

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

**Tuesday, March 14th, 2017**

**5:30PM to 7:30PM**

**Fire Station #2 Conference Room**

**1860 Ashland Street**

**I. CALL TO ORDER: 5:35 PM**

**II. INTRODUCTIONS**

Stef Seffinger, Frank Bettlejewski, Marty Main, Jill Mullen-Feeley, John Williams, Nathan Lewis, Luke Brandy, Steve Jensen, Shannon Downey, Alison Lerch, Chris Chambers

**III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Move one line to go up to the previous paragraph  
C.i. 12<sup>th</sup> line down 1<sup>st</sup> sentence, “Lomakatsi native planting...”  
D third line down- seven burn units  
Outcomes and trends #2: southerly aspects  
#4 madrone is impacted *by* low impact....

John Williams Motioned, Nathan Lewis Second, All in favor.

**IV. PUBLIC FORUM**

**V. ADJUSTMENTS TO THE AGENDA**

Talk at the April meeting about Trails:

**VI. BUSINESS**

**A. Trails (5 Min)**

- i. At the January meeting, Torston Heycke proposed an extension to the Lewis Loop, to be called Lewis Lookout. It brings you to a lookout and there is already a sign in place. There is a well-worn trail in place already. The Ashland Boy Scout Troup #112 would like to help AWTA to smooth out the trail and build a bench at the end of the spur trail. This runs up to the May timeframe where the soil gets too hard and AWTA breaks from trail building until the fall. AWTA is ready to do this, but they need the approval from the Commission on their application that they submitted in January. What is the proper paperwork procedure for this? The organized field trip was canceled due to weather, and needs to be rescheduled. City Trail Construction- Forest Lands Commission- give input at the meeting, then the Commission.
- ii. Nathan Lewis made a motion to approve the extension of the Lewis Lookout, Nathan Lewis, Shannon Downey second, all in favor.

**B. Prescribed Burn Summary Discussion (45 min)**

- i. Marty put together a great report. Here are some suggestions for changes:
  - a. Change the nomenclature for the units to be consistent with the

- Ashland Forest Plan? Change it to “Lower Watershed, Unit A.”
- b. We should also add the units into the map
  - c. Describe the dead wood using the habitat classification
- ii. Chris updated the Commission on planned burns for spring 2017. Finish E5/B5-2 next to the Red Queen Trail, E1/B sits between two previously burned units, and T/U is next to the city granite pit. Marty Main and Tom Murphy are also working on a burn plan for Siskiyou Mountain Park up from the waterfall, which includes some private property. Lomakatsi started working this week on a 42 acre thinning project on Acid Castle property. The Community Justice Crew is pulling out Scotch broom by hand. Plant Association Group (PAG) can be found on the Ashland Forest Plan Maps.
    - a. Acid Castle Rocks is not covered in the Ashland Forest Plan. Do we need another chapter in the Ashland Forest Plan to integrate newly acquired forest parcels? Frank will send a list of typos to John and he will update the online version of the plan. Including new properties will have to wait for at least a yearly update.
  - iii. Marty gave a landscape level overview of burn units. The risk of wildfire to the City of Ashland is at the wildland-urban interface. The current burn units are strategically planned to help suppress a fire on either side of Ashland Creek. Are some of the older units near Reeder Reservoir M2-M1 ready for a reburn? This would be a project to tie in with a larger Forest Service burn in order to maximize the effectiveness.
  - iv. There is a misconception that the prescribed burn projects will stop a fire. The up to date burn treatments will have different fire effects but there will still be fire. These projects are trying to achieve more acres burned but at a lower intensity. Chris could write an “Alarm Box” column about this trade-off.
- C. Climate Energy Action Plan (CEAP) Implementation (30 min)
- i. The Commission would like to help with the implementation of the CEAP. The Ashland Forest Plan is incorporated into the CEAP. Frank proposed a project to Strategy NS-1-1: Promote Ecosystem Resilience. We could organize the 25 year plot data from the watershed that has not been thoroughly analyzed and answer some questions. How has the forest developed over the last 25 years? How can we use this data to support our CEAP? Chris and Marty are going to update the 10 year trend data with the OWEB. NS-1-3: Ashland Ponds project. NS-1-4: Share the late successional reserve maps. This topic can wait until summer.
- D. Trails and Recreation (10 min)
- i. Parks put a new sign at Bandersnatch. Installed a few signs on Hitt Road saying “Hitt Road Trail,” “Mixed Trail Traffic,” “Slow”. Taking out the blind corners of manzanita on the trail. Lots of tree work this month, including a huge hanger at Oredson-Todd Woods. Removed 3 hangers in 1 big madrone at the new Jabberwocky trail and one at Bandersnatch. Felled 15 snags at Bandersnatch, all Douglas-fir between 7-17 inches in diameter. Cleared duff and madrone on Ponderosa pines with JC Correctional Crew to prep for underburns (Siskiyou Mtn Park). Pulled 2 acres of Scotch

broom on Acid Castle Rocks. There are new signs for the Jabberwocky trail that will recognize the AWTA. On March 25<sup>th</sup> the Stadnisky Foundation will work on the Lawrence property and Acid Castle Rocks. Meeting with Jeff M, Mike Faught (Public Works Director), and Karns about the new water treatment in regards to the new Bandersnatch Trail. New Jabberwalkee finished today, but is not officially open yet.

- ii. Stef mentioned that there should be public outreach about the amount of work the Parks Department does to keep the trails safe. The Chamber of Commerce could also be a voice for the Parks Department.

E. AFR and AFAR Project Update (10 min)

- i. AFR: Helicopter has been down for a few days for routine maintenance, replacing the engine and transmission and will likely be back tomorrow. Working towards the spring bring season, did a small test burn at Lamb Saddle. The FS is working on a burn to increase acres near No Candies Trail/Skyline Mine Trail. Working on a Community Engagement update and Smoke Marketing. TREX event is the first 2 weeks of May. There are 45 participants from all over the nation and 3 from Guanajuato. OWEB grant (AFAR) starting up at Acid Castle Rocks. The city burns are funded on OWEB, as well as 280 acres of thinning on Forest Service land.

F. City and Parks Underburn Planning (10 min)

- i. 3 units on City lands, 2 on Epstein parcel and 1 Parks burn. Issuing an RFP for the City and Parks parcels and would like to award the contract for 3 years.

**VII. COMMISSIONER COMMENTS**

A study from Lassen National Park showed that high severity fire has way more effect on vegetation change, whether you salvage anything or nothing post wildfire.

**VIII. REVIEW AND SET COMMISSION CALENDAR / NEXT MEETING AGENDA**

- A. Next Regularly Scheduled Meeting is April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2017

**IX. ADJOURN: 7:30 PM**

*In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the Public Works Office at 488-5587 (TTY phone number 1 800 735 2900). Notification 48 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28 CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I).*