

From: City of Ashland, Oregon <administration@ashland.or.us>
Sent: Friday, May 07, 2021 12:18 PM
To: Parks Commissioners <parks_commissioners@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Contact the APRC Commissioners Submitted

*** FORM FIELD DATA***

Name : Ronald Demele

Phone: [REDACTED]

Email : [REDACTED]

Subject: community garden at E. Main

Message : I was under the impression that this 1 acre plot had already been purchased for a community garden. As the Scenic Park garden manager I have seen an interest greater than availability continue. Only one turnover a year. Our current newest (senior) gardener says she waited 21/2 years to get her plot. We need this new plot on E. Main to continue supplying demand for this important need. Please purchase this plot which is in a high need area with high density homes and no other options for gardening. Thanks for the continued support of community gardens. Ron Demele

Sent: Monday, May 10, 2021 7:35 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for May 11 Regular Meeting

Public Comments regrading item (b) "Property Acquisition" under New Business.

My name is Larry Smith and my wife and I reside at [REDACTED] Our home backs up to the proposed acquisition property referenced in Director Blacks May 7, 2021 Parks Commission Staff Report. My wife and I both participated in the October 24th community input meeting discussing the East Main Park and supported moving forward with plans to develop it at the time. We are aware, however, that the City of Ashland

is facing very tough financial times as the result of the pandemic. We understand that there is a chance that the purchase of the 1.0 acre will not be approved by the Parks Commissioners or by City Council and we can live with that

if that is the right decision at this time. Community Parks, however, are a vital part to every community including Ashland. Preserving open space and providing facilities that support the health of the community is critical during these

stressful times. Outdoors is the only place where people have been able to live a somewhat normal life. This property adds open space and natural area to the East Main Park where residents will be able to decompress and rejuvenate.

I encourage you to remember that as you look to decide whether purchasing this property is worth the investment.

Please vote yes on this proposal.

We hope to be able to work with the APRC in making the East Main Park a reality. We would suggest that you continue to solicit community input from the area residents who will use this park. In particular we would like to see the concerns of the residents on Brooks Lane who back up to the proposed open space addressed by APRC. Things like privacy, fire risk, and security.

My wife and I have worked extremely hard over the last 4 years with the permission of the current owner cleaning up the blackberries and over growth behind our home to reduce the fire risk and improve the appearance. We have created a small wildflower garden under a grouping of cottonwood trees which we have paid to trim and maintain. I have attached a few pictures for your review. We would gladly maintain this area for APRC if they were to purchase the property. Other residents may also be interested in maintaining the area behind their homes.

As you can see, we support the development of this property into a community park and are willing to help however we can.

Thank you for your time and for what you do for our community.

Respectfully,

Larry & Karen Smith





From: JoAnne Eggers [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 10:24 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Input on goals

to commissioners and staff:

I have two major areas of interest and concern:

1. Maintain the relatively quiet and low activity level of Lithia Park where it has existed over decades. These areas have been an important refuge for residents and visitors to experience and enjoy and a lovely contrast to our (at times) busy and bustling downtown. The bike trail proposed by RVMB would intrude on that peace and quiet. It would be difficult to keep biking out of adjacent trails and areas and set a precedent for other currently prohibited uses such as dog walking.

2. Move ahead aggressively on greenhouse gas reduction. While some maintenance activities and utility use may require further analysis and study, we already know much about the impacts of using fossil fuels and don't need the exact numbers to take action. The sooner the better.

Thanks for your work on behalf of our community.

JoAnne Eggers
[REDACTED]

From: eliot crowe [REDACTED]
Sent: Tuesday, May 11, 2021 5:11 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for May 11 Regular Meeting

Dear Sean/APRC,

I'm writing to share my enthusiastic support of the Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association's proposed Sustainable Trails Plan (downloadable from <https://www.rvmba.org/>), and with sincere hope that you will give serious and urgent consideration to the many proposals in that Plan.

I have been an avid mountain biker for 3 years and Ashland has a great mountain biking trail network, but the RVMBA plan addresses several critical shortcomings that affect me personally:

- As someone living toward the south end of town (near Park St.) I am faced with the option of [a] taking a long boring ride up the asphalt of Tolman Creek to join the multi-use Toothpick trail, [b] tackling the fairly brutal climbing that would get me from the top of Park St across to the White Rabbit parking lot, or [c] to drive my car to the White Rabbit parking lot. None of these is ideal, and I know many mountain bikers on the south end of town who are in the same position as me
- Most mountain bikers in this area are funneling through the same trails. As an example, "Jabberwocky" is a fantastic trail but the high traffic combined with the decomposed granite soil makes it extremely demanding, holey, bumpy and slippery from the accumulated dust
- I would LOVE to go riding with my 11-year old son, but as a fairly risk-averse kid he does not want to try out our local trails as they're all pretty steep/fast/challenging. Easier kid-friendly trails close to town would be a great entry point for local kids to take up a healthy outdoor activity in nature

Beyond these personal angles, the RVMBA plan puts a high priority on safety and on supporting the happy co-existence of hikers and bikers on our local trails, which is super-important.

There has been a biking boom during the COVID pandemic, and mountain biking in particular is so popular that many regions/cities are pushing their mountain bike trail credentials as a way to boost tourism. Local trail additions and improvements would be a big draw for Ashland, and keep the city's trails competitive with other nearby regions that have been expanding their trail networks.

Sincerely,

Eliot Crowe

From: Jeff Adams [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, May 12, 2021 10:32 AM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: Public Testimony for May 12 Regular Meeting

I own a home in the Chautauqua Trace neighborhood that backs up to the 1 acre addition to the E Main Park property. I would like to encourage the parks commissioners to approve the purchase of the lot 100 addition as soon as possible. My wife and I have two elementary age children and the thought of being able to walk to a public park through our neighborhood pathway brings our family great joy. Currently our children and a few neighbor children play together in driveways and the small amount of neighborhood grassy areas. This is less than ideal. Having direct walking access to one of Ashland's wonderful parks would be a great boon to our family and neighborhood in particular and the larger surrounding community in general.

Thank you for your consideration,
Jeff

Jeff Adams
