



**MINUTES FOR A MEETING OF THE
ASHLAND FOREST LANDS COMMISSION**

Tuesday, February 14th, 2017

5:30PM to 7:30PM

Fire Station #2 Conference Room

1860 Ashland Street

I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:32 PM

II. INTRODUCTIONS

Alison Lerch, Fire Adapted Communities Coordinator

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Page 1: Add Jill Mullen-Feeley

Page 2, Item B: Frank will implement the agreed upon rules.

Page 2, Item C: Frank talked about a meeting with Adam Hanks

Page 3: Next

Matt Miller made a motion to approve the minutes from January 2017, Nate Louis 2nd, all in favor of approving the minutes as amended.

IV. PUBLIC FORUM

V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA

Adjourn at 6:30

VI. BUSINESS

A. Trails/Recreation (1-2 min)

- i. Jill's report: More signs have been put in, Snark trail sign at the FS Boundary. Please remove your horse droppings at Red Queen and Bandersnatch. Cut out a hanger and downed trees at Gryphon trail. Big tree (3ft in diameter) at Oredson-Todd Woods. Trail maintenance, reworked the switchback at Bandersnatch. Jackson County corrections crew chipped the upper trail in Oredson-Todd Woods, replaced 9 juniper steps, and staged some criblogs out there. The process of updating the City's master Trail plan is underway. Master plan Chair is David Chapman and Steve Jensen is vice chair.
- ii. Stef suggested a new sign at the end of Lizard where it crosses Caterpillar that says "Yield" or "Slow Down."

B. FLC Climate Policy Follow-up (1-2 min)

- i. After the meeting with Chris, Frank and Adam Hanks, who is City staff on the Climate Action Committee, some forest related comments were incorporated into the Climate Energy Action Plan. Many new changes in the natural resources section are now in line with the Ashland Forest Plan. Chris will send a link to the Climate Energy Action Plan Draft when it is available. Comments can be made at the City Council Meeting on March 7th.

C. Ashland Ponds Update (10 min, 16 min total)

- i. Frank gave this presentation to the Parks Commission about the ponds area. Records show no coho salmon in Ashland Creek, although they have been seen there. Ashland Ponds has already had equipment all over the area in the past. Site restoration introducing heavy equipment to create off channel rearing habitat would not be out of historical precedent. Riparian planting has also been extensive. There is extreme fire hazard with blackberries and a grouping of homes on one part of the property. There are invasive plants in every unit. Lomakatsi has Ashland Pond Monarch butterfly waystations recently planted. There are a lot of different projects going on so we need to be careful about balancing priorities. Recommended to treat the entire Ashland Ponds parcel, as a multiyear and multi-faceted project. Funding is needed. Parks could possible secure funding as long as there is matching contributions. Lomakatsi native planting has done all the native plants at Ashland Ponds and we want to keep them healthy. There is real potential for coho habitat and it is consistent with the riparian management strategies in the Ashland Forest Plan.

- i. What is the roll of the Forest Lands Commission in this project?

1. This has not yet been developed, because Forest Lands, Parks will be working on the project together. ODF&W can work with Parks on fish habitat. ODF&W will probably come with funding opportunities.

D. City Forestlands Prescribed Burn Summary Presentation (20 min – 32 min total)

- i. Burning since 1997. Marty Main, Tom Murphy, and Chris Chambers have been the 3 main players. 1997-2007 had 2 burns, 2012-present 83 acres over 7 burn units . In 1995, the City started doing mechanical treatments and mapped the WUI. 2001-2008: 352 owners, 400 projects, 1308 acres of fuels reduction work were completed. The objective of the 2012 burn was to build trust in the community for underburning. Monitoring is done at permanent locations. Question: How do you measure CBI index? Qualitative and quantitative analysis together. We have burned below low severity in some cases, mosaic type and burning majority understory not overstory. Did we meet our objectives? AAR style analysis. **Outcomes and trends:** 1. Successful at achieving the 2 primary objectives, especially providing public education. 2. The highest severity occurred on the steepest slopes, with southerly aspects and in the afternoon. But high severity barely made the moderate rating. 3. Dense overstory canopies have an underrated effect on potential dampening of fire behavior. 4. Madrone is negatively impacted by low severity fire, ponderosa pine and California black oak are least affected. Post-fire tree mortality shows this. 5. Mosaic burning can protect soil. **Challenges and Opportunities:** 1. We are trying to burn on steep ground, with a very sensitive municipal watershed. (Is there a flush of herbaceous vegetation after burning? We will be monitoring that to see if that is the case.) 2. Large woody debris can complicate underburning objectives. 3. Increasing ponderosa pine is a goal, but natural regeneration of pine may be difficult with the burn intervals. 4. Raking around legacy pines will reduce cambial heating. 5. Do this work strategically. 6. Larger units will bring costs down, but costs will always be high because we have

complete mop up. 7. Maintenance is very important to our treatment areas.
8. Drought, insects, disease will influence fire behavior. We are trying to avoid our large fire incidents, like in 1959 & 2009. We want put more good fire on the ground and avoid unpredicted wildfire. Ecological goals and Social goals are being accomplishments.

- i. Comments: The juxtaposition of the wildfire to the gentle underburn brings back the messages from Paul Hessburg's Era of Megafires presentation. How do you want your fire, how do you want your smoke?

VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS

VIII. REVIEW AND SET COMMISSION CALENDAR / NEXT MEETING AGENDA

A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting is March 14th, 2017

IX. ADJOURN: 6:30 PM

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