

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
TRAIL MASTER PLAN UPDATE COMMITTEE
MEETING MINUTES
April 27, 2018

PRESENT: **Parks Commissioners:** Mike Gardiner
 Additional Committee Members: David Chapman, Stephen Jensen, Jim McGinnis
 City and APRC Staff: Interim Parks Superintendent Jeffrey McFarland; GIS Analyst Lea Richards

 APRC Minute-taker: Betsy Manuel

ABSENT: Committee Members Luke Brandy and Torsten Heycke; Commissioner Jim Lewis; APRC Director Michael Black; Division Chief-Forest Resource Chis Chambers

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chair Chapman called the meeting to order at 10:08 a.m. at The Grove 1195 E. Main, Ashland, OR. In response to a question by Chapman, Jensen reported that the Greenway (assigned to Gardiner), the Central Bike Path and the Ashland Canal (assigned to McGinnis) and the Ashland Creek Corridor (assigned to Lewis) remained to be completed. Pictures and maps were underway.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

There were none.

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & GUEST SPEAKERS

a. *Open Forum*

There was none.

b. *Review Any TMP Comments Received Since Last Meeting*

There were none.

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

There were none.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS

a. *Continue Coordinating May 2 Open House for TMP Public Document Review (McFarland)*

McFarland reported that Richards completed eight maps for public review with the most up-to-date information available. He said office staff would be printing copies of the maps for display. Easels would be needed to display the maps and each station would be labeled by Corridor.

McFarland asked that Committee members represent the Chapters they had narrated. Chapters would be presented individually in stations, for public review. He asked that Chapter editors be prepared to answer questions. Richards agreed to greet people at the entrance and Chapman offered to help set up. He stated that Kristi Mergenthaler would also be present to answer questions about flora and fauna and the Imperatrice Property. Kevin Caldwell would be present to talk about the Ashland Canal.

McFarland stated that each station would have copies of the original Master Plan as well as draft updates prepared by Committee members. After a brief discussion, it was decided that take-home copies of the narratives would be limited. McFarland noted that snacks and drinks would be available on site.

Chapman asked that members of the Transportation Commission be invited to the event and that email notices be sent to the Trail Master Plan Committee members for forwarding to those wishing to attend.

b. Continue Reviewing Chapter 10: Cemetery-Clay-Hamilton Creek Corridors

Jensen reviewed edits provided by Heycke as follows:

- Paragraph 1: Jensen stated that the edits shortened and tightened the narrative.
- Paragraph 2 ... "rights-of-way to be secured as a condition of future development."
- Paragraph 3: The word "systems" was changed to "routes."

Richards noted that references to Lupine Way should be changed to Lupine Drive.

There followed discussion about the linkages along the Corridor with emphasis on future planned connections. Jensen commented that connecting to the Croman Mill Site qualified for mention in the Cemetery-Clay-Hamilton Creek Corridor as well as the Tolman Creek Corridor.

Chapman stated that he had proposed that the TSP (Transportation System Plan) include a pedestrian/bike crossing across I-5 for safe passage in that area. He also noted that there was a proposed crossing at Washington Street to the Croman site. Jensen agreed with the proposed routes, indicating that other trails such as the Central Bike Path did not provide sufficient connectivity. Gardiner noted that crossing the railroad could be problematic given the policy that a new crossing must take the place of a crossing that already exists – i.e. the total number of crossings in any given area is the maximum number of crossings allowed. McGinnis described rail crossings in the San Francisco Bay area in which pedestrians cross the rail line. He stated that the crossings were gated with an automatic locking system when the rail line was in use and signage urged caution when crossing.

Motion: Chapman moved to accept *Chapter 10: Cemetery-Clay-Hamilton Creek Corridors* as edited. Jensen seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

c. Continue Reviewing Chapter 13: Trail Standards & Basic Design Elements

Jensen noted that he agreed with Heycke that talking about the legal implications of trespass was not necessary. He stated that parking edits had a few changes – the exchange of the word *desirable* instead of *necessary*. Discussion focused on the sentence "Standalone, full-service urban trailheads are not features that are in current development plans within the City of Ashland trail system." It was agreed that the sentence would be stricken.

McGinnis noted that homeowner Sean Moran was concerned about dogs off leash. McGinnis suggested that it would be good to post signs as a reminder to hikers to use the Woof Waste Stations and keep dogs on leash.

McFarland highlighted the original language regarding the significance of signage about the brown-on-tan background as the motif for APRC signs. Special signs such as those pointing the way to the Creek to Crest Trail are identified differently.

Motion: McGinnis moved to accept *Chapter 13: Trail Standards and Basic Design Elements* as edited. Chapman seconded and the notion carried unanimously.

VI. NEW BUSINESS

a. *Committee Review of Chapter 11: Tolman Creek Trail Corridor*

Jensen reviewed edits provided by Heycke as follows:

Paragraph 1: Strike the words *trail patrons*

Paragraph 2: Insert the words *and the proposed route* and shorten the sentence.

Paragraph 2: Exchange the word *the* for *this*.

