

IMPORTANT: Any citizen attending a commission meeting may speak on any item on the agenda. If you wish to speak, please fill out the Speaker Request form. The Chair will recognize you and inform you as to the amount of time allotted to you. The time granted will be dependent to some extent on the nature of the item under discussion, the number of people who wish to be heard, and the length of the agenda.



AGENDA FOR STUDY SESSION

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

October 17, 2016

The Grove

1195 E. Main Street

7:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. PUBLIC INPUT
- III. SUBCOMMITTEE CREATION DISCUSSION: SENIOR CENTER AND LITHIA PARK MASTER PLAN
- IV. ICE RINK CONCESSIONS DISCUSSION
- V. BEE CITY USA REQUEST
- VI. STAFF UPDATES
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number 1-800-735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).

ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S. PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner
Rick Landt
Jim Lewis
Matt Miller
Vanston Shaw



Michael A. Black, AICP
Director

TEL: 541.488.5340
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parksinfo@ashland.or.us

MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners
FROM: Michael Black
DATE: October 12, 2016
SUBJECT: Creation of New Parks Sub-Committees

Parks staff and the Chair of the Parks Commission have identified a need to start two new sub-committees, which are:

1. Senior Program Sub-committee
 - a. Draft Purpose: to review the programs and activities of the senior program, to determine best practices for the center based on the desired outcomes of the Commissioners of APRC and to create goals and objectives for implementing those outcomes.
2. Lithia Park Master Plan Sub-committee
 - a. Draft Purpose: to review the proposed RFP, scope of work and timeline for the master-plan of Lithia Park and to assist staff in reviewing RFP responses in order to select the appropriate team to perform the work to create a master plan. Additionally, the sub-committee will assist staff and consultants by providing an advisory board for the duration of the master plan process.

Mike Gardiner will discuss the makeup of the two sub-committees with the Commissioners at the October 17, 2016 meeting and there will be an opportunity to talk about the purpose and function of each of the committees.

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MEMORANDUM

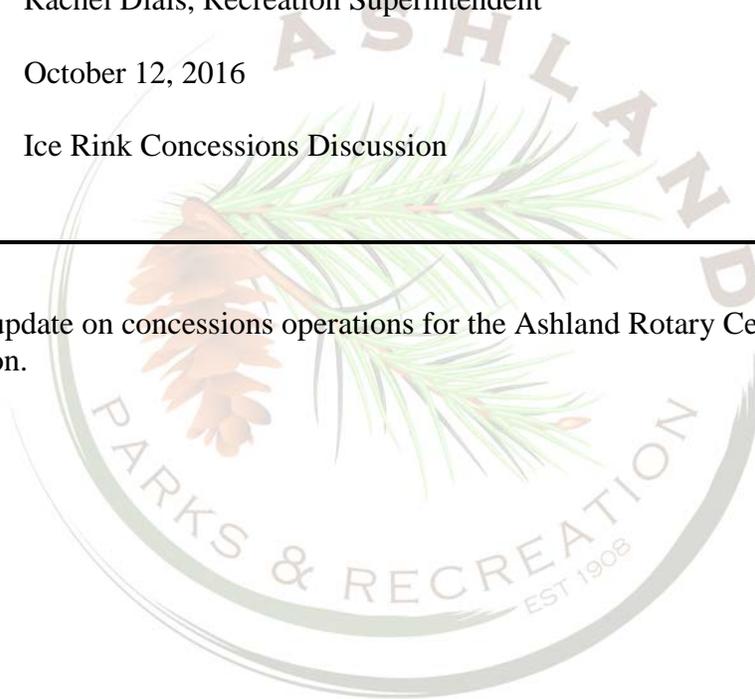
TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Rachel Dials, Recreation Superintendent

DATE: October 12, 2016

SUBJECT: Ice Rink Concessions Discussion

Staff will give an update on concessions operations for the Ashland Rotary Centennial Ice Rink for the 16-17 season.



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MEMORANDUM

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Rachel Dials, Recreation Superintendent

DATE: October 11, 2016

SUBJECT: Bee City USA Request

The Bee City Subcommittee submitted the attached letter to the Commissioners regarding good pollinator practices. They requested:

1. A discussion with the Commissioners on this topic; and
2. Potential development of an internal policy that could be shared with the public.

Staff is prepared to speak to the points in the letter and Kristina Lefever, Chair of Ashland's Bee City Subcommittee, will be at the meeting to talk about specifics of their request.



