

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
LITHIA PARK MASTER PLAN SUB-COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
August 9, 2018

PRESENT: **Parks Commissioners:** Rick Landt, Joel Heller
APRC Staff: Director Michael Black
MIG Consultants: Project Manager Laurie Matthews & MIG Principal Lauren Schmitt
(by phone)

ABSENT: None

I. CALL TO ORDER

Landt called the meeting to order at 2:00 p.m. at Lithia Park Admin Office, 340 S. Pioneer.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There was none.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & GUEST SPEAKERS

There were none.

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. Review Design Week Process to Date and Engagement Feedback - Laurie Matthews and Lauren Schmitt

Black said the Japanese Garden public workshop feedback came down to three areas: accessibility/physical area, design and experience of going through the garden and culture and authenticity. Black said the public workshop attendees requested handicapped parking and accessibility into the gardens. Black said they wanted to expand the garden size and they wanted a more immersive Japanese Garden concept.

Landt asked whether the million-dollar donation was enough to complete the project; Black responded that it probably wasn't. He said attendees requested Koi ponds, a tea house and a natural wall, and there was a lot of concern expressed about moving trees. Matthews said preserving the picturesque quality of the gardens had been coming up more and it had been discussed. Black said people understood that it wasn't an official Japanese Garden and that APRC did not want to be offensive to the culture. Black said it was important to honor the history of the garden and preserve historic elements while bringing it up to a more authentic garden. Matthews said they would be addressing accessible parking in their recommendation.

Landt said he hoped they would consider using Winburn Way as a parking area and Matthews said using existing parking would be their first goal.

Black stated that John Fregonese recently passed away and his widow, Janet Fregonese, wanted to spearhead a fundraiser for the restoration of the Butler-Perozzi Fountain.

Landt asked whether the summaries received from MIG and the detailed comments included all that had been received up through the end of July 2018; he was told that all feedback from the public since design week had been included.

Schmitt said she had two items that needed direction: the dog policy in parks and mountain bikers potentially adding a trail for their use. Landt said something needed to be done about the dogs and one option would be to delineate dog routes. Landt said that the reason for no dogs in the Lithia Park was for preservation of wildlife. Schmitt said delineating a route and more public education was a good plan. Landt said another issue that needed to be addressed was that Granite Street did not include a sidewalk on the Lithia Park side and that should be in the long-term plan. Black said on the mountain bike issue that he did not feel it was consistent with the master plan. Landt said there should be a designated bike route on the master plan and it should be from the reservoir down Granite Street, then to the old Pioneer Street trail and then to downtown. Schmitt said it would be nice to have a write-up on its steepness and field observations.

Landt said a number of people had requested a nature playground and Black suggested the front of the park office where the circle drive was located. Landt said they would not have to disturb the natural area and would have to come up with more parking. Matthews felt the area was underutilized and there was a lot of opportunity to create a play area. Landt said if more activity was added then more parking would be needed. Black said he disagreed because if they moved the park shop and had an activity center at the park office area, parking spaces would be freed up. Black said that where APRC staff currently parked, there was capacity for 1 ½ to 2 times more vehicles. Landt said that parking was close to the creek and the creek might need more breathing room.

Landt asked for feedback received about the rose garden. Matthews said people wanted to keep it but were concerned about protection from the deer. She said they felt it didn't have to be a rose garden but could be an ornamental garden. Landt said the garden club would put a lot of effort toward it but it was difficult to have ornamentals that were deer resistant. Landt said other areas should be considered; he encouraged Schmitt and Matthews to use an area where they could have a fence. Matthew said they would consider the options.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:55 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted,

Anna Wysocki, Minute-Taker

These minutes are not a verbatim record. The narrative has been condensed and paraphrased at times to reflect the discussions and decisions made. Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission subcommittee meetings are digitally recorded; the recordings are available upon request.