

IMPORTANT: Any citizen may orally address the Parks Commission on non-agenda items during the Public Forum. Any citizen may submit written comments to the Commission on any item on the Agenda, unless it is the subject of a public hearing and the record is closed. Time permitting, the Presiding Officer may allow oral testimony. If you wish to speak, please out the Speaker Request Form located near the entrance to the Council Chambers. The chair will recognize you and inform you as to the amount of time allotted to you, if any. The time granted will be dependent to some extent on the nature of the item under discussion, the number of people who wish to speak, and the length of the agenda.



AGENDA FOR REGULAR MEETING

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

November 26, 2018

Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street

7:00 p.m.

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES
 - a. Pool ad-Hoc Committee Meeting—October 3, 2018
 - b. S-SAC Meeting—October 8, 2018
 - c. Study Session—October 15, 2018
 - d. Regular Meeting—October 22, 2018
- III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
 - a. Open Forum
- IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA
- V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Wildlife Refuge at Ashland Pond (Information)
 - b. Park Hours Ordinance Amendment (Information / Possible Action)
- VII. SUBCOMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS
- VIII. ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS
- IX. UPCOMING MEETING DATES
 - a. Signs, Plaques, Memorials Subcommittee Meeting—December 5, 2018—2:00 p.m.
 - Lithia Park Admin Office, 340 S. Pioneer Street
 - b. Pool ad-Hoc Subcommittee Meeting—December 5, 2018—3:30 p.m.
 - The Grove, 1195 E. Main Street
 - c. S-SAC Meeting—December 10, 2018—3:00-p.m.
 - Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue
 - d. Regular Meeting—December 10, 2018—7:00 p.m.
 - The Grove, 1195 E. Main Street
 - e. Golf Subcommittee Meeting—December 12, 2018—2:00 p.m.
 - Golf Clubhouse, 3070 Hwy 66
 - f. Joint Meeting with Council (tentative)—December 17, 2018—7:00 p.m.
 - Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street
- X. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need special assistance to participate in this meeting, please contact the City Administrator's office at (541) 488-6002 (TTY phone number (800) 735-2900). Notification 72 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). Parks Commission meetings are broadcast live on Channel 9, or on CHARTER CABLE CHANNEL 180. Visit the City of Ashland's website at www.ashland.or.us.

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Pool ad-Hoc Committee Meeting Minutes
October 3, 2018

ATTENDEES

Present: Community Committee Members Risa Buck, Marc Heller, Mike Hitsky, Rebecca Kay, Susan Miller and Jocelyn Sanford; Commissioners Gardiner and Miller; Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Recreation Manager Flora

Absent: Community Committee Member Gary Simms

I. CALL TO ORDER

Director Black called the meeting to order at 1:30 p.m. at the Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue. He said Pool ad-Hoc Committee members applied to serve through the City Recorder's office and were appointed by Parks Commission Chair Gardiner. Black said the mission of the Committee would be to review, at the Commissioners' request, a proposed three-phase construction process for a new pool.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – None

III. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND GUEST SPEAKERS

Citizen Carol Voisin asked about the three-phased project. Black said the phases were identifying a need, identifying a plan if the need could be verified, then developing a strategy for funding the plan. Voisin advocated for a feasibility study to determine whether the Committee was warranted. Voisin said an Olympic-sized pool in that area would be difficult due to parking constraints and the adjacent Walker Elementary School. She hoped the immediate community could be invited to participate in the process. She said Daniel Meyer Pool (DMP) was a community pool for all ages but she acknowledged it needed upgrades. She said taxpayers couldn't afford higher property taxes.

Citizen Gwen Davies said there were continuing concerns about public awareness about meeting notices. She was not aware about the Pool ad-Hoc Committee. She pointed out that there were many unresolved budget, healthcare and PERS issues in the City. Davies said a lot of people had already expressed disinterest with a new pool as many citizens wanted DMP to remain a community neighborhood pool, not a place for big events or swim meets. She asked for a moratorium on new APRC projects until more information could be conveyed about current debt, the future of PERS and other dedicated funds for existing projects. She asked for an extensive public process to outline budget plans and prioritize spending.

Citizen Nancy Boyer asked who was on the ad-Hoc Committee and what groups they represented. She said she missed the notices about deadlines for applying even though she'd given her email to Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (APRC). She asked if there were any neighbors on the Committee. Black said the Committee was formed at the Parks Commission business meeting of June 25, 2018.

Citizen Pat Turner said she agreed with Voisin, Davies and Boyer. She asked about criteria for serving and voiced surprise that former Ashland City Administrator Dave Kanner had applied and, despite his expertise, was not selected. Black said it was unfortunate that more people applied than seats were available.

IV. ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Black said he would chair the first meeting and keep things moving so all agenda items could be covered. He said the group needed to elect a chair and vice chair but since everyone was meeting for the first time, those items could be handled at the next meeting. Black asked if anyone had objections; there were none. Black asked if anyone had additions or deletions to the agenda; there were none.

V. UNFINISHED BUSINESS – NONE

VI. NEW BUSINESS

INTRODUCTIONS

- **Michael Black** introduced himself as the Director of APRC.
- **Rachel Dials** introduced herself as the Recreation Superintendent for APRC.
- **Mike Hitsky** said he previously managed a summer swim club for a community-oriented facility in Michigan and currently worked as an attorney.
- **Rebecca Kay** introduced herself as an active swimmer with an interest in refurbishing the Daniel Meyer Pool.
- **Todd Lantry** introduced himself as an active swimmer and Ashland High School Head Swim Coach. He said he was serving on the Committee as a liaison for the Ashland School District.
- **Mike Gardiner** introduced himself as the current Chair of Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission.
- **Risa Buck** introduced herself as a 27-year Ashland resident and a 26-year Daniel Meyer Pool swimmer.
- **Jocelyn Sanford** introduced herself as a physical therapist whose practice included aquatic physical therapy.
- **Susan Miller** introduced herself as an active swimmer and former USA swim coach in California.
- **Marc Heller** introduced himself as a chiropractor in the community and a year-round swimmer.
- **Lonny Flora** introduced himself as the Recreation Manager for APRC.
- **Mike Oxendine** introduced himself as the Parks Superintendent for APRC.
- **Matt Miller** introduced himself as a Parks Commissioner whose four-year term would expire on December 31, 2018.
- **Mark Welch** introduced himself as the City of Ashland Finance Director.

a) Charge of the Committee

Black said the Pool ad-Hoc Committee had a specific mission or charge. Once its purpose was accomplished, the Committee would be disbanded. Black said their charge was to look into: 1) needs or feasibility with regard to a new pool, 2) a plan for the need and 3) costs involved and how to pay for it (space, resources, cost to build, cost recovery).

Black said the Committee was formed by the APRC and any report generated from the Committee would be taken back to them. All the meetings would be held in the public view, with meeting agendas and notices posted on the City's website according to Oregon Revised Statutes. Toward forming Committee recommendations, Black said the group could form small subcommittees, with the subcommittees reporting their findings to the larger Committee. Black said the recommendations would be shared in public meetings and then directed to the full Parks Commission for review. Black said there would always be an opportunity for public comments at each meeting. Black said this was a working group and minutes would be taken at each meeting. Black suggested that every Committee participant join at least one subcommittee.

Black asked if there were any questions or comments. Buck asked if they would have an opportunity to brainstorm about their dream pool at some point. Black said brainstorming would be included in the process.

Black said the three steps outlined above would be taken in order, with the first step being 1) determining if there was a need. The "need" was a perceived lack of community pools in the area. Black said a Feasibility Subcommittee could be established to address whether there was actually a gap. He said in four or five years the DMP would not be able to continue operating considering its current and growing maintenance problems. Every year APRC spent more money on bigger fixes for the pool and APRC was noticing that the pool's lifespan might be coming to an end.

Dials said discussion had been circulating about replacing the pool in the same footprint. She said current major maintenance issues included tiles coming up, a malfunctioning boiler and a pump that failed in the 2018 season. Black said there were also soft spots in the pool that could lead to erosion. Dials said the pool building itself needed to be replaced and an HVAC system might be needed due to the smoky summers.

Black said trying to operate an outdoor pool with ongoing summer smoke was a challenge in terms of meeting the needs of the community while making ends meet.

Oxendine, a former SOU employee, said SOU had decided they were not going to repair their pool and a subset of stakeholders decided they didn't need the pool. Oxendine said if APRC chose to "band aid" the DMP for the next five years then that was possible but at some point it wouldn't be worth the expense of the repairs.

In terms of a needs assessment, Black said needs could be measured by national standards, community surveys and in other ways.

Flora said he had tracked summer usage since 2012. Over the years it became clear that more demands were being placed on the pool. He offered to provide hard numbers to show the growing need.

Lantry said that when the SOU pool closed, it was a hardship for Ashland High School and Phoenix High School because they'd used it for their workouts and swim meets. Thankfully, APRC was able to work together with the school districts and masters swimmers and had allowed them to utilize the DMP

during the off-season, with user groups paying for usage. Lantry said Phoenix and Ashland worked out at DMP but could not host any meets there so had to travel to Eugene or beyond.

Rebecca Kay said that while she agreed with everything being said, there would be an increase in traffic and parking concerns due to the narrow streets.

Black invited everyone to tour the pool.

b) Tour of the Pool

Black said he previously invited Myrtha Pools (a standard vendor for competition pools) to visit DMP and they indicated that gutter systems were no longer used. He said APRC staff laid out a 25-meter by 25-yard pool in the DMP area and felt a new pool could be kept in the same location. Black said it would be covered in the winter the same way the ice rink was covered. The pool would be shaped like an L and would provide a large flat area for grass. Black said the existing pool building walls had been insulated and a heater was installed. Black said there were additional restrooms 25 feet away.

Flora pointed out that over past years, tiles had popped up and contractors had come in to reset them after draining the pool. Flora said the tiles were an ongoing issue due to the age of the pool. In terms of safety, Flora said the tiles had sharp edges and grout had cut some swimmers' feet in the past. It was asked whether the nearby pine tree would have to come out; Black said it was in a location where it was probably in the way.

Black said the pool was 40 years old. The pool building was well constructed but an analysis would have to be conducted.

Flora said another maintenance concern was light fixtures that did not work and were hazardous.

