

From: Leda Shapiro [REDACTED]
Sent: Wednesday, September 1, 2021 4:22 PM
To: Sean Sullivan <sean.sullivan@ashland.or.us>
Subject: PARKS REVENUE STREAM

TO: Parks Commissioners and Michael Black, Director

I totally understand that you want a reliable revenue stream to cover the expenses of our beautiful parks that are so important to our city.

The last few years have been quite challenging in terms of finances for every aspect of the city. The fire season before COVID affected tourism - and then of course COVID tanked our economy. But your largest revenue source - a portion of the property taxes - has been pretty reliable. Nevertheless, revenues for the city tanked everywhere... and yet few cuts were made in projects, or operating expenses. Parks did appear to make some reductions in expenses but then they have continued to make land acquisitions which obviously increase maintenance costs. It is clear from remarks all over social media that the maintenance of the parks has deteriorated... and yet you put the funds into new acquisitions.

I object strongly to this. The new park is not even within the City limits, so will involve annexation... and yet we hear that many costly projects are in place. You take no action to delay costly projects and expenses keep increasing.

The current funding and projections stated in the 2021-2023 budget show increasing revenue totals every year from 2023-2027. And yet this is not enough for you?
You want MORE funding, not making an effort to stay within your budget.

And even though you have quite a lot of autonomy, you want even more. You want no oversight at all. This is irresponsible to all of the citizens of Ashland.

You have not shown to have any respect for our wishes for fiscal responsibility and just keep implying that if we love our parks we will give you whatever you ask. Yes, we love our parks... yes we all do, and want them to remain for many years to come in a City that can support all its basic services as well.

We have come to a time where we need to give priority to basic City Services... for a liveable future.

Your revenue is NOT decreasing (except for one year before increasing again for years to come). We all have come to a time where we must live within our means. We can do that if we exercise a little delayed gratification.

Thank you

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