

MINUTES FOR THE ASHLAND CONSERVATION COMMISSION
Wednesday, May 25, 2016
Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

1. Call to Order

Chair Bryan Sohl called the meeting to order at 6:00 p.m. in the Siskiyou Room.

Commissioners Mark Weir, Risa Buck, Roxane Beigel-Coryell, Cara Cruickshank, and James McGinnis were present. Councilor Stef Seffinger was present. Staff member Adam Hanks was present. Commissioner Marni Koopman was absent.

2. Consent Agenda

Buck/Beigel-Coryell m/s to approve the minutes of March 23, 2016 and April 27, 2016, as presented. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.

3. Announcements

The next commission meeting will be June 22, 2016.

Buck informed the group that this will be her final meeting as the Recology Ashland representative. She is leaving her position with Recology Ashland at the beginning of June. She introduced Jamie Rosenthal who will be the representative starting at the June meeting. Buck stated that she has applied to be appointed to the vacant citizen member seat.

Beigel-Coryell informed the group that SOU is soon breaking ground on the McNeal Hall renovation project as well as the Theater /JPR studios renovation and expansion project. SOU is once again holding their Move Out program, so that anything left behind by students can be diverted to Goodwill rather than trash. Almost 9,000 pounds of waste was diverted in last year's program. The Hannon Library just completed an installation of new LED lightbulbs throughout. SOU graduation will be Saturday, June 11th. Lastly, the three finalists for President of SOU will be visiting campus over the next week or so.

4. Public Forum

None.

5. Reports/ Presentations/ Updates

City Council Update – Councilor Seffinger gave updates on some of the recently approved topics at Council including the approval of the Forest Lands management plan, which was created by the Forest Lands Commission, and the ordinances relating to downtown behavior issues. In the near future Council will likely also be asked to consider the proposed Nevada Street bridge, which is still currently going through the public input and approval process with the Transportation Commission.

Water Conservation Program and Water Supply Update – Staff member Julie Smitherman gave a presentation regarding Ashland's water supply and current conservation efforts. She reviewed some of the Use Water Wisely programs implemented in the past two drought years. She gave information on rebates and giveaways the City of Ashland offers residents (lawn replacement program, low-flow shower heads, soil monitors, etc.)

Smitherman gave an overview of the in-process Water Master Plan update. On focus in the update is conservation. The group encouraged her and those involved with the update to look into using grey-water re-use as a part of the plan.

Group asked if there are any programs or plans specifically targeted at landlords for water use reduction. Smitherman stated that yes, there are many programs and her department works closely with landlords to update their units for efficiency. Additionally, conservation efforts lately have focused on hotels/motels to update things like low-flow shower heads.

Group thanked Smitherman for her time.

City Conservation Programs and Operations – Hanks gave updates regarding BPA program changes which will soon be implemented. Commercial conservation is BPA's current focus as it has been under served in the past. He stated that Conservation Analyst, Larry Giardina, recently attended a solar conference and came back with good information for the department. Lastly, the Electric Department is doing a cost of service study. Designing rate structures to both encourage lower use and maintain money to cover operating costs is challenging and hopefully the study will assist the department.

Low Impact Living Workshops – Beigel-Coryell handed out flyers created for the workshops. She stated that she and Buck are working on the Sneak Preview article to be approved next meeting and have already submitted information to Parks and Recreation for inclusion in their Fall recreation guide.

7. Old Business

Sneak Preview Column – The group discussed the order in which the next several topics will be written. The next topic is regarding the Climate & Energy Action Plan, which is technically the purview of that committee. Group discussed ways in which that committee could use the space.

McGinnis/Cruikshank m/s that the July Climate & Energy Action Plan ad hoc Committee (CEAP) update Sneak Preview article that Adam has begun drafting be approved by the Commission, with the understanding that Koopman, Sohl, Beigell-Coryell, and McGinnis will further refine the article as representatives of both the Commission and the CEAP, with the understanding that future articles about the CEAP process will be authored by the CEAP. Voice Vote: All Ayes. Motion Passes.

Climate & Energy Action Plan – Beigel-Coryell stated that the first open house was held last night. There were five stations to learn about the plan and give input. Lots of input was received from the community. Today the committee met with city staff and the consultant to talk about the plan and get input on what types of goals and actions should be considered. They also talked briefly about the sorts of sectors the plan should be divided into (building, natural resources, etc.) McGinnis stated it was helpful to hear from staff and it felt as if staff interest and involvement will be high. Sohl stated that the committee had a discussion at the last meeting regarding having a legally binding ordinance as part of the final plan. Sohl, Hanks, McGinnis, and Beigel-Coryell

gave information on the possible timeline of an ordinance. There will be an update to Council regarding the CEAP process at the second meeting in July.

