and fields, rather than allow this property to fall further into neglect.

The families of Ashland rely upon our School Board to do what’s best for our schools, for our children, and for our community at large. In our view, designating part of Lincoln School as a city park would be best for all of these constituents. Please make the decision that will entrust Lincoln School’s open space to our community for generations, rather than abandoning it without any real plan to make it a vital and viable neighborhood park. Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Kind regards

Jana Carole

Ashland, OR 97520

From: Risa Buck [REDACTED]
Sent: Monday, February 15, 2021 9:48 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for 2/19 Ashland Parks

I am stating the obvious that Covid 19 has posed tremendous challenges for all of us. Daniel Meyer Pool was not available to the public in 2020. Thankfully, plans are underway to build a new community pool in the near

future. It is my hope that in the interum Ashland Parks will open the Daniel Meyer Pool this spring and summer. The Ella Redkey community pool in Klamath Falls has managed to stay open year round even in 2020 and is open now. We know that it is possible and many of us who have lost swimming options in the last year would really appreciate an opportunity to enjoy Daniel Meyer Pool before construction begins. Please consider some creative options that will afford our community the chance to swim outside. Due to fires and smoke spring time and falls offer good windows for swimming.

Thanks for your consideration and support during these challenging times.

Risa Buck

From: Ren Kolar [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 6:46 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Input - May 13, 2020 Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Good morning Sean and Ashland Parks and Rec

I won't be able to attend Friday's Zoom meeting however I did want to chime in about pickleball.

It is so great that we were given dedicated courts at Lithia. I know there were some issues with the finish that are being addressed and I greatly appreciate that!

Even with the sandy courts, a pandemic, and winter temps and rains, those courts are being used consistently. This is normally the "slow" season for outdoor play, so I can just imagine what the courts will be like in spring through fall. Many people I know are not currently playing at all due to Covid and yet the courts are full many times throughout the day.

The oak knoll courts, if still on the table, would be significant. Without them there will not be enough courts as we get opened up for open play and warmer weather and more daylight allows for increased games. More and more people are finding this to be a great social and physical activity and I hope we can continue to grow in our little town.

I do hope we can get the Oak Knoll courts. For the city it will also bring more people to the golf course and will increase the use of the clubhouse. Because this is a social sport people will undoubtedly buy food and drinks after fun games.

Just my two cents and we all truly appreciate your efforts to help facilitate this growing game.

C Ren Kolar

From: Andy Stallman [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 7:22 AM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Dear APRC Commissioners and Staff,

Thank you for your efforts to support Pickleball. Please keep the dedicated courts previously approved for Oak Knoll high on your priority list in the next biennium The continued popularity and growth of Pickleball in Southern Oregon needs this attention!

I'd like to ask you to also consider a few issues (that unless you play Pickleball in Lithia Park), you might not be aware of:

1) the black-lined courts on the lower 4 courts are very difficult to see. I understand the effort to make the court less confusing for tennis players, but you granted them exclusive use of Hunter Park (while sharing one court for Bike Polo). When the courts are repaired and resurfaced again ... please have the lines painted so that we can see them! Pickleball by braille is not good!

2) The lack of a gated fence between the upper & lower sets of courts pose a dangerous situation for players retrieving wide shots to the sidelines. It wasn't an issue in the previous configuration, but now that the courts are so close to that edge, people really need to be careful not to fall down those steps ... or let a well hit shot in that direction just go Please make this situation safe!

3) Shortly after the courts were re-surfaced, while watching friends play, a woman and her young daughter walked on to the courts so the daughter could ride her scooter on them. I immediately, and politely asked her not to ride on them, as it was not allowed, and bad for the courts. Since there was no sign telling her otherwise, she resented and ignored my request. It got ugly. My friends told me that she was within her rights, since there was no sign telling her otherwise. Next time I speak up to protect these courts, it would be nice to know there is permanent signage clearly prohibiting such activity (as there are at the Hunter courts). I have since seen other skateboarders, and roller-blades on the court, and did not bother to speak up. Please help us protect the courts.

Post-pandemic funding will be a challenge. Please know how much I appreciate the work you do! Please keep the growth of Pickleball in your priorities. You will be serving many people, and that number continues to grow in popularity

With gratitude,

Andy Stallman

From: jack cannon [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 8:06 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Hello Sean,

I am writing to encourage APRC to expand the number of pickleball courts in Ashland. It's obvious to anyone driving or walking by Lithia park that the sport is popular and is becoming even more so. The closure of the

courts at Helman School has left the town with, I believe, only four dedicated public courts in town. (The tennis courts are painted for pickleball, but overpainted colors of the court and lines make it fairly confusing and even two tennis players who get their first mean the courts can't be used for what could be as many as 16 pickleball players.)

Since tennis players in the community have access to eight courts at Hunter Park, I encourage APRC to consider converting the tennis courts at Lithia to dedicated pickleball courts.

The Helman renovation plan calls for tennis courts. I also encourage APRC work with the school district to at least paint pickleball courts on the tennis courts. Though pickleball is considered a sport mostly seniors play, it is growing quickly in popularity for younger players. Because it requires smaller courts and thus allows for more players, it seems like a good option for physical education classes for students at the upper elementary levels.

Thank you,

Jack Cannon
[REDACTED]

Ashland, OR 97520
[REDACTED]

From: Mike Hitsky [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 9:10 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Sean,

I'm resubmitting my May 27 comments below, which remain applicable today - in fact, more important as people continue to endeavor to get outside more, increasingly coming into contact with our numerous surrounding water bodies but often without the basic water skills to do so safely.

Thanks,

Mike

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Mike Hitsky [REDACTED]
Date: Wed, May 27, 2020 at 9:53 AM
Subject: Please Continue to Prioritize the Daniel Meyer Pool Project
To: <julian@ashland.or.us>, <joel@ashland.or.us>, <mikeg@ashland.or.us>, <rick@ashland.or.us>, <jim@ashland.or.us>, Michael Black <michael.black@ashland.or.us>

Commissioners and Director Black,

I love to mountain bike and I am an active user of Ashland's extensive trails, along with the BMX and skate parks. I hope in the near future we can make the skills park and pump track a reality. But I appreciate that

you are endeavoring to complete the challenging task of reprioritizing APRC's projects, and quite simply we don't *need* a bike park. In addition to the trails and parks I reference above, we have countless other open spaces where those who wish develop bike skills can and do get better; be it pathways, parks, driveways, parking lots, etc. The skills/pump project can and should wait. And the same rationale should apply when you consider the *need* for proposed development at many of the additional park spaces that are also contemplated as capital improvement projects.

That logic does not apply, however, when it comes to the Daniel Meyer Pool Project. We do not have any public pool in our community other than the pool at issue, which is rapidly and dangerously falling apart. Frankly, it is shocking to me that we don't have more swimming facilities in the area. I grew up in a suburb of Detroit where all four of the middle schools and both high schools in my district had swimming pools. Swimming was recognized for what it is: an essential skill for ALL, whether or not those who used those facilities endeavored to participate in swimming-related activities later in life. Unlike mountain biking, everyone should develop basic swimming proficiency. It is a shame that our local schools haven't prioritized this life skill, especially when you contrast the tame suburban environment where I grew up with southern Oregon's prevalence of wild and unpredictable rivers.