Flora showed the pump room and said it included a \$5,000-dollar Chemtrol thermometer that had been used to monitor chlorine, PH and pool temperature but was no longer in use. Dials said one of the requirements when operating the pool from June through the end of August was the need for certified pool operators. Currently APRC had two CPOs on staff. Dials said CPOs visited the pool every day of operations and checked chemical levels. In the off season with the leased groups, Rogue Valley Masters had several CPO-certified members who assisted with the task.

Black said the relationship to the Senior Center was important. Dials said she and Flora had discussed a covered pathway from the back door of the Senior Center to the pool. Glatt asked if the cover was meant to have sides; Black said yes. Glatt said a warm therapeutic pool would be beneficial for seniors.

Heller asked if the pool was ADA accessible. Black said there was a lift and the pool could not be operated without it.

It was suggested that Black include a community neighbor on the Committee. Black said it was a good point and he would speak to the Commissioners about it.

c) Roundtable Discussion

Black suggested another subcommittee for outreach strategies. The subcommittee could start by looking at the existing feasibility analysis and needs assessment for the area, including Medford. Black said the subcommittee would consist of no more than three voting members and a few staff to work on assessing the needs analysis, gather information and make a recommendation to the Committee on how to proceed with the next step. Black said there was no budget for the Committee and any funding requests would have to go through him. He could make a recommendation to the Parks Commissioners if funding were needed during the ad-Hoc Committee process. Black said if they decided to do a CIP project, they could use CIP funds. Black said he would not allow the fact that there was currently no budget to stop the Committee members from making recommendations. When asked who conducted the needs analysis, Black responded that it was the City of Medford. Black said if the study showed a lack of area pools in 2010 or 2014, that was likely still the case.

Black asked if they had any volunteers for the Feasibility Subcommittee and Rebecca Kay, Todd Lantry and Susan Miller agreed to serve. Black asked Flora and Oxendine to serve as staff support, with Black and Dials on reserve as needed.

It was suggested that large stakeholders such as SOU be invited to participate in the process. Black agreed and suggested including that on the next agenda.

In terms of a timeline, Black said it depended on Committee members' availability and how quickly they could move forward. Black said if the Feasibility Subcommittee could get together soon and prepare a report for the next meeting, that item could be checked off the list. If it came down to hiring professionals to handle the needs analysis, the project would have to wait until the new biennium.

Black said by summer 2019 they would know the direction they were going and have a funding strategy. Black said the Ashland Parks Foundation could be considered as a funding tool for the pool.

Black asked for a motion to create a Feasibility Subcommittee as discussed earlier.

Motion: Miller moved to approve the formation of a Feasibility Subcommittee to include Todd Lantry, Rebecca Kay and Susan Miller; Gardiner seconded. Discussion: none. Vote: all yes.

IV. SET FUTURE MEETING DATE

It was stated that Susan Dyssegard would send out a poll to help decide the next meeting date and time. Black said they might want to discuss any other necessary subcommittees at the next meeting.

V. ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 3:30 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Anna Wysocki, Temp Office Assistant
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
SENIOR SERVICES ADVISORY COMMITTEE (S-SAC)
MEETING MINUTES
October 8, 2018

Committee Members Present:

- Anne Bellegia, Citizen Member (Senior Services Participant, OLLI Community Outreach)
- Rob Casserly, Citizen Member (SOU, OLLI Program Manager)
- Mike Gardiner, APRC Commissioner
- Mike Hersh, Citizen Member (Senior Services Participant & Volunteer / S-SAC Vice Chair)
- Mary Russell-Miller, Citizen Member (SOU Faculty Member)
- Stef Seffinger, Ashland City Councilor
- Sandy Theis, Citizen Member (RVCOG Senior Advisory Council / S-SAC Chair)

Staff Members Present:

- Michael Black, APRC Director
- Isleen Glatt, APRC Senior Services Superintendent
- Natalie Mettler, APRC Senior Services Assistant

I. Opening

S-SAC Chair Theis called the meeting to order at 3:00pm at the Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Ave in Ashland.

II. Approval of Minutes – September 10, 2018

Gardiner moved / Hersh seconded approval of the September 10 S-SAC minutes as presented. Motion passed with Russell-Miller abstaining (she was not present at the September 10 meeting).

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

None.

IV. Public Input

None.

V. “What Seniors Need” Subcommittee Report

It was stated that S-SAC is trying to schedule a presentation on “What Seniors Need” during a joint meeting of APRC and Ashland City Council. Anne Bellegia stated that the draft PowerPoint presentation included three parts. Part 1 would feature S-SAC Chair Theis covering national trends in six areas of senior need: housing, transportation, finances, health, mental stimulation and social connection. Part 2 would be Anne Bellegia reviewing local data on what seniors

need. In Part 3, Superintendent Glatt would discuss how Senior Services Division programs are being configured to address local gaps in senior needs.

The original presentation date of October 15 was canceled due to Council scheduling conflicts; the meeting could be rescheduled for a date in December. Both Gardiner and Bellegia clarified that a goal of this joint meeting would be to explain the structure of the Senior Services Division (SSD) and how it would help address senior needs in the City. The hope was that the Council would not duplicate a senior advisory committee but rather support the SSD. Gardiner noted that SSD should not ask for financial support; rather SSD should first establish and complete current goals with demonstrated results. Glatt added that in her section of the presentation, she would ask the City to consider senior issues at every policy level and work collaboratively with APRC, SSD and S-SAC.

Mike Hersh expressed disagreement with the category of “senior” starting at age 50. He felt that ages 65 and above were more appropriate as that was the period when seniors started facing more apparent challenges. Bellegia agreed with Hersh and expanded that the six areas of senior needs were general human concerns but seniors ages 65+ experienced those needs more significantly. She also felt that it was still valuable to count those ages 50 and above as seniors because a broader range would garner greater community support. She said seniors are a part of families, and the SSD serves the needs of vulnerable seniors but also needs to better inform and support adults taking on the care of seniors.

Hersh stated he would like to see a Foundation to generate money for the SSD. He said there are many Ashland residents with available funds and a desire to donate. Others noted that the Ashland Parks Foundation has an existing category for accepting donations for the SSD.

VI. Preview of Agenda for Goal Setting Session on 11/13/18

Theis and Glatt presented the draft agenda for the November 13 Goal Setting Session. The session will begin with recommendations and the Superintendent position description crafted by ASPAC (based on community input), then a review of Glatt’s proposed goals with feedback from APRC Director Michael Black. S-SAC members will add any additional ideas, discuss the ideas on the table, then vote for priorities. Subcommittees will likely be formed to follow through and carry out the prioritized work. Theis cautioned that even if something is identified as a priority, if no one wants to do it, it might not be selected. Bellegia advised following the model of the Rogue Valley Council of Government (RVCOG) Council, which adds adjunct subcommittee members. Black confirmed that it would be acceptable to invite outside experts and community members onto an S-SAC subcommittee, which could prove to be a useful way to recruit future S-SAC members.

VII. Ashland Parks Foundation, Senior Center Fund

Black clarified that the Ashland Parks Foundation is a 501 (c)(3) that accepts donations for restricted purposes as designated by the donor. There is a current \$31,000 balance in the account that is dedicated to the Senior Center, including interest earned. Funds may be requested through Black, who will ensure the funds are applied to purposes designated by the donor.

The Parks Foundation also has a general fund. Interest earned on the general fund is used to make community grants. Those grants are not funded from restricted donations or the interest on those donations. SSD could also potentially apply for a community grant, but Black recommended against this, as the general fund goes first to meet the Foundation's overall mission and no money from the general fund itself has been disbursed in the past four years. Gardiner, who served on the Parks Foundation board for ten years, agreed with Black's assessment and suggested that some of the SSD fund / category with the Parks Foundation might be useful as matching funds to attract outside grants.

Bellegia stated the need for community education, noting that at the ASPAC listening sessions, a public suspicion was identified that to Parks Foundation (SSD category funds) were not being used for seniors. She said S-SAC members could educate the public that it was safe to donate to the Foundation as the funds would be used appropriately. Black strongly supported this, stating that the Foundation was run by an appointed board of directors that appropriately tracked and followed donor-restricted funds.

Black suggested spending some of the Parks Foundation (SSD category) funds for the benefit of the Senior Center and the SSD. They agreed, adding that funds spent should be publicized to give the public a more tangible sense of how their donations were being used. Glatt shared some ideas generated from the past: new tables and chairs (light and easy to use, appropriate for multiuse facility), sound system for dining room, tools needed if OLLI classes were held at the Senior Center (e.g., podium), extra props for free/low-cost classes (e.g., yoga blankets), portable air filters to improve air quality during smoke season, matching funds for grants or hiring a grant writer. Hersh sought clarification on conflicts of interest: no S-SAC member can get paid as an outside expert. Black verified, adding that Foundation funds were not meant for permanent staff but might be used for contracted and temporary workers. Members agreed that after the goal setting process, they would evaluate possible expenditures in support of prioritized goals.

BREAK

VIII. Ashland Fire & Rescue Home Safety Program

Glatt said that Ashland Fire & Rescue was one of many community partners with whom she had been meeting and she wanted to highlight their new Housing Safety Program as an important

opportunity for financially eligible seniors to get help making their homes safer. Ashland Fire & Rescue had partnered with Age Friendly Innovators (Sharon Johnson), which does home assessments and has the right contractors to carry out associated work. This program is funded by a Community Development Block Grant. Depending on need, this program will be able to serve nine to forty people this year; they are anticipating mostly smaller needs, such as installing grab bars, but are also equipped to handle more expensive modifications such as hallway widening for wheelchairs. SSD staff have arranged for Fire & Rescue to present the program on November 14 at the Senior Center.

IX. Senior Center Thanksgiving Meal Provided Courtesy of Ashland Fire & Rescue, Monday, November 19, 2018

Glatt described the upcoming Senior Center Thanksgiving meal as a wonderful annual event put on by Ashland Fire & Rescue staff and their families. She invited all S-SAC members and APRC Commissioners to attend and engage with the local senior community. Gardiner added that he attended last year; he praised the event and encouraged S-SAC members to attend and thank Fire & Rescue staff.

