

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TRAIL MASTER PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
March 9, 2018

PRESENT: **Parks Commissioners:** Jim Lewis, Mike Gardiner
 Additional Committee Members: David Chapman, Torsten Heycke
 City and APCR Staff: Interim Parks Superintendent Jeffrey McFarland; GIS Analyst Lea Richards
 APRC Minute-taker: Betsy Manuel

ABSENT: Committee members Luke Brandy, Chis Chambers, Stephen Jensen, Jim McGinnis: Director Black

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chapman called the meeting to order at 10:00 a.m. in the Siskiyou Room – 51 Winburn Way, Ashland, OR.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

a. February 23, 2018

Approval of the Minutes for February 23, 2018 was postponed until the next regularly held meeting.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & GUEST SPEAKERS

• **Open Forum**

Chapman noted that public comments dated February 16, 2018 had been included in the packet for review. He stated that the commentary was accompanied by the detailed reply by Interim Parks Superintendent Jeff McFarland.

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

• **Ashland Canal Piping Project Advisory Committee**

Richards noted that the Ashland Planning Department was spearheading a project to pipe a section of the TID canal - from Starlite to Terrace Street in Ashland. She stated that an Advisory Committee was in the formative stages and a representative from the Trail Master Plan Committee would be welcomed.

Richards reported that an earlier meeting with the stakeholders along the canal had increased the City's awareness that trails in that area were controversial. Some residents were concerned that existing trails would be closed, and some were concerned that trails would lead to encroachment or loss of privacy. Other challenges included the lack of continuous easements throughout the two-mile section.

McFarland highlighted discussion with City officials regarding the project's impact on trails. He stated that APCR would be sending at least one representative to the Advisory Committee and would continue to

collaborate with Ashland's Public Works and Planning Department on the project. McFarland noted that surveyors were currently working in the area.

Kevin Caldwell commented that the Advisory group was a volunteer effort. He encouraged those interested in attending, suggesting that input from the group would be helpful during the design stage of the process.

McFarland asked about support from the City if mitigation was needed to ensure that trails remained viable throughout the project and/or new trails could be developed; Caldwell agreed. There followed a brief discussion about the possibilities for a successful outcome. McFarland stated that the TID canal corridor was referenced in the Trail Master Plan and in the City's Comprehensive Plan, outlining the possibilities for future trail connectivity.

Richards explained that a kickoff meeting was planned for Monday, April 2, 2018, from 5:30 to 7:00 p.m. and a community-wide meeting would be held on April 15, 2018, at SOU in the Arena. David Chapman agreed to attend. McFarland suggested that Jason Minica participate as the APRC representative.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

- ***Finish Committee Review/Approval of Revised Regional Trails (Chapter 12)***

McFarland noted that changes proposed at the last meeting had been reflected in the updated version of Chapter 12 – Regional Trails. Heycke proposed some minor editing changes. He suggested that removal of the identifier “Siskiyou Crest” would be appropriate, stating that it typically referred to areas outside Ashland such as the Red Buttes. Heycke commented that while the Siskiyou Mountain Club did excellent work, mention of the Club and their work in the Federal wilderness referred to trails outside Ashland's trail system. He indicated that a suitable alternative might be Siskiyou Upland Association because of the direct connection to Ashland's trails via the Jack-Ash Trail. Heycke highlighted a myriad of other organizations working in Ashland's watershed that could be included, or simply left off the list.

There followed a brief discussion about the connectivity provided by the PCT (Pacific Crest Trail) and the emphasis on Ashland's trails. It was stated that organizations work in Ashland or just outside Ashland's trail system include SOLC (Southern Oregon Land Conservancy), Siskiyou Uplands Association, Applegate Trails Association, Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association as well as the Siskiyou Mountain Club. It was agreed that references to other organizations could be included, or left out, in the Regional Chapter, depending on whether the editor wanted to highlight trails work outside Ashland's purview.

Heycke talked about the first sentence under Creek to Crest Natural and Cultural Resources, suggesting that the paragraph begin instead with the sentence starting with the words “traveling from town to the top”. He stated that in his opinion, the Creek to Crest was not a destination in itself, rather it was accessed via the White Rabbit Trail or the Caterpillar Trail. He indicated that the Ashland Hill Climb preceded development of the trail by approximately 20 years.