I do not envy the difficult choices that you have to make and I do wish to express my sincere gratitude for your continued service and the challenging work ahead. I do hope that you will reaffirm the pool project as a top priority, recognizing that your decision should not be a mere popularity contest (even though notably the pool certainly has a large number of supporters), but should also take into consideration the utility/importance of the activities provided to the community at large and the safe future of our community.

Thank you,

Mike Hitsky

From: Arnold Bleicher [REDACTED]
Sent: Sunday, February 14, 2021 1:16 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Input - February 19, 2020 PICKLEBALL

Dear APRC members -

I would like to provide input regarding pickleball courts in Ashland. There is little doubt you are aware the court surface is an absolute disaster. What exactly went wrong is not the issue. There is a problem and APRC is very responsive in dealing with such problems. Thank you for already recognizing the problem and for planning to repair the courts.

The critical issue, in my opinion, is that you understand the heavy demand for pickleball courts. We "picklers" are very happy APRC designated the courts at Lithia for pickleball. If you have been in the park by the courts you have seen the number of people playing, and this usage is occurring during times when a high percentage of our pickleball community is not playing, or playing elsewhere to avoid crowds. And this heavy usage is happening in the winter months. We are nowhere near seeing the demand peak. As a short-term fix, it would be nice to see the lower tennis court turned into 4 more pickleball courts to meet that demand.

I would ask you to consider that the pickleball courts planned at Oak Knoll be placed back on the front burner. When the courts are completed and in use at Oak Knoll, the golf course will see a good deal of new traffic, monetizing the clubhouse like never before.

My point is to thank you for your efforts in helping get dedicated pickleball courts, and to ask for your continued support in providing places to play.

All my best,

Arnold Bleicher

From: Katie Lawler [REDACTED]

Date: February 15, 2021 at 4:50:58 PM PST

Subject: Rec meeting - Pickleball please.

Thank you for asking our opinion. We love playing pickleball every day. We get great exercise and have met some wonderful people. But sometimes we have too many people waiting to play on the courts. So, could we get more courts at Helman and Lithia or other places? If we had at least eight (or more) dedicated courts together the city could have tournaments and make money. People come from all over for these and would bring needed funds to our hotels, restaurants, stores, gas, and food markets. Lots of cities like Bend or in California and Arizona and Utah all make oodles of money from these tournaments.

Again, thank you for listening. We appreciate getting out of the house and exercising in the sunshine. It sure does help with our health (mental and physical).

Katie and Jim

From: Swim SOAC [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:10 AM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Dear APRC Commissioners,

Thank you for keeping the Daniel Meyer Pool within the top three of your goals these past years. Now that the time has come to reset your goals, I respectfully ask that you move the Daniel Meyer Pool into the Number One position in these three ways:

1. Re-open the DM Pool now for a) adult lap swimming, b) high school teams' workouts and practices, and c) the Rogue Valley Masters SwimTeam. Other pools in the area are re-opening, following Gov. Brown's Covid protocols, and DM Pool should re-open also. There is a huge need in the community for these basic services and these user groups would be more than willing to pay a fee to cover costs.
2. Put the DM Pool Renovation Project at the top of the APRC Goals list, and continue to monitor the local economy regarding Food and Beverage Tax revenue so that the previously approved revenue bond can be applied towards the construction costs. Keep the directive to begin the construction process as soon as financially feasible.

3. IF the DM Pool Renovation Project needs to be pushed out another year due to a sluggish economy recovery, keep the \$325,000 that was dedicated to budget last year for the DM Pool for repairs and maintenance, so that the DM Pool can fully operate this summer season, and repairs can be made as necessary, etc.

Thank you for your consideration!
Rebecca Kay, president
Southern Oregon Aquatic Community (SOAC)

From: Ross Pelton [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 10:20 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Request for outdoor workout stations and equipment

Hello Sean and APRC,

Numerous cities in the US have outdoor fitness areas, some are bodyweight stations, some actually have equipment such as pictured below.

This is an outside workout machine.....this workout station is located in Burlingame, CA on the waterfront lagoon trail. There is another one on the SF Bay trail along the Bay at Burlingame/Broadway, CA in San Francisco bay area.

I dearly wish our Ashland had one or two outdoor workout facilities available.....especially with some workout equipment available like image below.

My friend in photo below lives in SF Bay area. He sent the following information:

The County of San Mateo and the City of Burlingame both budgeted money for outdoor workout stations some years ago.

There are 4 or 5 nearby. Some have 2-3 machine stations..the biggest is a large circle at Coyote Point Park ,SMCO..about 8-9 machines in a big circle..off bike trail. Note..rubberized padding at station area



Submitted by Ross Pelton, [REDACTED], Ashland [REDACTED] [REDACTED]

Ross Pelton
[REDACTED]

From: Noel Chatroux [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 11:00 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Dear Mr. Sullivan, dear APRC Commissioners,

We are writing in support of preserving Lincoln Park as an open space for recreation (all ages benefit from open space) and also as a safe and buffer zone in the event of a wildfire. While this park is not in our immediate neighborhood, we have over the 27 years we have lived in Ashland visited it several times when meeting friends who live near it, running around in the park with the kids, sitting down for a bite in the grass, kicking the soccer ball, or watching the SOU Rugby team practice.

In the midst of an urban built landscape, open spaces such as Lincoln Park are a breath of fresh air. One can feel the background tension of being surrounded by hardscape soften a little. It's a good thing, a precious asset. Please preserve it.

Thank you for your service.

Noel & Sylvia Chatroux
[REDACTED]

Ashland OR

From: Marc Heller [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 12:02 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Input - May 13, 2020

Dear APRC Commissioners,

Thank you for keeping the Daniel Meyer Pool within the top three of your goals these past years. Now that the time has come to reset your goals, I respectfully ask that you move the Daniel Meyer Pool into the Number One position in these three ways:

1. Re-open the DM Pool now for a) adult lap swimming, b) high school teams' workouts and practices, and c) the Rogue Valley Masters Swim Team. Other pools in the area are re-opening, following Gov. Brown's Covid protocols, and DM Pool should re-open also. There is a great need now within the community for these basic services, for which these aquatic users would be more than willing to pay a fee to cover costs.
- For the spring season, now, the YMCA pool is on overwhelm, it's almost impossible to get a lap swim lane there. If you can figure out a cost effective way to set up a couple of hours of lap swimming, that would be great. Maybe the city could use the YMCA's computerized scheduling program, rather than setting up its own.

2. Put the DM Pool Renovation Project at the top of the APRC Goals list, and continue to monitor the local economy regarding Food and Beverage Tax revenue so that the previously approved revenue bond can be applied towards the construction costs. Keep the directive to begin the construction process as soon as financially feasible.

3. IF the DM Pool Renovation Project needs to be pushed out another year due to a sluggish economy recovery, keep the \$325,000 that was dedicated to budget last year for the DM Pool for repairs and maintenance, so that the DM Pool can fully operate this summer season, repairs can be made as necessary, etc.

4.

I think one of APRC's failures, was to let the locker room limitations of social distancing shut down the pool last summer. It would be great to think through how to operate without the locker rooms, for recreational swims this summer. Maybe install an outdoor shower, maybe a couple of porta-potties. GET CREATIVE, figure out the work around. The kids and the adults need a seasonal pool!