X. Standing Reports

a. APRC Update, if any pertaining to seniors

Commissioner Gardiner reported that the S-SAC bylaws were approved at the last APRC Commissioner meeting.

b. City Council Update, if any pertaining to seniors

Councilor Seffinger reported on the Council's budget process, noting that much would rest on the November elections, as candidates had varying spending priorities.

c. Senior Services Superintendent Report

Glatt reported that she attended the first APRC Pool ad-Hoc Committee to represent senior needs in the rebuilding of the Daniel Meyer Pool. Gardiner encouraged S-SAC to submit written recommendations to the Pool ad-Hoc. Glatt asked if any S-SAC members would be able to attend the Pool ad-Hoc meetings and comment on senior needs; hearing no volunteers, she asked if S-SAC would consider a Senior Center patron who, if willing, could attend the Pool ad-Hoc and report back to S-SAC; S-SAC members agreed.

It was stated that the current draft pool proposal included plans for a warm therapeutic pool that would benefit seniors. Black added that there was a physical therapist who works with seniors on this Committee as well as several seniors who can speak to senior needs. Bellegia asked if any part of the pool project could impact Hunter Park in other ways relevant to the Senior Center. Black answered that these potential impacts were being factored in. Two examples were outlined as the proposed covered entrance from the pool to the Senior Center for easier senior access and reserving park space east of the activity room for a possible future

building expansion. Black also noted that the pool rebuild would provide an opportunity to engage in remodeling the Senior Center building. He expressed concern about the storm drain line running under the building that could pose future safety issues such as sinkholes.

Glatt outlined key issues she began working on when hired as Superintendent two months prior:

- 1) **Developing and implementing policies and procedures for appropriate protections** for Senior Center patrons; for example, consistently collecting client emergency contact information and waivers, and applications and insurance coverage from instructors. Glatt said she had met with instructors individually to hear their input.
- 2) **Developing referral relationships with agencies** who do case management for clients with complex needs, beyond the scope of SSD.
- 3) **Hiring permanent SSD staff.** Recruitment was opened for two positions: Senior & Adult Services Coordinator and Senior Services Office Assistant II. The currently contracted RVCOG (ADRC) staff person on site at the Senior Center had been extended for six more months for half a day weekly, until new SSD staff could be trained for the more intensive information and referral services.
- 4) **Meeting with community partners.** Glatt presented examples of individuals and organizations she met with so far, noting that building such relationships was one of the most important things she could accomplish in her first year as Superintendent.

Seffinger inquired about financial advice given to clients at the Senior Center. Glatt responded that presenters spoke generally on financial issues but always under the caveat of no solicitation. Black said current practices were in line with APRC's policies. Seffinger advised that Glatt clear all SSD policies with the City attorney; Black noted that that was being done. This commented that it was very positive that Glatt was securing these protections for all — participants, staff and instructors.

Seffinger asked if the progress made in the Senior Services Division would be included in the senior newsletter and whether newsletters would be available for the City Council's community outreach on October 11. Bellegia said her experience with ASPAC revealed a lack of community trust with APRC and she saw a great need for community education focusing on current and future progress rather than deficits of the past. Hersh suggested letting actions speak rather than words. Glatt mentioned that she and Commissioner Gardiner would be submitting an article for the monthly APRC "Parks Views" column in the Daily Tidings in late October, which would provide another opportunity for community education about the Senior Services Division.

XI. Items from S-SAC Members

Hersh inquired about the possibility of the Senior Services Division partnering with other organizations such as Food & Friends and the Ashland Emergency Food Bank, to share

information about advanced seniors living alone, so that they can be checked on regularly. He expressed hope for a phone bank established for this purpose.

Bellegia brought up Briscoe School (the back portion of which APRC purchased earlier in the year) and wondered about the feasibility of setting up an adult daycare center at that location. She said this was one significant form of senior support that Ashland lacked; she believed such a center would significantly serve the community and potentially be a good source of revenue for the Senior Services Division.

This suggested considering both ideas at the November 13 goal setting session.

XII. Upcoming Meetings:

- a. Tuesday, November 13, 1:00-4:00pm, SOU Hannon Library, Rm 352 – Goal Setting
- b. Monday, December 10, 3:30-5:00pm, Ashland Senior Center, 1699 Homes Avenue

XIII. Adjournment

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 5:00pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Natalie Mettler, Senior Services Assistant
Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
STUDY SESSION
Minutes
October 15, 2018

ATTENDEES

Present: Commissioners Gardiner, Landt, Lewis, Miller; Director Black; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Executive Assistant Dyssegard; Minute-taker Manuel

Absent: Commissioner Heller; City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gardiner called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m. at The Grove 1195 E. Main, Ashland, OR.

PUBLIC INPUT

There was none.

**PEST MITIGATION/EXEMPTION TO IPM POLICY FOR BUILDINGS WITH KITCHENS USED BY THE PUBLIC
(Information & Possible Action)**

Glatt reported that the requested exemption was due to damages to the Senior Center's HVAC system caused by rodents. She explained that while no rodents had been sighted, pest mitigation experts had stated that signs of rodent damage were visible in the attic and crawlspaces of the building. Rodents damaged HVAC conduit as well.

Glatt noted that the pest treatment company known as Integrity Pest and Home Repair (referenced as Integrity), assessed the damages and suggested a two-pronged approach for mitigation. A combination of mechanical traps and enclosed bait traps would be utilized - externally with bait boxes and internally with snap traps. She stated that Integrity also recommended spraying for ants.

Glatt indicated that after conferring with Director Black, it was determined that seeking an exemption from the IPM (Integrated Pest Management) for public food preparation areas might be appropriate.

Commissioner Discussion

In response to a question by Gardiner, Oxendine explained that each bait station presented a maze-like interior designed to attract rodents. Once inside, rodents would be unable to return outside. Poisoned bait ensured quick extermination within the station. He stated that while no rodents were found in the crawl space, snap traps could prevent rodents from entering further into the building.

Lewis stated that the primary objective would be to prevent rodents from entering the buildings. Once inside, they circulated throughout the house, causing incalculable damage. He stated that access through a crawl space or any small opening should be sealed.

Landt asked about exchanging externally positioned traps with mechanical traps to prevent poison from contaminating the environment. Oxendine replied that mechanical or snap traps could not be placed in areas of public access – for the public’s safety they must remain out of reach. In addition, the goal would be to kill in multiples rather than one by one – an efficiency on many levels. Landt commented that in his opinion, starvation would be preferable. Landt noted that snap traps were an approved strategy of the IPM. He advocated for the least amount of exemptions to the policy as possible.

Black stated that in his opinion, poison might be considered the most humane approach because it was the quickest. He talked about disposal and other ways to manage an infestation for the best possible outcome.

There followed discussion related to a possible ant infestation and mitigation remedies. It was agreed that most ant infestations occurred during the spring. Dials stated that ants had been reported as a nuisance in the kitchens the previous spring but the issue had remained unresolved.

Landt stated that in his opinion, there were better solutions than the use of pesticides. He indicated his preference for managing ant infestations organically – suggesting Orange Guard as an effective alternative. He stated that the application of Orange Guard was somewhat more complicated than using poison – that there was a process to obtain best results. He noted that bait traps attract ants to a poisonous mixture which they then ingest and carry back to the nest – killing additional ants. Orange Guard, on the other hand, sends a message that the environment is inhospitable and ants should look elsewhere for their sustenance.

Glatt expressed concern about using Orange Guard in a commercial kitchen. She noted that she uses it at home and is familiar with the process. That said, Glatt highlighted the constraints such as use by another agency and the need for a service contract for maintenance. She stated that someone would have to apply it after hours and then remove it from all kitchen surfaces before work began each day.

Landt stated that spraying at night would eliminate involvement of Food & Friends (the agency using the commercial kitchen). There followed a detailed discussion about staff’s ability to come in after hours to spray and in the morning before cooking in the kitchen begins. Oxendine talked about the levels of potency assigned to pesticides (caution, danger and warning) and the need for an exemption for commercial kitchens. Glatt noted that further research would be needed to discover what the food safety standards were and whether Food & Friends would accept alternatives to pesticide use.

Black asked for the rationale regarding pesticide application when there were issues such as rodents accessing a commercial kitchen. Landt explained that prior to development of the IPM, Ashland residents were predominately opposed to pesticide use – so much so that the IPM was designed and implemented. Gardiner stated that there was a major concern regarding herbicides as well.

Lewis emphasized the need to control rodents, distinguishing between rats and mice. He stated that rats need bigger openings to access the building – making it easier to prevent them from entering the premises. He indicated that in his opinion, poisoning animals along the outside perimeter expands the services needed without addressing the issue – i.e. stopping rodents from entering the building. He

advocated against an “industrial solution,” stating that an ongoing service did not appear to be necessary.

Gardiner voiced support for the importance of addressing rodents but said the solution needed to be acceptable to Food & Friends. He suggested that Glatt research the issue and report back. He suggested that the seasonal ant problem be referenced separately.

Landt explained that rodents would continue to be problematic because total eradication was not possible. Eliminating rats from the kitchen could be handled through a series of steps, beginning with sealing the perimeter so that the building would become inaccessible. Lewis agreed, stating that once assess was denied, the infestation could be controlled. He said rodents within the building were a significant threat that should be eliminated.

Black said no rats had been seen – just damage caused by rats. He recommended additional research to determine whether the damage was due to current or past conditions.

Gardiner noted that staff was asking for a pest mitigation exemption for two locations – the Senior Center Kitchen and the Oak Knoll Clubhouse kitchen. Based upon this discussion, he said it was recommended that mechanical traps continue to be used and a system of spraying of Orange Guard be explored.

Landt suggested managing the situation incrementally – i.e. first by using the least invasive treatments for the exterior and then by fighting the internal infestation aggressively. He proposed a postponement of the ant issue until a good faith effort had been made using Orange Guard and/or other organics. If the infestation remained, then the Commissioners would consider alternative treatments.

There followed discussion about the rat infestation at Oak Knoll Golf Course. It was acknowledged that the situation was somewhat different as the infestation was confined to the shop area where grass seed was stored. A new steel container had been purchased and installed recently, leading to an abatement. It was stated that no rats had been reported in or near the commercial kitchen at the Clubhouse.

In response to a question by Gardiner, Glatt indicated that she could proceed within the direction provided by the Commissioners. She also suggested consulting with a contractor who was familiar with the APRC IPM policy and willing to work within its parameters. She relayed that Integrity had not conducted a thorough search – nor had they suggested a protocol in keeping with the IPM. Glatt noted that it would be necessary to remain vigilant in eradicating pests because of the serious responsibility to ensure food safety for Ashland’s service providers, staff and people they serve.

