

IMPORTANT: Any citizen attending a commission meeting may speak on any item on the agenda. If you wish to speak, please fill out the Speaker Request form located near the entrance to meeting room. The Chair will recognize you and inform you as to the amount of time allotted to you. The time granted will be dependent to some extent on the nature of the item under discussion, the number of people who wish to be heard, and the length of the agenda.

CITY OF ASHLAND  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

**Regular Meeting Agenda**  
**OCTOBER 27, 2014 @ 7:00 PM**  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS ♦ 1175 E. MAIN STREET

CALL TO ORDER

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Study Session—September 15, 2014

Regular Meeting—September 22, 2014

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION

- Open Forum

ADDITIONS or DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA

UNFINISHED BUSINESS

NEW BUSINESS

- Ashland Creek Park Perimeter Fencing Update
- Dogs Subcommittee Recommendation
- Parks Audit Report Findings

SUBCOMMITTEE and STAFF REPORTS

- Ice Rink Planning Action
- NRPA Report

ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS

UPCOMING MEETING DATE(S) and PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS

- Study Session—November 17, 2014
  - Parks Office, 340 S. Pioneer Street—7:00 PM
- Regular Meeting—November 24, 2014
  - Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street—7:00 PM

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 1-800-735-2900). Notification 72 hours prior to the meeting will enable the City to make reasonable arrangements to ensure accessibility to the meeting (28CFR 35.102-35.104 ADA Title I). Beginning April 15, 2014, City of Ashland televised meetings will occur on channel 180 for Charter subscribers. Ashland TV subscribers can continue viewing City meetings on channel 9.

City of Ashland  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
STUDY SESSION MINUTES  
September 15, 2014

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Commissioners Gardiner, Lewis, Seffinger; Director Black; Superintendents Dials and Dickens

Absent: Commissioners Landt and Shaw; City Council Liaison - Mayor John Stromberg

**CALL TO ORDER**

Seffinger called the study session to order at 7:00 p.m. at Ashland Creek Park, 27 E. Hersey Street. Project Manager **Steve Ennis** distributed a project site plan, stating that red sections A – E indicated Phase II elements.

**TOUR OF ASHLAND CREEK PARK**

Dickens **acknowledged** the many project contributors:

- Roxy Ann Rock Construction, contractor
- Landscape Architect Laurie Sager
- Engineer Mike Thornton
- Hardy Engineering
- Archaeologist Dennis Gray with Cascade Research
- Carlos Delgado Design and Architecture
- Ashland Parks and Recreation Staff
- City of Ashland Planning and Public Works departments
- Project Manager Steve Ennis

In terms of **orientation**, Dickens talked about the entry sign, fig tree protections, ADA parking (3 slots) and additional parking (2 slots), required storm drain, pervious and impervious surfaces, fruit and nut orchard, concrete loop path and the recent barn removal project.

Additional discussion points included:

- Future half-court basketball court; current playground structure by Playcraft; restroom facility
- Lawn area and future picnic arbor area
- Gravel walkways through the park
- Naturalized meadow with benches and the surrounding open space
- Limits of work as determined by the Parks Commission (keeping project away from creek)
- Community gardens: deer fencing surrounding garden, concrete mow strip, possible ADA-compliant raised beds with an encircling decomposed granite or gravel (pervious) walkway, soil, greenhouse on north end, eight-foot-high entry gate, gravel entrance, garden sheds, separate water meter and frost-free hose bibs.
- Plaza area: kiosk, two-seater unisex restroom building with adjoining drinking fountain, future multi-use shelter, rain garden, and bike parking area.

**Project management** discussion points included:

- Value engineering
- Budget assistance
- Archaeology
- Asbestos
- Change orders

**Public responses** were reviewed:

- A complaint about noise during construction
- A dust complaint
- A favorable remark about park improvements

### TOUR OF ASHLAND CREEK PARK, cont'd.

#### Budget was discussed:

- Stretched due to unexpected additional costs
- Ennis acknowledged for keeping project in line with budgetary constraints

#### Discussion Among Commissioners and Staff

Lewis said the park was similar to North Mountain Park in that both featured active play areas, natural areas and gardens. Lewis suggested reviewing previous discussion points about side channel work and completing it in the future. Environmental Stewardship Coordinator **Linda Chesney** said the proposed channel could pose challenges for homeowners on the other side as the water might flow differently if that work were to occur.

