

ACTION MINUTES
ASHLAND PARKS & RECREATION COMMISSION (APRC)
Trails Master Plan Review Subcommittee Meeting
Thursday, May 15, 2023
Lithia Park Cabin, 340 S. Pioneer St
2 - 3:30 p.m.

Present:

COMMITTEE MEMBERS: APRC Commissioner Rick Landt, APRC Commissioner Leslie Eldridge, City of Ashland Councilor Eric Hansen, Ashland Forest Lands Commissioner Priscila Franco, Ashland Forest Lands Commissioner Luke Brandy, Brooke Hansen, David Chapman, Rogue Valley Mountain Bike Association (RVMB) Member Casey Botts, Ashland Woodlands & Trails Association Torsten Heycke

APRC & CITY STAFF: Michael Black, Chris Chambers, Lea Richards, Jason Minica, Jeff McFarland & Sean Sullivan

Absent:

Michael Black

[Audio Recording of meeting](#)

I. Call to Order

Landt called the meeting to order at 2:05

II. Approval of Minutes

a. [Trails Master Plan Review Subcommittee June 2, 2022](#)

Motion: Eldridge moved to approve the minutes as presented. Seconded by Botts.

Vote: The vote was all yes

III. Additions or Deletions to the Agenda

Landt stated that at the last meeting Chapman reported he needs to step down as a member of the subcommittee. Since that time, Chapman's situation has changed and will remain a voting member of the subcommittee.

IV. Public Input

Egon Dubois of Ashland stated he is a trail user and requested that the committee consider ensuring access for uphill mountain bike riders and pedestrians. Dubois' full statement is included on the recording of the meeting.

V. Election of Chair and Vice Chair

Heycke nominated Eldridge for Chair. Seconded by Franco. The vote was all yes

Chapman nominated Landt for Vice Chair. Seconded by Franco. The vote was all yes

VI. "Wonder Bailout" Trail Updates / Official Name

- The trail construction was carried out by Earth Works and is now complete, but still closed to the public until the trail can be properly signed for safety
- Eldridge reviewed the [trail proposal process](#) and noted that this proposal went through this process
- Eldridge stated the proposed name for this trail is Wasabi and will need to be approved by APRC Commissioners. The name, Wasabi, was chosen through a contest managed by RVMB
 - It was noted that there are two trails, and it could be confusing if there is only one name. A possibility would be to use "Upper" or "Lower"
- Heycke stated that traditionally trails were named through a process managed by the Forest Lands Commission and sometimes names have been rejected. It was determined that the naming process will be moved over to the trails committee who would make a recommendation to APRC for final approval. Further refinement of this process will be necessary

- It was determined that the trails will not be officially designated with a difficulty rating, but there could be signage that uses general descriptors such as “easiest”, “hardest: “caution”, etc.

Motion: Hansen moved to recommend to APRC to name the new trail Wasabi with the distinction of Upper and Lower Wasabi. Seconded by Eldridge.

Vote: The vote was all yes.

Eldridge noted that Hansen is the new Council Liaison and McFarland is no longer a voting member because he is working part time for staff.

Eldridge noted that new bylaws will be presented to the subcommittee in the future as part of the process of forming a standing committee.

VII. Updates on Property Acquisition for Trail Connectivity

APRC recently purchased the Palen which is the missing link to maintain legal use of the Alice in Wonderland Trail

VIII. Update on Alice in Wonderland Ridge Trail

Adjacent property owners would like the unauthorized sections of Alice in Wonderland to move onto the existing legal easements located. The new pedestrian alignment is now open. The new mountain bike alignment needs to be completed. It was noted that adjacent property owners would like to explore moving the bike alignment further downslope from the existing easement. APRC staff will explore the process of changing the easements if the property owners will allow bikes on the existing route in the meantime. Heycke will communicate this to the property owners

IX. Potential Future Projects and Priorities Discussion (including existing or the formation of new working groups)

Working groups can be proposed by any member. The majority of the group would determine if the proposed working group covers trails that are a priority for the community. The group can be comprised of four or less voting committee members. It was also noted that outside groups can still submit requests for new trails/alterations to existing trails through official [trail proposal process](#) and the subcommittee will review those as they come in, which may require the formation of a working group. The proposed working groups from the subcommittee were as follows:

- Heycke proposed the creation of an Alice Ridge Working Group
- Eldridge proposed Siskiyou Mountain Park Working Group
- Hansen proposed the Glenview/Lithia Hillside Working Group
- Chapman proposed Imperatrice Working Group
- Chapman proposed an Acid Castle Working Group

The subcommittee members ranked their top choices and turned them into staff to tally. Eldridge will send out the results and call for volunteers to participate in the working groups.

X. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 3:32 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
Sean Sullivan, Business Operations Manager