Glatt said she would wait until spring to address the ant issue, then work with Food & Friends to ensure that pest eradication suggestions were acceptable to them. Black noted that APRC had received

no complaints from Food & Friends related to an infestation. He said the matter seemed to be confined to the Senior Center's infrastructure.

Landt reiterated that the Commissioners were normally responsive to requests from staff and would continue to accommodate staff whenever possible. He reflected that in this case, the IPM policy had received substantial support in the community and the Commissioners were acting on its behalf.

SIGNS, PLAQUES, MEMORIALS POLICY REVIEW/DISCUSSION (Information/Possible Action)

Gardiner reported that this topic had been removed from the Agenda and the discussion would be postponed.

DISCUSSION ABOUT PARK HOURS (Information)

Black introduced the topic – noting that there was an APRC policy / ordinance for a curfew within Lithia Park but that it apparently did not apply to other parks in the APRC system. He stated that APRC had fielded many concerns about camping and people remaining in parks after hours. Ashland police had requested a tool that would assist them in protecting the parks from damage. Black stated that a curfew extending throughout all APRC parklands would be helpful. He commented that Lithia Park's curfew was from 11:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. – generous in comparison to the norm throughout the country which was dawn to dusk – and he requested approval to establish the Lithia Park curfew hours for all Ashland parks.

Gardiner noted that the issue had come up in discussion with Officer Billings and that he (Gardiner) had assumed that a curfew from dawn until dusk extended across the board. He stated that after researching, he discovered the specific curfew for Lithia Park but no other restrictions. He stated that APRC restrooms should be included in the curfew, given the high level of vandalism that occurs related to restrooms.

Lewis relayed that it was his impression that the curfew of 11:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. applied to all parks. He stated that there were legitimate reasons for being in the parks "after hours" such as summer and winter solstice celebrations, meteor events and star gazing. Parks with fire-rings such as the ones at Lithia Park and North Mountain Park encouraged people to stay and enjoy an evening fire. Lewis indicated that in his opinion, closure at dusk was too restrictive. Black agreed but stated that it was logical to assume that parks without lighting would be more limited.

Landt stated his preference for as few rules as possible. He indicated that there should be a compelling reason to institute curfews. He conveyed pride in Ashland's support for dark sky initiatives. Landt highlighted the current rule that renders camping in the parks illegal. He suggested the possibility of removing campers from the park for the rest of the night, once discovered.

Gardiner advocated for broadening the reach of the existing 11:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. so that it applied to all parks – not just Lithia Park. He explained that such a rule would give police the opportunity to enforce the curfew rule and remove people from the park after hours – a sort of reset. He stated that in his opinion, the curfew would limit vandalism and other types of abuse.

Black added that providing a consistent curfew throughout the parks system would be beneficial. Lewis agreed, stating that illegal camping played host to a myriad of ills, allowing dogs and people to scare others away from enjoying Ashland's parks.

Miller noted that the police had been talking about this issue for some time. He advocated for the curfew, stating that if law enforcement encountered questionable activities they would have an additional tool to utilize.

Black indicated that from time to time, parks were inundated with users that didn't leave. Closing the park for a period of time would help. Lewis added that overnighters could cause a park to be labeled undesirable – the antithesis of a neighborhood gathering place. Gardiner concurred, highlighting the situation at Ashland Creek Park as an example.

There followed a brief discussion about possible exceptions. Lewis suggested that North Mountain Park be exempted because of the nighttime amenities. Areas where permits were needed to stay longer than the curfew would allow were considered. Miller proposed that the new rules contain a clause that indicated that a curfew was in effect unless preempted by permit. After further discussion, it was agreed that permits would be given upon administrative approval.

In response to a question by Oxendine, Black stated that the new rules would apply to all park lands.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS AND STAFF

- ***Forest Lands Commission Update***

Miller stated that the Forest Lands Commission was interested in reviewing the Lithia Park Master Plan when completed. Black explained that the Plan would be presented incrementally. The plan called for sets of recommendations applicable to specific areas and accompanying drawings. He stated that the first set of recommendations should be received by October 17, 2018.

- ***Wastewater Treatment Plant***

Gardiner announced that the City of Ashland Public Works would soon be conducting a public meeting at Helman School to discuss plans for the relocation of the Wastewater Treatment Plant. He encouraged Commissioners to attend because of discussion about the relocation of an outfall pipe that would affect Ashland Creek and Bear Creek.

Oxendine reported that he had been able to discuss the relocation of the outfall pipe with appropriate personnel. He stated that in his opinion, receiving warmer water from the plant would help to condition the Dog Park when water was needed. He commented that this would also result in a cost savings – creating a win-win situation.

- ***Ad-hoc Pool Committee***

Gardiner stated that the Pool Subcommittee had conducted its first meeting, with the second scheduled for the first week in November.

Landt reported that an email from a resident objecting to the pool had been received. He stated that he had responded with an inquiry about specific issues related to the new pool. He noted that the citizen was concerned about the cost of the rebuild. Landt responded with an explanation detailing the age of the Daniel Meyer Pool and the need for its replacement or closure.

Gardiner noted that there was a citizen who indicated concern about neighborhood involvement. He highlighted the public process for Subcommittee applicants and public meeting announcements. He suggested a sandwich board to communicate meeting times and agenda items, stating that all citizens would be heard if they wished to participate.

- ***The Grove as a Temporary Shelter***

Black announced that a request from the City of Ashland would be received asking to use The Grove as a temporary shelter for a period of 90 days. A City representative planned to bring the topic to the Parks Commission regular meeting scheduled for Monday, October 22nd.

- ***Ashland Creek Park***

Oxendine relayed that the buses of people spending quantities of time in Ashland Creek Park had since departed. He said he anticipated fewer incidents of concern and a return of the park to its neighborhood status.

Landt cautioned against objections to certain classes of people because of their personal situations. He stated that the emphasis should be on bad behaviors. He noted the lack of a homeless shelter in Ashland, stating that people needed to be able to sleep as long as they did so responsibly.

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting was adjourned at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

The 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 Study Sessions and Regular Meetings are digitally recorded; the recordings are available upon request.

City of Ashland
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION
Regular Meeting
Minutes
October 22, 2018

Present: Commissioners Gardiner, Heller, Landt, Lewis, Miller; Director Black; Parks Superintendent Oxendine; Recreation Superintendent Dials; Senior Services Superintendent Glatt; Assistant Manuel

Absent: Executive Assistant Dyssegard; City Council Liaison Mayor Stromberg

CALL TO ORDER

Chair Gardiner called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street, Ashland.

APPROVAL OR ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF MINUTES

- Golf Subcommittee, September 18, 2018—acknowledged
- Trails Master Plan Update Committee, October 5, 2018—acknowledged

Study Session September 17, 2018

Motion: Landt moved to approve the minutes of September 17, 2018, as presented. Lewis seconded.
The vote was all yes.

Regular Meeting September 24, 2018

Motion: Landt moved to approve the Minutes of September 24, 2018, as amended. Lewis seconded.
The vote was all yes.

Regular Meeting September 24, 2018

Was

Landt proposed that the permanent route and short-term route be combined from the proposed upstream bridge to North Mountain Avenue. He stated that Bear Creek could be crossed at the Riverwalk with the trail proceeding on the side opposite from the one proposed. He commented that the only outstanding issue would be an improvement to the North Mountain Avenue bridge. In that way, over half of the distance outlined in the permanent route and in the short-term route would be shared.

Should be

Landt proposed that the permanent route and short-term route be combined from the proposed upstream bridge to North Mountain Avenue. He stated that Bear Creek could be crossed at Riverwalk with the trail proceeding on the side opposite from the one proposed. In that way, over half of the distance outlined in the permanent route and in the short-term route would be shared.

Motion: Landt moved to approve the minutes of September 24, 2018, as amended. Heller seconded.
The vote was all yes.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- **Open Forum**

Kristina LeFever, formerly of 1140 Siskiyou Blvd. in Ashland, OR, was called forward.

Lefever thanked APRC for its efforts to manage parks and open space with little or no pesticides. She highlighted the value of continuing those practices, indicating a concern that Section 9109 of the proposed Farm Bill could impact local ability to set policies that are stricter than those at the Federal level. Lefever talked about Ashland’s IPM (Integrated Pest Management) program as an example.

Lefever asked the Commissioners to take action against the proposal by either writing letters, passing a Resolution or signing a petition. She submitted additional information about the bill along with suggested letters and links and quoted from a joint statement from the mayors of Portland, Oregon, and South Portland, Maine, as follows:

“Through our deliberations with community stakeholders and experts, we learned from the independent scientific literature that pesticides can harm people and are linked to a range of diseases from cancer to neurological disorders immune and reproductive effects to respiratory impacts and learning disabilities...Most importantly, our research found that we could successfully maintain our parks, playing fields, and private lawns without the use of high-risk pesticides”.

ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

Gardiner announced changes to the Agenda - changing the order *of Agenda Items b and c.*

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

There was none.

NEW BUSINESS

a. Potential Use of the Grove as Overnight Shelter (Information)

Black introduced City Administrator Kelly Madding who was present to initiate a discussion regarding the potential use of The Grove as a temporary winter shelter during the 2018-2019 winter season. He explained that in the past, the City of Ashland used Pioneer Hall in that capacity but would no longer be able to do so. The City was in the process of finding an alternative location.

Black relayed that APRC historically leased Pioneer Hall for recreational purposes – relinquishing the space when winter shelter was needed. The Grove – currently under consideration as an alternative location -- serves as the Recreation Center for Ashland and is under APRC jurisdiction. He stated that Madding was present tonight for informational purposes – to explain what the winter shelter was intended to look like and how it would work. The Commissioners would not be asked to approve or disapprove a proposal for using The Grove as a temporary winter shelter until the Business meeting of November 26, 2018.

Madding stated that she had been tasked with the effort to find an alternative to Pioneer Hall for the upcoming winter. She noted that a faith-based group called Options for Homeless Residents of Ashland (OHRA) had been operating the shelter at Pioneer Hall previously and would continue to do so at the new location.

OHRA had been operating the shelter using a model created by the Rogue Retreat for the Kelly Shelter. Madding introduced Chad McComas as Director of the Rogue Retreat and Phil Johncock, in charge of operations for OHRA, and said they would be happy to answer any questions from the Commissioners.