October 11, 2016

Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners
340 S. Pioneer St.
Ashland, OR 97520

Dear Commissioners:

As you know, Bee City USA Ashland (BCUA) is a subcommittee of Ashland Parks and Recreation (APRC). Bee City USA Ashland's mission is to encourage and create pollinator friendly habitat while educating our community about pollinators and pollinator conservation.

We recognize and greatly appreciate the commitment from APRC to maintain our City's parks and other areas with native and drought tolerant plants and minimal herbicide use.

BCUA recently developed a list of 'good pollinator practices' for landscape maintenance. Staff is already following many of these practices, but we would like to suggest that APRC review the information below, and consider creating a formal document that would be shared with Ashland residents to encourage them to use these same practices. Perhaps a joint statement from APRC and Bee City USA Ashland would be appropriate, as well as inclusion in APRC's IPM policy.

The Bee City USA Ashland subcommittee of APRC recognizes that APRC staff:

- has a lot of ground to cover and maintain within Ashland's City limits.
- honors Ashland's status as a Bee City USA and follows practices which support our pollinators.
- uses native / regional plant species as much as possible; many native plants from Oregon and California are low-maintenance and drought tolerant.
- is following a 'least harm' policy with an IPM policy already in place.
- uses no pesticides with the exception of glyphosate (as Roundup) on the north median on Hwy. 99, the warning tracks of park ballfields, and on the golfcourse. (note - has APRC considered putting fake grass on the warning tracks, which could serve the same purpose?)
- applies any pesticides (fungicides, herbicides and/or insecticides), fertilizers and/or powder or dust products in the very early morning or at dusk when bees are less active and there is very little wind; wind can cause product drift of several miles.

Bee City USA Ashland offers the following points for your consideration:

- Pollinators - native bees, honeybees, hummingbirds, butterflies, moths, bats, beetles, and dragonflies - are in decline everywhere due to habitat loss and overuse of pesticides.
- Most pollinators are active from dawn to dusk - native bees and beetles begin foraging earlier in the day than honey bees and butterflies, although moths are pollinating during the night.
- Pollinators are extremely sensitive to ALL pesticides (including fungicides, herbicides and insecticides), which affect both adults out foraging and the young that ingest the food brought back to the nest.

- Dust created by application of fertilizers and pesticides can interfere with the respiratory systems of pollinators even if the product is nontoxic.
- Flowers, including those of plants considered weeds, provide pollinators with the nectar and pollen they use as food for themselves and their young.
- Neonicotinoids are systemic pesticides that are incorporated into the actual plant; still used by the nursery trade, neonics are lethal to pollinators and other insects and can remain viable in the soil for years.
- Weed fabric negatively impacts the natural soil biota, leading to an unhealthy soil environment which affects the health of the plants.
- Native bees and other pollinators overwinter in nests in the ground.
- Butterflies and other pollinators overwinter on plant stalks and in leaf litter.
- Night lights can decrease moth pollination activity.

Bee City USA Ashland encourages landscaping practices which support our pollinators, such as the following:

- For plants with high attraction to pollinators such as clover, lavender, dandelions, etc., consider mowing/pruning after blooms have faded or alternate areas of cleanup, beginning with sections with fewer viable blooms.
- Trim flowering bushes, shrubs, and plants in early morning or at dusk when pollinators are not as active. Leave some areas 'untidy' to insure enough nesting sites are available through fall and winter.
- Consider the impact of all pesticide use and follow practices to mitigate the impact on pollinators; choose the least toxic methods and products available.
- Consider the most efficacious timing of all product applications (i.e., fertilizers applied early in the growing season and before a rain will be more readily absorbed by the plants; herbicides applied in Fall are more effective than in Spring when plant energy is growing outward). Even OMRI approved products can be toxic to bees if applied incorrectly.
- Purchase only plants that have not been grown or treated with neonicotinoids.
- Use sheet mulching (overlapping, heavy cardboard topped with 3 inches of wood chips) as much as possible to maintain weed-free areas around plantings.
- Leave areas of plant stalks and stems, and fallen leaves, and bare soil especially around rocks, in undisturbed out-of-the-way places.
- Reduce night lighting as much as possible, either with 'dark-sky' fixtures or by eliminating light sources, without affecting the safety of park visitors and staff.

We welcome your comments and feedback. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss this information, and the possibility of developing an internal policy that could be shared with the public.

Sincerely,

for Bee City USA Ashland -

Kristina Lefever, Shari Shattuck, Karen Potts, and Albert Pepe

cc: Michael Black,

Director of Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission