

City of Ashland  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
LITHIA PARK MASTER PLAN SUBCOMMITTEE  
MEETING MINUTES  
June 13, 2018

**PRESENT:**       **Parks Commissioners:** Rick Landt, Matt Miller  
                  **APRC Staff:** Director Michael Black, Interim Parks Superintendent Jeffrey McFarland,  
                  Administrative Analyst Betsy Harshman  
                  **MIG Consultants:** Project Manager Laurie Matthews, ASLA

**ABSENT:**

**I.       CALL TO ORDER**

Project Manager Laurie Matthews called the meeting to order at 11:40 a.m. at the Community Center, 59 Winburn Way in Ashland, OR.

**II.      WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

*a.   Discuss Meeting Purpose – APCR Director*

This Agenda Item was waived at the suggestion of Commissioner Landt. Orientation had been conducted, along with a review of the Foundation Report by MIG Project Manager Laurie Matthews.

**III.     APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

There were none.

**IV.     PUBLIC PARTICIPATION & GUEST SPEAKERS**

*a.   Open Forum*

**Nancy Nelson** of 149 Clear Creek Dr. Ashland, OR. submitted a written statement for inclusion into the record. She asked that copies of her statement be distributed to APCR Commissioners. ([Nelson input](#))

**V.      UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

There was none.

**VI.     NEW BUSINESS**

*a.   Review Design Week Process to Date – MIG Project Manager*

Matthews reported that the first public meeting held on June 12 had initiated a dialogue with interested citizens regarding a long-term vision for Lithia Park. She stated that the feedback received led to some emerging themes that would be helpful both long term and short term. Commentary was divided into segments, with overlapping ideas consolidated. Ideas that needed additional exploration were identified and a series of guiding principles were extrapolated for further clarity.

Matthews stated that people talked about options for Winburn Way, including circulation throughout the park in terms of parking and other transportation-related issues and ideas. Circulation was combined with a category called Edge Integration that had to do with the intersection of the park with the surrounding neighborhoods and connectivity within the park. Matthews highlighted public descriptions of a strong linear processional movement throughout the park (along the creek) and other elements that connect with that movement – resulting in an integrated sequence of experiences.

Transportation was described in terms of three speeds – slow (walk), medium (bike) and fast (vehicular). It was acknowledged that the modes of transportation would change over time but provisions for the different speeds would remain. Matthews said that the challenge would be about how to provide for those three modes – both now and in the future.

Ashland Creek was discussed in terms of how to restore and maintain the health of the creek. Miller expressed a concern about the elimination of the swimming hole in order to restore salmon habitat. Matthews indicated that removal of the dam was just one idea for creek restoration. Modifications to the dam were also under consideration. Citizens who opposed the removal of the dam did so because of the popularity of the swimming hole – but Matthews indicated that the outcome did not have to be an either/or scenario. She said there were ways to modify or remove the dam while retaining a swimming / wading experience at the end of the park.

Landt talked about flood prevention and the importance of devising solutions that would address potential dangers.

Other themes included:

- How to rehabilitate the landscape
- How to identify and problem-solve fears related to park use
- The differences between cultural resources and natural resources and how to conserve and preserve that heritage
- Preservation of the moods of the park within “garden rooms” that facilitate a place of solitude and reflection as well as gathering places and areas that provide active recreational opportunities.

Landt commented that succession planning for the park had been touched upon but not specifically discussed. Matthews agreed that it was an important factor in sustaining the creek and the creek’s canopy.

There followed a brief discussion about the Listening Post that would be held that evening. People would be able to vote for their preferences by gradation. Matthews described the sequence of events that would complete Design Week and beyond, including direction from the Lithia Park Master Plan Subcommittee.

Landt noted that safety issues had not been included as a part of the Design Week dialogues. He stated that safety was multi-faceted within the park – there were wildlife issues, people-to-people issues and dog issues as well as unsafe infrastructure. Landt reported that vehicular traffic along Winburn Way was also an ongoing concern.

Landt asked about the ambient environment, stating that noise had been a concern throughout the years. Matthews noted that the list (prepared as a synthesis of ideas generated) included:

- Stream environment
- Activation memory
- Circulation/Safety
- Stormwater treatment
- Punctuation (explanation points within the Park)
- Stream Health
- Acupuncture to keep the ramble’s flow

- Legacy
- Preservation
- Restore / modernize
- Moods of the park (ambience)
- Landscape as storyteller
- Routing dogs / better pathways
- Learning from the past to plan for the future
- Safety
- Organizing the visitor experience

Values expressed included:

- Celebrating history and traditions
- Picnics and walking
- Accessibility
- Health of the creek
- Solitude
- Enjoyment of nature
- Maintenance

**VII. UPCOMING MEETING DATE**

June 15, 2018 @ 9:00 a.m., Community Development Building, Siskiyou Room, 51 Winburn Way

**VIII. ADJOURNMENT – 2:30 a.m.**

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Minute-Taker  
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

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.