Madding reviewed the history of the shelter – stating that the goal was to operate a winter shelter seven days per week. In the past, during four of the seven days, the shelter was located at Pioneer Hall. Pioneer Hall would no longer be available for overnight shelter because of a variety of issues, including structural and safety concerns.

A diverse group of people from the faith-based community, from the City Council, from OHRA and the Rogue Retreat – called the Winter Shelter Group – had been assessing options for an alternative location. The Presbyterian Church would continue to house those in need of shelter for three of the seven days weekly. An alternative site would provide lodging for the other four days.

Madding stated that entities with space large enough for the shelter were consulted – including SOU, the Ashland School District and various public and private businesses - all without success. She noted that most City facilities lacked large open spaces but those that did – such as The Grove – were under consideration.

Madding indicated that the Presbyterian Church could house approximately 36 people and that it was assumed that the number of users at another location for the remainder of the week would be the same. She stated that according to the Fire Marshal, the occupancy rate for The Grove would be about the same - 36 people each night. She stated that according to new procedures, the number of homeless seeking shelter for the night should be known and no one would be displaced. Cots in the form of bunkbeds would be provided.

Heller asked about other options for housing the shelter within the faith-based community. Madding stated that the Presbyterian Church was the only entity that agreed to provide shelter. She commented that other churches provided volunteers and donated meals.

Madding introduced Chad McComas from Rogue Retreat, noting that he would talk about the new model for operations of a shelter.

McComas explained that he would share the mistakes of the first year – what was learned and the development of a new model that was working well. He explained that the Kelly Shelter had begun without much preparation – that people were dedicated to getting people off the streets but the lack of planning resulted in a chaotic first year. McComas noted that a first come-first served opportunity for overnight shelter had resulted in issues such as long lines of people waiting for shelter and behavioral issues with a population that was unknown and at times ungovernable. He stated that the first year the shelter was considered a detriment to the neighborhood.

An application and reservation process was subsequently created to properly vet applicants (determining who were serious about getting off the streets and who were not). A reservation system ensured that most of the applicants were known and the number of beds, meals and other services could be planned. Case management was added to assist with assessments and work with people to resolve issues preventing them from moving forward. The system worked so well that the second year there was no impact on the neighborhood. In three months, forty (40) people were no longer homeless. McComas stated that the Medford Police Chief recognized the shelter for their achievements.

Phil Johncock, consultant for OHRA, agreed, stating that the issues with regard to Pioneer Hall were challenging. He stated that the new system would ensure a great 11th year for the shelter in Ashland. Johncock stated that there were eleven (11) community participants acting as partners including a number of strong faith-based organizations and other entities who provided over 100 volunteers and 4000 hours of service.

Madding clarified that once the temporary shelter was identified, the shelter would operate for 90 days only. OHRA was pursuing a permit to operate a winter shelter in the old Baptist Church building and that site might become a more permanent shelter.

PUBLIC INPUT

Millie Carlton of 2934 Farmington Ave. Medford, OR. was called forward.

Ms. Carlton stated that while she lives in Medford, she comes to The Grove on Wednesdays to attend Italian classes. Carlton acknowledged that the homeless situation should be addressed but also expressed concern about the students, instructors and business people who provide recreational services at The Grove. She noted that those who provide the services and the people who participate – including Ashland’s youth - would be displaced and financial arrangements would be negated if The Grove were to be used as a winter shelter.

Carlton indicated that The Grove had an important purpose as a community center for Ashland’s residents and that operating a winter shelter could be detrimental to other residents of Ashland. She stated that while she did not have answers to the dilemma, she wanted to raise awareness of the impact that a winter shelter would have on existing programs and services.

Peri Owen of 500 Grandview Dr. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Owen stated that she recognized that some residents of Ashland had no address and finding them a safe, warm place to overnight was a priority. That said, she indicated that providing shelter for some should not be at the expense of others – the people who support The Grove and its recreational programs. She suggested that there were other options – emphasizing the commonality of homeless issues throughout the Rogue Valley. Owen proposed solutions that included utilizing the Jackson County Fairgrounds as well as vacant or available buildings in neighboring cities. She recommended working with other municipalities and landlords to offer tax incentives to house a winter shelter.

Owen asked about Briscoe School and the possibilities there, noting that the building was underutilized with plenty of space for an overnight shelter.

Owen stressed the moral imperative of caring for the homeless during winter but concluded that an alternative to The Grove should be found.

Lloyd Canty of 853 Pompadour Dr. Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Canty noted that he conducted archery lessons at The Grove and had done so for approximately four years. He described his classes as specially designed for focus, concentration and relaxation – the “Zen”

of archery. Participants ranged in age from eight years old to 88. He told stories related to his participants – stating for example that his 88-year old participant had been told that she couldn't compete in archery because it was not ladylike. He described the moment of triumph when she hit her first bullseye after waiting over 80 years for such an achievement.

Canty went on to note that his participants were from all walks of life -- from doctors and lawyers to the indigent. Other stories were of shared experiences between a father and troubled daughter and between a counselor and his client for whom archery was an alternative to drugs.

He thanked Recreation Superintendent Dials and Recreation Manager Flora for providing an amazing space for people to grow and experience positive life impacts.

Lousie Shawkat of 870 Cambridge Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Shawkat cautioned against profiling the homeless. She stated that a common misperception of the homeless were that they were dangerous or perceived to be “not fully human.” Shawkat related her own experiences to the contrary.

Shawkat noted that she too took classes at The Grove and in her opinion, classes would not have to be cancelled to accommodate a shelter. She noted that this would be a temporary situation while a permanent shelter could be found.

Shawkat stated that Ashland could do better than to exclude the homeless from shelter on cold winter nights.

John Ourant of 1252 Old Willow Lane Ashland, OR. was called forward.

Ourant spoke on behalf of his wife, a dance instructor at The Grove. He said that using The Grove as a shelter would end his wife's dance classes. Because people had already registered and paid for winter classes, refunds would have to be given. Ourant highlighted the special requirements of a wooden floor for dance lessons, stating that a new location would have to be identified elsewhere in the Rogue Valley and new students recruited. He reiterated that the shelter would impact recreation services for residents of Ashland and it would impact the service providers as well.

Ourant noted that as a Scout Troop Master who holds scout meetings at Pioneer Hall, he could speak first hand about the wear and tear a shelter causes. He expressed a concern about The Grove and damages to the wooden floor and mirrored walls, stating that in his opinion, the damage would be costly and the impact on the facility would be substantial. Ourant talked about his experiences with the homeless through church, stating that the behaviors exhibited could be a fearful experience for children. He noted that even with careful vetting, some behavioral issues could be disturbing for children who must pass by on their way to school.

Gordon Enns of 312 Quail Circle, Talent, OR. was called forward.

Enns reiterated concerns about the possible cancellation of dance classes and the impact of overnighters on the wooden dance floor. He expressed dismay with regard to displacing instructors who paid for space at The Grove and those who have paid for those services. Enns noted that almost 50 people attend dance classes regularly. He talked about the healthful benefits of participating in dance and had questions about practical matters associated with storage facilities.

PUBLIC INPUT CLOSED

Gardiner reported that several written commentaries had been received by APRC that would be included in the record. All comments would be available to the public and accessible online.

Lewis highlighted the conflict between accommodating a winter shelter and accommodating the recreational services that fulfilled the recreational mission of APRC. He stated that he would like to hear proposals that would address those concerns in a fair and equitable way.

Lewis noted that APRC had been willing to do their part for those less fortunate – as illustrated by APRC’s willingness to accommodate a public shower facility on Parks property. He stated that APRC worked hard to be part of a solution whenever necessary and would continue to do so if a solution could be found that would mitigate the impact on Ashland’s citizenry. Madding replied that the impact had been considered and the Presbyterian Church had offered use of their facilities on evenings when they were not operating the shelter.

Black noted that staff was looking at alternatives – including those that the City had suggested. He stated that The Grove was functioning well as a Recreation Center and its popularity was growing, creating a number of hurdles to surmount.

Superintendent Dials stated that staff had begun the process of finding suitable locations for classes offsite. For example, Fire Station Two could be used for language classes if certain hurdles could be overcome such as access. She indicated that the greatest obstacle would be placement of the dance class because of the necessity for a wooden floor.

Lewis questioned security of the offices at The Grove after hours. He noted that the office spaces not only house sensitive information, but also store supplies, provide a lunch room and additional restrooms that would most likely be needed if the shelter was full. Black agreed, stating that extra measures would be needed to secure the offices. According to the Fire Marshal, egress would need to be provided through the offices in case of emergencies. The Fire Marshal suggested installation of a door that would access the offices equipped with a crash bar to alert security personnel if breached. Black indicated that there were other areas where barriers would be needed as well. Although able to accommodate an occupancy of about 50 people, the facility was not a turn-key shelter.

Landt asked about utilization of the Briscoe School gymnasium. Madding replied that part of the school was leased to service providers who deliver child care at the site. She suggested that the winter shelter was not conducive to the mix of uses.

Landt suggested that the case might be similar at The Grove. He suggested that there were other correlations as well. He stated that the City would need to break the contract with the daycare providers at Briscoe in the same way that Parks and Recreation would have to do with their service providers. He indicated that in his opinion, finding a suitable winter shelter was a City issue. He commented that the solution should not create another problem and until there is sufficient mitigation in a way that is satisfying to APRC's clients and service providers, he would have difficulty supporting the proposal.

Madding disagreed, stating that in her opinion, the winter shelter is a community issue. She suggested that a small group of stakeholders – including one or two Commissioners -- work together to facilitate successful resolution of the issues either by resolving the conflicts at The Grove or by finding a suitable alternative site.

Landt stated that in his opinion, The Grove seemed to be presented as the only option. He noted that the focus seemed to be that APRC should take on the responsibility of providing for the homeless by facilitating a winter shelter in its facility. He stated that in his opinion, any decision pro or con would be harmful and APRC would be placed in a no-win position. Landt explained his philosophy that if a problem arises without an obvious solution, it could often be resolved by trying harder and looking more creatively at the alternatives. He stated that he could be more supportive if a less disruptive solution could be identified.

Madding noted that this was informational only and no decision was necessary at this time. She stated that she was exploring The Grove as an option. Landt commented that considering The Gove as an option implied that there were other options under consideration as well.

Black reiterated that Madding's presentation was for information only and that APRC staff would also prepare information for the Commissioners based upon any questions they might have. He highlighted Madding's quick response to staff concerns and willingness to work to resolve issues. Black indicated that staff would work to develop specifics as added information so that the Commissioners could make a decision once they are fully informed.

Lewis stated that many of the logistics had been discussed – in Council Chambers and in emails. He said that developing potential solutions that would satisfy recreational users of The Grove and addressing the security of the Grove's offices were important to him. Lewis asked about supervision after the lights go out, and addressing issues such as loitering, damages to the landscaping, cleanliness of the building, dogs and other hurdles.

Lewis highlighted the contract between portable shower users and the entity providing showers, stating that it was an excellent prototype for engaging shelter users and ensuring that standards were upheld. He pointed out that the City Council had asked APRC to increase revenues but had added constraints such as reducing the availability of APRC facilities such as Pioneer Hall for paying guests - thereby significantly limiting revenue opportunities. He stated that the five Commissioners had been elected to oversee Parks and Recreation programs and services, trails, parks and open spaces, making

those things a top priority. If APRC were to agree to facilitate a winter shelter, in his opinion, then it would require solutions that satisfied Parks and Recreation users.

Lewis also asked about School District facilities – stating that they too have the ability to accommodate large numbers of people. Madding replied that the Ashland School District and SOU both indicated that their facilities were not compatible with the proposed use as a winter shelter. She thanked the Commissioners for their comments, stating that the specifics were important and the work would continue to sort these things out.

Gardiner stated that there would be more questions. He agreed that working together was important, suggesting that Madding’s suggestion of a study group was welcome. After a brief discussion, it was agreed that Superintendent Dials, Commissioners Lewis and Gardiner would volunteer to represent APRC. Landt summarized the study group’s mission to work toward resolution of the impediments to using The Grove as well as continue to identify an alternative site.

Heller stated that he had enjoyed the stories that highlighted the importance of recreation classes and the positive impact on people’s lives. Black agreed, noting the stories were difficult to quantify but no less important.

a. Proposed Park Hours Ordinance Amendment (Information/Possible Action)

Black noted that Ordinance 68.380 of Ashland’s municipal code, established a “curfew” for Lithia Park. He stated that a possible amendment to the code would be to extend parks closing hours to all APRC parks – and to allow for closure of the parks between the hours of 11:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. Black explained that closing the parks would allow for a “reset,” thereby protecting the parks against overuse and discouraging illegal camping.

Black addressed the camping issue, noting that according to Ashland’s municipal code 10.68.330 camping was prohibited in any City park or any property or any street adjacent to a park. He stated that establishing a closing time for parks would further address the camping issue by eliminating ambiguities. He reiterated that this suggestion was at the request of Ashland’s police. Closing the parks would assist the police in enforcing camping violations and eliminating conflicts related to people in the park at night.

Black reported that he canvassed other parks in Oregon for closing times, stating that of the ten queried, all had posted closing hours and that Ashland was the only one without such a policy – Lithia Park being the exception. Black reviewed the postings, noting that generally the parks closed between 10:00 or 11:00 p.m. and opened at 5:00 or 6:00 a.m. He expressed support for closing the parks at night with the caveat that people traveling through on trails or commuting from one place to another should be the exception. He stated that people should not be prohibited from walking or biking for transportation and that any motion should include language that exempted active transportation.

Black stated that it was assumed by many that the curfew assigned to Lithia Park applied to all of Ashland’s parks. He suggested that the Ordinance be changed to apply closing times to all parks and open spaces.

Gardiner highlighted public comments received by email for and against – stating that they would be included in the record.

Discussion Among Commissioners

Lewis proposed that the discussion include how to best address exceptions such as trails and open space. Landt agreed stating that if closing times were decided upon, exceptions for passing through the parks should be agreed upon as well. He talked about Scenic Park as an example, noting options to either travel through the park or walk around the park – an additional three blocks. He stated that doing so would not be consistent with Ashland’s Comprehensive Plan.

Landt argued against enacting another rule – stating that enforcement of such a rule would be complaint driven – which in his opinion was problematic because of the potential for profiling people in the park after dark. He indicated a preference for policing unacceptable behaviors like vandalism or littering or destruction of property etc. rather than enforcement of a curfew. Landt talked about acceptable uses after dark such as stargazing, noting that he had not heard a compelling reason for closing the parks at night. He advocated instead for the existing Ordinance that prohibited camping because of the emphasis on unacceptable behaviors.

Heller expressed concerns about prohibiting legitimate uses at night such as the study of astronomy. He questioned closure of the restrooms during times when people are present.

Miller expressed surprise that closing times only applied to Lithia Park stating that he was ready to approve a motion to apply Lithia Park’s closing times to all parks and open spaces.

Gardiner commented that in his opinion, it was important to offer guidelines regarding the openness of our parks. He talked about the diverse list of cities - from Eugene and Bend and Grants Pass, to Portland that have found value in closing their parks for a period of time each day. He stated that in Ashland, there were some rules for people to follow when they visit Ashland’s parks, but the expectation was that people would self-monitor.

Gardiner stated that Ashland’s rule that disallows dogs off leash in the parks ensures that if a disturbance occurs in violation of the rule, then Ashland Police have a mandate to enforce it. He noted that the rule prohibiting camping is not as clear and the police have asked for guidance. Gardiner suggested additional discussion exploring how trails and open spaces would fit into the new rule. He stated that closing all parks between 11:30 p.m. to 5:30 a.m. would be one option to consider. He suggested that a range of options be considered prior to deciding to amend the Ordinance.

Landt suggested that APD’s request was more about greater consistency between the parks. He suggested that either all of Ashland’s parks be subject to a curfew or Lithia Park’s curfew be eliminated and Ashland’s parks remain open throughout the night.

Lewis stated that in his opinion, Ashland’s police officers were asking for direction to avoid a battle with people in the park at night who deny they are camping. Illegal camping continues to be destructive in a number of ways. Giving APD an additional tool to enforce the no camping rule would

be helpful. Those who use the park in a friendly way – who gather with friends at a fire ring with a potluck could continue past 11:30 could be exempted by permit. For those who don't want to go through a permit process – then 11:30 p.m. would be the time to head home.

Black recommended that there be an allowance for incidental use of the park as well. He highlighted a common practice throughout Oregon to allow entrance to the park at night to retrieve a forgotten article or to pass through when traveling. Black suggested that closing hours were somewhat different from curfew because it implied social control when the Ordinance would simply establish park hours.

Landt stated that he would most likely vote against a change in park hours that would make the parks off limits at night. For those who would support such a rule, he suggested extending closing time to 12:00 a.m. midnight. He stated that doing so would minimize the intrusiveness while setting aside a time for parks to reset.

Gardiner proposed that more time be given so that staff could work out language that would include park hours and exceptions that could then be evaluated by the Commissioners.

There followed a brief discussion about listing exceptions and the need for additional public feedback. Staff was directed to include parks hours on the Agenda for the next regularly scheduled business meeting.

a. Japanese Garden Presentation (Information/Possible Action)

Black noted that Lithia Park's Japanese-style garden was originally envisioned by John MacLaren in the early 1800's and fully implemented in the park by 1916. Development continued for some years, but eventually the garden fell into disrepair. The garden was renovated in the 1980's and '90's by Parks personnel and has continued to remain in good repair.

Black explained that four years ago, donor Jeff Mangin stepped forward with a proposal to add authenticity to the garden so that the garden was more indicative of Japanese culture and social heritage. Black stated that the design and attributes of the current garden had been borrowed from the Japanese, whereas Mangin's idea was to create a more authentic Japanese garden.

Black stated that the conceptual design had been extensively reviewed and vetted with opportunities for public input. A subcommittee was tasked with choosing a conceptual design that would compliment the Lithia Park Master Plan. The design was vetted during Design Week for the Lithia Park Master Plan and gave the subcommittee an opportunity to publicly explain the parameters of the project and obtain feedback about proposed conversion to traditional Japanese garden. People were in agreement that the concept was appropriate and welcome – as long as the other elements in the park remained undisturbed. Two additional public meetings were held to determine what Ashlanders felt were the redeeming characteristics of the garden and what they would like to see happen in the garden. A number of objectives were developed based upon public comment and data gathered during the Lithia Park Master Plan process.

One clear directive was to create a garden that would be more accessible to people – particularly for those who need ADA access and facilities. In addition, people would like additional benches and quiet

places. Japanese elements such as a tea house and moss garden were deemed desirable, as were water features and a stream. It was noted that stepping off the existing pathway moved people away from the garden and commenters were agreeable to expanding the garden to mitigate that abrupt transition away from the garden. Black stated that the current pie-shaped garden was difficult to work with and the plantings were vulnerable to damage from local wildlife – fencing would be needed that could be incorporated into the landscaping.

Black noted that the proposed design created by Mr. Tanaka was prepared based upon the comments and ideas gathered. He explained that the Commissioners comments would also be taken into consideration. Black noted that APRC would be working closely with Mr. Mangin and Mr. Tanaka to bring the project to fruition.

Mangin introduced Toru Tanaka – describing the process of finding a qualified Japanese landscape architect. He stated that Tanaka was known for his creation and management of the Portland Japanese garden – which is considered the most authentic Japanese garden in the country.

Mangin talked about his love for the existing garden, stating that he had shared his enjoyment of the garden with his beloved wife – and that it was in her honor that he was undertaking the project. He also expressed a desire to contribute something of value to Ashland – stating that his goal was to provide a venue that would engage and energize the community, as well as attract visitors.

Tanaka presented a future garden tour, noting that the garden would reflect much of the current configuration. The entrance would be moved to the side of the garden and visitors would travel around the garden on a pathway that would be ADA (American with Disabilities) accessible. A formal entryway would lead visitors into a bamboo forest then to a wisteria garden that in turn would lead to a tea garden. The tea house would border a stream beginning with an 8 ft. waterfall leading into a natural garden. Other elements would include an area of costal pines, a Zen garden bordered with a Japanese tile roof and wall. A koi pond would be accessible over a bridge to a patio and deck. There were plans for a gatehouse that would be bordered by a Japanese vine that would remain green throughout the year. With the bamboo beside it, the vine represents strength. A bamboo fence would support a fast-blooming white flower. On the other side, the fencing becomes a temple fence – one designed to guide the eye forward.