Dickens said staff and the commission would continue working on obtaining trail easements to allow for a trail connection to Verde Village.

Dickens said SHPPO determined that a section of the park was now in the National Register of Historic Places due to some archaeological findings at the site.

Dickens and Ennis discussed proposed plantings at the park.

Dickens said asbestos was found on the land several weeks earlier and a great deal of contaminated material was excavated and removed.

Nature Center Manager **Libby VanWyhe** asked what stormwater BMPs were in place between the park and the creek. Dickens and Ennis pointed to the raised berm with a wattle on top, inspected by the DEQ each week. The DEQ were also available on an on-call basis.

Ennis discussed the **size** of the community garden area, nearly double the size of the previous garden, and said garden topsoil would be twelve inches in depth. **Deer fencing** would be built around the garden with a concrete mow strip. The **greenhouse** would be placed on the north end of the garden. Eight-foot-high **entry gates** would be built. Each garden plot would have a **frost-free hose bib**. The **restroom**, located in a convenient spot for parents and children as well as community gardeners, would have two unisex stalls and a drinking fountain attached to the side of the building.

The group discussed **raised beds** in terms of water usage. Dickens said water in a raised bed tended to stay in that area while water in a more open garden area tended to saturate out. Chesney said raised beds didn't necessarily require more water. She offered to send a link by email the following day. Seffinger said the commission hadn't ruled out raised beds; no vote had been taken to date. Ennis said any raised beds other than ADA-required beds would need to be built by individual gardeners. Dickens said **gopher proofing** would be handled by gardeners as the budget did not provide for it. Commissioners and staff talked about establishing a set of guidelines and a range of design specifications and elements for gardeners wishing to build raised beds.

Gardiner asked about park visitors using parking spaces at Ashland Creek Park. Dickens said the church unofficially indicated that parking could be accommodated on days and times not heavily utilized by church patrons.

Completion of Phase I was estimated to be the end of December, 2014.

### ADJOURNMENT

By consensus, with no further business, Seffinger adjourned the study session at 7:45 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,



Susan Dyssegard, Executive Assistant  
Ashland Parks and Recreation

City of Ashland  
PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION  
REGULAR MEETING  
MINUTES  
September 22, 2014

**ATTENDANCE**

Present: Commissioners Gardiner, Landt, Lewis Seffinger, Shaw; Director Black; Superintendents Dials and Dickens

Absent: City Council Liaison: Mayor John Stromberg

**CALL TO ORDER**

Seffinger called the meeting to order at 7:03 p.m. in Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street.

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

Special Meeting – August 18, 2014

**MOTION** Landt moved to approve the minutes as presented. Shaw seconded the motion.

The vote was: All yes

Regular Meeting – August 25, 2014

**MOTION** Landt moved to approve the minutes as presented. Lewis seconded the motion.

The vote was: All yes (Lewis abstained)

**PUBLIC PARTICIPATION**

None

**ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS TO THE AGENDA**

None

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS**

None

**NEW BUSINESS**

**MT. ASHLAND BANNER REQUEST**

Dials provided a staff report: The commission was asked to sponsor a banner for the Mt. Ashland after-school ski program for 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> graders, a program held in January and February. The banner would be placed over E. Main Street from November 3-9, 2014. Without City sponsorship, the banner could not be approved by the City. Dials said staff felt the program was in line with the mission of the Parks Commission and a precedent was set when the commission approved a Lions Club banner for the Feast of Will earlier in the year.

**Dan Shulters** and **Donna Jones** of Mt. Ashland Ski Resort provided additional details about the program: 130-175 students enrolled per five-session season; skiing and boarding lessons offered; kids learned a new lifetime sport while spending time outdoors; high school students served as chaperones while earning community service hours; no child turned away for inability to pay; children transported via buses; scholarship families asked to pay for transportation but several complete scholarships provided.