McFarland explained how the Creek to Crest Trail came into being. Lewis advocated for a restructuring of the sentence without the Creek to Crest label – substituting the words “trail network” for example. He maintained that the information would be of interest to hikers.

Richard noted a reference to the Siskiyou Crest under Linkages. After some discussion, it was decided that substituting the Pacific Crest Trail would be more accurate.

The Cascade Foothills Area was reviewed and it was proposed that a description of the tax lots be deleted. Chapman noted that he had been responsible for the description as referenced. He stated that the explanation of the TID Lateral was important because of the water rights.

After some discussion, it was agreed that the paragraph could be shortened by removing the references to pastureland, the tax lots and irrigation rights.

Heycke proposed that the descriptors (*wind-swept, epic and expansive*) under Character be deleted. He suggested that references to the volcanic soil that eroded into high-clay content either be validated via a reference or removed. It was agreed that the sentence should read “The high clay content soils of this area contribute to slippage, challenging trail construction and sustainability.” Lewis noted that the volcanic nature of the soil had affected terrain.

McFarland noted that no Typical Section for the Foothills had yet been identified. It was agreed that the typical section would be TBD later when trail user types were determined.

Heycke asked for input regarding access to Grizzly Peak. He noted that Grizzly Peak was *the most prominent feature in the Cascade Foothills* – rather than accessed by the Cascade Foothills.

Richards stated that the elevation of Grizzly Peak was actually over 5700 ft. Chapman stated that his reference listed elevation at 5942 ft.

In response to a request to remove the section called Coast to Crest Trail, Chapman indicated that a list of trails and / or noteworthy features nearby might be a suitable substitute. Lewis agreed, stating that features not specific to Ashland’s hub should be specified as points of interest outside Ashland’s system. Chapman suggested that the information be moved to the section on connectivity.

Heycke suggested changing the word *transitory* to *transitional* in the sentence regarding the formation of Emigrant Lake.

Discussion about Emigrant Lake focused on the purpose of the reservoir. Gardiner noted that it provided additional storage for irrigation. It stored water from many different sources in addition to discharge from the Green Springs Power Plant.

Chapman noted that the only reason Emigrant Lake was included in the Trail Master Plan was that there had been possibilities for trail connectivity. McFarland noted that the lake was the closest point to the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT) and that a trail connecting Sampson Creek to the PCT would be advantageous.

McFarland shared a letter of support from the Selberg Institute advocating for the sale of the Imperatrice Property to Ashland Parks and Recreation, with a conservation easement to be held by SOLC. He explained that the Selberg Institute currently managed the Grizzly Peak Preserve and the Sampson Creek Preserve. The Institute was amendable to a system of trails that would enhance connectivity to Sampson Creek and Grizzly Peak.

Changes to the Jack-Ash Trail section proposed by Heycke included deletion of references to a circuitous route via the PCT. He noted that connectivity had not yet been decided. Expected Users – Wagner Glade is open to pedestrians only. It was requested to change typical users *would be* to *could be*.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. **Committee Review/Approval of Chapter 3: Recommended Trail Routes, Maps, and System**

McFarland said APRC's experience was that campers moved into the outlying areas if asked to move. He stated that campers kept APRC personnel busy and, in fact, illegal camping in areas close to Lithia Park and City boundaries seemed to be increasing. Chapman proposed removing the entire sentence.

Motion: Lewis moved to approve Chapter 3 as edited. Gardiner seconded and the motion carried.

b. **Committee Review/Approval of Chapter 15: Coordination with the City Comprehensive Plan**

It was agreed that no changes were needed for Chapter 15.

Motion: Heycke moved to approve Chapter 15 as presented. Chapman seconded and the motion carried.

c. **Committee Review/Approval of Chapter 17: Eastside Forestlands**

Review and approval was postponed due to time constraints.

d. **Committee Review/Approval of Chapter 18: Westside Forestlands**

Review and approval was postponed due to time constraints.

VII. ADJOURNMENT – 11:45 a.m.

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:45 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Minute-Taker
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission, Trail Master Plan Committee

These 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 Subcommittee meetings are digitally recorded and are available upon online.