Thanks so much, for all you do, especially in a hard time like Covid.

Marc Heller

From: Michael Duffy [REDACTED]

Date: Tue, Feb 16, 2021, 9:45 AM

Subject: New Community Pool

To: Sean Sullivan sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us

Yes, setbacks. Progress is only accomplished by perserverance and thoughtful planning. Several of the needed plans have been initiated, design and optional heating plans I believe have been presented. An enclosure has been an avoided topic. I suggest the appropriate staff do research for grants for municipal pools. There entities that may be suitable to apply for to make the pool available year round. It is a shame that tax base in Ashland will not consider a year round facility. When planned properly and thoughtfully, the facility accomodates more than just 'swimmers'. Thank you for your attention to this matter. Michael Duffy 119 Almeda Dr

From: Geri Mathewson [REDACTED]

Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 1:31 PM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public Testimony for Feb. 19th Goal Setting

Dear APRC Commissioners,

Thank you for keeping the Daniel Meyer Pool within the top three of your goals these past years. Now that the time has come to reset your goals, I respectfully ask that you move the Daniel Meyer Pool into the Number One position in these three ways:

1. Re-open the DM Pool now for a) adult lap swimming, b) high school teams' workouts and practices, and c) the Rogue Valley Masters Swim Team. Other pools in the area are re-opening, following Gov. Brown's Covid protocols, and DM Pool should re-open also. There is a great need now within the community for these basic services, for which these aquatic users would be more than willing to pay a fee to cover costs.

2. Put the DM Pool Renovation Project at the top of the APRC Goals list, and continue to monitor the local economy regarding Food and Beverage Tax revenue so that the previously approved revenue bond can be applied towards the construction costs. Keep the directive to begin the construction process as soon as financially feasible.
3. IF the DM Pool Renovation Project needs to be pushed out another year due to a sluggish economy recovery, keep the \$325,000 that was dedicated to budget last year for the DM Pool for repairs

Thank you,
Geri Mathewson, RVM

PS. I watched with great interest your last meeting regarding the design and it was a very interesting meeting and the design looks great. By the way, I am sure it is too early for this suggestion, but RVM has set aside an amount of dollars donated to have something built in remembrance of Craig Mather, our team member and as you may know, a very well regarded local physician in Ashland. We were hoping to get a plaque embedded in the handicap entry, however I have been advised that we do not have enough funds collected for what we have been told the Parks and Rec Department would require for that. I am certain we do have enough for a bench to be dedicated to Craig and would love to see that in the aquatic park when you get to that stage. Thank and any questions, you may contact me about that.

From: Samae Chlebowski [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 1:35 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Hello Mr. Sullivan and Ashland Parks Department,
My name is Samae Chlebowski and I live at 399 Beach St. I am writing with the hopes that you will join forces with the Ashland School Board in creating a shared ownership and responsibility of Lincoln Park.
We moved into our sweet home in 2014 with the excitement of having a fabulous park for our children to play and get off of their devices! They are finally old enough that I can just tell them to go across the street and play without my needing to supervise. The park is used everyday by the local neighborhood and other families who live outside of our neighborhood. So many children have learned to ride their bikes and practice their skateboarding skills here and more importantly come to play, ignite their imaginative minds and breathe fresh air!

On a personal note, the star thistle is so out of control across the street, that it has become a nuisance in my own backyard. In addition, the grass has declined so badly that come mid-summer it is dangerous to run across the field due to the uneven ground.

I look forward to the opportunity to support both you and the Ashland School Board in making this agreement happen and to see the future of the playground being used by children and their families for many more years to come.

Thanks for all you do!
Warmly,
Samae Chlebowski
[REDACTED]

From: Karen Nollenberger [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 2:26 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19, Goal Setting

Thank you for taking community feedback for your Goal Setting meeting. I am a 43 year citizen of Ashland and neighbor of the successful Briscoe School Park. I am advocating for you negotiate with the Ashland School District to create a Community Park at the former Lincoln School field. The site is in poor condition and many Ashland citizens just assume that it is public land that has been neglected. Creating a park would be a permanent solution for ongoing maintenance and would enhance the grounds. The School District's students would always have access. A winning solution for all of Ashland.

Thank you for considering this issue and hopefully an agreement with the ASD can be reached in the near future. Sincerely, Karen Nollenberger

From: Jeanette Friend [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, February 16, 2021 2:59 PM
To: sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us.
Subject: Daniel Meyer Pool Project

Dear APRC Commissioners,

Thank you for keeping the Daniel Meyer Pool within the top three of your goals these past years. Now that the time has come to reset your goals, I respectfully ask that you move the Daniel Meyer Pool into the Number One position in these three ways:

1. Re-open the DM Pool now for a) adult lap swimming, b) high school teams' workouts and practices, and c) the Rogue Valley Masters Swim Team. Other pools in the area are re-opening, following Gov. Brown's Covid protocols, and DM Pool should re-open also. There is a great need now within the community for these basic services, for which these aquatic users would be more than willing to pay a fee to cover costs.
2. Put the DM Pool Renovation Project at the top of the APRC Goals list, and continue to monitor the local economy regarding Food and Beverage Tax revenue so that the previously approved revenue bond can be applied towards the construction costs. Keep the directive to begin the construction process as soon as financially feasible.
3. IF the DM Pool Renovation Project needs to be pushed out another year due to a sluggish economy recovery, keep the \$325,000 that was dedicated to budget last year for the DM Pool for repairs and maintenance, so that the DM Pool can fully operate this summer season, repairs can be made as necessary, etc.

Thank your of your consideration.
Jeanette Friend

From: Kelly Marcotulli [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:01 AM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Re: Public Comment on Lincoln Park/Field

For public comment for the Goal Setting Meeting this Friday 2/19/21:

Dear Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission,

As part of the goals for the Parks Commission, I am writing to request that APRC work with the Ashland School District and the Ashland School Board to create a viable future for Lincoln School park and playground at the corner of Beach and Henry. This area is in desperate need of a community-based purpose - one that addresses Ashland's mandate that parks be available to community members, providing a safe, family-friendly open space. This packed-with-potential area has been neglected for years, resulting in the takeover of noxious weeds, contributing to its unsightly appearance, while diminishing its fire safety conditions. The issue of unwelcome weeds infecting neighbors yards should be a concern for all of the parties involved, as it may result in the use of toxic chemicals for treatment and removal. For these many reasons, APRC, ASD and the School Board should want to collaborate with community members in a win-win effort of making this field a permanent part of Ashland's park system.

As the pandemic has revealed, our residents are greatly benefited by open and safe areas in which to recreate and relax. Lincoln Park could potentially offer both. This lovely alfresco arena allows ample room for numerous family / community "pods" to enjoy, easily allowing for 6 ft. spatial distancing if desired or required. Whether for our children to run about in, our pups to fetch balls in, our students / adults to refine their frisbee golf skills or read enchanting novels in, this field is indispensable to the area.

Unfortunately, the field becomes a blight during the summer months as the star thistle weed presents a serious health hazard to animals and humans alike. If another fire were to blaze across Ashland, this field, if properly maintained, would act as a fire break, thus protecting life and property. The difficult realities thrust upon us in recent months has emphasized the value and need for such an open space. Lincoln Park, if designed for long-term multi-use purposes, would not only provide our citizens with a picturesque playground, but a warm and gracious community environment as well. Gifts of incalculable worth.

Thank you for your service to the Ashland community,
Kelly Marcotulli

From: Michelle Ross [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:48 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Dear APRC Commissioners,

Thank you for keeping the Daniel Meyer Pool within the top three of your goals these past years. Now that the time has come to reset your goals, I respectfully ask that you move the Daniel Meyer Pool into the Number One position in these three ways:

1. Re-open the DM Pool now for a) adult lap swimming, b) high school teams' workouts and practices, and c) the Rogue Valley Masters Swim Team. Other pools in the area are re-opening, following Gov. Brown's Covid protocols, and DM Pool should re-open also. There is a great need now

within the community for these basic services, for which these aquatic users would be more than willing to pay a fee to cover costs.

2. Put the DM Pool Renovation Project at the top of the APRC Goals list, and continue to monitor the local economy regarding Food and Beverage Tax revenue so that the previously approved revenue bond can be applied towards the construction costs. Keep the directive to begin the construction process as soon as financially feasible.

3. IF the DM Pool Renovation Project needs to be pushed out another year due to a sluggish economy recovery, keep the \$325,000 that was dedicated to budget last year for the DM Pool for repairs and maintenance, so that the DM Pool can fully operate this summer season and repairs can be made as necessary.

Sincerely,
Michelle Ross
[Ashland Resident](#)

From: Su Grossmann [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 7:52 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Potential Partnership of Ashland School Board and Lincoln School Park

Sean,
This letter is written to affirm whole heartedly our entire family's support of the Ashland Parks Commission partnering with the Ashland School Board to preserve Lincoln School Park as an official city park. We desperately need to keep this space open and available for public use. We are all residents of Ashland and this space is constantly used for a variety of healthy activities by many different age groups. We enthusiastically encourage this partnership and are optimistic this action will be taken.

Thank you and Long Live Lincoln School Park!

The Grossmann Family

From: Vicki Orendurff [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 7:51 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

I am an Ashland resident who frequently utilizes the Lithia Park pickleball courts. We (the pickleball community) are so grateful for the dedicated courts that the Parks Dept has created. We do look forward to the repairs needed to the new surface of the courts that has already worn off in many places.

Pickleball has become extremely popular in Ashland in the last several years and the local pickleball community continues to grow. Since the courts at Helman have been demolished, Lithia Park is the only place to play, and it has been fully utilized throughout this winter. As the weather improves, we can expect to see all courts in use throughout most days. Although the YMCA offers pickleball courts, post-pandemic, in the winter, the times are very limited and not accessible by everyone. We need more dedicated courts in Ashland to keep up with the demand. Several possible ideas are:

1. When the Lithia Courts are repaired/resurfaced, create 8 dedicated pickleball courts. Tennis is very rarely played on the lower court that currently has both tennis and pickleball lines, and there are 8

dedicated tennis courts at Hunter Park.

2. Work with the school district to install new courts at Helman School in an area that could be accessed by the community at all hours - not just non-school hours.
3. Build courts at Oak Knoll, as was originally planned, pre-pandemic.

Thank you for your consideration.

Vicki Orendurff

Ashland

From: jen jones [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:24 PM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Cc: Peter Warren <peter@nomad.org>; John andMelissa Mitchell-Hooge <hooge@mind.net>

Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Dear Mr. Sullivan and the Ashland Parks Department staff,

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on the future of Lincoln School Park, located on the corner of Beach and Henry streets in Ashland, Oregon. I wholeheartedly support the Ashland Parks Commission in partnering with the Ashland School Board to preserve Lincoln Park as an official city park. I understand the Parks Commission is holding a special Goal Setting Meeting on February 19th. I encourage and implore you to make acquiring the park a top priority of the Commission.

I work as a Wildlife Biologist for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS). One of the most rewarding and important parts of my job is to coordinate our outreach and education Connecting People with Nature (CPWN) program. The USFWS initiated the CPWN program in response to the alarming trend of our disconnect from the natural world. Richard Louv so eloquently and meticulously described this “nature-deficit disorder” in his bestselling novel, Last Child in the Woods. From a USFWS perspective and based on my own experience working with youth in the outdoors for the past 30 years, simply sharing nature with children is one of the best ways to inspire the next generation of conservation leaders and foster a sense of stewardship for our natural resources.

It is well documented that regular contact with nature promotes improved cognitive functioning, psychological and physical well-being, social interactions, and academic performance:

<https://www.childrenandnature.org/resources/category/benefits-of-nature/>

I know for myself that the best remedy for when I’m feeling down, unmotivated, anxious, or unfocused is to simply go outside and be in nature. Maintaining Lincoln Park as an open space for families to enjoy would be a huge benefit to the health and well being of Ashland’s residents.

On a personal note, our family has lived a couple blocks from Lincoln Park for the past 12 years. I’ve been incredibly grateful to have this lovely open space so close to home. My two daughters have learned to play basketball, ride bikes, and skateboard on the basketball court. It’s delightful to see them play with friends (and make new friends!) on the playground equipment while we visit with other parents. On windy spring days we have a tradition of running over to Lincoln Park to fly kites in the wide, open field. For the 4th of July you’ll find us bundled up with all the other neighbors oohing and aahing at the magnificent fireworks display. Plus, the

extreme joy of our dogs as they play fetch and make new doggie friends. We've created an enormous stockpile of good memories as a family based on that one patch of space in our sweet town!

Lincoln Park is a gem of a location that is centrally located, easily accessible, and has great potential to expand its ability to serve our community. For example, one of my daughters joined the Ashland Soccer Club and, with some watering and maintenance, Lincoln Park would be an ideal location for practices and games. Lincoln Park has been a welcome respite for so many of us families who've been socially isolated and cooped up inside during the pandemic this past year.

I appreciate you taking the time to read my letter and for considering how we can work together to secure the future of the park. I want to end by sincerely thanking you for all that you do to make Ashland a wonderful place to live and raise a family.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Jones

From: Hailey Kuhn [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 8:53 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Feb 19th Goal Setting Meeting

Dear APRC Commissioners,

Thank you for keeping the Daniel Meyer Pool within the top three of your goals these past years. Now that the time has come to reset your goals, I respectfully ask that you move the Daniel Meyer Pool into the Number One position in these three ways:

1. Re-open the DM Pool now for a) adult lap swimming, b) high school teams' workouts and practices, and c) the Rogue Valley Masters Swim Team. Other pools in the area are re-opening, following Gov. Brown's Covid protocols, and DM Pool should re-open also. There is a great need now within the community for these basic services, for which these aquatic users would be more than willing to pay a fee to cover costs.
2. Put the DM Pool Renovation Project at the top of the APRC Goals list, and continue to monitor the local economy regarding Food and Beverage Tax revenue so that the previously approved revenue bond can be applied towards the construction costs. Keep the directive to begin the construction process as soon as financially feasible.
3. IF the DM Pool Renovation Project needs to be pushed out another year due to a sluggish economy recovery, keep the \$325,000 that was dedicated to budget last year for the DM Pool for repairs and maintenance, so that the DM Pool can fully operate this summer season, repairs can be made as necessary, etc.

Thank you!