**MOTION** Landt moved to approve the Mt. Ashland After-School Ski Program banner request as presented, with the banner spanning E. Main Street from November 3-9, 2014. Shaw seconded the motion.

The vote was: All yes

**SUBCOMMITTEE and STAFF REPORTS**

**NRPA Director's School Report**

Black thanked the commission for the opportunity to attend the NRPA Director's school in Wheeling, WV, from August 22-28, 2014. The program was held in two parts: one week in 2014 and the other in 2015. The school was sponsored by the Oglebay National Training Center, National Recreation and Park Association, and the Department of Parks, Recreation, and Tourism Management at North Carolina State University. As a representative of Ashland Parks and Recreation, Black spoke of his personal objectives in attending, the

## **SUBCOMMITTEE and STAFF REPORTS**

### **NRPA Director's School Report, cont'd.**

teaching format of the program, and the schedule he followed while in attendance. Course offerings included: management; economic benefits of parks; agency planning; organization and administrative operations; public engagement strategies; creating a culture of excellence in parks and recreation; legal issues; human resource management; best practices; marketing, public relations and branding; and leadership. Black was able to engage with a network of qualified parks professionals from throughout North America. He spent more than forty hours in the classroom learning newest, best practices in the field of parks and recreation management. He met one particularly notable person: the Parks Superintendent for Golden Gate Park in San Francisco. Her office was located in the same building in which John McLaren worked and died. Black learned that John McLaren did not design Golden Gate Park but was instrumental in its design. Key management points conveyed at the conference included the importance of communication, honesty, goal setting and sharing of information with community members. Change was reported to be a key topic, a necessary element toward providing the best parks system for citizens.

Black thanked the commission for allowing him the opportunity to represent them at the training.

### **Ashland Creek Park Construction Report**

Dickens spoke about the on-site study session at Ashland Creek Park on September 15. Staff met with the commission and community members to talk about orientation, progress to date, project phasing and site features such as the playground, garden, gates, plaza, natural meadow and restroom layout. Project manager Steve Ennis covered many of the specific construction details that evening. Discussion also included raised beds in the community garden area and materials used for walking surfaces around ADA sections. Dickens indicated that the project was ahead of schedule and had a tentative completion target of late December.

### Discussion Among Commissioners

Commissioners discussed adding Ashland Creek Park to the list of dog-friendly parks in Ashland, posting signage at the park, and possibly allowing raised beds at the park. Landt said no evidence had been found to support using raised beds toward water conservation; instead, evidence showed that raised beds required more water than non-raised beds. He asked for raised beds to not be promoted at this park. If allowed, he asked that those plot fees to increase to cover the cost of additional water. He said raised beds were not approved at the commission level for Garden Way Park. Other than for handicapped gardeners, he asked that raised beds not be allowed and for existing raised beds to be disassembled. Shaw suggested inviting gardeners and agricultural experts to speak to the commission about water use in raised beds. Gardiner said there were valid reasons for using raised beds if people wanted them. Before making a decision, he suggested having a broader discussion on the topic. Seffinger said the senior population was growing and it would be important to prioritize requests for ADA plots. Dials said garden plots at Ashland Creek Park would be assigned in the February timeframe and waiting lists moved along fairly quickly. Lewis said hose bibs with timers were also discussed at the study session. He suggested educating people about responsible use of potable irrigation water. Dickens said hose bibs would be included in each garden plot. Landt stressed two principles: water conservation in Ashland's semi-arid climate and promoting walking to community garden plots. He suggested giving priority to gardeners within one-quarter-mile distance of their closest neighborhood park. He asked these points to be included in a future community garden policy.

Black said community members would be asking for raised beds and he wanted to research the topic at the staff level and work on a draft community policy. He suggested working out logistics and placing the item on the October study session agenda.