7. New Business

Discussion of open commission positions – Buck stated that she has applied for the citizen position, which alleviates some of the pressure to appoint that position. Cruickshank stated that she has talked to teachers to encourage them to apply for the School District Representative position. Group discussed whether a teacher or an administrator/board member is more effective as a representative. Buck would like the group to consider proposing to the Mayor a change in the Commission Charter so that another entity, like OSF, the hospital, or the Chamber of Commerce are represented. The group also discussed the probability that the entire commission will alter based on the outcome of the CEAP process.

Project Concept – Buck stated she would like to propose a collaboration between the Tree, Transportation and Conservation commissions to consider planting trees along the I-5 corridor. She wondered if there would be value in cooling, sequestration, and sound prevention? Group agreed to discuss this issue at a later date.

8. Wrap Up

Items to be added to the next agenda:

- Buck's tree collaboration proposal
- Review of the Commission's charter

Group discussed meeting dates for the rest of the year and agreed to combine the November and December meetings into one meeting, held on December 14th.

Meeting adjourned at 8:04 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Diana Shiplet
Executive Assistant

CITY OF ASHLAND

Ashland Housing and Human Services Commission Minutes June 23, 2016

CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Rhode called the meeting to order at 4:32 pm in the Siskiyou Room at the Community Development and Engineering Offices located at 51 Winburn Way, Ashland OR 97520.

Commissioners Present:	Council Liaison
Tom Gunderson	Pam Marsh
Rich Rhode	
Heidi Parker	SOU Liaison
Gina DuQuenne	Megan Mercier
Sharon Harris	
Commissioners Absent:	Staff Present:
Tom Buechele	Linda Reid, Housing Specialist
Josh Boettiger	Carolyn Schwendener, Staff secretary
Sue Crader	

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Parker/Gunderson m/s to approve the minutes of the May 26, 2016 Housing and Human Services Commission. Voice Vote: All ayes, minutes were approved as presented.

PUBLIC FORUM

No one spoke.

LAUNDRY LOVE PRESENTATION

Christina Kukuk, Senior Minister of the United Church of Christ located on the corner of Siskiyou and Morton Street introduced the volunteers and thanked the Commissioners for inviting them to come and speak. The Laundry Love program is a program that provides quarters and laundry detergent to everyone who comes to the Laundromat between 5:00 pm and 8:00 pm. The Laundromat being used is Henry's located at the Ashland Shopping Center. During this time the volunteers get to know the people, share conversation, good food and sometimes music. This service makes a world of difference in the lives of those that are in need. Wendy, one of the volunteers reported that the church has spent approximately \$2,000 in quarters. They estimate it costs about \$15 to \$20 a family to do their laundry. Mike, another volunteer said looking forward they are interested in inviting other faith groups to help so they could offer the laundry service once a week rather than once a month. They are also looking at fundraising and perhaps doing some grant writing.

Reid shared with the group the grant opportunities that the City offers. This program would likely qualify for a social service grant, the next cycle starts in January of 2017. Another grant funding source would be Community Development Block Grant Funds which does offer a small amount for social services.

ROGUE VALLEY TRANSPORTATION DISTRICT (RVTD) PRESENTATION

Paige Townsend, Senior Planner and Support Services Manager for Rogue Valley Transit gave a presentation. With the passing of the five year temporary levy in May RVTD will be able to provide some additional services. The service expansion includes increased frequencies in Route 10, which serves Medford, Phoenix, Talent and Ashland. It's currently at 30 minute frequency but will bump it back up to 20 minute frequency. RVTD will also be adding Saturday service starting on July 9th as well as adding a route in the Southwest Medford area and a route to the Table Rock Campus in White City. RVTD buses tally a weekly ridership of more than 30,000 people. In addition to providing community members with access to jobs, education, health care and shopping, public transit gives mobility to disabled and senior citizens. Ms. Townsend said it is her job to look at the RVTD vision for the local cities transportation needs. Now is the time to look at what the current needs are, prioritize the projects and when the funding becomes available what do we do first, second, third, stated Ms. Townsend. The Commissioners discussed the need for a bus stop at the south end of town because Ashland Hills Hotel has re-opened providing employment. The Oak Knoll Community is located at the south end of town as well as the Resource Center and the Ashland Community Food Bank.

