City of Ashland

PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**STUDY SESSION**

Action Minutes

November 19,2018

**ATTENDEES**

**Present:** Commissioners Gardiner, Heller, Landt, Lewis, Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Superintendent Glatt Senior Services; Superintendent Parks Oxendine

**Absent**: Commissioner Miller, City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

**CALL TO ORDER**

Chair Gardiner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at The Grove 1195 E. Main, Ashland, OR.

**PUBLIC INPUT**

Speaker **Ruby Walley** talked about the Butler Perozzi Fountain and the importance of needed repairs. She asked that repairs to the Fountain become a priority for APRC.

**NATURE PLAY AREA UPDATE (INFORMATION)**

VanWyhe provided an update about efforts to bring to fruition the proposed Nature Play area for North Mountain Park. Funding for the project is currently at $272,685, comprised of in-kind donations, monies raised from grants and contributions from the Ashland community. Resources for the playground have been identified and put into place - or are underway. Once completed, the play area will facilitate a discovery process designed to encourage healthy outdoor play and enhanced environmental awareness

Commissioner Discussion

Questions regarding the planned Nature Play playground included those regarding contingency funding, the removal of trees and a proposed timeline. In response, VanWyhe noted that the estimate included a 15% contingency. She expressed confidence that the budget was a reliable indicator of project expenses. Contingency funds would provide an additional buffer should the need arise.

VanWhye stated that there were no plans for the removal of any trees, and the existing bike path would remain in place until a new path had been constructed. The project is expected to begin in June of 2019.

It was agreed that timelines for the project would be conveyed to the Commissioners via the Lookahead – beginning in the spring of 2019.

**FORMATION OF RECREATION SUBCOMMITTEE DISCUSSION (INFORMATION)**

Dials noted that in September of 2016, the Commissioners had approved recommendations from the Performance Audit conducted that year by consultants from MATRIX. The recommendations included the creation of an in-house task force for the Recreation Division to assist with the development of program alternatives and strategies focused upon opportunities for underserved groups in Ashland. The proposed task force or *Recreation Subcommittee* would assist staff in developing a five-year comprehensive strategic plan that would provide guidance and direction for recreational programs and services in the future.

Dials suggested that Subcommittee members include one or two Commissioners, program participants and community partners for a total of approximately seven members. Staff members would be in attendance to provide staff support – as well as Recreation Superintendent Dials. Meeting would be held twice per month.

After some discussion regarding the particulars of the proposed Subcommittee, it was agreed that the

formation of the task force was a critical need. The format would be similar to those in other Divisions such as

the *Senior Services Advisory Committee* and would therefore be known as the *Recreation Advisory*

*Committee.*  Membership would consist of three community partners and three program participates and/or

instructors.

Dials stated that staff would bring back a proposal for formation of a Recreation Advisory Subcommittee that

would include goals based upon the Performance Audit Recommendations, as well as a plan for the next

biennium budget.

**ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF**

* ***Park Views***

Gardiner led a discussion regarding ideas for the Parks Views Column. Future topics might include articles on

the Lithia Park Master Plan, Japanese Garden, Ice Rink, and an educational piece regarding the Integrated

Pest Management program.

**ADJOURNMENT INTO EXECUTIVE SESSION**

By consensus, Gardiner adjourned into executive session at 8:55 p.m.

*Executive Session pursuant to ORS 192.660 (2)(i)*

**ADJOURNMENT OUT OF EXECUTIVE SESSION**

By consensus, Gardiner adjourned out of executive session at 0:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

The 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 Study Sessions and Regular meetings are digitally recorded and are available upon online.