Hailey Kuhn

From: Marc McFarland [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 6:10 PM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public testimony for February 19th goal setting

We are writing to express our wholehearted support to preserve the Lincoln School Park as an official City Park. Over the last year we have had a firsthand view of the park because our newly built home sits on the eastern edge of the Park and all of our west facing windows have an unobstructed 180 degree view of the Park space. We have been able to witness just how popular this Park is for Ashland residents throughout the entire day. We never cease to be amazed by the wide variety of activities that occur each and every day. These activities include, but have not been limited to, basketball, aerobics, Tai Chi, skateboarding, softball, soccer, badminton, kite flying, frisbee throwing, drones, dog activities, playground equipment use, socializing, picnics, classes, studying, yoga, reading, and the list goes on and on. People are in the park from sunup to sundown. Obviously, it is a well used space and with the appropriate care and upgrades to the turf it will be a real jewel for all of Ashland's residents now and in the years to come. We ask you to please support our community-led endeavor and partner with the Ashland School Board to preserve Lincoln School Park as an official City Park. It would truly be a win for the community.

Thank you,

Marc McFarland & Micky Smejkal [REDACTED]

Ashland, OR 97520

From: Cathy Thompson [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 5:21 PM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Dear APRC Commissioners:

Thank you for keeping the renovation of the Daniel Meyer Pool (DMP) at the top of your goals, especially during all of the difficulties you've faced through 2020. As you reset the commission's goals for the coming year, I am writing to ask that you please designate Daniel Meyer Pool as your top goal, and that you underscore its importance among the city's parks and rec facilities with 3 key actions:

1. Please reopen DMP as soon as possible for adult lap swimming, high school water sports teams and the Rogue Valley Masters swimmers. Following the Governor's updated COVID health and safety guidance, other pools in the area are reopening and Ashland should follow suit with DMP. After a year without public swimming facilities, there's great demand for access and I'm sure those users would gladly pay fees to cover the costs of that access. I definitely would, as a RVM swimmer myself.
2. Please keep the rebuilding of DMP at the top of APRC's goal list, and continue to monitor the rebounding economy and food & beverage tax revenues so that the approved revenue bond can be applied to the

construction costs. Broad economic trends indicate that the economy is recovering and we can expect broad growth as COVID subsides, and strong pent-up demand for entertainment and travel will be good for Ashland in the coming months. I believe it is important that the APRC keep the pool directive in place and be ready to move forward with the DMP construction when it is financially feasible.

3. If the recovery turns out to be sluggish and the DMP construction project needs to be pushed out another year, please do what you can to keep the pool open while we wait. I ask that you apply the \$325,000 allocated to DMP in the last year's budget to repairs and maintenance for the pool for this year so that DMP can fully open to the public (and so repairs can be made as needed along the way). After the year we've had, the residents of Ashland and Talent deserve to have some fun.

Thank you for all the work you do for Ashland,

Catherine Thompson

[REDACTED] Ashland

From: Barbara and Gary [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 3:31 PM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Cc: seryl@mindnet.net; Stu Green <stu.green@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Dear APRC and staff:

Would the APRC please consider adopting a strategy which would lead to the reduction of GHG emissions from APRC's gas-powered lawn and garden equipment?

I have spoken with several members of the Commission about this topic. I also have a meeting scheduled with Michele and Sean to talk about the subject next week.

Attached is the latest draft of the [Carbon Policy Committee's GPLGE Emissions Reductions Strategy](#). I hope it can serve as a useful reference as you explore the opportunities and challenges of reducing GHG emissions from gas-powered lawn and garden equipment.

It is also important to note that, Stu Green, Ashland Climate and Energy Analyst, has indicated to me that there is some funding available through the Conservation Division to support the APRC in the transition from gas to electric powered equipment.

Thank you,
Gary Shaff
Climate Policy Commission

From: John and Melissa Mitchell-Hooge [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:39 PM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Dear APRC and Director Black,

Thank you for your work thus far regarding Lincoln School Park and for including this issue on your list of goals for the last biennium. Our group, Save Our Schools & Playgrounds and Friends of Lincoln Park, greatly appreciates the time and effort expended on your part to think about this issue, to make it a priority, and to brainstorm ideas and goals for ways to help. We would really appreciate it if Lincoln School Park could be on your new list of goals going forward for the 2021 - 2023 biennium.

As you know, Ashland citizens have used the wonderful school park located at the old Lincoln Elementary School as a de facto neighborhood park ever since the school was built in 1926. That is 95 years! We are hoping to have a permanent solution to this issue in place, have a partnership between Parks and the Ashland School District, and have the park preserved as an official city park before the neighborhood park's 100th anniversary!

We are excited to have 64 local business sponsors who support our efforts to preserve Lincoln School Park as an official city park... and we have 667 individual supporters, as well. We just added Prize, Kixx, Shepherd's Dream, ShivitiBazaar's shop on Etsy, Pangea Cafe, and Zoey's Cafe and All Natural Ice Cream to our ever growing list of amazing local business sponsors!

We just started an online petition and we're up to 204 signatures so far and growing by the day. The petition comments are wonderful and very heartwarming. We will send you printouts of the comments when we're finished with the petition. In the meantime, there's a way that you can read the comments if you'd like. You can find our petition on our Facebook group page, "Friends of Lincoln Park."

I'd like to share with you a few of the comments that we've received from some of our newest supporters, one from a current City Councilor, and a great comment that we received from one of our local business sponsors:

"With infill, we need all the parks in Ashland that we can get!" -- Nancy A.

"I love this park and use it almost every day! I hope that this can be a park for dogs, there are many responsible dog owners who use this park and clean up after themselves." -- Rianna K.

"I strongly support Lincoln school park becoming an official city park. In this age of video games outdoor activity is all the more important to both the physical and emotional well being of our youth." -- Ashland City Councilor Stefani Seffinger

"We would very much LOVE to see Lincoln Park get into the hands of the Ashland Parks Department and wholeheartedly support this endeavor to make it happen." -- Micky S.

*"We worry so much that some large developer will buy it from the School District and develop it." -- Marc M.
"The Northwest Nature Shop strongly supports open space in urban settings. Our community needs accessible parks. Public parks provide immeasurable health, social, and environmental benefits. The Northwest Nature Shop urges the City of Ashland to recognize parks in Ashland are a vital part of the well-being of our community and we must continue to increase the number of public parks in Ashland." -- Kathy, Chris, and Marie Uhtoff, owners of Northwest Nature Shop*

The language of the previous goal, albeit wonderful, and we are incredibly grateful to you for including it on your list of goals (thank you!) -- the wording was perhaps a bit too open-ended and it allowed for ASD to find a loophole. We love APRC's previously stated goal to "Work collaboratively with Ashland School District to keep Lincoln School playground and fields open to the public." But ASD has responded to APRC's goal with statements at School Board meetings along the lines of "We already do that."

It might be helpful to have a bit more of a push towards the ultimate goal of the permanent preservation of the park and the permanent improvement of the soccer field and proper upkeep of the park for the benefit of the community. Perhaps it could be tweaked a little to "Work collaboratively with Ashland School District to preserve Lincoln School playground and playing fields as an official city park for the benefit of the community."

The Ashland Soccer Club has expressed an interest in using the soccer field at Lincoln for their kinder program. They cannot do so currently due to the condition of the field. Judging from a recent, January 2021, memo put out by the Ashland School Board, ASD will not be rehabilitating the soccer field or even watering it again anytime soon. Star thistle weeds will continue to proliferate and invade the neighborhood as they already have.