Paragraph 3: Strike the words *"thus obviating the need to use existing street system crossing infrastructures to complete this loop and connects to important linkages."*

Jensen suggested that the beginning of the Tolman Creek Corridor begin at the confluence of Neil Creek with Tolman Creek. Discussion focused on ways to traverse barriers such as the I-5 highway when following the Tolman Creek Corridor. It was agreed that the sentence *"However a small section is within the urban growth boundary...at Crowson Road"* would be stricken. Changes included changing *"...the route should be coordinated with the Bicycle and Pedestrian Commission"* to *"... the route should be coordinated with the Transportation Commission."*

McGinnis suggested improvements that would create a safe route to school for children. Another proposed change was to include reference to the Oak Knoll Golf Course owned by APRC. The third sentence would end at *"do not provide public access."* It was agreed that future plans for a citywide trail loop would be addressed in the Chapter on the Central Bike Path. References to other linkages would be stricken.

Motion: Jensen moved to accept *Chapter 11: Tolman Creek Corridor* as edited. McGinnis seconded and the motion carried unanimously.

In response to a question by Richards about mapping a future parallel loop on the Central Bike Path, Chapman replied that the TSP might weigh in on the issue.

b. *Committee Review of Chapter 18: Indigenous Peoples*

Jensen noted that the comments about the Chapter on Indigenous Peoples seemed overly long and that a link to a site that focused exclusively on indigenous peoples could be substituted for a more detailed history in the Trail Master Plan. An underlined section centered on their use of trails. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that the story was interesting enough to leave in as presented.

Motion: Jensen moved to approve *Chapter 18: Indigenous Peoples* as presented. McGinnis seconded and the motion passed unanimously.

c. *Committee Review of Appendix C: Geology of Ashland: The Foundation of our Trails*

Jensen introduced comments by Heycke that included a recommendation that the Appendix be limited to one page only. Heycke had also noted that the geologic scramble was, in his opinion, soil that worked like butter in the winter and concrete in the summer in areas where there were no boulders. Jensen explained that he had originally wanted to validate the geology of the region but that parts of the narrative might contain more information than was necessary. McGinnis noted that the predominant soils in the area were either clay or granite and should be the focus. Jensen agreed to simplify and condense the narrative and postpone approval until the edits were complete.

d. *Review of Appendix C: Flora and Fauna in Ashland Trails area*

Heycke proposed changes as follows:

Paragraph 1: Remove the word *quality* and rephrase as *should include an understanding*.

Paragraph 1: Remove the words *of information* and change to *framework*.

Paragraph 1: Substitute *multi-use and on-street* for *urban and natural trails*.

Paragraph 1: Change or delete the sentence *"Specific flora and fauna interdictions or encouragements are not in the scope of this plan but overall support for informed and active care of the flora and fauna in the trail zones is an overarching responsibility."*

McFarland noted that a statement about the responsibilities of those who traverse the trails should be included in an effort to raise awareness and protect sensitive wilderness plants. Chapman noted that rare or endangered plants were considered when trails were designed. After some discussion, it was agreed that the sentence would be amended as follows: *"Specific flora and fauna interdictions or encouragements are not in the scope of this plan. However overall support for informed and active care of the flora and fauna in the trail zones is an overarching responsibility of all who use wilderness trails. It is also taken into consideration in the design of the trails themselves."*

Motion: Jensen moved to approve *Appendix D: Flora and Fauna* with the changes as proposed. Chapman seconded.

Discussion

McGinnis commented that there were fewer links to pursue for *Fauna* in comparison to *Flora*. McFarland replied that the recently completed Forestlands Master Plan, the updated list of sensitive plants on the Imperatrice Property and the City's own study of the area provided the plant references. Corresponding information for fauna was not necessarily comparable. McGinnis also noted a lack of narrative regarding reptiles, stating that rattlesnakes and other reptiles also share the wilderness area. Richards talked about a link to sensitive bird studies as well.

Motion: Jensen moved to approve *Appendix D: Flora and Fauna* with the changes proposed. Chapman seconded. McGinnis proposed an amendment to add a paragraph regarding reptiles to the narrative. Jensen seconded. McFarland asked that links also be included in the wildlife section. Jensen seconded and the motion to approve the narrative for *Flora and Fauna* as amended carried unanimously.

e. Roundtable Discussion

Jensen reviewed the narratives yet to be completed. He stated that he would not be available as a final editor from the 9th through the 24th of May. Chapman suggested that the final editing be completed in June and meetings in May could be concerned with completing the drafts of the remaining Chapters.

McFarland asked that copies of the original plan be brought to the Open House. He suggested that the incomplete drafts be accepted in Google Docs so that they could be displayed. After some discussion, it was agreed that the work-in-progress would not be prepared for public input – and comments would be solicited based upon the original 2006 Master Plan.

VII. UPCOMING MEETING DATE

May 4, 2018 – Siskiyou Room, Community Development Building @ 10:00 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 11:50 a.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Betsy Manuel, Minute-Taker

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 available upon request.