### **Cascade-Siskiyou Scenic Bikeway**

Black said the Cascade-Siskiyou Scenic Bikeway would be hosting an open house on September 30 from 6-7:30 p.m. in Pioneer Hall. The proposed starting point for the 60-mile loop would be Garfield Park. The state was asking for a letter from the commission indicating their acceptance of that starting point. Hearing positive feedback from the commission, Black said he would draft a letter the following day on behalf of the commission.

## **ITEMS FROM COMMISSIONERS**

### **Bear Creek Greenway Celebration**

Gardiner said he served as a volunteer on the Bear Creek Greenway Foundation. The foundation planned to celebrate 20 miles of completed Greenway on October 12 from 2-4:00. The completed miles spanned from the Ashland Dog Park to Upton Road, just past the expo center in Central Point. He distributed invitations to the event at the expo and invited everyone to attend. He suggested continuing to work on partnerships with the Bear Creek Greenway agency toward completion of the Greenway out to Emigrant Lake. Landt encouraged and challenged his fellow commissioners and others to travel to and from the event by bicycle approximately 20 miles one way).

### **Parks Employee Communication / Style Guide**

Gardiner asked if the proposed Parks employee communication / style guide were one and the same and staff said yes. Black said that until Parks created its own guide it was bound by the City's guide. Dials said several local guides had been located that would serve as useful tools for Parks.

The commission and staff agreed to add the topic to an upcoming meeting agenda.

## **UPCOMING MEETING DATES & PROPOSED AGENDA ITEMS**

- Study session set for October 20 at 7:00 p.m., Parks office, 340 S. Pioneer Street. Topics:
  - Community Garden Guidelines; Ashland Creek Park Discussion
  - Annual Dogs Review; Recommendations from Dogs Subcommittee
  - 2015 Subcommittee Assignments Discussion
- Regular meeting set for October 27 at 7:00 p.m., Council Chambers, 1175 E. Main Street. Topic:
  - Ashland Creek Park Construction Update

**ADJOURNMENT**– By consensus, with no further business, Seffinger adjourned the meeting at 7:53 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Dyssegard, Executive Assistant  
Ashland Parks and Recreation

# ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S. PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner  
Rick Landt  
Jim Lewis  
Stefani Seffinger  
Vanston Shaw



Michael Black  
Director

TEL: 541.488.5340  
FAX: 541.488.5314  
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

## MEMORANDUM

**TO** : Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM** :  Bruce Dickens, Parks Superintendent

**DATE** : October 22, 2014

**SUBJECT** : Ashland Creek Park Perimeter Fencing Update

### Background

At the October 20<sup>th</sup> study session, gopher protection in the community gardens was addressed. Staff was asked to provide a cost breakdown of installing hardware cloth within each individual plot and a cost for installing hardware cloth three-feet-deep around the perimeter of the entire garden.

### Action Taken

In order to stay on schedule with the critical path of the project, cost estimates were determined, logistics and coordination were discussed and a decision was made to move ahead with the most cost-effective and workable solution. The City Finance Department was asked about project overruns. In this situation, we are within our spending authority to move ahead. The cost control of the project is based on the total amount in the CIP budget.

The cost to line each plot with hardware cloth would have exceeded \$7,000.00. The cost to install a perimeter barrier underground will be close to \$2,000.00.

This approach is the best solution to the problem as it will control gopher encroachment in the entire garden area. The wire mesh material will be out of the garden plots and will not create problems with future irrigation repairs.

After some discussion, the commission decided not to address raised beds.

# ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S. PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner  
Rick Landt  
Jim Lewis  
Stefani Seffinger  
Vanston Shaw



Michael Black  
Director

TEL: 541.488.5340  
FAX: 541.488.5314  
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

## MEMORANDUM

**TO** : Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM** : Michael Black, Director 

**DATE** : October 22, 2014

**SUBJECT** : Dogs Subcommittee Recommendations

### Background

At the October 20<sup>th</sup> study session, the Dogs Subcommittee proposed opening two additional park areas to dogs on leash: "Rocky Top" at the upper section of North Mountain Park and Ashland Creek Park, Ashland's 19<sup>th</sup> park located at 27 E. Hersey Street.