Citizens of Ashland expect our local leaders to work together to share public assets that are important to the health and well-being of the community and to come together to solve the problems that our community faces. Citizens of Ashland view Lincoln School Park as public land because it is. There is plenty of room on the rest of the Lincoln School Property (where the building stands) for future expansion of the High School or whatever ASD would like to do.

It could be written into the deed that ASD students have full, priority access to the park during school hours. ASD stands to benefit from such a win-win scenario as the students would still maintain full access and they would enjoy an improved park and an improved soccer field. ASD would benefit from never having to worry about the maintenance of the playground and playing field ever again. ASD could find solace in the knowledge that they are doing right by our community, by this neighborhood, and by our town.

Lincoln School Park is much-loved and much used. On the 4th of July people from all over town (and all over our country) come to the park to view the fireworks. They come early to play at the park and to enjoy a picnic dinner on the field. We signed up 92 new supporters at the park on July 4, 2019! This school park is another "face of Ashland" that we need to make right and we need to preserve as a city park.

Thank you for your work on this issue!

Sincerely,

Melissa Mitchell-Hooge

Director, Save Our Schools & Playgrounds and Friends of Lincoln Park

From: laura.mcl11@yahoo.com [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 1:28 PM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public Testimony For February 19 Goal Setting

Dear Sean Sullivan,

I am a resident of Ashland and live near Lincoln School Park. This piece of land is a treasure and a delight for our community. I watch its use daily and see the constant stream of people using this park. There are

numerous children and teens enjoying the play structure, cement area and field. I am privileged to hear their laughter and shouts of joy. The Park keeps many dogs fit and happy and feeds a gentle deer population. People of all ages catch some sun, picnic, walk, exercise, socialize and more. It is an area safe for being together while outdoor social distancing. This spot opens up the neighborhood and adds beauty for all by allowing us to see the mountains and sky. I strongly ask that the park service do what ever they can to preserve this awesome park for us (the people of Ashland) and future generations. Please partner with the school district to make this happen.

Sincerely, Laura McLellan

From: Jennifer Yance [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 12:46 PM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Dear APRC Commissioners,

Thank you for keeping the Daniel Meyer Pool within the top three of your goals these past years. Now that the time has come to reset your goals, I respectfully ask that you move the Daniel Meyer Pool into the Number One position in these three ways:

1. Re-open the DM Pool now for a) adult lap swimming, b) high school teams' workouts and practices, and c) the Rogue Valley Masters Swim Team. Other pools in the area are re-opening, following Gov. Brown's Covid protocols, and DM Pool should re-open also. There is a great need now within the community for these basic services, for which these aquatic users would be more than willing to pay a fee to cover costs.
2. Put the DM Pool Renovation Project at the top of the APRC Goals list, and continue to monitor the local economy regarding Food and Beverage Tax revenue so that the previously approved revenue bond can be applied towards the construction costs. Keep the directive to begin the construction process as soon as financially feasible.
3. IF the DM Pool Renovation Project needs to be pushed out another year due to a sluggish economy recovery, keep the \$325,000 that was dedicated to budget last year for the DM Pool for repairs and maintenance, so that the DM Pool can fully operate this summer season, repairs can be made as necessary, etc.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Yance | *Chief Executive Officer*

Natura Health Products



From: Molly Shenandoah [REDACTED]

Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 12:06 PM

To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>

Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

My family loves using Lincoln Park. We bike ride on the blacktop, run and roll in the field, and enjoy the playground facilities. It is a beautiful place to play and serves so many in this neighborhood. Please do everything that you can to preserve this space for the health and wellness of our community. Thank you. The Shenandoahs

From: Trevin Phillips [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, February 17, 2021 9:35 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

I am writing to express my support for a partnership between ASD and the Parks commission to preserve and improve Lincoln park.

I grew up in Ashland and learned to ride my bike at that park (along with countless soccer practices, playground adventures, etc) so needless to say it has great sentimental value to me. However, upon moving back to Ashland in 2018 with my young kids, and living in the neighborhood, it has struck me how important this neighborhood asset is to us all. This is the only park with the following characteristics in the area, which make it so integral to the community:

- large Flat "grass" area
- full playground with swings, etc
- Sports courts and blacktop for bikes/scooters/skateboards, etc
- Central and easy neighborhood location for building community and allowing kids their own space

We all know how important the parks spaces in Ashland are to everyone, but because of its location and uniqueness this park definitely deserves to be cared for and thrive for all of us.

Best,

Trevin
[REDACTED]

From: Jocelyn Sanford [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:58 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony Feb 19,2021 APRC Goal Setting CORRECT VERSION

Commissioners Bell, Eldridge, Gardiner, Landt, and Lewis,
Thank you for previous work, dedication, inquiry, and persistence in maintaining aquatics as a top priority goal of the APRC, as well as the citizens of Ashland.

In the past two years, we have seen the disrepair of the Daniel Meyer Memorial Swimming Pool with yet another patch job on multiple holes in the plaster lining. We have heard the recommendations of the Pool Ad-Hoc Committee with the Parks Commissioners approving those recommendations at their Business Meeting in September 2019. We have lived through a year of the COVID-19 Pandemic with the closure of many parks and

recreation sites, including the Daniel Meyer Memorial Swimming Pool which did not open its doors for the 2020 summer season despite other private pools in the area opening when restrictions allowed during the summer months. We have seen the draft conceptual drawings with presentation and discussion by Robertson Sherwood Architects and Aquatic Design Group. (Dec 8, 2020 and February 3, 2021.

Now, more than ever the importance of recreation and outdoor exercise has been highlighted during this time of physical distancing during the Pandemic.

The health and well-being benefits of swimming and aquatic activities are well documented by the American Heart Association, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Arthritis Foundation to name a few. There is also growing research and information regarding the emotional, mental, physical, spiritual, cardiovascular, neurological, and creative benefits of being in, near, on, or under the water. This is known as Blue Mind Science and I urge you to become familiar with the benefits of water and putting that knowledge into practice.

A swimming pool is much more than a rectangular structure holding water. A swimming pool is a magical place, a place where children and adults experience confidence, camaraderie, calm, community, and collaboration by learning to swim, by participating in aqua-aerobics, by learning how to be water safe, and thus opening the door to a world of possibilities for improved health and fitness, happiness, and contentment with life.

A community swimming pool provides a public health resource by providing water safety education, drowning prevention (swim lessons), and a variety of aquatic programming that serves the varied needs, physical abilities, and ages of the citizens within that community.

In the United States, drowning ranks fifth among the causes of unintentional injury death according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. It has been shown that swimming lessons helps reduce the rate of drownings per the National Alliance of Drowning Prevention. We need to do more than "Think Water Safety" - we need to engage, take action, and provide access to a public swimming pool in Ashland.

I urge the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners to place the project for a new community swimming pool such as the draft presented by Robertson Sherwood Architects and Aquatic Design Group as a TOP PRIORITY for the 2021-2023 biennium.