Tanaka described the bamboo garden that would be planted with a type of bamboo that remains small in diameter. In the center there would be a Japanese style red lantern with a simple moss cover. When entering the grove, one can go through the gate that leads out of the garden.

Tanaka talked about the tea garden, indicating that the courtyard before the tea house was an important area – providing space for preparations before entering the tea house. There would be a full washing stone with a basin. Tanaka chose a four-sided style basin with Japanese carvings – but noted that there were many kinds of basins to choose from.

The Zen garden would be very simple - constructed of sand and rock. Each rock would have a special meaning. Tanaka pointed out a rock that looks like a ship, noting that the up-thrust points towards the

islands where people traditionally look for treasure. For those who carry a heavy load -- it is symbolic of leaving the burden behind.

Mangin highlighted Tanaka's effort to preserve as many trees as possible in the garden. Tanaka had talked about providing space for the existing maple to thrive by protecting its roots and Mangin emphasized that this level of care would be extended to all of the trees that would be incorporated into the new design. He detailed time spent with APRC's arborist – assessing each tree to determine which would survive and those that would not. Tanaka added that there was a large Douglas Fir that had a weak root system – suggesting that the tree be taken down and repurposed by using its wood to build the garden's infrastructure – the benches and fencing and other structures that would become an integral part of the garden's make-up.

Tanaka continued to describe other elements of the proposed garden such as the bonsai stand that would be placed on the patio next to the pond to divide the areas. He stated that the deck would provide a place for the koi to hide in the winter. A focus beside the pond would be a willow tree – referencing the light and dark sides of mankind. Tanaka explained that pond water was considered female, while the waterfall was considered to be female on one side and male on the other side. Tanaka stated that he was well versed in Japanese culture and would be happy to explain the meaning of each element but he emphasized that people who just want to enjoy the beauty of the garden without cultural significance were welcome too.

Tanaka talked about the current entrance to the garden, stating that the steps would be repurposed to utilize as part of the waterfall. The entrance gate would be moved to another part of the garden. Cherry trees would be planted in such a way that when mature, would block the street and parking areas from view.

Finally, Tanaka spoke of his anticipation in building the garden and delight in presenting his garden drawings to the Commissioners and the public.

Black noted that moving forward would entail more detailed design information in order to obtain price estimates. He explained the rationale for moving the entrance gate, stating that Tanaka would protect the donation of another Ashland resident by placing the gate within a garden. APRC had unknowingly placed the gate at the entrance – not understanding that it represented a Shinto religious symbol - something that could be construed as offensive to some people.

Commissioner Discussion

Landt asked about a work around for the large Douglas firs on the property. He asked about the breast height measurement of the trees in the vicinity, indicating that such ancient trees should remain in place. Tanaka noted that he would be willing to accommodate the trees.

There followed a discussion about leaving the trees in place and moving the garden to the south to accommodate the trees. Mangin stated that due to the large number of needles that fall from the trees each year, the garden would need to be moved by approximately ten ft. Black added that such a move would not disturb the incense cedar located to the south.

Mangin stated that at first thought, he agreed with Commissioner Landt. He noted that after additional consideration, that utilizing the wood would provide a certain respect for the tree and because wood would be needed to complete the garden, it seemed to be appropriate and special.

Lewis advocated for a thoughtful review of the plan prior to determining the fate of the Douglas fir. He suggested that a site visit would be helpful so that he could evaluate the site. Lewis expressed his enthusiasm for the project – stating that it would be the fruition of work done by Don Tode – an APRC employee who spent many hours renovating the existing garden.

Black suggested that the site visit include anyone who would like to attend. Lewis agreed, emphasizing the broad scope of the project and the need to consider how best to assimilate the plan.

Landt questioned the height of the wall bordering the garden, access to Winburn Way, and details regarding the ADA access route. He noted that he would be amenable to a site visit.

Black stated that he would arrange a site visit prior to the next regularly scheduled meeting.

b. Smith-Myer-Roper Diversion Proposal on Ashland Creek (Information/Possible Action)

Alexis Larson, project manager for the Rogue Watershed Council introduced her mission – stating that the Watershed Council focused on fish passage and stream habitat projects.

Larson noted that although the Rogue Watershed Council was a not-for-profit, and not affiliated with any regulatory body, the organization worked with all of the natural resource agencies locally, in Jackson County, and in the State of Oregon. The work of the Watershed Council was funded with grants – including grants from Federal sources as well as from private foundations. Much of the work completed to date had been funded by the Resources Legacy Fund. There have been three projects since inception in 2017 – removal of a diversion dam in Talent, OR. and assistance for a private property owner to remove fans and improve irrigation. She noted that removing barriers for fish passage typically includes improvements for irrigation systems – a win-win proposition.

Larson noted that the Smith-Myer-Roper Diversion Dam is on the ODFW priority list as well as on the Rogue Basin list. She stated that the Watershed Council draws from the ODFW priority list when selecting projects and the Smith-Myer-Roper Diversion Dam was brought to the forefront when the First Water Trust and Bureau of Reclamation completed their preparatory work. According to an assessment, the main priority was to make way for juvenile fish who were seeking a cool-water refuge when Bear Creek became too warm to support them. Larson referenced the design work that described the removal of the dam and replacement of a reprofiled stream channel that directs flow to the new intake system.

Larson noted that there were some educational opportunities with this project, stating that the Watershed Council proposed signage that would provide information about fish passage and why it was important. Other topics might include watershed health and riparian plantings. Larson stated that a media campaign would compliment the project and create greater awareness of the impact that the improvements would bring.

Larson talked about the diversion dam – noting the large amount of concrete along the site and the constraints that impeded juvenile fish from finding cool-water habitat. The concept design outlines the following:

- A roughened channel design that has a 6% slope over 95 ft. and is constrained between a pipe at one end and private infrastructure on the bank across from the park. Much of the channel is buried – with step-pools that will help to divert the flow into a new intake system. The existing fish screen would be reset for efficiency.
- Diversion improvements include a new head-gate and sediment trap; a pipe ditch and lower existing screens

Discussion Among Commissioners

In response to a question by Gardiner, Landt stated that the dam was located in the vicinity of Ashland Creek Park – just above the new sewer line.

Landt reported that he had a vested interest in the project because of water rights at the Smith-Myer-Roper diversion dam. He stated that the proposed removal was designed to create approximately 1.8 miles of spawning habitat. Landt asked about the barrier below Lithia Way and whether there were plans to improve fish passage there as well. Larson replied that it was not a priority at this time but because it did impede passage, it should be addressed at some point.

Landt expressed a concern about damage created by heavy equipment – referring to lessons learned when the sewer line was installed. He stated that there had been no restrictions on heavy equipment and a large area beside the project had been disturbed. He stated that with appropriate planning, the damage could have been minimized. Landt proposed a corridor with fencing to create a route for heavy equipment that would limit access to the work site. He asked that Parks staff line out the corridor with fencing on both sides.

Gardiner asked about walking trails and it was agreed that equipment would be able to detour around the trails. Black added that passageway might be needed over one of the trails but agreed that Parks staff could work towards minimal exposure.

Landt also asked that safeguards for leakage from equipment be undertaken for heavy equipment that is stored on parkland

In response to a question by Lewis, Black noted that the APRC's goal was to work with the Watershed Council to improve fish passage in addition to improving access to the creek. Landt agreed, stating that it would be an efficiency if both goals could be accomplished concurrently.

Landt noted that the Smith, Myer, Roper Diversion dam was the oldest structure in Ashland with water rights stemming from 1838. Larson agreed, stating that the project would go through historic review through the State Historic Preservation office.

Larson indicated that the first step after approval of the project would be to seek grants to fund the project.

Motion: Heller moved to approve the Ashland Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project.
The motion died for lack of a second.

Black noted that there were some amendments to add such as the installation of a heavy equipment corridor.

Motion: Heller moved to approve the Ashland Creek Fish Passage Improvement Project with the amendments previously discussed that would ensure care for the land and water. Lewis seconded.
The vote was all yes with Landt abstaining.

Black relayed that a letter would be sent to the Watershed Council stating APRC support for the project. He noted that APRC would also work on an agreement for in-kind assistance.

a. Change Guidelines for Park Design Subcommittee to Sustainability, Efficiency, & Conservation Subcommittee (Information/Action)

Black stated that the proposal was to change the current Subcommittee - called the Guidelines for Park Design Subcommittee - to the Sustainability, Efficiency, & Conservation Subcommittee. He indicated that there would be some changes to the way the subcommittee would function, with new goals as follows:

- *Reduce energy needs*
- *Develop best practices for design/maintenance*
- *Conserve natural resources*

There followed a brief discussion about listing the word *efficiency* in the title. Black explained that it stood for a broader role encompassing both Parks and Recreation. Lewis commented that an example proposed by Landt was how to design landscaping that would reduce maintenance – whether it be when mowing lawns or weeding.

Motion: Landt moved to approve as outlined by our Parks Director. Miller seconded.
The vote was all yes.

SUBCOMMITTEE AND STAFF REPORTS

Black reported that the due diligence process was underway for the 5.52 acres of Main Street Property that had been approved by the Ashland City Council. He also announced that sale of the Clay street property was moving forward with a tentative closing date of November 14, 2018. A Phase One Environmental Survey was underway and an Alta Survey was almost complete.

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

There were none.

UPCOMING MEETING DATES

- Pool Ad-hoc Subcommittee Meeting—November 7, 2018, 3:30 p.m.
Ashland Senior Center 1699 Homes Ave.

- S-SAC Goal Setting—November 13, 2018, 1:00 p.m.- 4:00 p.m.
SOU Hannon Library Room 352 1250 Siskiyou Blvd.
- Study Session—November 19, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
The Grove, Otte-Peterson Room 1195 E. Main St.
- Regular Meeting—November 26, 2018, 7:00 p.m.
Council Chambers 1175 E. Main

ADJOURNMENT

There being no further business, the meeting adjourned at 9:58 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Betsy Manuel, Assistant

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 Study Sessions and Regular meetings are digitally recorded and are available upon online.

ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner
Joel Heller
Rick Landt
Jim Lewis
Matt Miller



Michael A. Black, AICP
Director

541.488.5340
AshlandParksandRec.org
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

PARKS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Michael Black, APRC Director

DATE: November 20, 2018

SUBJECT: Wildlife Refuge at Ashland Pond (Information)

CURRENT SITUATION

Commissioner Landt provided me with the following information:

“Although mutt mitts and accompanying material posted at Glendower entrance, commissioners have not designated Ashland Pond as open to dogs. The area is well known to birders, wildlife photographers and other wildlife enthusiasts. Many neighbors use this area for walking their dogs River otters, hooded mergansers, red shouldered hawks, sharp shinned hawks, and blue herons are among the visitors to the Pond area.

The path around the Pond is well-traveled by naturalists and dog with their owners. The concern is that wildlife behavior is affected by perceived predators, even when leashed. There are nearby alternative areas open to dogs including the dog park and the Greenway Trail. Currently, NMP is the only Ashland Park with a type of wildlife refuge status.

A trail across Park and City property exists between Glendower and the Dog Park, a distance of 2-3 blocks.”

BACKGROUND

The following goal/objective, that was adopted by the Parks Commissioners is supportive of this proposal by Commissioner Landt:

“Implement/attain easement and purchase agreements on Ashland Pond property and through the few remaining private properties, with dogs excluded from the property via a wildlife preserve designation.”

ASSESSMENT

Although a wildlife sanctuary, or refuge, will accomplish some goals in prohibiting domestic animals from disturbing the wildlife, there are some issues with calling the area a wildlife sanctuary when so many conditions currently exist on the property that are inconsistent with a sanctuary. Some of these issues that staff has brought to my attention are the profusion of blackberry thickets and their detriment to wildlife habitat. The same blackberries seem to be “choking out” otherwise healthy trees as well. If a wildlife refuge is to be undertaken at this location, it is also recommended that priority be placed on the restoration of the area and the removal of invasive species.

Also of note are the current plans of the public works department and their outfall structure and how that project will provide some constraints to the refuge during construction. It may also be true that some opportunities may exist during the construction of the outfall that may allow for some restoration work at the same time. These opportunities could be explored further at the request of the commissioners.

RECOMMENDATION:

At this point in time, the matter is being brought to the attention of the Commissioners for consideration and direction. Staff is supportive of the wildlife refuge at the site; however, some further direction on the Commissioner’s priorities on the habitat restoration will be needed.

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PARKS COMMISSION STAFF REPORT

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commissioners

FROM: Michael Black, APRC Director

DATE: November 20, 2018

SUBJECT: Park Hours Ordinance Amendment (Information/Possible Action)

CURRENT SITUATION

Recently it was brought to our attention that there is a gap in enforcement ordinances for our City parks. The Central Area Patrol Officers informed APRC staff that there is no official curfew for our City parks, with only one exception – Lithia Park has a curfew which has been adopted in municipal code. The curfew for Lithia Park is 11:30 P.M. At this point of time, there are no other curfews, or park hours, that apply to any park other than Lithia Park

BACKGROUND

As mentioned above, the system of park in Ashland has no enforceable park hours, except for Lithia Park. There are only few mentions in the municipal code regarding the use of parks, related to hours. One of these regulations is limited to a curfew for Lithia Park, see below:

10.68.380 Curfew

- A. Except for City officials or their designees on official business, no one shall be in Lithia Park between the hours of 11:30 P.M. and 5:30 A.M.*

- B. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter is subject to Section 1.08.020 of the Ashland Municipal Code. Any violation of this section is a Class IV violation. (Ord. 3137, amended, 2017; Ord. 3026, amended, 08/03/2010)*

This appears to be a lapse in our ability to enforce park rules. Most likely, it either was not a problem in the past or it was understood, incorrectly, that there already was a rule to this effect. APRC does have a rule adopted in the municipal code that prohibits camping in all parks, which is the second regulation related to park use and times, but it isn't specific enough to cover all users after a certain hour – see below:

10.68.330 Camping prohibited

A. No person shall camp within the park limits within the City of Ashland, or on the park side of any street adjacent to the parks. Prohibited Camping is a Class IV violation.

B. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter is subject to Section 1.08.020 of the Ashland Municipal Code. Any violation of this section is a Class IV violation. (Ord. 3137, amended, 2017; Ord. 3026, amended, 08/03/2010)

ASSESSMENT

APRC staff has asked the police department staff to give their position on the lack of enforceable park hours. Chief Tighe O’Meara responded with the following:

“It seems appropriate and reasonable to have some regulation in place that specifies when parks can and cannot be used by members of the community. Having such a rule in place would allow the police department to better manage appropriate use of the parks. As it stands, if a person is thought to be (as opposed to known to be) violating parks rules we have little ability to remove them from the park in question. If there were a rule in place dictating that the parks are closed at certain times, we would at least have the ability to ask them to leave, therefore mitigating the inappropriate use of the park.”

Chief O’Meara’s full memo is attached to this email.

From a maintenance perspective, the inappropriate use of parks can be deleterious to the parks and causes many hours and funds to be spent to fix issues that arise from these unauthorized uses. Having rules that allow parks staff and the APD to enforce park hours can be helpful in mitigating the issue that seems to cause the most damage and subsequent time and energy in cleaning and restoring camping sites.

In researching how other agencies address these issues, staff conducted an assessment of park closure rules for several city park departments and park districts. The results of the assessment shows that all surveyed agencies have a park closure ordinance that regulates access of the public during the closed period. These regulations range from the restrictive dusk-to-dawn ordinance to conservative closures limited to the hours of midnight to 5:00 am.

PARK HOUR COMPARISON

	CITY	RULE	EXEPTIONS
1	Ashland	Lithia Park Only 11:30 PM -5:30 AM	
2	Medford	All Parks 10:30 PM - 6:00 AM	Exceptions apply to sports fields or events
3	Eugene	All Parks 11:00 PM - 6:00 AM	

4	Bend Park District	All Parks 10:00 PM - 5:00 AM	Unless otherwise posted; peds may use trails
5	Tualatin Hills District	All Parks Dusk - Dawn	Unless otherwise posted
6	Portland	All Parks 12:01 AM - 5:00 AM	Unless the director designates otherwise
7	Grants Pass	All Parks 10:00 PM - 7:30 AM	Unless otherwise posted
8	Talent	All Parks Dusk - Dawn	
9	Central Point	All Parks 10:00 PM - 6:00 AM	Unless written permit is issued
10	Roseburg	All Parks Dusk +1 - Dawn -1	Unless permit is given

RECOMMENDATION:

Staff recommends that APRC adopt a park closure amendment as detailed below:

10.68.380 Hours of Park Closure

- A. **Except for City officials or their designees on official business, no person shall be in any City park, as defined in AMC 10.68.010, between the hours 11:30 PM and 5:30 AM without having in his or her possession a valid permit issued pursuant to AMC 10.68.290.**
- B. **Any violation of this section is a Class IV violation subject to the penalties and procedures in AMC 1.08.020.**
- C. **This Section shall not apply to the following:**
 - 1. **Vehicular traffic crossing on a Park roadway, including Winburn Way;**
 - 2. **Persons playing golf at the municipal golf course when the golf course is open;**
 - 3. **Persons attending, participating in, going to or coming from an activity either programmed or scheduled by Ashland Parks and Recreation or under a permit issued by Ashland Parks and Recreation;**
 - 4. **A person may enter upon a closed Park for a reasonable amount of time to retrieve their personal property or vehicle;**
 - 5. **Pedestrians may travel through a Park to destinations outside of the Park property;**
 - 6. **District staff and emergency responders may enter closed areas in the course of executing their duties; or**
 - 7. **By permit.**

Staff is proposing an amendment of the current ordinance (10.68.380); however, we are not suggesting any changes to the camping ordinance (10.68.330 *Camping Prohibited*). We believe that this amendment will allow for the correct proportion of rules related to park hours to allow for the parks to have some “down time” and to ensure that APD has the ability to enforce the rules. The amendment allows for several exemptions, which we believe will allow for the incidental or permitted use of the park after hours.

The City Attorney has reviewed this amendment and approved it as to form.

The amendment references AMC 10.68.290 which outlines the procedure for obtaining a valid permit for the use of park. For your reference, AMC 10.68.290 can be found below:

10.68.290 Permit Conditions and Inspections

A. All permits issued by the park commission shall be subject to the City ordinances and the persons to whom such permits are issued shall be bound by said rules, regulations, and ordinances as fully as though the same were inserted in such permits, and any person or persons to whom such permits shall be issued shall be liable for any loss, damage, or injury sustained by any person whatever by reason of the negligence of the person or persons to whom such permits shall be issued, as well as for any breach of such rules, regulations, and ordinances, to the person or persons so suffering damages or injury. When not otherwise specified in the Code, violation of permit-conditions is a Class II violation.

B. Any person claiming to have a permit from the park commission shall produce and exhibit such permit upon request of any authorized person who may desire to inspect the same.

C. Any person who violates any provision of this Chapter is subject to Section [1.08.020](#) of the Ashland Municipal Code

1. Any violation of subsection A in this section is a Class II violation.

2. Any violation of subsection B in this section is a Class IV violation. (Ord. 3137, amended, 2017; Ord. 3026, amended, 08/03/2010)

Attachments: Chief O’Meara November 13, 2018 memo

Memo

TO: Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

FROM: Tighe O'Meara, Police Chief

SUBJECT: Parks Hours Ordinance Amendment Recommendation

DATE: November 13, 2018

The Ashland Police Department is supportive of the APRC adopting uniform hours of use regulations for the parks system. It seems appropriate and reasonable to have some regulation in place that specifies when parks can and cannot be used by members of the community. Having such a rule in place would allow the police department to better manage appropriate use of the parks. As it stands, if a person is thought to be (as opposed to known to be) violating parks rules we have little ability to remove them from the park in question. If there were a rule in place dictating that the parks are closed at certain times, we would at least have the ability to ask them to leave, therefore mitigating the inappropriate use of the park.

Another point that I would ask you to consider is that this year there has been a significant increase in cougar and bear sightings in town during nighttime hours. Disallowing people from using/wandering in park areas seems like a sensible precaution to mitigate any human/wildlife encounter.

Lastly, if people are allowed to use the parks at all times, this brings along the possibility that police officers will be called into the parks during nighttime hours. This invites additional officer safety concerns due to the fact that officers are more removed from their vehicles and are wandering in poorly illuminated and unknown terrain.

Thank you for your consideration, and please let me know if I or the police department can be of any further assistance as you deliberate this matter.