Subcommittee members Seffinger and Shaw felt that Rocky Top was a distinct section of North Mountain Park, separate in many ways from the lower section. The neighboring homeowners' association reportedly expressed strong support for the upper park's designation as a dog-friendly area, with a Woof Waste Dispenser and garbage can installed to promote responsible owners' removal of dog waste.

Ashland Creek Park, while in the same section of land as Ashland Creek, could be signed appropriately to keep dogs on leash in non-riparian portions of the seven-acre parcel.

### Proposed Action

Staff recommends adoption of both "Rocky Top" and Ashland Creek Park as dog-friendly park areas for the Ashland community.

# ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S. PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner  
Rick Landt  
Jim Lewis  
Stefani Selfinger  
Vanston Shaw



Michael Black  
Director

TEL: 541.488.5340  
FAX: 541.488.5314  
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

## MEMORANDUM

**TO** : Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM** : Michael Black, Director <sup>(3)</sup>

**DATE** : October 22, 2014

**SUBJECT** : Parks Audit Report Findings

### Background

At the October 20 study session, staff reported on the auditors' suggestion for a resolution on the unique relationship between the City and Parks.

Attached is a letter written on behalf of the commission toward resolving this matter.

### Action Requested

Staff requests commission acceptance of the letter prepared by staff on behalf of the commission – either with amendments or as written.

October 27, 2014

Ashland Mayor and City Council  
20 E. Main Street  
Ashland, OR 97520

Re: Resolution Requested Regarding Auditors' Suggestion for a Determination

Dear Mayor and Council,

The Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission (the "*Commission*") has managed the Ashland Parks and Recreation ("*APR*") system since 1908. During those years, the Commission has been at the head of what is considered a State and national example of park planning and maintenance, urban planning, natural resource management and recreational opportunities. The Commission recognizes the unique relationship between the City and APR and we acknowledge the support of the Council in achieving its numerous successes.

In writing this letter, the Commission respectfully requests that the City Council consider the following information and that the City Council affirm that any issues regarding the organizational definition of APR, its management and the inter-relationship with the City as being resolved by the *2014 Memorandum of Understanding between Ashland City Council and Ashland Park and Recreation Commission* (the "*MOU*").

Each year APR performs an audit on all financial aspects of the organization. And although the City and APR perform separate audits, the contract auditor for both entities is the same – Pauly, Rogers and Co., P.C. (the "*Auditor*"). At the conclusion of each audit, the Auditor provides a post-audit letter describing their findings of deficiency and recommendations for corrective action. In 2013 the post-audit letter was accompanied by an additional letter that provided this counsel from the Auditor:

*"As we've noted in previous audits, the relationship between the City of Ashland and the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission is ambiguous[...] Although this is not an auditing issue, because we rely on attorneys for legal issues, it does raise the issue of what is the exact relationship between the City and Parks. We recommend that the City and Parks consult with the City attorney, as well as outside attorneys, to develop a clear understanding of the Parks' legal status. We also recommend that the City and Parks do an exhaustive review of every part to clearly define it; whether it be human resources, accounting, rights and duties of the Parks Board, and many other areas. This relationship, whether it be legal or managerial, needs to be clearly defined in order to prevent misunderstandings between the entities as well as errors."*

(emphasis added)

And in 2014, the same auditor added the following to the Exit Issues Letter of FY2013-14. This letter was addressed to Dave Kanner regarding both Parks and City issues:

*“The City and Parks need to work through all of their issues regarding if it’s a department or separate entity, as well as fully define their inter-relationship.”*

As the Auditor has pointed out, this is not an auditing issue, yet they have consistently brought the item to light in official audit letters. The Parks and Recreation Commission strongly believes that the matter emphasized by the Auditor has been resolved by the MOU that was adopted by the Commission and the City Council on August 19<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup>, 2014 (respectively).

Recital “C” of the MOU states that:

*“The City Council and Parks Commission wish to clearly define what is meant by “management,” and what the responsibility of each entity is within each aspect of management and to memorialize these responsibilities in this memorandum of understanding.”*

The City Council and the Commission agreed on those respective responsibilities of each entity with the adoption of the MOU. The agreed upon inter-relationship of APR and the City are detailed in the MOU and organized in five categories:

1. Planning
2. Organizing
3. Budgeting and Financial Management
4. Directing
5. Evaluating

Again, the Commission strongly believes that the matter emphasized by the auditor has been resolved with the joint adoption of the MOU.

**Request for Action:**

With consideration of the preceding information, the Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission requests that the City Council makes a determination that any issues related to the organizational nature of APR and its inter-relationship with the City have been resolved with the adoption of the MOU. Additionally, the Commission requests that the City Council instruct its administrative staff to cease any further attempts to define the organizational nature of APR and its inter-relationship with the City beyond what has already been memorialized in the MOU.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter and for your longstanding support of Ashland Parks and Recreation. Your ongoing support is vital to the success of the system as we move into the next era of Parks and Recreation administration, planning and implementation.

With best regards,

Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

---

Stefani Seffinger, Chair

---

Mike Gardiner, Commissioner

---

Jim Lewis, Commissioner

---

Rick Landt, Commissioner

---

Vanston Shaw, Commissioner

# ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S. PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner  
Rick Landt  
Jim Lewis  
Stefani Seffinger  
Vanston Shaw



Michael Black  
Director

TEL: 541.488.5340  
FAX: 541.488.5314  
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

## MEMORANDUM

**TO** : Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM** : Rachel Dials, Recreation Superintendent 

**DATE** : October 22, 2014

**SUBJECT** : Ice Rink Planning Action

### Background

Ashland Parks and Recreation has been working with the Planning Department to clear up concerns related to the permitting of the new ice rink cover constructed in 2013. Parks staff were notified after the Planning Department received a complaint from a homeowner regarding the cover. When the Planning and Legal departments reviewed the planning process following the complaint, it became clear that some errors were made in their review of the application.

The planning process requires a site plan review and a public meeting with the Planning Commission so neighbors have time to comment on the project. Staff has learned that the ice rink cover cannot be erected until at least November 26<sup>th</sup>, which includes meeting with the Planning Commission and the subsequent ten-day appeals process.

Obviously staff is disappointed; however, we know that fixing this unfortunate error is in the best interest of the department. Staff will be moving forward on setting up the ice rink for its scheduled opening on November 17<sup>th</sup> but without a cover. Once Parks has completed the planning process, options will include:

1. Closure of the ice rink for **up to two weeks** sometime between December 1<sup>st</sup> and December 18<sup>th</sup> to erect the cover in time for the holiday skating season.
2. If time does not allow putting up the cover (because of planning action appeals), the ice rink cover would not go up this season.

All will be dependent on the decision by the Planning Commission and the outcome of the appeals process.

# ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

340 S. PIONEER STREET • ASHLAND, OREGON 97520

COMMISSIONERS:

Mike Gardiner  
Rick Landt  
Jim Lewis  
Stefani Seffinger  
Vanston Shaw



Michael Black  
Director

TEL: 541.488.5340  
FAX: 541.488.5314  
parksinfo@ashland.or.us

## MEMORANDUM

**TO** : Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission

**FROM** :  Bruce Dickens, Parks Superintendent

**DATE** : October 22, 2014

**SUBJECT** : NRPA Conference Report

NRPA 2014 was held in Charlotte, North Carolina, in mid-October. It was a valuable experience in so many ways. Ideas were shared among three levels of staff and a commissioner, allowing for a broader range of perspective.

The national conference always offers a wide variety of professional courses tailored to the needs of any parks and recreation department. This year much of our focus was on strategic planning for parks and recreation as well as innovative management toward finding solutions to new problems.

The trade show was an opportunity for us to see new equipment and gain ideas and solutions for future endeavors in our department.

Consideration has been given to working toward achieving the NRPA Gold Metal Award for Parks and Recreation in the category of populations under 30,000. This will be a discussion point during our upcoming strategic planning process.

We look forward to implementing many of the ideas and nuggets of knowledge we gained at the conference.