"Find Your Space" on the APRC website the question is posed: "what type of support do you need from APRC in order to stay healthy, engaged, and connected during a public health emergency?" In response, I urge the Parks and Recreation Staff with the support of the Commissioners to open the Daniel Meyer Memorial Swimming Pool. There are numerous examples of swimming pools in the state of Oregon that are operating within COVID-19 safety guidelines. According to the CDC, "currently, there is no evidence that COVID-19 can be spread through recreational water." Multiple resources exist providing safety guidelines and protocols for opening aquatic facilities through the Aquatics Coalition (aquatics-coalition.org), the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, USA Swimming, United States Masters Swimming, USA Water Polo, and the National Drowning Prevention Alliance.

I have spent most of my life around swimming pools. I began with swim lessons as a toddler, then participated with youth swim teams, high school swim and water polo teams. I was a Lifeguard and Water Safety Instructor for the City of Berkeley and the University of California, Santa Barbara, the City of Amherst, and the Ashland YMCA. I competed on the collegiate level in water polo at the University of California, Santa Barbara. I have

traveled the world representing the United States in national and international competitions as a member of the United States Women's National Water Polo team. I continue to swim and play water polo as a participating member of United States Masters Swimming, as well as an Honorary Life Member of USA Water Polo. I am a Certified Pool Operator. I have coached youth and adults in swimming and water safety skills, and I am currently the Boys Development Coach for the Pacific Northwest Zone Olympic Development Program with USA Water Polo.

Having lived in numerous cities and states, swimming pools and access to aquatic activities has offered physical as well as emotional, psychosocial, and cognitive health benefits as well as fun, friendships, employment, and a sense of contribution to my community.

I have seen and experienced the confidence of a child who has learned a new skill in the water. I have seen the joy of children playing with their friends and creating games by using their imagination, engaging in teamwork, problem-solving, negotiation, and creativity.

I have been a member of the Rogue Valley Masters swim team and a volunteer coach for the Ashland High School water polo teams and have seen the social support and improved quality of life for members of the community.

The following is a list of programming that is possible with a community swimming pool: swim lessons/water safety in both shallow and deep water; Aqua-aerobics (shallow and deep water); Lap Swim; Lifesaving/Lifeguarding courses; Swim Instructor courses and mentorship; Adapted Aquatics; Swim Teams (youth, high school, masters); Water Polo teams (Splashball, youth, high school, masters); Boating Safety Skills; SUP; SCUBA; Special Olympics; Underwater Hockey; Aquatic Rehab for orthopedic injuries (shallow and deep water rehab), cardiac rehab (water walking), stroke rehab (balance/strengthening); Recreational/Family Swim; Pool Parties; Community events (such as Aloha Night); Physical Education classes for all ASD students.

Please, for the physical, emotional, social, mental, cognitive, and creative health of the citizens of Ashland, open Daniel Meyer Swimming Pool and proceed with the building of a new community swimming pool as recommended by the Pool Ad-Hoc Committee and put into conceptual design by Robertson Sherwood Architects and Aquatic Design Group.

Respectfully,
Jocelyn Sanford, MSPT

From: Karolina Lavagnino [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:18 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for Goal Setting February 19

[EXTERNAL SENDER]
Good morning ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION,

My name is Karolina Lavagnino, and I represent Neuman Hotel Group, which incorporates Ashland Springs Hotel, Ashland Hills Hotel and Suites, Lithia Springs Resort, Waterstone Spa, Larks Restaurant and LUNA Café. As you can imagine, we rely heavily on tourism and consider it a driving force in our beautiful town. Over the course of past 20-30 years the main focus in Ashland has been on the performing arts and OSF as the driver of visitors into town. COVID has proven to us all, from hoteliers, to restaurateurs and all the small business

owners in town, that relying on one source of travelers is dangerous and can spin economy down real fast. That said, over the course of 2020 we have refocused our attention on a low hanging fruit, the great outdoors. Our marketing messaging has been all about the four seasons of outdoor fun, endless trails ideal for family hikes, running, mountain biking and more, water adventures, skiing and more. Our parks are a huge part of that message. We have been also highlighting our culinary and wine assets to attract even different type of visitors. As you most likely know people that love the outdoors, who enjoy good craft beer or wine, and who love to eat their way through vacation destinations, have resources to spend a lot of money in a short period of time. This is the type of visitor we want to attract. City residents who will make Ashland their escape for a weekend more than 2-3 times a year. More and more of them are ‘escaping’ SF Bay Area, LA/San Diego, Portland metro area and Seattle. All of these target locations are within a day’s drive. These visitors are younger, enjoy active lifestyle, and look for one of a kind experiences (the Instagram generation). By offering them and locals alike many running, biking, family events, outdoor concerts, professional races that take place or end up in our parks would be huge to the popularity of our town. Partnering with local restaurants and food truck owners, breweries, theatres and outdoor outfitters (just to name a few) to create outdoor events ranging from athletic, to performing arts, to culinary would be amazing.

Please consider incorporating tourism into your immediate future goals. It will benefit residents, business owners and visitors alike. We can create a new, thriving future for our gem of a town.

Thank you for taking time to have a tourism focused discussion.

Respectfully,

Karolina Wyszynska Lavagnino
Director of Sales & Marketing
[REDACTED]

From: Taffy Clarke Pelton [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:20 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Dear Sean,

This letter is to express my urgency about the need for more pickle ball courts, and I hope in your planning that this issue will be taken into serious consideration. The Pickleball community is huge and it is growing every day. Covid has been an impetus for people to engage outdoor activities where we can feel safe from this disease and still have an active life. Outdoor activity has become more crucial than ever as it may be a long time before we get to engage indoor exercise and we believe Covid has caused some changes to become permanent. I could take up pages to speak to the physical, mental and social benefits of pickleball based for not only the over 60 crowd but for families and people of all ages, but I don’t think this is the intent of this testimony.

We have deeply appreciated having the four dedicated courts at the park and when there is light and temperatures above freezing **these courts are used at full capacity** (although they are in dire need of being resurfaced). And it’s a rare day that nets aren’t also set up below on the tennis court. And it is rare to see

anyone with a tennis racquet. Most avid pickleball players play at least 5 times a week.

Because of the popularity of the sport and the high percentage of increase each year, we are highly concerned about our ability to have courts to play on when the weather gets warmer. Even during the winter many people are driven to go to Medford, Central point and Jacksonville to find a place to play. I'm not sure how one assesses the numbers of pickleball players versus the numbers of tennis players in the area, but because we rarely see a tennis player in the park, **my proposal would be that we add four more dedicated courts in the park as it is easier to retrofit a tennis court than it is to build new ones.**

And speaking of new ones it would make sense to support the growing Pickleball community by following through with Oaknoll or adding some courts back to Hellman. Ashland is a wonderful progressive community, but it is not keeping up with the needs of the community relative to this sport. This spring we are going to a very small town in Mexico that just happens to have 10 dedicated courts. Even a like community like Klamath Falls has multiple numbers of courts more than Ashland and fosters the growth of this sport. It is my fervent wish that in your planning you take the needs of the fastest growing sport in the world into consideration.

Thank you!!

Taffy Clarke Pelton, MA LPC
[REDACTED]

From: Dane Roubos, DC [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for Feb 19 Goal Setting

RE: Pickleball Facilities in Ashland

Dear Sean

I've been an Ashland resident since 2005, and at age 74, I recently retired. Over the past eleven years or so, I've been playing pickleball. It's become a significant part of my personal fitness program, and plays a definite role in my mental health as well. I play 3-5 times a week, weather permitting.