HOUSING CRISIS FORUM DISCUSSION/PLANNING

Rhode gave an update from the Housing Crisis Forum Planning Committee meeting. The Committee includes Oregon Action, Interfaith Coalition and the Housing and Human Services Commission. The date for the forum is set for Wednesday August 10, 2016 from 6:00 pm to 8:00 pm in the Gresham Room at the Ashland Public Library. Included along with the forum is a Housing survey inquiring about rental experiences in Ashland. The goals for the forum are; bringing together issues about homelessness and rental issues with a theme of "Looking at Positive Solutions" to these issues. The committee would also like to address the funding for the Housing Trust Fund. Rhode acknowledged they could use moderators for the breakout sessions if anyone in the Commission is interested in volunteering. The next meeting is scheduled for June 30th at 1:00 pm at the Pony Espresso located at Washington Federal Bank on Lithia Way.

PORTA POTTY SUB-COMMITTEE UPDATE

Harris reported that the sub-committee (Harris, Boettiger, Buechele) met on June 14. The committee is researching the cost for the funding of a porta potty and looking at possible locations. Some suggestions for locations were: A Street close to town, possibly by the bike trail, Ace Hardware, The Grange Co-op, by Fourth and A Street, on the south end of town by Bi-Mart and Shop-n-Kart. Harris commented it might be easier to place the porta potty on private property rather than City owned property. It was also mentioned of the possibility of leaving the bathrooms open at the Railroad Park and Lithia Park after dark, however the cost of that might be too much. Harris also suggested that it might be a good idea to put the porta potties at businesses on a temporary basis maybe for thirty days and see how it works out.

DONATION/RESOURCE COIN UPDATE

Reid said that Brandon Goldman, City Senior Planner, spoke with Sandra Slattery at the Chamber to discuss their program called "Change with a Purpose." The fourth of July is such a busy time for the Chamber Goldman and Reid will need to wait and meet with Ms. Slattery after the Fourth. The idea is that the Chamber might be interested in incorporating the two programs together. Reid will meet in the early part of July and get back with the commission at the next meeting. The commission would like someone from the chamber to come and talk about the program "Change with a Purpose."

UPDATE ON THE DOWNTOWN SITUATION

The Commissioners discussed the downtown situation regarding the homeless population. Gunderson commented that he has heard from business people that there have been less issues and fewer homeless or travelers' in the downtown area. They attribute this to the new police presence and the Chamber actively saying "Don't donate to the pan handlers." Reid has heard that the smoking ban has also discouraged the presence of the unhoused. Parker acknowledged that Uncle Foods numbers has dropped significantly as it appears the amount of traveler's have dramatically dropped.

LIAISON REPORTS DISCUSSION

Council - Marsh reported that the Council has started their goal setting process. Affordable housing and the Housing Trust Fund is on that goal list. The Council is looking to match up funding sources with the most appropriate functions. The Verde Village project located at the old Ashland Greenhouses on Nevada is moving forward. The development includes a mix of single family homes, affordable housing and cottages totaling 68 housing units. Fifteen affordable units have already been developed. Fair Housing Ordinance is going to the Council at their July 19th meeting. Planning Commission is working on a cottage ordinance which might be of interest to the Commission. On August 28th at 3:00 P.M. the City is hosting a volunteer appreciation event at Oak Knoll. Commissioners are invited and are welcome to bring a guest.

SOU - Mercier excited about the Fair Housing ordinance going to city council. ASSOU student government has a new president, his name is Collin Davis. Mercier is no longer part of ASSOU, but will continue in her role as commission liaison and is still interested in collaborating on developing a rental reference website.

Staff – Reid said that next week she will be attending the Geos Institute Climate Change Vulnerability Accessibility workshop. Will report back. The Tiny House village in Medford is going to the City Council at the noon study session, the development is still being considered but having some opposition with the location.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS MAY 26th 2016 METTING AGENDA ITEMS

Quorum Check – Gina DuQuenne will be gone

UPCOMING EVENTS AND MEETINGS

Next Housing Commission Meeting – 4:30-6:30 PM; July 28, 2016 4:30-6:30 in the Siskiyou Room at the Community Development & Engineering Department located at 51 Winburn Way.

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted by Carolyn Schwendener