

ASHLAND PARKS AND RECREATION COMMISSION

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MEMORANDUM

TO : Ashland Parks and Recreation Commission
FROM : Michael A. Black, Director
DATE : October 14, 2015
SUBJECT : October 19, 2015 Study Session Preview

This month's study session will be held on **Monday**, October 19, 2015 at The Grove at 7:00 p.m.

The following is a preview of the items that will be discussed at the 7:00 p.m. meeting.

1. Animals in Parks Discussion

The Ashland Police Department's Central Area Patrol Officer has requested that the Commission review the animal ordinance in Lithia Park. Currently the ordinance prohibiting animals in some of our parks only applies to domestic animals. Farm animals are not included in the prohibition according to the City Attorney's read of the ordinance.

Matt Carpenter is the CAP officer and he will be able to discuss the details of the shortcomings in the ordinances. Matt is also requesting that the Commission consider expanding the rules regarding animals in parks in order to enforce the ban of goats, sheep and other farm animals.

2. Unfunded Projects Discussion

Since the adoption of the Capital Improvement Plan, several new capital improvement items have been discussed at the Commission level. A few of those are: 1) a swing set at Ashland Creek Park; and 2) a pedestrian walkway and overlook to the Ashland Creek at Ashland Creek Park. Both items received general acceptance by the Commission; however, no funding source was assigned to cover costs of the two projects.

At the Commission meeting, I would like to propose a list of unfunded park projects and begin the process of establishing a prioritization for those projects. The importance in doing this is to identify which projects will be completed first if funds become available through grants or capital savings on other projects.

3. Garden Club Proposal

The Ashland Garden Club has requested the opportunity to present an option to reestablish the Rose Garden in Lithia Park. I have had two meetings with representatives of the club and I believe their request, if approved, could result in a distinguished improvement in Lithia Park by returning roses to the garden. The existing rose garden does still have rose bushes, but deer have been eating the budding flowers before they have a chance to fully bloom.

The request of the club includes a provision for a fence around the garden to protect the roses from deer as well as an agreement to volunteer club members to maintain the roses. The club has made a proposal to use fencing materials similar to those materials already found in the park – wooden posts – with wire material between the posts to block the deer from entry. A few example pictures of deer fences are below.

Garden Club representatives plan to be at the meeting on the 19th and will be able to answer any questions about their plans. I will be able to answer any questions regarding the impact on Parks due to maintenance and aesthetics.