I appreciate how APRC has responded to our need for better pickleball facilities in Ashland. It's come a long way in the past few years. What a joy to have dedicated courts! As America's fastest-growing sport, public demand keeps increasing and we understand that it's a lot to keep up with.

Over the past year, the pandemic has kept us from playing indoors, and there's been a huge increase in court usage in Lithia Park, even over the winter months, compared to the previous season. During COVID, there's been no court access at the YMCA. It's becoming obvious that outdoor court demand will dramatically increase in Ashland as Spring approaches.

Infrastructure

- Lithia Park: If the current tennis-pickleball court split is maintained, brighter lines for the pickleball courts on the "tennis" side should be painted. Black simply doesn't work because it's hard to see. Yellow is ideal.
- The proposed dedicated courts at Oak Knoll would help to ease court congestion. It appears that we will be needing both by summer. Lithia offers some protection from wind and summer heat.
- You're already aware of the problem with the surface degrading at Lithia. Hopefully, your maintenance folks have discovered what went wrong, so it's not repeated.
- If courts are replaced at Helman, that should provide adequate room for our growing public involvement.

Thanks for your work on this project!

Sincerely,
Dane Roubos

From: Joel Heller [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Letter to Commissioners

Dear APRC, I know we spoke four years ago about Pickling being the fastest growing sport in the country. I hope you realize it has reached a tipping point in Ashland. Several folks have spoken to me in recent days about how it is exploding here.

On most days this covid impacted winter, and on every weekend, the Lithia courts are well utilized, and I'm sure others have let you know this concern.

I would want to remind you that the commissioners in the previous biennium prioritized the building of 8 dedicated courts at Oak Knoll to help support the golf course clubhouse, and to help address the lack of facilities for pb. Lithia park was a reasonable short term solution in a financial crunch. But the need hasn't diminished, indeed it has grown rapidly, and not just among seniors.

I want to remind commissioners that there are few investments that will give a bigger bang for the buck, in terms of providing recreation opportunities at a reasonable cost. 200-300k will not do much to build a pool, but it could build 8 more pickleball courts at Oak Knoll, (and cost even less at another site) Perhaps it is helpful to realize that Klamath Falls, a town of similar size, has 22 outdoor courts (and 12 indoor options) that are well utilized. Or that Medford made the commitment to making all their tennis courts, lined with pb options.

I know that there are a lot of competing demands on your plate. Please understand that the rapidly growing pb community has been patiently waiting for APRC to follow through on their commitment from the previous biennium to build dedicated courts at Oak Knoll. Lithia was a clever short term solution that we are grateful for (especially when repaired), but the need continues to grow. This is a sustainable project, that doesn't demand staffing or high maintenance from APRC staff.

Thanks for your continued service to the community and following through on your previous commitments. I continue to be proud of my association with APRC, and miss you. If there is any way I can help address questions or concerns, I'm happy to do so.

Sincerely, Joel Heller

From: Todd Lantry [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, February 18, 2021 11:02 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for February 19 Goal Setting

Hello,

Todd Lantry, from Corp Ranch Rd in Ashland, also Ashland High School head swim coach and Masters swimmer, as well as Pool Ad Hoc Committee member.

I have long advocated for Daniel Meyer pool to be open, and also for the redesign and rebuild of Daniel Meyer pool. I am writing to ask and encourage the APRC commissioners to keep the momentum with the pool rebuild in your goal setting by ranking it as a priority project. We have made so much progress toward a pool that will more functionally replace the aging, degrading current pool, it would be a tragedy to lose that momentum and abandon it.

A city our size needs recreation opportunities, and the pool is one of those opportunities for everyone; think of it like a park that provides safety education and safe supervised activities for all! The redesigned pool will serve many more people than the existing pool can, and can serve them simultaneously, from babies to the elderly. It will allow much more flexibility than the current pool; for example, the high school teams could practice at the same time (after school) that there could be swim lessons and/or lap swim -- there would be enough room for all that to happen during that high-demand time of day. The same principle applies any other time of day.

I believe that Ashland can find the funding, and MUST find the funding -- if we wish to maintain the attraction of Ashland to all income levels, ages, and demographics, we must have public facilities that are open and accessible to all, not leave the amenities to be filled by the whims of the private sector.

Once the new pool is open, it will also be a venue that will attract residents from across the region, as a flagship pool, who will spend money at the pool and in town. We have a decided lack of public pools in the region, and the region is growing, causing the aquatic needs to grow. Those aquatic users and needs are running into increasing conflict at the limited number of pools.

Thank you,
Todd Lantry



February 18, 2021

To Ashland Parks Commission:

The mission of the Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association is to build and maintain a world-class system of mountain bike trails that support and enhance the physical, mental and economic health of Rogue Valley communities.

To accomplish this, RVMBA hosts events, trail work days, lobbies for mountain bike infrastructure, mobilizes its member base for support, and fundraises for projects.

RVMBA has worked with APRC to bring mountain bike projects with strong community support into the biannual goals list. The purpose of this letter is to advocate for the projects we feel are most important to the community and APRC in providing recreation for citizens and visitors who ride bikes.

The East Main Park is moving forward with design, with the Pump Track and Skills Park included in the overall design. **RVMBA would like to see construction of the Pump Track/Skills Park in the biannual goals for 2021-2023.** The project was initially proposed in October 2017. Other comparable projects regionally have taken 2-5 years to complete, and this project is still on track. With fundraising from RVMBA and partnership with APRC staff on grants not accessible to non-profits, we believe we can reach this goal, and bring this much needed amenity to the community. We believe it's important for this goal to be a standalone goal, outside of the overall development of East Main Park.

Another project that has gained less traction and support from APRC thus far is building a low angle bike trail on the upper Lithia Park hillside adjacent to Glenview. RVMBA would like to find a way to have a discussion with staff and commissioners on how to work towards a solution that benefits mountain bike riders by providing a safe, accessible beginner loop trail. RVMBA has a plan and proposal ready to share, but we would like to see a specific goal addressing this project to ensure we receive official discussion on the proposal, which did not occur in 2019-2021. **RVMBA would like to**

see reviewing and making a decision on the Lithia Park Low Angle Mt. Bike Trail
on the 2021-2023 goals list.

RVMBA has been working hard on several trails projects over the past few years. One of the most disconcerting parts of our work has been the seemingly non-existent pathway to project approval in the realm of trails. Unlike the Pump Track/Skills Area at East Main Park, there was never a clear route for RVMBA to present the Lithia Park Trail. When contacting APRC we were told to talk to the FLC. FLC would send us back to APRC. The project ended up getting lost in the shuffle, and when asked what the process actually is, there doesn't seem to be an answer. As an organization that strives to be professional and move Ashland forward in supporting outdoor recreation, RVMBA would like a framework in which we can present ideas, proposals, and concepts that have a chance to become reality through a well organized and navigable system.

RVMBA would like to see a 2021-2023 goal around the idea of APRC creating a trails proposal plan for city owned lands that carries an idea from concept to shovel ready. With a clear procedure in place, we can have a streamlined process that doesn't stray off track or begin on a road that has a dead end.

With these three goals in place, RVMBA and APRC can continue to partner and work together on projects that benefit our growing constituency, APRC, and the community as a whole.

Sincerely,

Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association