

City of Ashland  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
Signs, Plaques & Memorials Subcommittee Meeting Minutes  
March 1, 2018

**ATTENDEES**

**Present:** Commissioners Joel Heller and Jim Lewis; Interim Parks Superintendent Jeffrey McFarland; Executive Assistant Susan Dyssegard

**Absent:** None

**CALL TO ORDER**

Commissioner Lewis called the meeting to order at 2:37 pm.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

**Motion:** Lewis moved, Heller seconded approval of the minutes for September 14, 2017, as presented.  
The vote was all yes

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

There was none

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

There were none.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**a. Ashland Pond Entrance Sign—proposed by Lomakatsi Restoration Project**

Niki Del Pizzo of Lomakatsi Restoration Project said a joint project had been underway for ten years. She requested a sign honoring the restoration habitat project for wildlife and people led by Lomakatsi and APRC, with thousands of Helman Elementary School students, teachers and parents helping to restore the land. With help from the City of Ashland, hard-working students removed blackberries and planted native trees and shrubs to cool the creek for salmon while enhancing habitat for butterflies, bees, birds and a myriad of additional wildlife.

McFarland displayed a sign drafted by Promotions Coordinator Dorinda Cottle and said the sign could measure 12x18 inches [standard size for APRC signs] or 18x24. The sign would be metal, the vendor Cantel, and a better, more final, draft would be created by Cottle and distributed to the subcommittee, staff and Del Pizzo for further review and approval.

**Discussion**

Lewis said the larger size of 18x24 would be preferable. Heller asked how to indicate the ongoing nature of the project rather than as a past or completed project. McFarland said ODF&W also contributed to the project because it was a long-term vision for Forestry to plant trees to shade the creek into the future. He said Ashland Creek was a listed creek for salmon and steelhead. Del Pizzo suggested changing the last paragraph to read: "This *ongoing* project is a collaborative partnership between Lomakatsi Restoration Project, APRC, City of Ashland and Helman Elementary School. Funding provided by Lomakatsi, APRC, City of Ashland, Oregon Watershed Enhancement Board, US Fish & Wildlife and Helman Elementary School PTA." She said this would help people understand that the project was long term and open ended.

Heller brought up the issue of dogs, asking whether a “dogs on leash only” sign had been placed at the pond. He suggested installing another sign indicating that birds were in their rookeries in that area and it was sensitive territory requiring dogs to remain on leash.

McFarland spoke about the history of the pond, stating that Ashland Pond was established in the early 1970s by the developer of Quiet Village. He said the pond was lined with clay at its inception and later turned over to APRC for recreation purposes. The deed stated it was to be used for swimming, fishing and boating and required that access be granted and managed rather than closed to some users. Del Pizzo said the pond deserved a large sign indicating it was a home to otter, birds and a variety of other wildlife.

Heller asked if the pond was accessible from the Greenway side and Del Pizzo said no, residents around the pond did not want such access made available. McFarland spoke about the history of a “five-day bridge” [built in five days] from the Greenway to the pond but said the residents didn’t like people coming through [they wanted to preserve the special character of the pond]; therefore, the bridge was removed.

For the sake of wildlife preservation, Heller asked, at the next meeting, for a discussion about installing additional signage regarding dogs on leash.

Lewis spoke favorably about the draft sign. Del Pizzo said minor changes could be made in terms of grammar and phrasing. It was agreed that a firmer proof would be presented to the Parks Commission at their next study session or regular meeting, for discussion and potential approval.

**b. Monarch Butterfly Sign—proposed by Lomakatsi Restoration Project**

Del Pizzo next displayed a Monarch Butterfly sign, funded through ODF&W. She said the sign was created and proposed for mounting on the Bear Creek Greenway by the mulch pile, in the middle of the waystation project area.

**Discussion**

Several people commented that the sign was quite large; Del Pizzo said it was ODF&W’s standard sign size. McFarland said the sign was created and manufactured before this subcommittee saw or approved of it.

Heller said he was fine with the sign but would prefer advance notice in the future. Lewis also expressed approval but asked Del Pizzo to take the sign to the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation board of directors before mounting it on the Greenway.

**c. Ashland Pond Bench—proposed by Rogue Valley Audubon Society**

Linda Kreisman of the Rogue Valley Audubon Society said the birding community regularly used Ashland Pond for bird viewing and the club had elderly members in need of a resting place as they moved about the pond. Barbara Massey, another member of the Society, said a bench would also be useful for seated birdwatching. She suggested placing a bench at the far end of the pond, as the entire pond was visible from that vantage point.

**Discussion**

McFarland said the City of Ashland riparian ordinance might prove an obstacle for that location but he would check into it. If the bench was located in the riparian zone, he would need permission from City of Ashland Planning to place the bench there. Lewis suggested placing a bench in the most logical, aesthetically pleasing location and having it approved by all involved entities. In terms of the bench plaque, several questions were raised, leading McFarland to suggest that Dyssegard send out a copy of the approved Parks Commission policy for signs, plaques and memorials to Kreisman.

After further discussion, it was agreed that the group – including APRC staff – would tour Ashland Pond to consider suitable bench locations.

**d. American Dipper Sign— proposed by Rogue Valley Audubon Society**

Kreisman said American Dipper birds had been tracked in Ashland Creek within Lithia Park boundaries starting in 2010. It was believed that several pairs were now in the creek, nesting and raising their young. She said Dippers liked to locate their nests close to water as they liked moss. She said they were songbirds but also swam, dove, and walked under water. They were nearly always seen in or near fast flowing mountain streams and could be used to evaluate water purity. They built elaborate nests of moss over or directly above water. They typically raised two broods of young from January to July. Kreisman said she had already met with APRC Director Michael Black, McFarland and Lithia Park Supervisor Bill Miller and they thought Dipper signs would be a good idea but suggested having Kreisman and the others meet with this subcommittee before moving forward.

**Discussion**

Kreisman asked about the lifespan of park signs and McFarland said it depended on whether the signs were vandalized. Heller added that Lithia Park signs along the creek had less sun exposure than signs, for example, at the NMP Nature Center receiving direct sunlight.

Nate Trimble of the Audubon Society showed a conceptual sketch he created for the Dipper sign.

Lewis said that now a conceptual design was underway, proposed locations were needed as well as a discussion about sign size.

It was agreed that a Dipper walk-through of Ashland Creek in Lithia Park would be scheduled in the near future with this subcommittee, the sign requestors and staff.

**SET NEXT MEETING DATE**

Subcommittee members suggested meeting on a quarterly basis. The next meeting was discussed as either Thursday, May 24, or Thurs, May 31, at 2:30pm in the Lithia Park meeting room. [Via email, the meeting was later confirmed for May 24 at 2:30pm.]

**ADJOURNMENT**

There being no further business, Commissioner Lewis adjourned the meeting at 3:36 pm

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Dyssegard, Executive Assistant  
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission